

The Near & Middle East



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THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



A Handsome Portrait

1 [BAHRAIN]. Signed photograph of the Emir of Bahrain, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Original silver gelatin photograph, measuring 820 by 139mm, signed in dark blue ink. A few light creases to bottom left corner, stamp of State of Bahrain, Ministry of Information and ms. caption in pencil to reverse. With an official State of Bahrain, Ministry of Information envelope, dated 1973. [Manama], Ministry of Information, [1973]. **£500**

A handsome photographic portrait of Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa (1931-1999), who was the first Emir of Bahrain, ruling for thirty-eight years.

With descriptions of Kuwait and Qatar

2 GENERAL STAFF, INDIA. **Field Notes. Mesopotamia.**
February 1915. Catalogue No. M. 3.

First edition, one of 500 copies. With a folding heliozincographed map of "Lower Mesopotamia", dated 1914. Original limp tan buckram with wrap-around fastening tie, covers a little stained and dust-soiled, extremities of spine slightly worn. Small tear to p.107/108 (p2), rest of interior pages in excellent condition. A very good copy. [2], iv, 211, [1]blank pp. Simla, Government Monotype Press, (issued 19th of February) 1916. **£3,250**

"The political situation in Baghdad and Mesopotamia is intimately concerned with that in the Persian Gulf" (p.3). A rare manual, printed for the use of officers serving in the Mesopotamian Campaign of the First World War. It largely concerns lower Mesopotamia, but also contains valuable information on Eastern Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

The first chapter is a history of the region, from the British expedition to Mohammerah in March 1857 to the start of WWI. After outlining how Britain won a monopoly over trade in the Gulf in the 19th century, it stresses the challenge posed to her superiority by Turkish and German advances. It then details the political relations between the Ottoman Empire and Mesopotamia, Kuwait, Al Hasa, and Najd.

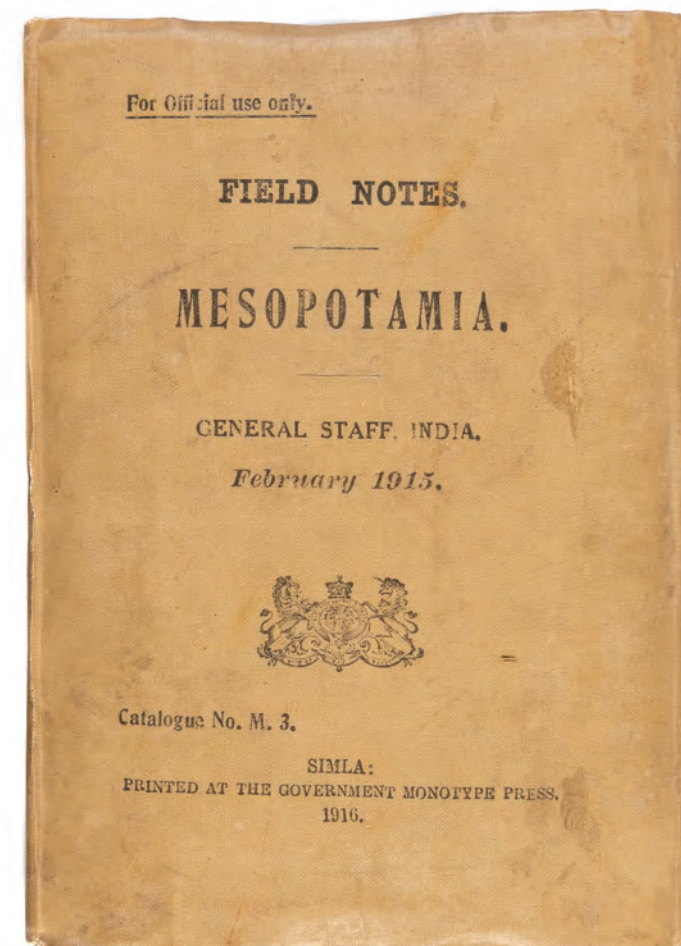
The following seven chapters — geography, population, resources, military, maritime, administration and communications — primarily focus on Mesopotamia, giving a highly detailed account of a landmass covering much of present-day Southern Iraq and part of the Khuzestan Province of Iran. There are also important sections on the strength of the Turkish army and navy.

Four appendices follow the main text. Appendix A "Note on the Qatar Peninsula and Dohah" (p.179-180) is without doubt the most important. **It comprises an early description of Qatar,**

its chief town, Doha, and its ruler, Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani (1880-1957). The Sheikh is described as "a rich and powerful chief, who has a following of about 2,000 fighting men." (p.179). He is also said to be "friendly toward the British ... [and] would no doubt be glad to be rid of the Turks." (p.180). The last comment proved to be somewhat prescient, as the Sheikh forced the Ottomans to abandon their garrison in Doha on the 19th of August 1915, just 6 months after this manual was prepared.

A revised version of *Field Notes. Mesopotamia.* was issued in February 1917. Though expanded (featuring 36 routes instead of 14), it did not include the section on Qatar.

Rare. WorldCat locates just two copies, at Oxford and the Huntington. There is also a copy in the India Office Records at the British Library (IOR/L/MIL/17/15/49).





Devoted to the Hajj

3 IHSAN (Ahmed), editor.

Servet-i Fünun.

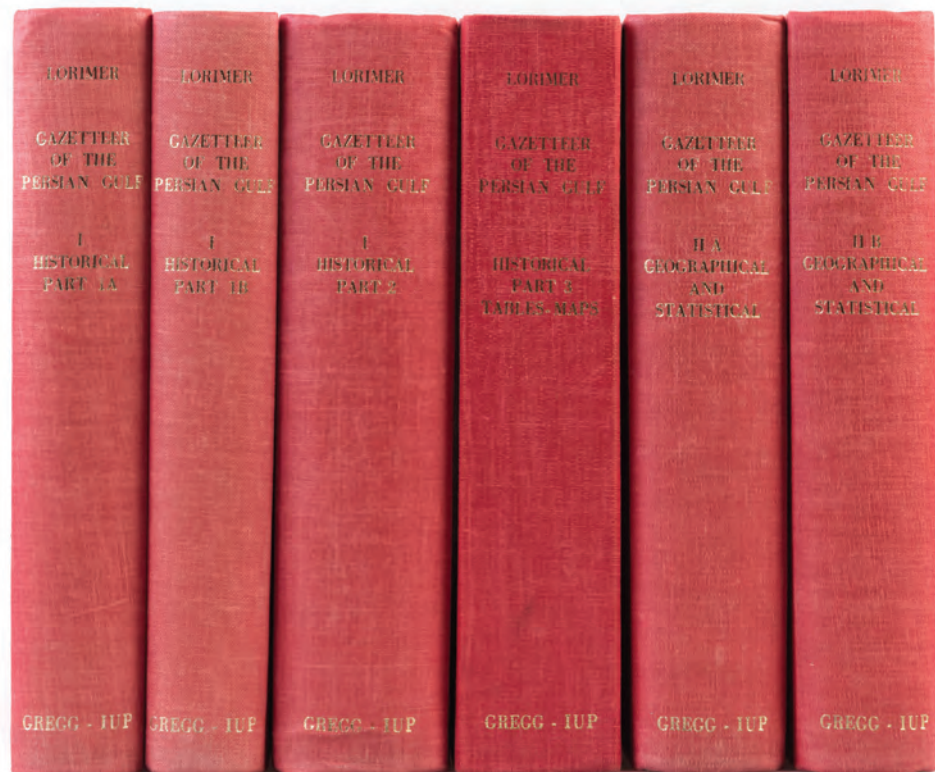
Issue number 918. Numerous black and white half-tone reproductions of photographs and paintings, captioned in French and Ottoman Turkish. Folio. A few chips to extremities, otherwise very good. [1], 114-128pp. Constantinople, 1324 Rumi Calendar, [1908]. **£350**

A desirable issue of the highly important journal *Servet-i Fünun*, focusing on the Hajj and the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina.

Servet-i Fünun was a ground-breaking periodical, published by and featuring several writers of the 'New Literature' movement, including Halit Ziya Usakligil. They reported on the latest cultural developments in Europe and were partly responsible for bringing modernism to the attention of Turkish readers.

This issue is of particular interest as it primarily concerns the Hajj and the *Sürre Alayi* (the Ottoman Hajj caravan). The illustrations include paintings and photographs of the caravan, including a photograph of the caravan on its departure from Damascus.





An essential work on the Arab States of the Gulf

4 LORIMER (John Gordon). Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf: Oman and Central Arabia. The Historical Section. Maps and Tables. Geographical and Statistical.

A complete reprint. 5 volumes and a map case (containing 17 tables, one chart and one folding map). Original red cloth, gilt lettering to spines; extremities very slightly worn, spines a little faded, otherwise very good. [4], cxxx, 786; [2], 787-1624; [4], cxxx, 1625-2741, [1]; [4], iv, 1030; [2], 1031-1952 pp. Irish Universities Press, 1970. **£3,500**

A very good copy of the 1970 reprint.

At nineteen years of age, Lorimer (1870-1914) was selected for the Indian Civil Service and would spend most of his working life in the employment of the Government of India. Alongside his various administrative duties, he found time to labour over the *Gazetteer*,

which was put together in the Foreign Department on the orders of Lord Curzon. **Borrowing from official, semi-official and published sources, he created a remarkable compilation, containing the most thorough and up-to-date historical and geographical information on states including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.** The work was so comprehensive that it was unparalleled in the early twentieth century and continues to be used by researchers today.

The Historical section was completed shortly before Lorimer's untimely death in 1914 (the result of an accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound) and published by the superintendent government printing office in Calcutta in 1915. It was designated as Volume One even though it was published several years after Volume Two (the geographical section), which appeared in 1908. Volume One was composed of three parts, which were bound in two text volumes and a matching case for the genealogical tables and charts respectively.

Writing in the *Geographical Journal* Bidwell comments "It is difficult to see how the arrangement of the historical section could have been bettered. Firstly, the Gulf is treated as a unit and then the internal affairs of the riverain states are described in detail... Finally, there are appendices upon specific topics such as the slave trade, gun-running, epidemics, and missionary activities. Each section has its own bibliography. Despite the official nature of the work there are often human touches and pen portraits of splendid frankness."

He also highlights its limitations, making the important point that, being a Government Document, the political viewpoint of its author is obviously unwaveringly pro-British in every respect: "there is a bland assumption of the eternal wisdom and benevolence of Imperial policy... in every clash it is the other side that is at fault."

The Geographical section is an altogether much drier affair than the Historical although the data collected is extraordinarily detailed and inclusive. Furthermore, it is very well illustrated with 54 photographic illustrations (some of the very first photographs extant of the region), and a very large folding map entitled 'Map of the

Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia 1 inch=32 miles' compiled by Lieut. Hunter. At the time of publication, it was the largest and most detailed map of Arabia and the Gulf ever published.

The *Gazetteer* is of legendary rarity, with complete sets being nearly unobtainable. It seems that no more than 225 copies of the original edition of Lorimer were produced. It was a secret document until at least 1930, when it was reduced to the less restrictive 'For Official Use Only'. Its classification was then changed back to Secret by 1944, before the Geographical was derestricted in 1951. The derestriction date of the Historical is not known to this cataloguer. Even after the secret classification was removed, very few copies came into non-official hands.

Though not as scarce as the original two volumes, this reprint is difficult to find. COPAC lists 11 copies in UK institutions.

Bidwell, *Geographical Journal*, vol. 138, pp.233-5; *Macro*, 1488 (the 1915 Historical volume only).

Conversing with a Wahhabi Envoy

5 MANSUR (Sheikh), [aka MAURIZI (Vincenzo)]. *History of Seyd Said, Sultan of Muscat; Together with an Account of the Countries and People on the Shores of the Persian Gulf particularly the Wahabees.*

First edition. **Folding map & folding table both in facsimile.** 8vo. Modern half red morocco, green moiré cloth, green morocco label with gilt lettering to spine, fine. **Lacking [v-xvi] of preface.** [2]title, [i-ii], [2]errata, [iii-iv], [xvii-xx], 174, [2]pp. London, John Booth, 1819. **£5,500**

One of the rarest books in English on Arabia and the earliest extensive source on Oman. The author, Vincenzo Maurizi, a native of Rome who having practised as a physician in many parts of the

Middle East, became a commander of the forces of the Sultan of Muscat, against 'Geovasseon' (Al Qasimi) and Wahhabi forces (referred to as 'pirates' by their enemies).

"[Maurizi's] is the only account ever given by a participant in the coup in which Sayyid Said seized power and his eye-witness reporting of the Omani army in action is well worth reading. However, the most important contribution that Maurizi makes to knowledge of Arabia is his record of a long conversation with a Wahhabi envoy who explained the basis of his beliefs" (Bidwell, introduction to *History of Seyd Said*, reprint 1984, p.xi). The envoy, sent to Muscat by Saud II bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud (1748-1814), not only outlined his faith (Wahhabism), but also described the Saudi capital Diriyah, his route to Muscat and his people's resistance to the Ottoman-Egyptian army: "Toson Pascià [Tusun Pasha]... has a sufficient force to conquer all of the cities and villages situated on the shores of the Red Sea, but we shall always be masters of the desert, from our superior ability of enduring fatigue and privations." (p.45).

