Near and Middle East

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

October 2014
The archives and manuscripts collections cover a broad range of subjects dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. This is one of a series of thematic guides designed to assist users of the collections to identify material of particular relevance to their research. For more detailed subject searching, you can run keyword or subject searches in the Archives and Manuscripts on-line catalogue, http://archives.wellcome.library.org, from which material can be ordered for consultation in the Rare Materials Room. Hard copy catalogues can be found in the Library’s Rare Materials Room or by request to archs+mss@wellcome.ac.uk.

Near and Middle East

NB collections range in size from single items to large personal or organisational archives.

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Frederick Hornemann: Letter to Sir Joseph Banks summarising expenses, 1794 MS.5218/6

Dominique Jean Larrey, Baron Larrey, Surgeon—Chief of the Napoleonic army: letters to his wife include some sent during Egyptian campaign, 1797–1801 MS.5316

Admiral Horatio Nelson, Viscount Nelson: letters and other documents relating to Nelson’s ships, 1780–1805, squadrons and fleets, grouped chiefly around the year of the Battle of the Nile (1798) and the years commanding the Mediterranean Fleet (1803–5) MSS.3667–81

French army in Egypt: inventories, muster returns, accounts, intelligence reports and despatches, 1798–9 MS.7036

Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville: correspondence and papers include letters concerning military campaign in Egypt, 1800 MS.5120/59–70

Sir James McGrigor, military surgeon, Director General of the Army Medical Department from 1815: partial manuscript of autobiography, including service in Egypt in 1801, c.1835 MSS.3388–91

Sir Evan Nepean, governor of Bombay. papers on trade, including correspondence with Henry Salt (1780–1827) F.R.S. and another on commerce between Egypt and India, 1816–19 MS.6857

Thomas Hodgkin, physician and philanthropist, died in Palestine, friend of Sir Moses Montefiore (1784–1885) and involved in lobbying for better treatment for the Jews in Palestine; he also helped to finance the work of Habib Baptist Kayat and the Syrian Medical Aid Association. The full catalogue to his papers and its index to correspondents give further detail of these and of other items such as a fragment of a travel narrative in Persia., also papers and correspondence on the developing world generally, including the work of the Aborigines Protection Society and similar bodies, 1817–66 PP/HO/D

– letters and papers concerning Hodgkin’s journeys to Palestine and death at Jaffa, 1860–6 MSS.5683–4


Henry Salt, traveller, British Consul–General in Egypt: letter to G. Hunter inviting him to Cairo, 1827 MS.7578/8

– correspondence with Sir Evan Nepean on commerce between Egypt and India: see above

Alire Raffeneau Delile, physician: letter (in another hand, salutation and signature by Raffeneau Delile), concerning a plant found in Egypt by a naval pharmacist named Brown, 1828 MS.7460/12

Étienne Pariset, medical writer, physician of the Bicêtre Hospital, perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Medicine: “Note sur la peste: Orient et Egypte”, 1828 MS.3767

– letters to Mehmet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, 1832–4 MS.7374/48 & 54

Francisco Solano Constancio, Portuguese physician, diplomat, philologist and science writer: incomplete translation into French of the Lexicum Aegyptiaco–Latinum... (dictionary of the Coptic language) based on the work of La Croze, Scholtz and Woide; with additions and comments by Constancio, 1828–39 MS.1782

Florence Nightingale, nursing pioneer: original correspondence and photocopies of letters held at other repositories, including material dating from her period nursing at Scutari, Turkey and reminiscences back to that part of her life; letters written from Egypt and descriptive notes, 1849–50; also associated twentieth-century documentation. For more detail see Guide to the Wellcome Library’s sources relating to Florence Nightingale, or Western Manuscripts Handlist 10, 1829–1977 MSS.5471–86, 6390, 7204, 8991–9109

Sir Charles Fellows, traveller and archaeologist: letters, drafts and illustrations of architecture, antiquities, costume and other subjects, the latter from Fellows’ second expedition to Asia Minor which explored the ancient cities of Lycia, in modern Turkey, 1835–71, n.d. MS.5634 & 6959