The present copy is defective, lacking part of the preface and supplying the map and table in facsimile.



ITEM 5

HISTORY
OF
SEYD SAID,
SULTAN OF MUSCAT;

TOGETHER WITH AN
Account of the Countries and People
ON THE
SHORES OF THE PERSIAN GULF,
PARTICULARLY OF THE
WAHABEES.

BY
SHAIK MANSUR,
A NATIVE OF ROME,
Who after having practised as a Physician in many Parts
of the East, became Commander of the Forces of the
Sultan of Muscat, against the Geovasseom
and Wahabees Pirates.

Translated from the Original Italian M.S.
HITHERTO NOT PUBLISHED.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN BOOTH, DUKE STREET,
PORTLAND PLACE.

1819.

Early Postcards of Muscat

6 [MUSCAT]. FERNANDEZ (A.R.). 'The Fort', 'The Old Portuguese Fort' and 'View of Muscat from the Sea'.

Three photographic postcards, offset prints, each measuring 90 by 142mm. Very light wear to corners, otherwise very good. N.p., n.d, but [c.1910]. **£375**

Three beautiful postcards of Muscat. All are illustrated with photographs by A. R. Fernandez, who issued some of the earliest postcards of the port city, and was active there in the first decades of the twentieth century.



Rare Photographs of Muscat

**7 [MUSCAT]. UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER.
Nine original photographs of Muscat.**

Nine original silver-gelatin photographs laid down on thick cream card (likely removed from an album), each measuring approx. 92 by 138mm. Three captioned and/or numbered in the negative. Some marginal fading, otherwise very good. [Muscat], [c.1905].

£1,500

Rare photographs of Muscat depicting variously, 'The Rock of Muscat', the Al-Jalali Fort and the Al-Mirani Fort. A number of the images are of a military nature, from which it is possible to surmise that the photographer was an officer: a torpedo being fired, a significant cache of weapons and troops (bluejackets) disembarking on the shore to be greeted by a crowd of civilians. Such scenes reflect the British presence in the Gulf of Oman at the time, where they were engaged in combatting the East African slave trade, suppressing the smuggling of arms and generally attempting to exert influence whenever possible.

Original photographs of Muscat from this era are exceedingly rare, especially in this condition. Most that we have handled were taken by the professional photographer A.R. Fernandez (see previous item), but these are certainly amateur efforts and are likely to be the only surviving prints of the images.



*Important Official Source on the British Expeditions
to Ras al-Khaimah*

8 PAGET (William Henry) & MASON (A.H.), editors.
Frontier and Overseas Expeditions from India. Compiled in The
Intelligence Branch, Division of The Chief of Staff, Army Head
Quarters, India.

Eight vols (including the two Supplementary Volumes). Large 8vo.
Numerous plates and maps, including nineteen folding maps in the
front and end-pockets, lacking the 'General Map of Afghanistan'
to Volume III as issued (a tipped in slip explains that it is not yet
ready but will be "sent to all recipients of the book on publication",
hence its presence in some sets). Original half calf with green
cloth, maroon labels, gilt, extremities a little rubbed, some labels
chipping, library accession marks to the spines, a good set overall.
Interior and maps in excellent condition. Cancelled library stamps
to front-endpapers and title-pages. Simla, Government Monotype
Press & Calcutta, Superintendent Government Printing India,
1907-11. **£12,500**

A comprehensive compilation of frontier campaigns undertaken by
the British Army in India, together with the overseas expeditions
mounted from the sub-continent up to World War I. Earlier
versions of the work - focusing almost entirely on the North-
West Frontier - were compiled in 1873 (by Colonel W.H. Paget)
and 1884 (by A.H. Mason). This third version was put together
in response to the ever-growing boundaries of British India and
proliferating regions of conflict. **Volume VI contains three valuable
chapters on operations in Persia and the Arabian Peninsula,
including the two punitive expeditions to Ras al Khaimah (1809-
10 and 1819-20), and a folding map of Arabia and the Gulf.**

The Arabian content, chiefly found in chapter XV of vol. VI - 'The
Arabian Peninsula and the Islands of Perim and Socotra', is of
great interest due to the scarcity of official printed sources on such
campaigns. The chapter begins with a brief geographical description
of the Peninsula and then details the punitive expeditions to Ras



al Khaimah, two highly important and to-this-day controversial episodes in the history of British imperialism in the Gulf (see Lorimer's *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf*, Historical Section, pp.654-656, for an official British perspective on the expeditions; and Sultan Muhammad Al Qasimi's *The Myth of Arab Piracy in the Persian Gulf*, for a rebuttal of Lorimer's stance on the Al Qasimi's role in piracy).

The account of the second expedition ends with excerpts from Sir W.G. Keir's despatch on the operations, and a brief description of the signing of the General Maritime Treaty of 1820 (between Great Britain and the rulers of Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah). The rest of the chapter concerns the Bani Bu Ali expedition (1820-21), and the brief occupations of the Yemeni islands Perim and Socotra. The Bani Bu Ali expedition is notable as the only land campaign Said bin Sultan conducted in the peninsula during his reign as Sultan of Muscat and Oman, and for the defeat suffered by the British and Omani forces in the first of two battles. The account of the loss is unusually frank for an official publication; highlighting the poor diplomacy of Captain Perronet, who, after the Bani Bu Ali had agreed to surrender, insisted they give up their arms—a point on which the tribe would never yield—and therefore made conflict all but inevitable.

Published before the historical section of Lorimer's *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf* (Calcutta, 1915), the work draws heavily on Low's *History of the Indian Navy* (London, 1877) and most likely also made use of official papers now held in the India Office Records. It is interesting to compare the text of the Gulf chapter to that of Lorimer's *Gazetteer*, especially the sections on Ras al Khaimah. Many of the key points match, but there are significant differences, such as the number of losses suffered by the Al Qasimi: whereas Lorimer reports 70 to 80 deaths (vol. I, p.647) the compiler states "at least three hundred Josamis were killed" (p.248). This higher figure appears to originate from anecdotal evidence found in Low (p.357). Such variations point toward the sometimes intentional changes and elisions in such sources, and the need for reassessment by contemporary historians.

Rare in commerce; though fairly well held institutionally, full sets are seldom offered for sale. This set is numbered 850 in gilt on the upper board and with the ink stamps of the Chief of General Staff, [Commonwealth Forces, Australia], Head Quarters Library and Department of Defence Library to the front endpapers and title-pages, all with cancellations.

Volume I covers "The Tribes North of Kabul River"; Volume II "North-West Frontier Tribes between the Kabul and Gumal Rivers"; Volume III "Baluchistan and the First Afghan War"; Volume IV "North and North-Eastern Frontier Tribes" — Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet, Bhutan, Assam, and the Lushais; Volume V Burma; Volume VI "Expeditions Overseas" — including Egypt, 1801, Malta, 1878, Egypt, 1882, Abyssinia, Somaliland, South Africa, 1899-1901, Persia, The Arabian Peninsula, Aden, Ceylon, China, 1840 - 1901. The two supplementary volumes are: "Volume I - Supplement A. Operations against the Mohmands (Including Operations in Khaiber, 1st - 7th May) 1908"; and "Volume II - Supplement A. Operations against the Zakka Khel Afridis 1908".



"... no one has a right to interfere with his/her liberty"

9 [PERSIAN GULF]. British Government Manumission Certificate.

Printed certificate, measuring 226 by 342mm. English and Arabic text. A few small dents and creases, otherwise good. [N.p.,] 19--AD, 132- AH, thus [c.1902-11]. **£250**

An official manumission certificate, issued by the British Government to formerly enslaved people in the Persian Gulf in the twentieth century. This unused example belonged to Sir Donald Hawley, who was Political Agent to the Trucial States (1958) and the first British ambassador to the Sultan of Muscat and Oman (1970).



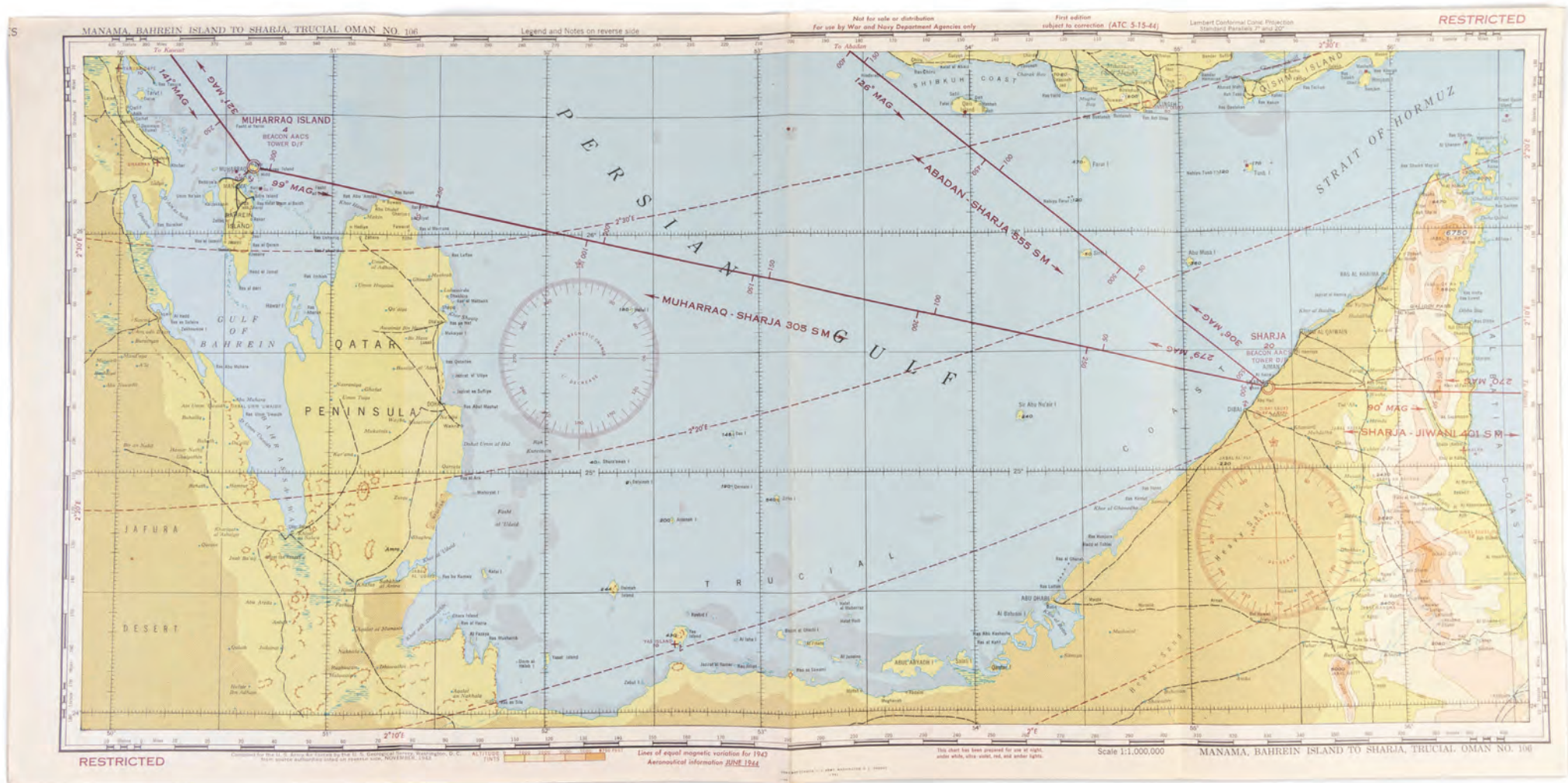
10 [PERSIAN GULF]. U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES. Six air charts of Iraq, Iran and the Persian Gulf.

1). **Cairo, Egypt to Baghdad, Iraq. No:101.** Advance edition. 360 by 1470mm. Ms. blue crayon flight line marked between Habbaniya and Tehran via Kermanshah. 1944. 2). **Baghdad, Iraq to Tehran, Iran. No:102.** Advance edition. 360 by 870mm. Ms. pencil numbers and slight discolouration to verso, couple of spots on verso and slight wear to edges, blue crayon flight line between Habbaniya and Tehran via Kermanshah. 1944. 3). **Baghdad, Iraq to Manama, Bahrein Island. No:103.** Advance edition. 360 by 1140mm. A single 1cm long mis-fold, not affecting the image, plotted alternative flight route in blue pencil between Habbaniyah, Abadan and Bahrein Island (with noted magnetic bearings). 1944. 4). **Basra, Iraq to Tehran, Iran. No:104.** Advance edition. 360 by 1100mm. 1944. 5). **Manama, Bahrein Island to Sharja, Trucial Oman. No:106.** First edition. 360 by 730mm. Lacking the blank 'notes section' but with no loss to the printed map. 1943. 6). **Sharja, Trucial Oman to Karachi, India. No: 107.** First edition. 360 by 1460mm. 1944. All maps folded and in very good, clean condition. Washington D.C., Army Map Service (U.S. Army) and/or U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1943-44. **£2,500**

An excellent collection of geographically adjacent flight charts showing air routes between Cairo and Karachi (Pakistan), and Cairo and Tehran. Geographical areas covered by the charts include the entire Persian Gulf (Kuwait City, the east coast of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE coastline), Iraq and most of Iran.

The back of each chart lists the source authorities used by the cartographers. As could be expected, almost all of the sources preceding the 1940s are British, with maps and charts by the

Survey of India, Admiralty and War Office featuring heavily. This is especially the case with the Persian Gulf, of which Britain had intimate knowledge, a consequence of long-standing imperial interests. The versos also show a Location Index, which displays how the maps fit together, with no mention of map No:105 (as a result, we believe the present set provides complete coverage of the aforementioned regions).



Inscribed to Freya Stark

11 PHILBY (Harry St John Bridger). **The Empty Quarter:**
being a Description of the Great South Desert of Arabia known as
Rub' al Khali.

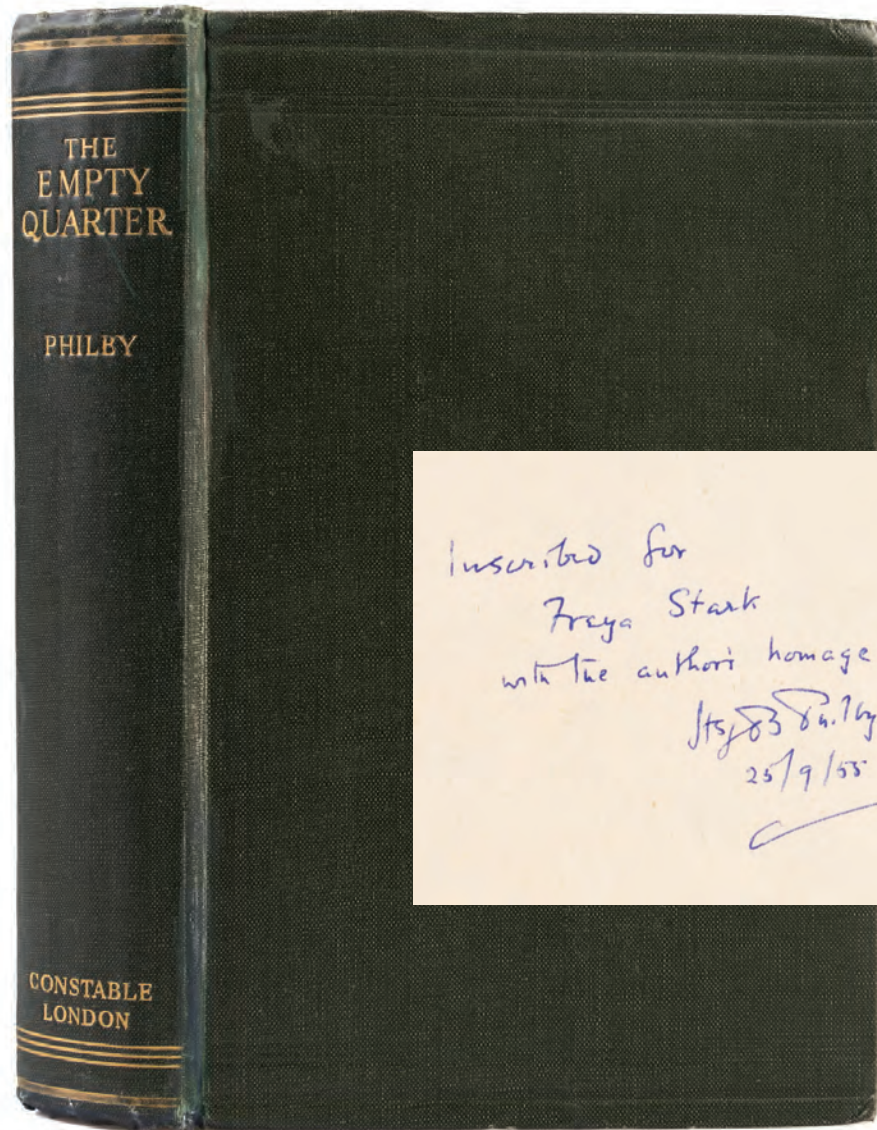
First edition. 32 half-tone plates (some including more than 1 image).
With 2 coloured maps at rear (folding map of Rub' al Khali &
extending map of Arabia). 8vo. Original green cloth, gilt titles to spine;
very light staining to back board, minor wear to head and foot of spine,
a few instances of spotting, otherwise very good. Ink presentation
inscription to Freya Stark; her bookplate to front pastedown endpaper.
xxxiv, 433pp. London, Constable, 1933. **£3,750**

From one great explorer of Arabia to another: "Inscribed for
Freya Stark with the author's homage. H St J B Philby 25/9/55".
The book also bears the bookplate Stark used after her marriage
to Stuart Perowne, administrator and Arabist, from whom she
separated in 1952.

Considered his most remarkable journey, Philby's exploration
of the Rub' al Khali was not the first by a westerner (Bertram
Thomas had traversed the region a year previously), but did make
major scientific and geographical contributions to the western
understanding of this area, described as "the most inhospitable
regions of a barren land".

"By day he collected place names, temperatures, compass bearings,
barometric pressures, rocks, fossils, flora and fauna, and ancient
inscriptions. At night he wrote them up in his diaries, squatting
in the sand by lamplight and hiding his work from his suspicious
Arab escort. These journeys [...] won him high honour with the
Royal Geographical Society, the British Museum, Kew Gardens,
and academic societies all over the world. He was awarded the
founder's gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1920
and the Sir Richard Burton memorial medal of the Royal Asiatic
Society in 1925." (ODNB).

Ghani, 302; Howgego III, p.31; Macro, 1781.



An American Naval Surgeon in Oman

12 RUSCHENBERGER (W.S.W.). Narrative of a Voyage round the World, during the Years 1835, 36, and 37; including a Narrative of an Embassy to the Sultan of Muscat and the King of Siam.

First English edition. 2 vols. With two tinted lithographed frontispieces and two other plates. 8vo. Contemporary plum calf, red and green morocco labels, elaborate gilt decoration to spines, brown silk page-markers; extremities rubbed, rear hinges of both volumes repaired, front joint of vol. 1 a little tender but holding firmly (front free-endpaper and first blank also slightly loose), head of spine of vol. 2 slightly damaged. Neat gift inscription to recto of first blank. A handsome copy. 8ads., viii, 450; viii, 472pp. London, Richard Bentley, 1838. **£2,000**

A brilliant account of Edmund Roberts' second official mission to the Indian Ocean and Far East, written by the surgeon who accompanied the American legation. **It includes several valuable chapters on Zanzibar and Muscat, and a description of the Omani ruler, Said bin Sultan (1791-1856), with whom Roberts exchanged ratified treaties, initially agreed on his previous mission.**

The legation set out from New York aboard *USS Peacock* in April 1835 with the aim of securing trade agreements and peace treaties with various Eastern powers (many of which Roberts had previously visited in 1832-34). In the course of the voyage they visited not only China, Java and India, but also Hawaii, Zanzibar, Muscat and California.

The first volume contains "Sketches in the Dominions of the Sultan of Muscat" (page 11 to 156), which describe Zanzibar and Muscat in great detail; their geography, trade, street-life and personalities. Ruschenberger's sketches of the latter are especially interesting, as in addition to describing important people, he records the spaces in which he met them. Of the impressive Hassan bin Ibrahim, Captain of the Sultan's Navy, we learn not

only of his education, his "eminently graceful" (p.28) costume and his many duties (such as transacting the American commerce at Zanzibar), but also of his home and his belongings. The rooms are memorable and perfectly encapsulate the mix of cultures at Zanzibar: "A cage full of small doves, and a glass lamp-shade, were suspended from the ceiling, and the wall was ornamented by several English prints of rural subjects." (p.45).

Two meetings with Said bin Sultan are accounted for, the second of which centred on the exchange of ratified treaties — the first to be made between America and a country of the Arabian Peninsula. (The text following the second meeting prints the treaty in full.) Ruschenberger captures the amicable nature of the exchange, and the good relationship between Roberts and the Sultan, who had first met during one of Roberts' early commercial voyages.

This edition is somewhat different to the American first (Philadelphia, 1838). As well as having attractive plates (the US edition was unillustrated) it predictably lacks several anti-British comments.

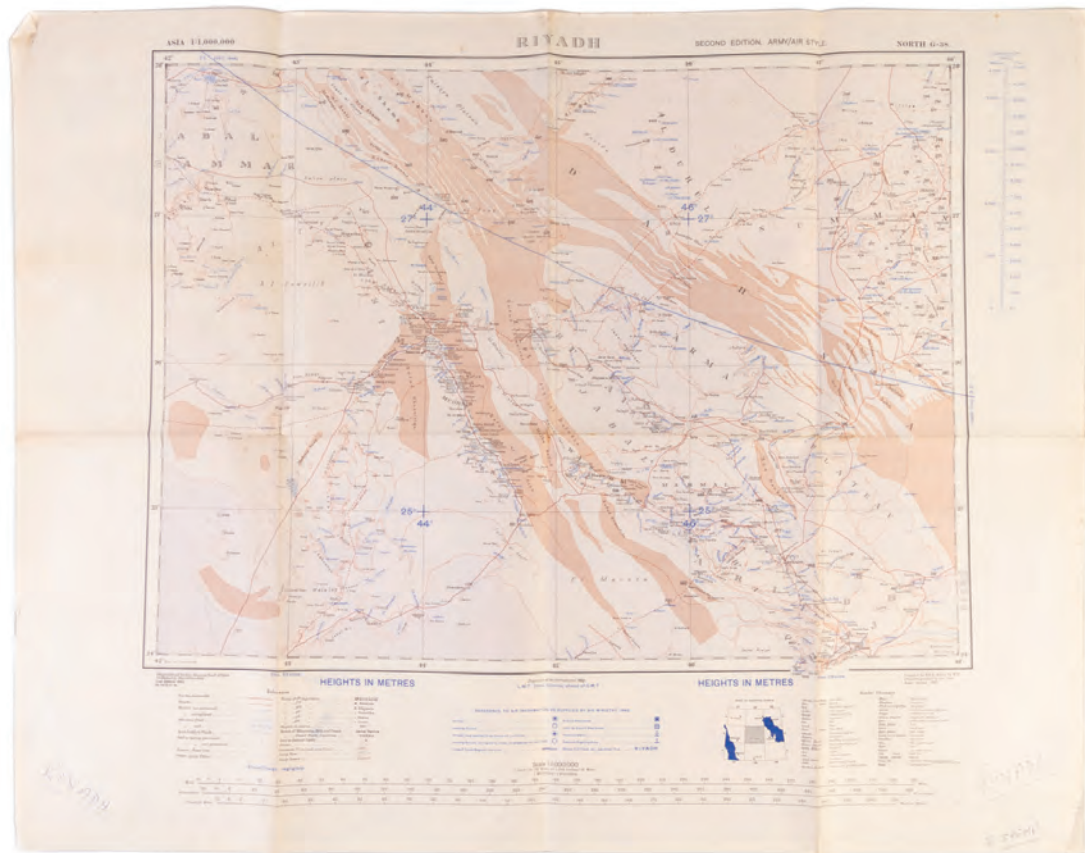
*Sabin, 74186;
Hill, 1498; Not in
Macro.*



Rare Map of the Saudi Capital & Neighbouring Regions

13 [SAUDI ARABIA.] GENERAL STAFF. Riyadh. North G-38.

Second edition. Geographical Section, General Staff, No. 2555. Colour photolithograph map, measuring 630 by 800mm; old folds, some dents and creases, extremities a little browned, otherwise very good. Ms. in ink to bottom right corner "RIYADH E. SKEMP". Scale 1:1,000,000. [London], War Office, 1942. (Roads revised, 1945.) **£1,500**



A rare official map of the Riyadh and Al-Qassim provinces of Saudi Arabia. The first edition, published in 1922, was one of the earliest separately issued maps of the Saudi capital published in Britain. Having consolidated his control of Central Arabia in the years following the Second World War, Ibn Saud established the kingdom Saudi Arabia in September 1932. Riyadh was chosen as capital and expanded with construction projects such as the Murabba Palace in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The present map is the first separately issued official British map of Riyadh and neighbouring regions published after the establishment of Ibn Saud's kingdom. It is updated from the 1922 edition with more place names, roads and air information (supplied by the Air Ministry in 1945). In addition to Riyadh, other principal cities and towns are detailed, such as Al Majma'ah, Shaqra, Al Zulfi, Unaizah and Buraida.