Suleiman Pasha: letter to an unnamed general, probably French, describing events in Egypt including an outbreak of epizootic disease, 1840 MS.7123
John Kendall: "An analysis of the Forty–Eight original Symbols of the Celestial Globe and the application of them to the Seasons and natural Phenomena of Egypt", 1843. MS.3103


Charles Tilstone Beke, Ph.D., Abyssinian explorer: correspondence and papers on Abyssinia, the sources of the Nile and commercial relations between Great Britain, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean; correspondents include the orientalist Heinrich Leberecht Fleischer (1801–1888), 1838–62 – draft publications including paper on "Mount Sinai in Arabia", 1874. MS.6852/3

A. D’Alligny and Suleiman Pasha: letters to an unnamed general, sending news including events in Syria, 1840–2. MS.7123/35

Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, Assyriologist, member of East India Company military service: letters, including one to the diplomat Stratford Canning, Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe (1786–1880) and one from William Kenneth Loftus concerning collection of material for the British Museum, 1847–93, n.d. MS.7453/29–42

Islamic medicine, general: French transcript of various texts, including one on epilepsy ascribed to the Prophet Mohammed, and glossary of Persian medical terms, mid–C19th. MS.3590


Auguste Édouard Mariette, French Egyptologist: letters, including one to the French consul in Cairo, from Saqqara, 1851, n.d. MS.7283

Edward Henry Cradock Monckton: collections of chemical and alchemical recipes, mostly Persian and including some inserted material in Persian, 1853–5. MSS.3611–2

John William Mudge MD, surgeon, Madras: journal of service including voyage home to England via Suez in 1855, describing transit through Egypt, the Pyramids, etc, 1852–9. MS.7454

Joseph Dickinson MD FRS: diary of a tour to Egypt and Palestine, 1856–7. MSS.5787–91

John Petherick, British consul at Khartoum, traveller: travel journals and papers of Petherick and his wife, 1862–70, n.d. M5SS.6902–3, 6900

Sir Thomas Barlow, physician: journal of a tour of Egypt and Palestine, 1868. PP/BAR/A/2–3

Herbert Richard Bracey. P.& O. Company ship’s surgeon: accounts of visits to Alexandria, Cairo and the Pyramids, 1873. MS.5290

Charles George Gordon, Major General: letters and papers on his service in Egypt and the Sudan, 1874–84, including some letters from Palestine. M5SS.6894–8, 6900

Jean Octave Edmond Perrier, zoologist: manuscript, "Napoléon en Egypte", n.d. MS.7390/127

Hormuzd Rassam, Assyriologist, archaeologist and British civil servant at Aden, born in Mosul (now Iraq) to a Nestorian Christian family: letters, 1868–83. MS.7480

Edward Dalzel Dickson, physician to the British Embassy, Constantinople: description of plague outbreaks at Hilleh and Baghdad in 1876–7, from notes by Dr. Giovanni Gabriadis, 1879. MS.2119

Herbert Horatio Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener. letters including letters on his service in Egypt and the Sudan, 1884–93 , n.d. MSS.6902–3

Sir Archibald Hunter, British General: papers relating to wound pension following service in Egyptian army, 1886–1902. MS.6904

Wellcome Archives:

– Historical Medical Museum, material on acquisitions relating to medicine in Near and Middle East, 1903–85 WA/HMM
– Bureau of Scientific Research: records include material relating to Near and Middle East (database can be searched under placename) 1913–38

– Sir Henry Wellcome: personal papers include material on research relating to Near and Middle East, especially archaeological excavations he funded at Lachish, Palestine, 1932–55

Wellcome Foundation: materials relating to business operations of pharmaceutical company in the Middle East, 1980s–90s

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: Papers of Sir David and Lady Bruce include files relating to his work on Malta (or Mediterranean) fever, 1890s–1900s see also RAMC; Sir Philip Manson–Bahr’s copy of report on malaria in Egyptian Expeditionary Force, 1918

Mrs. Haines, wife of Dr. Humphry Haines of Auckland, New Zealand: diary of a voyage from New Zealand to Great Britain and back, passing through the Suez Canal outbound, 1896–7