Rare, with just one copy of this edition in OCLC, at Karlsruhe University. (Copac/Jisc also lists a second edition, at Cambridge, but with 1946 as year of publication.) OCLC locates three copies of the first (provisional) 1922 edition.

A photographic record of Mecca and the Hajj pilgrims

14 SNOUCK HURGRONJE (C.).
Bilder-atlas zu Mekka].

Mekka [and

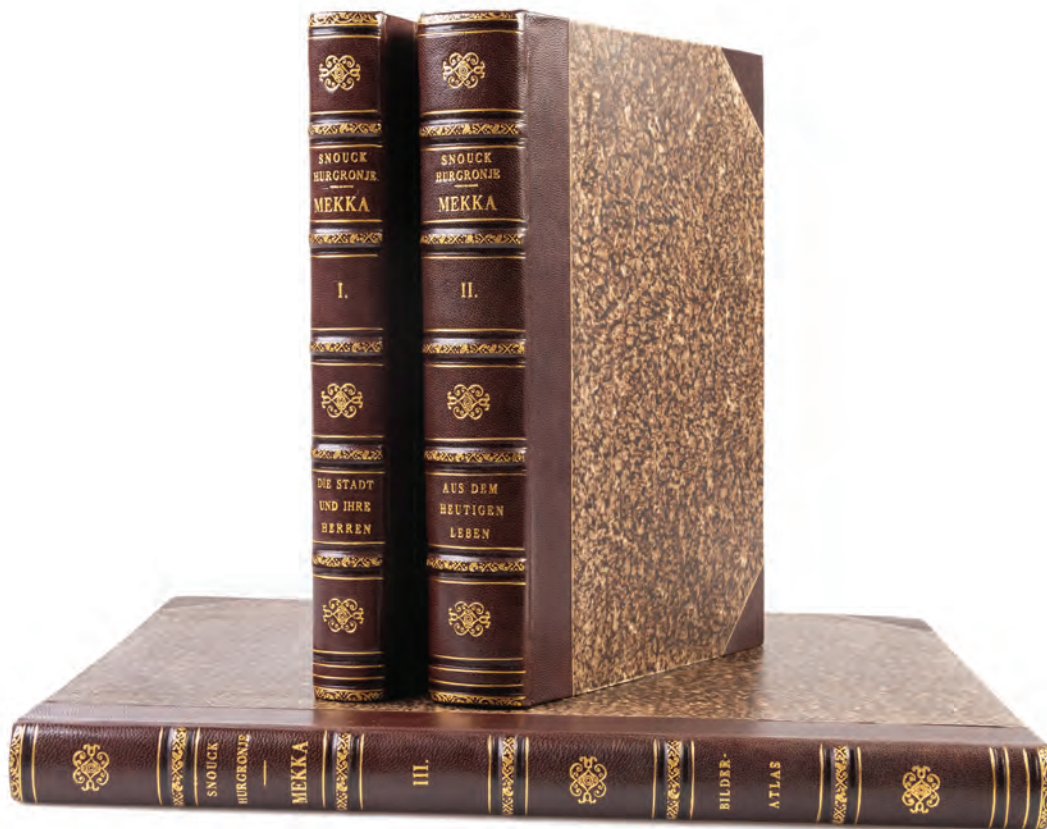


First edition. 2 volumes (text in German) with 2 folding maps, accompanied by an atlas volume with 40 plates (being 65 original photographs mounted on 30 leaves, and 10 other illustrations, including views and 4 chromolithographs of artefacts). Octavo text volumes and small folio atlas in recent half calf, gilt, with mottled boards. Original wrappers of vol. II bound in at end of vol. I, indecipherable ink ownership inscription to both title-pages. The plates were issued loose and are usually found slightly edge-worn; the present examples are in exceptionally good condition (the lithographs, as usual, a little foxed). A very handsome set. xxiii, 228; xviii, 397pp. The Hague, Nijhoff, 1888-89. **£30,000**

One of the earliest, most beautiful and thorough published photographic records of Mecca and the Hajj pilgrims. It also provides an intimate account of daily life in the city in the late nineteenth century, when it was still part of the Ottoman Empire. Monahan, in his introduction to his English translation of the second text volume (E. J. Brill, 1931), stresses the speed, significance and irreversibility of the upheaval that followed the end of Turkish rule: "The life of the town has changed within the last 25 or 30 years more than it changed during any preceding centuries" (pp.v-vi).

The Dutch Orientalist Dr Christian Snouck Hurgronje landed at Jeddah in August 1884. Before making his way to Mecca he spent five months on the coast, firstly staying with the Dutch consul J.A. Kruyt and then with an Indonesian nobleman, Raden Haji Aboe Bakr. It was there that he first started to photograph pilgrims arriving for the Hajj of 1884.

In January 1885 he adopted the name Abdul Ghaffar (as his physician and sometime co-photographer was called) and declared his conversion to Islam. He was subsequently invited to travel to Mecca by the Governor for the Hejaz, where he began his study



of the city and the pilgrim caravans. Over the following months he managed to gain a degree of acceptance in the city, until a French article declared that he had stolen the Tamyra Stone, or Stele. Though erroneous, this damaged his credibility and the Turkish governor ordered him to leave Mecca before the season began; thus obstructing his goal of participating in the Hajj of 1302 AH (September, 1885).

Despite this setback his study did not suffer thanks to Aboe Bakr, who supplied him with numerous letters on the Hajj of that year (these are said to make up around a third of the second text volume). *Mekka* was subsequently published as two text volumes (*Die Stadt und ihre Herren* and *Aus dem heutigen leben*) and an atlas (*Bilder-atlas zu Mekka*), receiving great acclaim. Given the input of Aboe Bakr, some scholars and commentators have made the case for co-authorship, an option not considered by Hurgonje.

Hogarth deems Hurgonje to be “the only European, except perhaps Burckhardt, who has seen the life of the oldest city in Arabia under normal conditions” and that the most valuable part of *Mekka* “is that devoted to Meccan society, its street-markets for slaves; its holy places and their guardians ... its houses, festival and guilds; its vices of turbulence, bigotry and lust; and its virtues of easy hospitality and humanity. Hurgonje’s is as minute a study of Arab urban life as could be made from the purely European point of view” (*The Penetration of Arabia*, pp.189-190).

The first of the two text volumes provides an excellent history of the city; the second contains the contemporary account praised above. The accompanying atlas is a remarkable visual resource, containing photographic plates of exceptional quality and variety, showing local people (from dignitaries to slaves) and an international array of pilgrims from neighbouring Arab states as well as Indonesia, Borneo and the Moluccas. They are widely acknowledged to be among the first photographs by a European to capture such people and scenes: Bokhara dervishes, the solemn doorkeeper of the Kaaba and a woman of Mecca in shimmering bridal dress.

Macro, 1239; *Badr El-Hage*, pp. 42-58, *Hamilton*, 72.



XXXI.



Pilger aus Batjan (Molukken)
Sohn des Sultans, Oheim des Prinzen und ein Priester.

Uncommon Guide to the Gulf

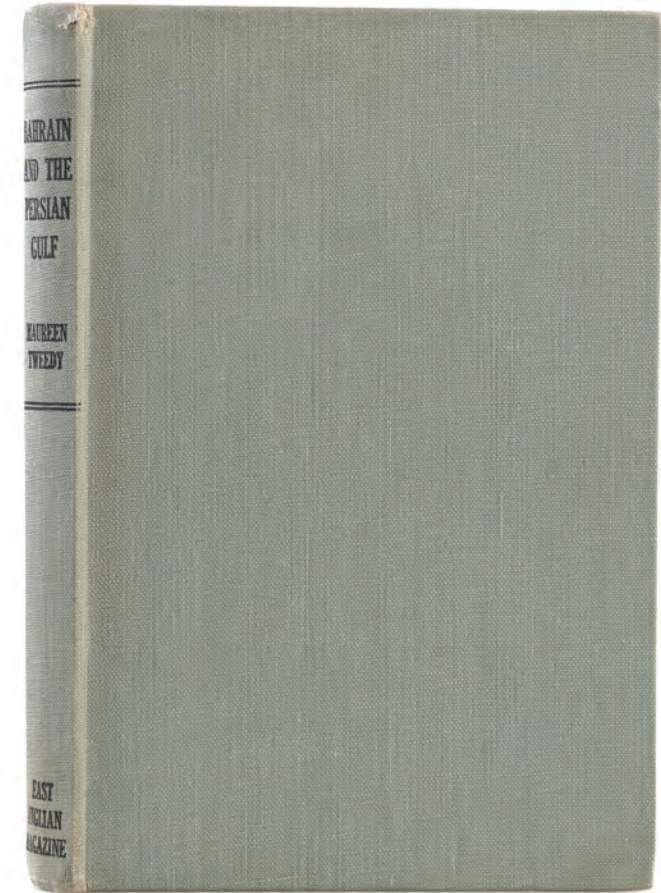
15 TWEEDY (Maureen). Bahrain and the Persian Gulf.

First edition. 3 maps (one double-page) and 53 black and white photographic illustrations (on 16 plates). Small 8vo. Original light blue cloth, black lettering to spine; a few light stains to back cover, head of spine frayed, small closed tear to p.31/32, overall near very good. With a loosely inserted greetings card from Bahrain, slightly edge-worn. 79, [1]bibliography pp. Ipswich, East Anglian Magazine, [1952]. **£450**

An uncommon short guide to the Gulf, with chapters on Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Muscat and the Trucial Coast (now the United Arab Emirates).

While travelling through coastal Eastern Arabia, Tweedy noticed the demand for “some kind of handbook” on the Arab States of the Gulf and the lack of such publications on offer. *Bahrain and the Persian Gulf* was written in response to that need and gives short descriptions of each State and brief accounts of their histories. Each chapter is illustrated with her own photographs, many of which are dignified and sensitive images of the local people.

Not in Macro.



17. RUINS AT MASJID-AL-KHAMIS, BAHRAIN.

Coast of the United Arab Emirates and Qatar

**16 [UNITED ARAB EMIRATES]. ADMIRALTY
HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT. Persian Gulf.
Umm al Qaiwain to Ras al Matbakh. From the latest information
in the hydrographic department to 1934.**

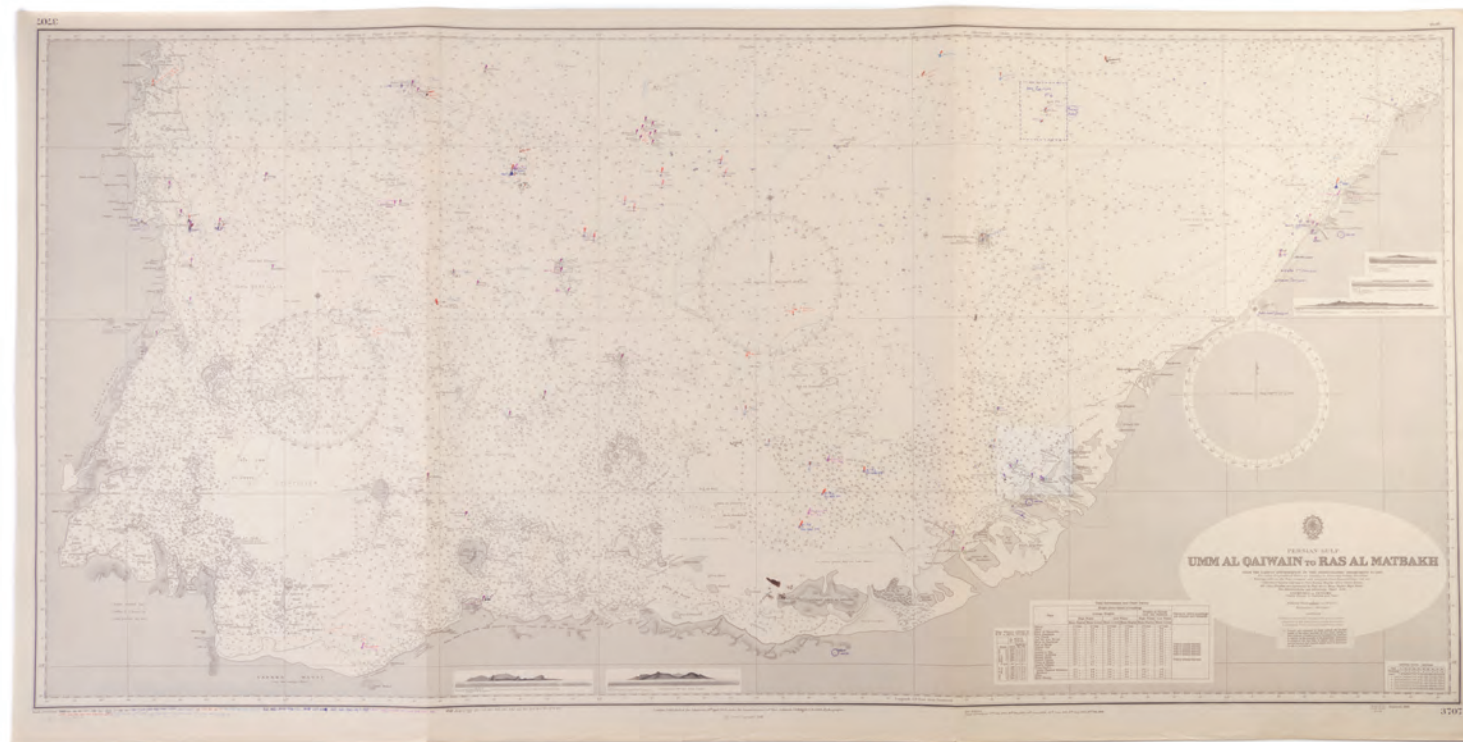
Large engraved chart, measuring 714 by 1402mm. Scale 1:330,000. Several small dents to margins, a few small stains and ink smudges, otherwise very good. Block correction and printed addition pasted onto the chart. Manuscript corrections and additions up to 1974. Label of the Compagnie Maritime Belge to verso. London, Admiralty, 14th April 1939, with printed corrections to 1968.

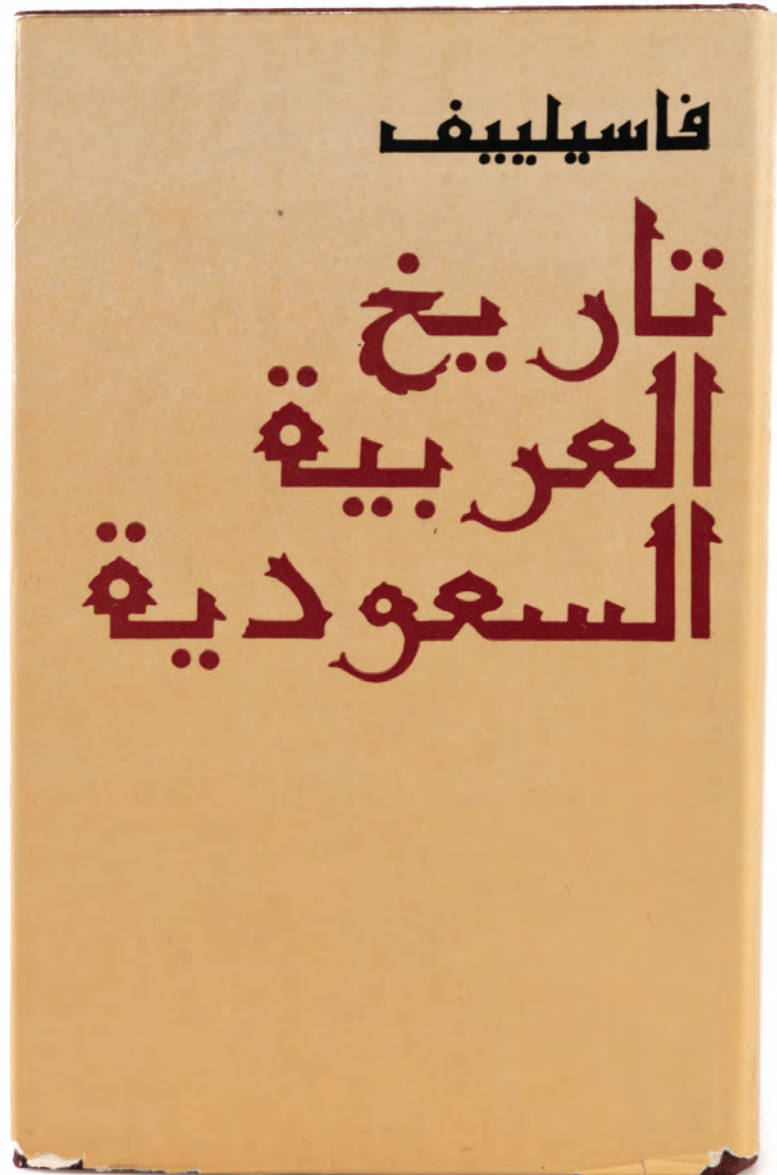
£750

A rare Admiralty chart of the coast from Umm Al Quawain (UAE) to Ras Matbakh (Qatar). It shows Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and almost the entirety of the United Arab Emirates coastline (then called the Trucial Coast). The east coast of Qatar is also present, including Doha.

Despite the impressive detail, the text beneath the title urges circumspection: "This chart should be used with great caution, as except in the areas more closely sounded, it is compiled from old and imperfect surveys [likely those undertaken by G. Brucks and S. Haines (1821-29), and C. Constable and A. Stiffe (1857-60)]." A pasted-on printed addition (presumably post 1958) also requests that vessels "keep outside the pecked limits of the areas marked on this chart, owing to the existence of numerous oil installations, and not to anchor in the vicinity of the pipelines."

The chart also features many neat manuscript corrections and additions, many of which mark oil rigs, pipelines, radio masts and construction sites. Such details point toward the sudden and far-reaching developments which took place in the UAE following the discovery of oil.





First Arabic Edition

17 VASILIEV (Alexei).
(History of Saudi Arabia).

Tarikh al-Arabia as-Saudia

Revised edition (first edition in Arabic). 8vo. Original maroon cloth, gilt lettering to spine and front cover, dust-wrapper. Cloth very good, a few small tears and sections of loss to extremities of dust-wrapper, otherwise good. 282, [2]pp. Moscow, 1986.

£250

The first Arabic edition of Vasiliev's comprehensive history of Saudi Arabia (first published in Moscow in 1982), from the establishment of the Emirate of Diriyah in 1744/45 to the early 1970s. Vasiliev drew on a remarkable range of sources, including early European travel accounts, Arab histories and official Russian documents.

IRAQ, JORDAN, KURDISTAN, LEBANON PALESTINE, SYRIA & TURKEY

Rare 'Turkish Fear' Pamphlet

18 [ANON.]. Das ist ein anschlag eins zugs wider die Türcken und alle die wider den Christenlichen glauben seind.

Title with woodcut coat of arms. Small 4to. Bound in old flexible vellum, overall a very good copy. 4ff. [Nürnberg, Jobst Gutknecht, 1518]. **£3,800**

The expansion of the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Sultan Selim I (1465-1520) was closely watched throughout Europe. The present work calls for the formation of an army to be sent against the Ottomans (and all others opposed to Christianity). In the first half of the sixteenth century over 900 pamphlets relating to the Ottoman Empire were issued, documenting the widespread fear of Turkish domination. The present call to arms was issued in various cities throughout central Europe including Augsburg, Breslau, and Basel. Two other Nuremberg imprints are known to have been printed in the same year (Georg Stuchs & Friedrich Peypus).

Rare. Only two copies in OCLC.

Göllner, Turcica I, 107. VD16, D-160; Köhler, 664; Weller, 1088.

Das ist ein anschlag

eins zugs wider die Türcken. Und
alle die wider den Christen-
lichen glauben seind.



With the Rare Map Case & Large Folding Map of Arabia

19 CHESNEY (Lieut.-Colonel [Francis Rawdon]).

The Expedition for the Survey of the Rivers Euphrates and Tigris, carried on by order of the British Government, in the Years 1835, 1836, and 1837; preceded by geographical and historical notices of the regions situated between the rivers Nile and Indus.

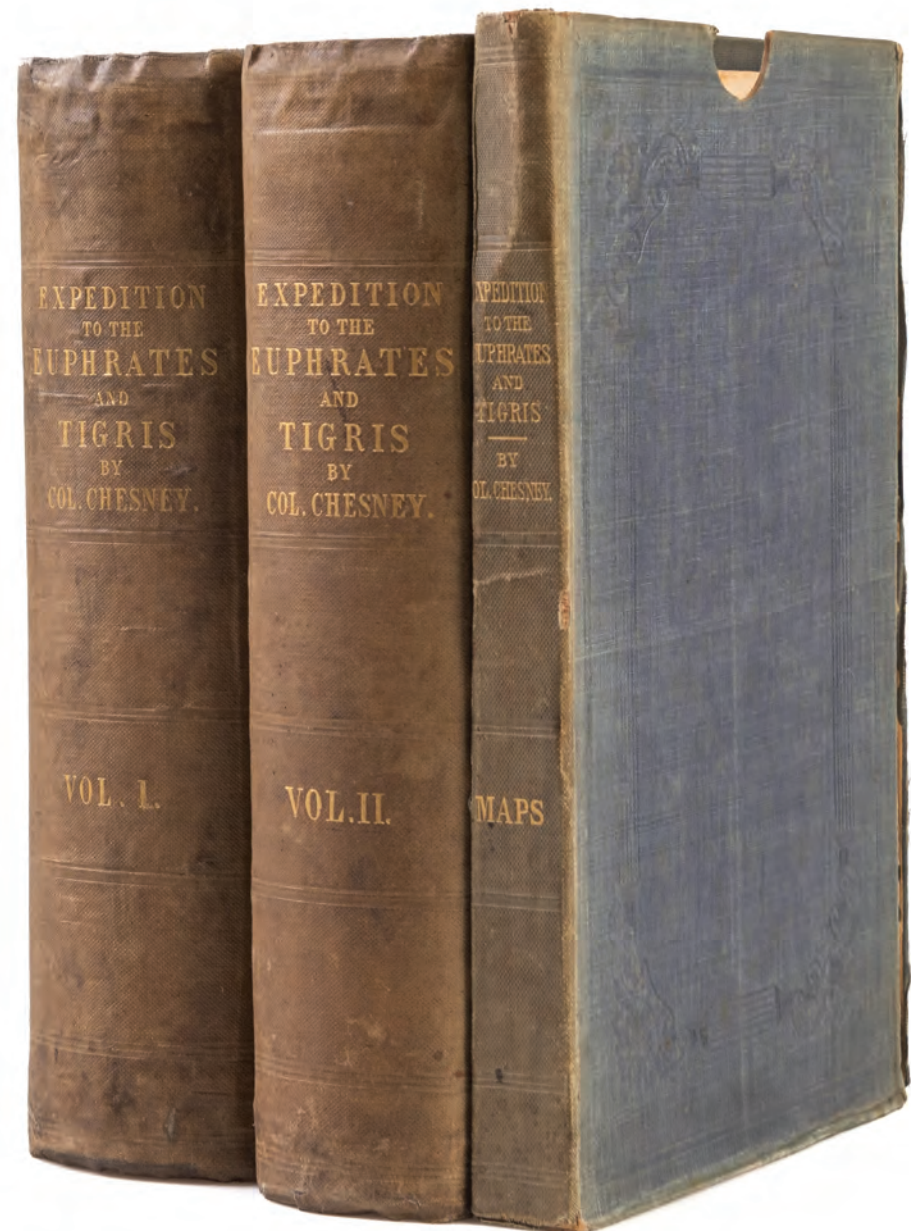
First edition. 2 vols and a map case. With 49 lithographed plates (48 tinted), numerous illustrations in the text, two folding tables, a large folding coloured map in pocket of first volume, and 13 folding maps in the separate map case. Thick 8vo. Original blue-green blindstamped cloth, spines lettered in gilt; neatly recased, the spines uniformly faded, dents and tears to extremities of map case, otherwise near very good. xxviii, 800; xvi, 778pp. London, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, 1850. **£5,750**

A landmark text on the Near and Middle East by an explorer of the first rank, who has been called the “founder of the overland route to India” (ODNB). Originally intended as a four volume work, only the first two (present here) were published. **This copy has the elusive map case, missing from most sets, containing, inter alia, a large and brilliantly detailed map of the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding regions.**

Following the success of his first survey carried out in 1831, alone and on a simple raft, the British parliament offered Chesney £20,000 to complete a full inspection of the two great rivers. Thus supplied he set out with two steamships, one of which sank en route, and completed the task of minutely surveying the geography, geology and history of the rivers within three years.

His determination and freakish attention to detail were self-evident in his plans for the publication on the expedition, which he envisaged as four substantial volumes; two on the geography and history of the regions between the Nile and Indus and two dealing with the expedition itself. Due to the loss of half of the manuscript only the first two made it through the press, and though perhaps

not living up to Chesney’s expectations they stand as a stunning compendium of information on Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Persia and the Arabian Peninsula (not to mention the impressive coverage of North Africa and Central Asia). The chapters on Arabia and the Persian Gulf are surprisingly detailed, with lengthy passages on Nejd, Oman, Bahrain, the so-called “Pirate Coast” (including Ras al Khaimah) and Kuwait (known as ‘Grane’ at the time).