Clare M. Fox, Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: extracts from the poems, hymns and other literature of various ancient cultures including Accadian, Babylonian and Assyrian, dealing with medicine and related subjects; songs and hymns extracted from ancient literatures, including Egyptian; material generated for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, 1899

Papyrus forgery made to resemble a Hieratic Egyptian roll, provenance unknown, C19th–C20th

Gustave Jules Alphonse Witkowski: travel accounts, written under the pseudonym “Dr. Clam”, of two journeys including Egypt, 1901–5


Arthur Edward Pearse Brome Weigall: drawings of Ancient Egyptian statues and motifs from murals, etc; also of plants and birds from nature that occur in Ancient Egyptian art, early C20th

C.J.S. Thompson, Librarian, Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: History of Ancient Egyptian medicine and science. c.1915

Martin Wentworth Littlewood: memoirs, including service in Egypt with the RAMC during World War I, 1970

Charles Morley Wenyon: field notebook (largely on protozoology) while with HM Forces in Egypt, 1916
Melville Douglas Mackenzie: account of his work with RAMC in Mesopotamia, 1917–19; tours of the Middle East (Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Sharjah, Muscat and Syria) for WHO to advise on public health and hygiene, 1953-9

PP/MDM/A/1/1, A/4/3

Eric H R Harries: materials relating to period at Basra Isolation Hospital, 1917--20

PP/ERH

Major John Percy Litt, RAMC: material, including photographs, relating to service in Turkey and the Caucasus, 1918–23

MS.8480

Roger E C Altonyan: some material, 1920s-50s, relating to medical activities of his family in the Middle East, in particular the hospital in Aleppo founded by his grandfather and run by the family until they were expelled from Syria in 1955

PP/RCA/A.1/1

Edward Elkan (1895–1983): Memoir, “Sketches of My Life” includes account of his period working as a doctor among Jewish settlers in Palestine, c. 1920s

MS.9151

Col Albert Ernest Hamerton: some material relating to period at Central Laboratory Baghdad, Iraq, early 1920s

GC/18/1

Winifred Susan Blackman: “List of objects collected in Egypt [for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum] to illustrate the life of the fellahin”: manuscript volume with photographs, 1920s

MS.8182

Jameson Boyd Hurry MD: “Imhotep: the Vizier and Physician of King Zoser, and afterwards the Egyptian God of Medicine”, typescript essay, signed, 1925

MS.2974

– and four notebooks containing material gathered for his book on Imhotep, 1920s

MSS.2975–8

Air Marshal Sir Harold Whittingham: Research papers re RAF Sandfly Commission, Malta, 1921–3; notes of tours of RAF stations under Middle East Command, including Egypt, Khartoum, Transjordan, Iraq, 1920s–40s; notebooks of inspections, as Director of Medical Services, BOAC, of airport medical and health facilities in Cairo, Khartoum and Bahrain, 1948–55; papers on air conditioning of heat stroke wards, Dhiban, Iraq, 1934, and dysentery epidemic in Iraq, 1935

PP/HEW

Roy Lee Moodie, paleopathologist: correspondence related to his “Roentgenologic studies of Egyptian and Peruvian mummies”, 1926–32

MSS.5917–8

Theodor Herzel Clarence Gaster, head of Semitic Section, Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: Researches in Semitic Medicine and Magic (incomplete) plus short articles: “Notes on some Assyrian medical terms” and “The vestments of the Hebrew High–priest in relation to the costume of African medicine–men”; also background material to these works and notes on Jewish charms, remedies and other issues including herbs, mother–in–law complex etc: some material in Hebrew, 1930; Notes on Assyrian and Babylonian medicine, c. 1930

MSS.8180, 8535, 9128

Sir John Gaddum: sketches of students while Professor of Physiology, Cairo, Egypt, 1930s

GC/110/4

Richard Ernest Cornish Copithorne, ship’s surgeon: diaries of voyages on cargo vessels between England and the Far East, including descriptions of Port Said and the Suez Canal, 1934–5

MSS.7679–80


MS.8318

Peter Karl Lewin: memoir, ‘A Chameleon of Sorts: Autobiographical Vignettes’, includes account of his childhood and adolescence in Jerusalem, Israel and subsequently Alexandria, Egypt, 1935–53. Also his later involvement in Egyptology (CT scans of mummies)