ITEM 19

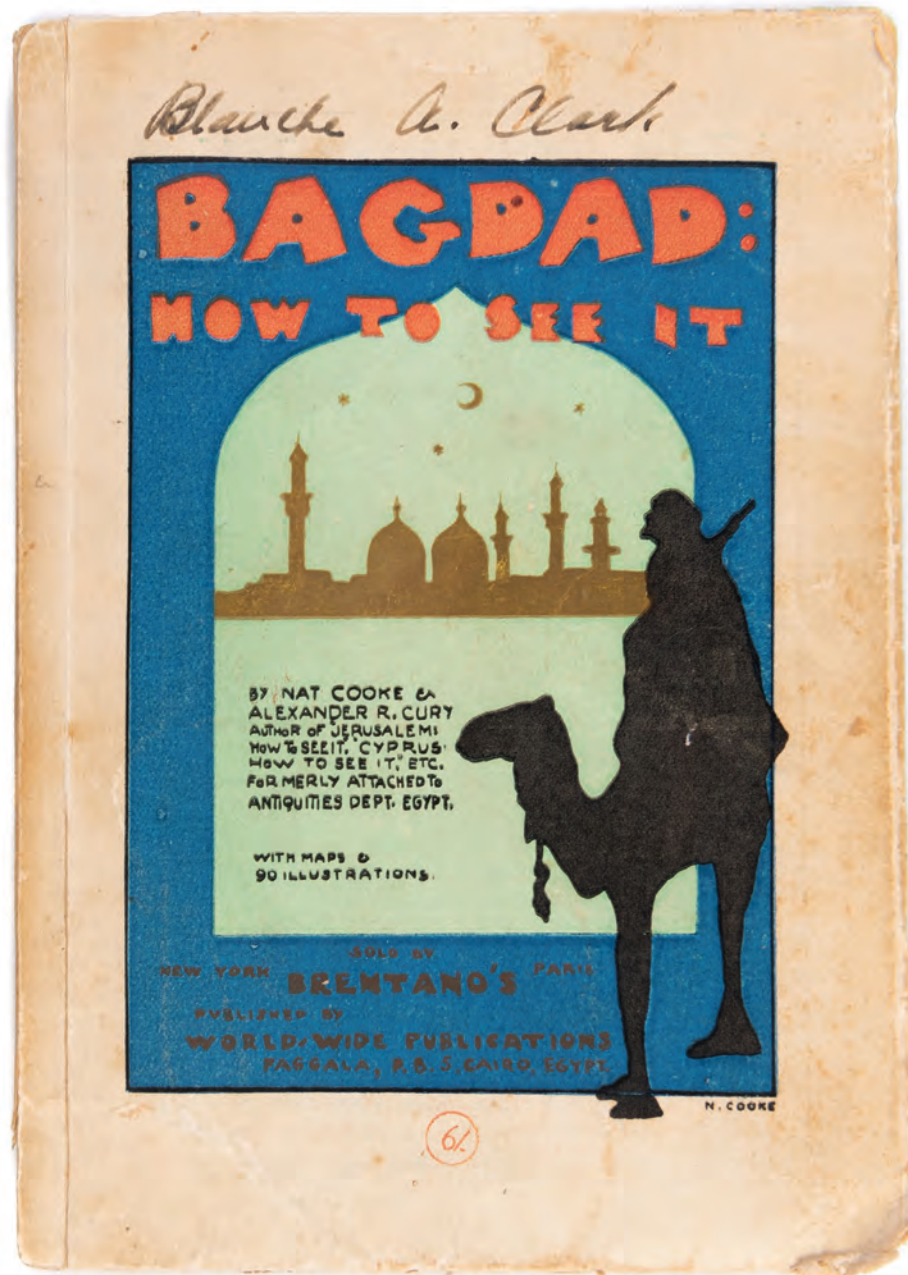
The aforementioned large map of the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding regions (*A Map of Arabia and Syria...*, London, J. & C. Walker for Longman, Brown & Co., 1849) is a truly stunning item and is without doubt one of the most detailed maps of Arabia produced in the mid-nineteenth century. It is the second edition of an 1847 map, much improved with information from surveys including Chesney's: "Mesopotamia and its rivers are laid down from Surveys made during the Euphrates Expedition. The Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Southern Coast of Arabia are from those made by the Officers of the Indian Navy. The interior of the peninsula is from various sources, particularly Materials furnished for the accompanying work by Aloys Sprenger M.D. and from documents obtained by Dr. Plate." (from the engraved 'Note' below the title).

Provenance: 1). Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872), with manuscript shelf mark on front pastedown. 2). John Brinton, engraved bookplate.

Atabey I, 234; Blackmer, 337; Ghani, p.74; Wilson, p.41. A Map of Arabia and Syria... is not in the Al-Qasimi Collection.



20 COOKE (Nat) & CURY (Alexander R.). Bagdad: How to see it.



First edition. Numerous half-tone photographic illustrations (printed in blue) and three maps (two folding). 8vo. Original pictorial wrappers, extremities worn with some loss to foot of spine, lower wrapper slightly loose but holding, otherwise good. Ink ownership inscription to upper wrapper. 224pp. Cairo, World-wide Publications, n.d, but [c.1930]. **£650**

A scarce tourist guide not just to Baghdad, but to almost all of Iraq. The author, Alexander R. Khoori (anglicised to Cury), spoke Arabic as his first-language and must have travelled fairly widely across the country, such is the scope and detail of the guide.

Most of the content is made up of short sketches, often beautifully written and advising adventure in favour of circumspection. It begins with a walk through Baghdad, which quickly leaves the tourist trail to explore a city of “glowing hidden courtyards, unexpected archways of light in the narrow dark streets, a bright blue dome, minarets lit up at sun-set” (p.32) and the evening Tigris alive with fishermen and boys learning to swim “supported by inflated old red inner tubes” (p.33).

From the capital Khoori travels both North and South, describing cities, towns and architectural sites from Mosul to Basra. He even goes beyond Iraq, providing short descriptions of Kuwait (pp.161-164) and Persia (with routes, pp.216-221). Kuwait, which he reached via a taxi from Zubeir (Az Zubayr), is described as “an entirely Bedouin town. Many types are there, but mostly men of the two great tribes of the Shamar and the Awazim. ...Many Wahabis are seen in the town, in their all white robes, with flashing eyes, their long black curls hanging each side of their lean, fierce faces.” (p.162).

Scarce. Copac/Jisc locates just one copy of the fourth edition [1939], at Oxford. OCLC records four copies in North America, and a total of seven worldwide.

Islamic Antiquities in Baghdad

21 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF ANTIQUITIES.

A Guide to the Arab Museum at Khan Marjan in Baghdad.

Second edition. Arabic text. With 28 half-tone black and white plates. 8vo. Original light blue printed wrappers (front wrapper in Arabic, back wrapper in English), stapled; some loss to spine and corners of back wrapper, extremities sunned, interior clean and bright. A good copy of an innately fragile publication. [iv], 1-14, [2], 15-29, [1]blank, 30-31, [2]English title-page pp. Baghdad, printed at the Government Press, 1957. **£350**

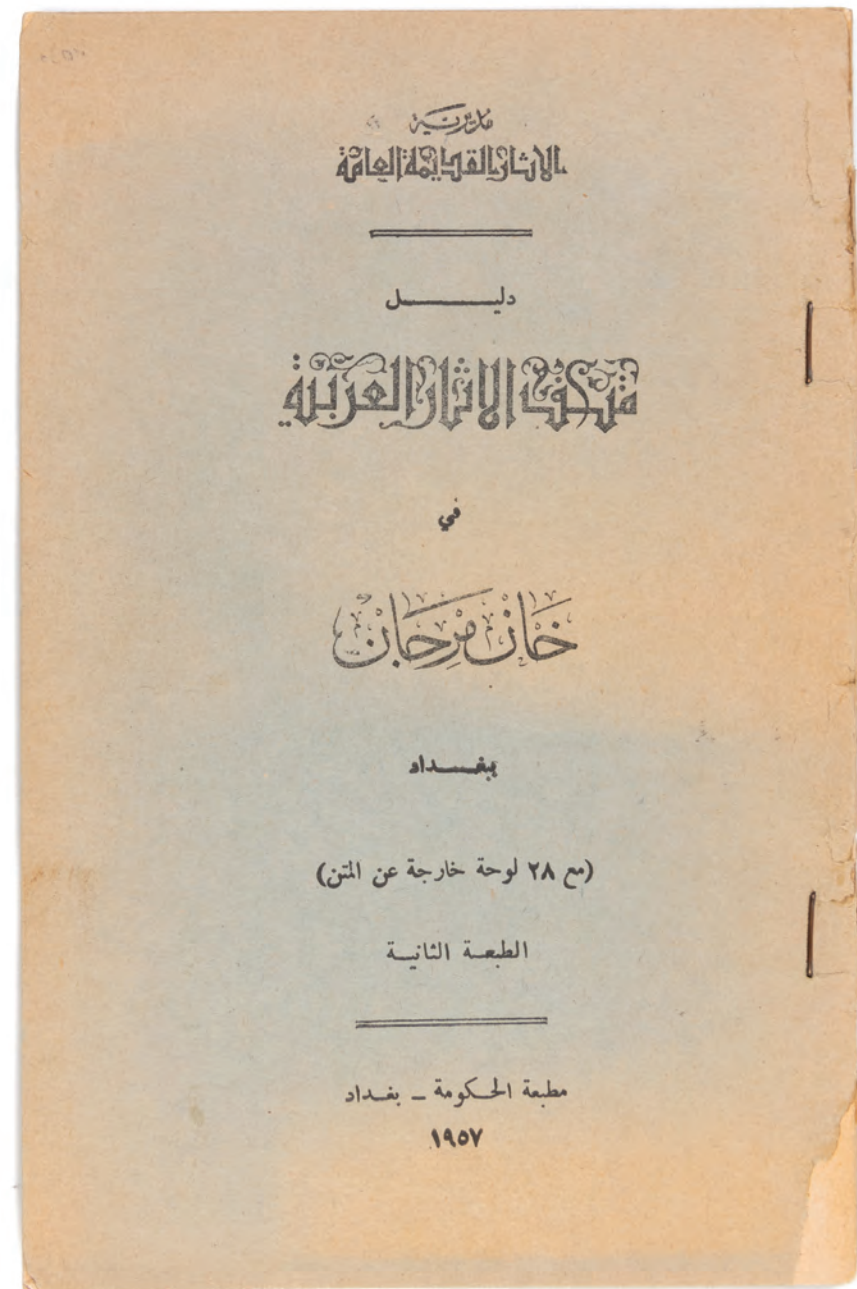
A beautifully illustrated history and guide to the Arab Museum based in the Khan Murjan of Baghdad. The first edition was published in 1938.

The Khan Murjan was built in the fourteenth century by Aminuddin Murjan (d.774AH/1372AD), who also funded the Murjan Mosque - one of the oldest mosques in Baghdad. The building was designed as a caravanserai and, for centuries, housed merchants, scholars and travellers passing through the city. With two stories of rooms, a high-ceilinged central hall and beautifully ornamented windows and arches, it was (and continues to be) an important and handsome example of Islamic architecture.

Due to later periods of neglect and flood-damage, the building languished in semi-ruin for close to two hundred years. Then, in the early 1930s, Sati' al-Husri (1880-1968), recently appointed as Director of Antiquities, ordered renovations and repairs so that it could be re-born as a museum dedicated to Islamic artefacts. Previous directors, all of whom were European, had primarily focused on pre-Islamic antiquities, so his decision - informed by his commitment to Arab nationalism - marked a significant change of perspective.

As the museum was fairly short-lived, the present guide gives a rare insight into its time at Khan Murjan.

Scarce. No copies in Copac/Jisc. OCLC locates ten holdings: five in Europe, four in North America and one at the Bibliothèque Al Saoud in Morocco.



22 FAISAL I.
ALS to Ronald Storrs, framed with
photographic portrait.

ALS to Ronald Storrs, framed with
photographic portrait.

Autograph letter signed. Single sheet. 8vo. Manuscript in ink, initialled by Storrs in red ink at bottom of sheet. Framed and glazed with original silver-gelatin photograph. Baghdad, 2 January, [1]924.
£1,500



A letter of new year's greetings and general well-wishing, from King Faisal I of Iraq to Ronald Storrs. Framed alongside the letter is an original photograph of Faisal, possibly taken by Storrs (a portrait of the Iraqi King is present in the archive of Storrs' private letters and papers, held at Pembroke College, Cambridge).

The two men first met during the build-up to the Arab Revolt, when Storrs led a mission to the Hejaz to gauge the Hashemite appetite for an alliance against the Ottomans. Three of Sharif Hussein's sons were interviewed and Faisal made the best impression, later immortalised by T.E. Lawrence in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: "I felt at first glance that this was the man I had come to Arabia to seek—the leader who would bring the Arab Revolt to full glory." (1935 edition, p.91). As expected, Faisal fulfilled that role and was made King of the Arab Kingdom of Syria (albeit shortly, before being expelled by the French) and King of Iraq after the war.

If Lawrence's support of Faisal was steadfast, Britain's was less so and by the year of the present letter some officials (led by Philby) were pivoting toward Ibn Saud as the unifying force in Arabia. Storrs, who was in the midst of a spell as the first Governor of Jerusalem (1918-26), appears to have kept up correspondence with Faisal throughout that period and up to the King's death in 1933, perhaps signifying continuing support in the face of changing political allegiances.

Rare. Faisal's letters, or any document signed by him, are seldom offered for sale in the trade or at auction.

A Handsome Copy

23 FLETCHER (The Rev. J.P.). Notes from Nineveh, and Travels in Mesopotamia, Assyria, and Syria.

First edition. 2 vols. 8vo. Original blindstamped purple cloth, spines lettered in gilt; spines and extremities faded (as usual), corners slightly bumped, hinges a little tender but holding, otherwise very good. Engraved bookplates to front-endpapers. viii, 365, [1], [2] ads; iv, 316, 16(publisher's catalogue) pp. London, Henry Colburn, 1850. **£2,500**

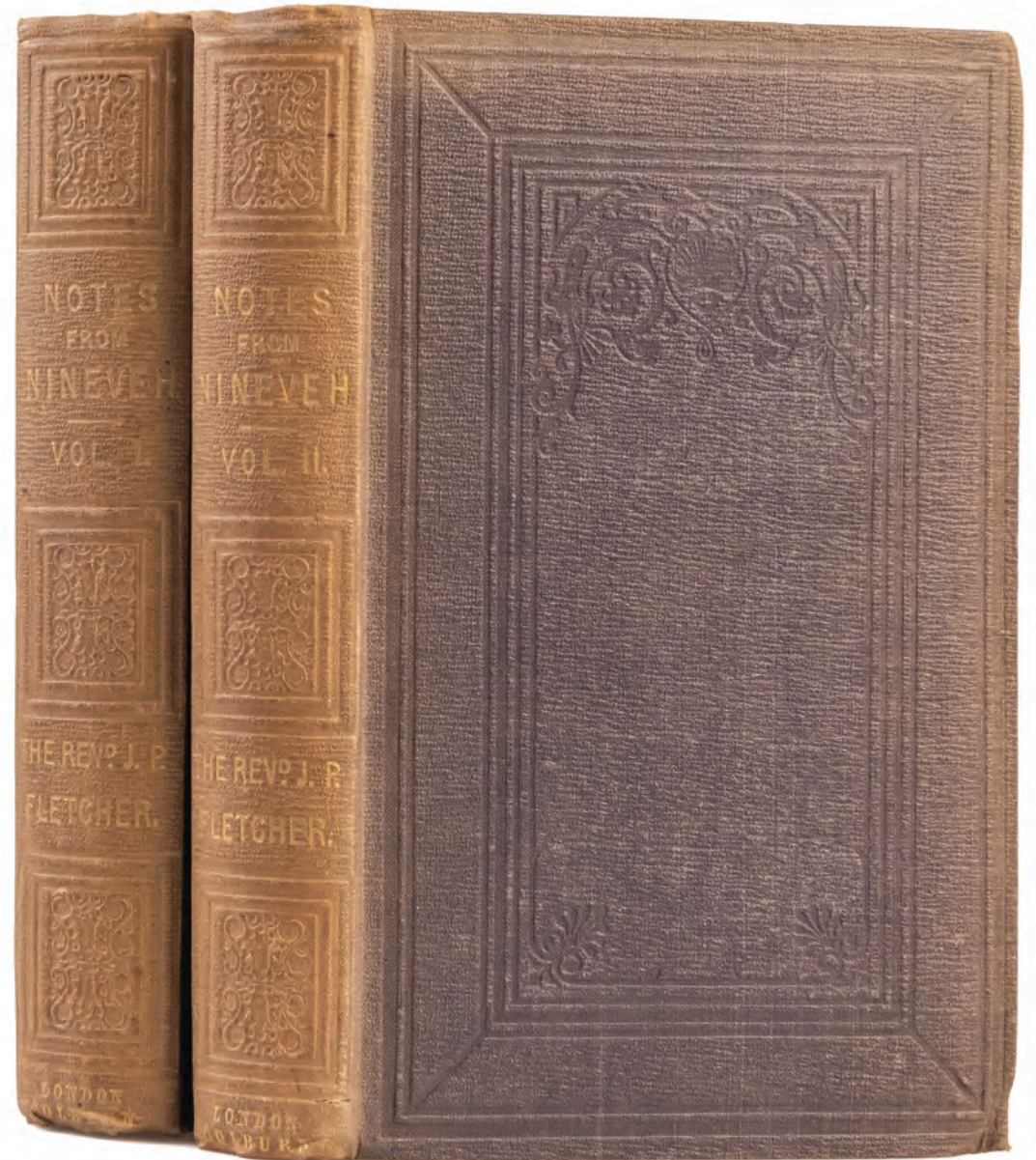
A handsome copy of a very desirable book recording two years' travels through the Near East to Iraq.

"Fletcher accompanied the Rev. G.P. Badger who was engaged in a mission of enquiry into the Christian religions of the East. Their journey began in 1842 and followed a route inland from Constantinople to what is now the northern reaches of Iraq. Fletcher's work, which includes many anecdotes of life in the towns he visited, provides an interesting and lighthearted accompaniment to Badger's more serious account of these same travels, *The Nestorians and their Rituals*" (Blackmer, 608).

Though chiefly focused on Christian communities, Fletcher's narrative also includes his experiences of other minority religions, including interactions with Yezidis in Kurdish villages and at the tomb of Sheik 'Adi in Lalish. His direct experience of their faith and welcoming nature led him to dismiss the negative image related by Muslims and Christians in Mosul and early European sources such as Thomas Hyde's *Historia religionis veterum Persarum* (Oxford, 1700).

Provenance: 1). Katherine Lucy Ridley, ink ownership inscription dated 1850. 2). Green Hammerton, engraved bookplate. 3). John Brinton, engraved bookplate.

Copies in the original cloth are rare in commerce, with just two sets appearing at auction in the last fifty years. The last came up at Sotheby's in 2014 (The Library of Franklin Brooke-Hitching), making £4,750.



HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 59

ANATOLIA

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

1920

Intelligence on Asiatic Turkey

24 FOREIGN OFFICE. **Anatolia.** Handbooks prepared under the direction of the historical section of the Foreign Office. No.59.

Public issue. 8vo. Original green printed wrappers, spine sunned, top right corner bruised, mark of removed library reference label to spine. Ex-libris of the John Rylands Library, withdrawal stamp to verso of title-page. A good copy. [viii], 138pp. London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1920. **£200**

In the Spring of 1917 the Foreign Office started work on a series of handbooks for the use of British delegates attending the Peace Conference. Published in 1918 and 1919, the handbooks were only issued to officials and all were marked 'Confidential' on the upper wrapper.

In late 1919 it was decided that a revised version should be made available to the British public. The present handbook is among the rarest of the series. It contains a wealth of information on ante-bellum Anatolia (Asiatic Turkey), covering, inter alia, geography, political history and economic conditions.

Attempted Abduction in Bornova

25 [IZMIR].

A Daring Act of Brigandage.

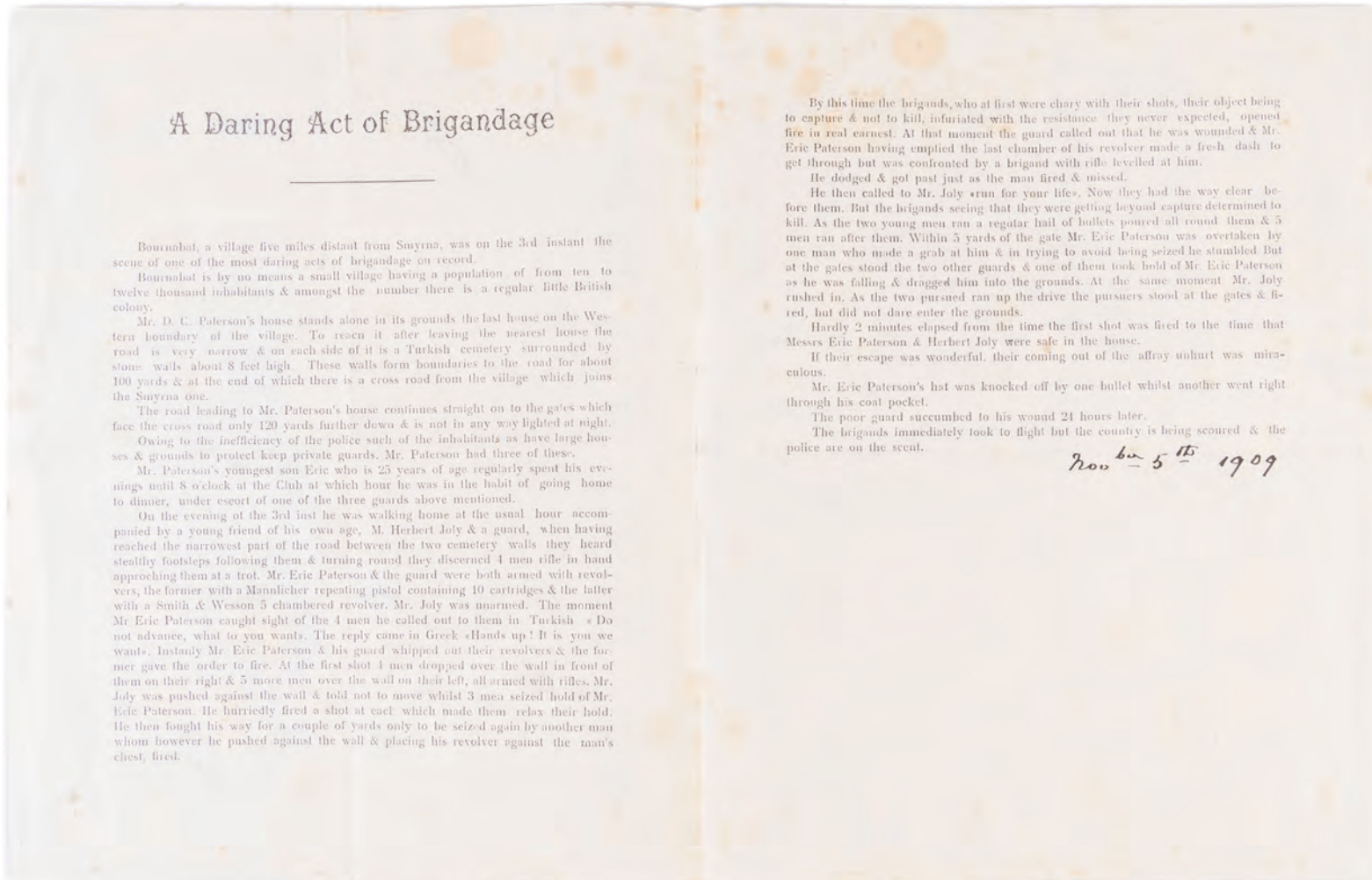
Broadside, measuring by 270 by 424mm. Two columns of text, folded at the centre (further old folds visible), some spotting and staining to the margins and verso. N.p., n.d., but [Smyrna (Izmir)] and dated in ms. "Novber 5th 1909". **£250**

A sensational broadside recording the attempted abduction of the son of Douglas Carr Paterson (1856-1929), a Scottish Izmir-based Chromium magnate. The Patersons had been in Turkey since the mid-nineteenth century and owned one of the grandest of Bornova's 'Levantine mansions'.

The event reportedly took place when Eric Paterson (D.C. Paterson's youngest son), his friend and a guard were walking home after an evening at a club. Nearing the mansion they were apprehended by nine rifle-wielding "brigands" who told Eric (in Greek) that they intended to capture him. When Eric and the guard "whipped out their revolvers" a gun battle and mad rush to the safety of the house ensued. Somehow Eric and his friend escaped injury, and were extremely lucky to do so, with one bullet knocking off Eric's hat and another going "right through his coat pocket." The guard was less fortunate and sadly passed away from wounds sustained in the fight.

Though a number of nineteenth-century travel narratives and news sources mention the Paterson family we cannot find any other record of the incident. The amateur nature of the printing and lack of printed date or author suggest it is a proof or was simply put together very quickly, most likely to communicate the news to members of the Bornova community. While certainly dramatic, the attempted abduction is believable, especially given the ostentatious wealth of the Patersons and the poverty in parts of Izmir at the time.

Seemingly unrecorded, with no copies in Copac/Jisc or OCLC.



A Little-known Archaeologist's Guide to Pre-Islamic Iraq

26 MACKAY (Dorothy). Ancient Cities of Iraq.

First edition. Six black and white photographic illustrations and three ink plans (including frontis.). 8vo. Original beige pictorial dust-jacket over plain card covers, front of jacket gilt; dust-jacket lightly worn and creased, with a single stain to front, neat ink ownership inscription to half-title, interior crisp. A very good copy of a fragile guide. xiv, 82pp. Baghdad, K. Mackenzie, 1926.