MS.8369

David Hooper: list of Persian Materia Medica, taken mainly from Wellcome Historical Medical Museum collections, c.1935

MS.8622

Letitia Fairfield: files relating to British Social Hygiene Council Malta Commission, 1938

GC/193/C.5

Sir Ronald Bodley Scott: undated accounts of travel in Israel (?World War II) and of tour including Beirut, Lebanon, 1966

PP/RBS

Harold Hewitt: Several chapters of unpublished memoir “Getting by without ambition” deal with service during World War II in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Palestine

GC/222

Major Bernard Williams: casebook and associated material, including photographs, while serving in Egypt during World War II

GC/172
Thomas Hunt: war diaries, reports etc, of war service in Egypt and Iraq, and at GHQ, PAIFORCE 1943–5; file on Iranian Medical Congress, 1945; other material re medical liaison with Iraq, 1940s GC/46

Queen’s Nursing Institute: District Nursing Overseas ‘Countries’ files include Iran, Israel, Kuwait Oil Company, Malta, 1940s–60s SA/QNI

Sister Margaret Lewis, QAIMNS: memorabilia, correspondence, photos while serving in Egypt and North Africa, c. 1941–7 MS.9157

Sir Ernst Boris Chain: substantial number of files concerning institutions in Israel with which he was associated, 1940s–70s; also files as consultant to National Iranian Oil Co, 1970s, re the Iran Society, 1978 PP/EBC

John Miller Woodburn Morison: material re appointments at universities in Egypt, and lectures given there, also correspondence and reports, on radiology, 1940s–50s GC/77

Max Neuburger, medical historian: biographical and historical essays “The Medicine of the Ancient Persians”, 1941 MS.8171
– and “Outline History of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics of the Arabian School”. c.1942 MS.8295


Lt–Col Desmond R Hanbury, IMS: maps, with notes, of Malaria Survey of Iran and Iraq, 1942–3, while he was serving with PAIFORCE MS.8788/2

Cicely Delphine Williams: papers as Head of Maternal and Child Health Services, WHO, relating to seminars and projects in the Near and Middle East generally, 1940s–60s; rural women’s development, Iran, 1966; visit to the Trucial States, 1966; and from her period as Visiting Professor, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, 1960–4 PP/CDW

Norman Ashton: material relating to RAMC service in Egypt, 1946–7, including his research on typhoid carriers PP/ASH

Charles McMoran Wilson, Lord Moran: files relating to visit to Iraq and Turkey under sponsorship of British Council, 1947–9 PP/CMW/G.2

Family Planning Association: correspondence with foreign countries includes Aden, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, 1950s–60s SA/FPA

Sir Robert Macintosh: correspondence with anaesthetists in Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and United Arab Republic, 1960s–70s; travel diaries of visits to Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, 1950s–60s PP/RRM

Marthe Vogt: correspondence with colleagues in Israel and Turkey, arrangements for visit to Egypt, etc, 1950s–80s PP/MLV

Sir Christopher Andrewes: travel journals include Israel and Lebanon, 1950s GC/168/18

Alastair Robb–Smith: British Council visit to Malta, 1952, re laboratory pathology services GC/182/3/4

Sir Graham Selby Wilson: file on visit to Israel, 1952, to study laboratory services; visit to Iraq, 1965 as consultant on design and equipment of laboratories; with WHO Travelling Seminar to Egypt and Iran, 1971 PP/GSW

Health Visitors Association: handbook and report of educational tour to Israel, 1955 SA/HVA/D.5

Constance Wood: material relating to papers on radiology given in Turkey and Lebanon, 1956; and correspondence re Appointment of a radiotherapist for the Ahmet Andican (Cancer) Hospital, Turkey GC/95/B/3/4, D/4/4

Travelling Surgical Society: reports on society’s annual trips include Turkey, 1958, Israel, 1995 SA/TSS.2/26, 2/62

Alice Mary Stewart: some material relating to her British Council visit to Cyprus, 1958–9, and correspondence with colleagues in the Near and Middle East, 1970s–90s PP/AMS
William FJ M Thom, DTM&H: files relating to his work in Preventive Medicine Department, Kuwait Oil Company, 1958–70

Sigmund Heinrich Foulkes: material relating to his consultancy in Israel, for UNESCO, advising on school psychological services, 1960s, and Elizabeth Foulkes’ correspondence with the Israel Association for Group Analysis, 1970s–90s

Professor Percy Cyril Claude Garnham: correspondence with other scientists, mostly working on malaria, includes several in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, 1960s–70s

Robert Henry Stewart Thompson: travel diary of visit to Cairo, 1956.

John Bowlby: materials relating to involvement with workshop on psychopathology of children raised on a kibbutz, Oranim, Israel, 1962–5

Professor Donald Hunter: correspondence and diary re visit to Egypt (Cairo University) and Arabian Diabetic Association, 1962

Robina Addis: report on visit to Malta re setting up child guidance service, 1964, and photographs

Sir John McMichael: material, 1968–76, relating to visit to Iran and Kuwait, 1968–9

International Confederation of Midwives: correspondence with Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Turkey (member countries), 1960s–80s and Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco (non–members); 1978 Congress, Jerusalem; Project reports, Yemen, 1990–3; Report of the ‘Cento’ Countries Working Party, Turkey, 1976, Report of the Anglophone Middle East Regional Seminar, 1977

Eric Kennedy Cruickshank: reports on medical education in Cyprus, Kuwait and Jeddah, 1970s–80s

Stanley George Browne: reports on his visits for the Leprosy Study Centre to Iran 1973, 1976, reports and recommendations on leprosy in Iran and recommendations, 1973, visit to Mashhad Leprosy Hospital, May 1971; correspondence re planned visit (cancelled) to Iraq, 1983; visits to Egypt in 1975, 1978, mid–1980s, and Browne’s report on the Leprosy Congress in Cairo and typescript of his speech at opening ceremony, Mar 1976; correspondence with the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Saudi Arabia, and with Dr Luis N Gomez of El Paso, Texas, USA, concerning leprosy work in Saudi Arabia 1981–5; correspondence with Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on leprosy in pregnancy 1984; programme for visit to Britain by the Deputy Minister of Health of the Yemen Arab Republic (including visit to Leprosy Study Centre), 1980; papers relating to conferment on Browne of the Order of Malta, 1973 and booklet on the history, organisation and rules of the Order

Dr. Cecil John Hackett: correspondence with consuls, Colonel Karadeniz (Turkish army) and Mr. John Forsith concerning a proposed Florence Nightingale memorial and museum at Selimye barracks, Scutari, also biographical accounts, cuttings, etc, 1972–4

Population Investigation Committee: correspondence and papers relating to Cyprus Comprehensive Population Programme, 1974–6

Multiple Sclerosis Society: International Federation of MS. Societies files include one on Israel, 1974–5

LEPRA (formerly The British Leprosy Relief Association, now LEPRA Health in Action): file on fundraising in the Middle East, 1974–80

Colin McDougall: files relating to leprosy research visits to, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, 1975–97

International League Against Epilepsy: file on local chapter in Israel, 1975–87

Ismond Rosen: ‘One Man's Covenants’, an autobiographical work recording his experiences of visits to Israel in the 1980s, and associated photographs and artworks
World Federation of Occupational Therapists: files relating to local associations in Cyprus, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Saudi Arabia, 1980s–90s

Medact - Medical Action for Global Security (f. 1992): Records, with those of predecessor Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (MCANW), include material on the work of SPINA (Study Group on Psychosocial Issues) during the Gulf War, 1990–3

SA/WFO

SA/MED/H/1/5

The Asian Collections in the Wellcome Library include significant holdings of relevance. There are substantial collections of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, and a small collection of Ottoman manuscripts, as well as Hebrew manuscripts, Armenian and Georgian manuscripts, Egyptian papyri with some Coptic material and Ethiopian and Syriac manuscripts. Further information may be found by contacting AsianCollections@wellcome.ac.uk.

Attention is drawn to online film of British doctors visiting Iran, c. 1965, from Moving Image and Sound Collection