£250

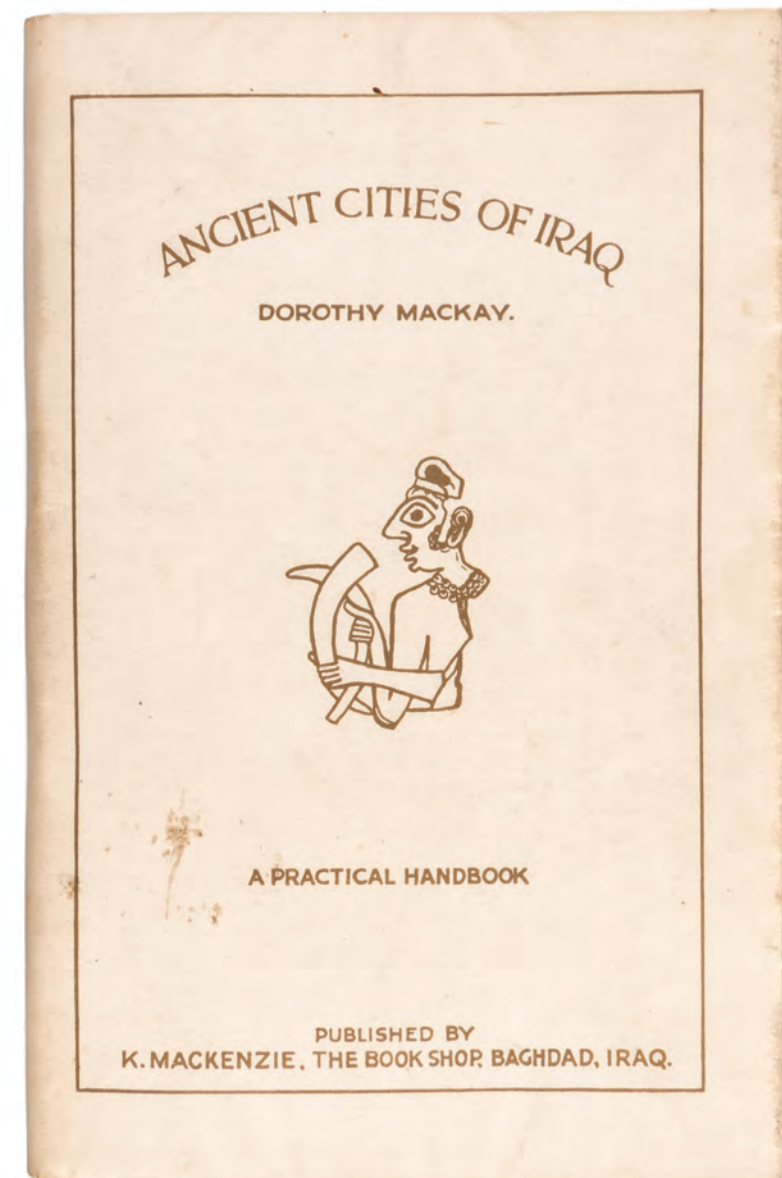
A handsome guide, covering archaeological sites around Iraq (some newly excavated) and promoting their improved access via the developing rail and road system. The author was among a small number of British women working in Iraq in the inter-war period, and despite achieving recognition as an archaeologist is now something of a forgotten figure.

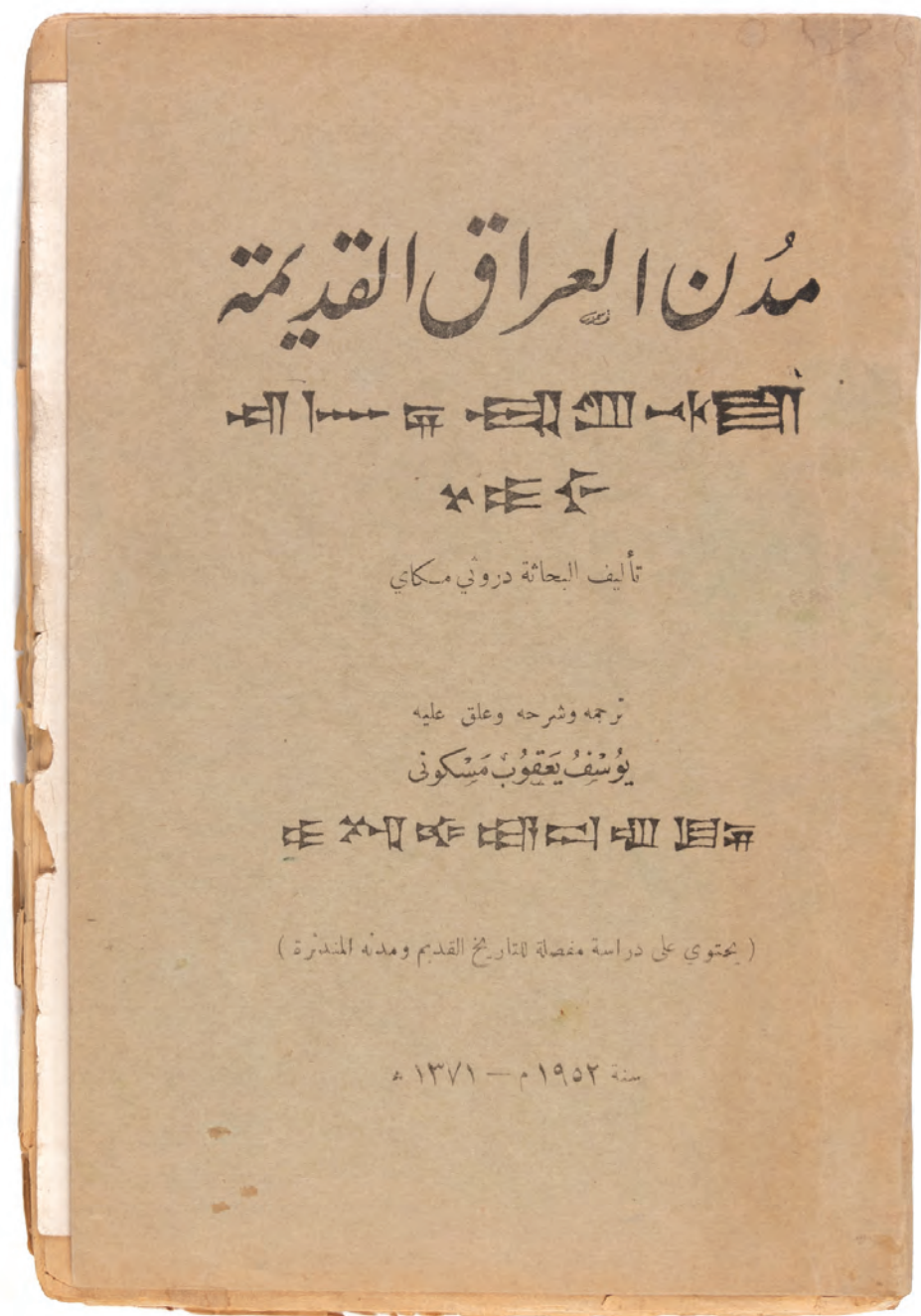
Dorothy Mackay (c.1881-1953) first obtained two degrees (Greek and French, then Zoology) before proceeding to work in archaeology alongside her husband Ernest Mackay, whom she married in 1912. Upon returning to the UK, she studied archaeology at UCL in the 1940s and later worked as Curator of the American University of Beirut Museum and as Assistant Curator at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

The guide, devised as 'a practical handbook', describes various ancient (pre-Islamic) sites under two main headings, 'Ancient Sites of Babylonia' and 'Ancient Sites of Assyria'. Other sections include a brief introduction to archaeology, and a description of Baghdad and the Museum of Antiquities. The latter features a touching dedication to the late Gertrude Bell (who passed away the year the book was published), with Mackay suggesting the new premises of the Museum should be named after her "...as the memorial she herself would most have appreciated of her admirable and useful work." (p.9). The section on 'Hints for intending visitors'

gives a flavour of the English experience in Iraq at the time, with essential advice on medicines and quainter notices, such as "Evening dress will be required by those who have introductions to British residents in Baghdad." (p.x).

See: Amara Thornton, *Discovering Dorothy*, (accessed 24/08/20), <https://www.readingroomnotes.com/home/discovering-dorothy>





Rare Arabic Translation

27 MACKAY (Dorothy). Translated by MISCONY (Yusuf Jacub). Ancient Cities of Iraq. Mudun al-'Iraq al-qadima.

Second (first Arabic?) edition. English language back cover-title, title-page and bibliography, otherwise arabic text throughout. Seventeen half-tone photographic plates and a folding archaeological map of Iraq. 8vo. Original green printed wrappers; a few light stains to wrappers, fore-edge untrimmed, largely unopened, overall a very good copy of a fragile book. [4], 204, [4], [3]bibliography, [1]pp. Baghdad, Shafiq Press, 1952. **£350**

A rare Arabic translation of Mackay's archaeological guide to Iraq, which was first published in English in 1926. Yusuf Yacub Miscony initially made the translation in 1932 and later wrote a commentary, explanation and updated bibliography for the present edition.

Rare. We cannot find any copies in UK institutions. OCLC locates just two; one at the American University in Cairo and the National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco (Tétouan branch via the Digital Library for International Research).

Interwar Baghdad for British Tourists

28 MAIN (Ernest). In and around Baghdad.

First edition. 8vo. Original black cloth, gilt titling to front cover; gilt dimmed, extremities slightly rubbed, corners bumped, otherwise very good. Title-page a little loose. [xvi](title and ads), 86, [2]blank pp. Baghdad, The Times Press, [c.1932]. **£500**

A brief but arresting guide to interwar Baghdad, which ventures beyond the usual scope of the tourist literature of the time.

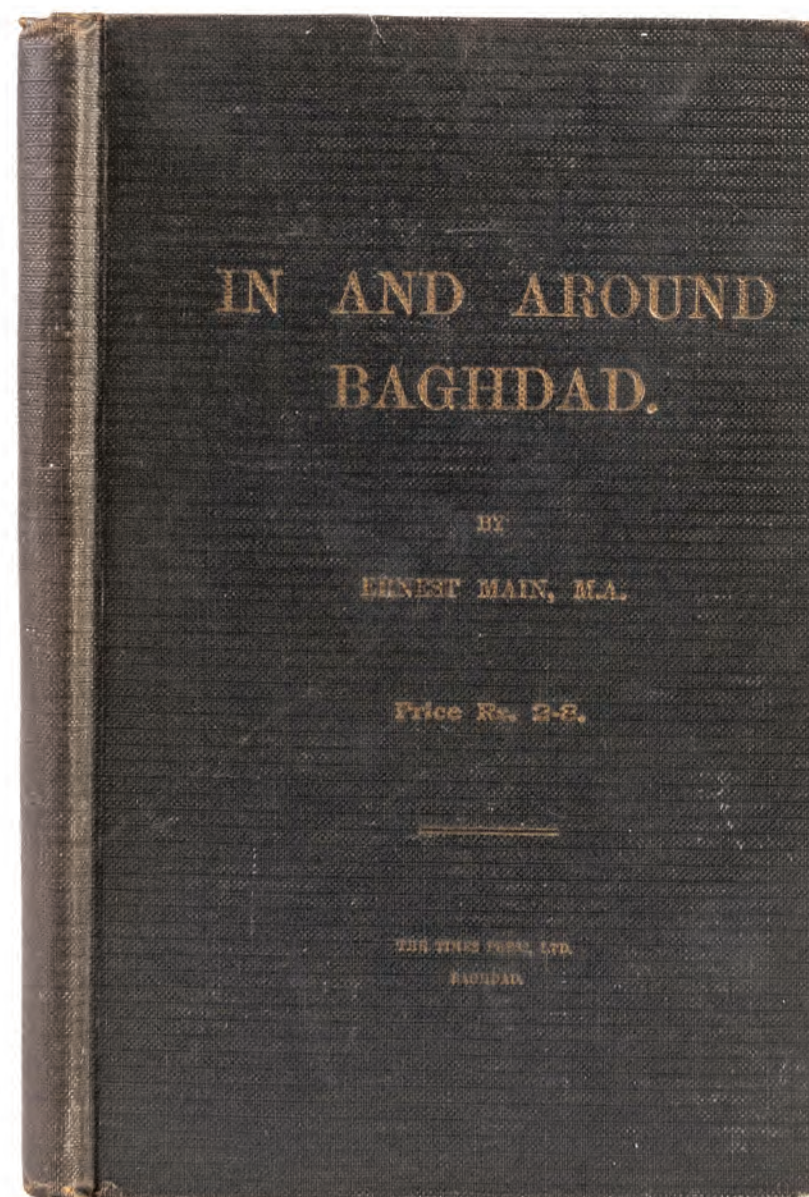
In and Around Baghdad was one of the few cloth-bound books produced by the Times Press (which primarily published English-language newspapers) and was clearly intended for the growing number of British visitors to the city. It begins with adverts for businesses and services catering to such visitors, and the opening chapters cover expected subjects: the desert road from Damascus, the main shopping streets (New Street and River Street), the bazaars, and the Baghdad Races. The latter provides an interesting overview of the horse breeding industry, including short profiles of the most important Iraqi breeders.

The author then wanders to sites less in-keeping with the casual tourist's fancy. The reader is taken case-by-case through the Iraq Museum (and if he or she is a collector of antiquities, a list of licensed dealers in Baghdad, Mosul and Nasiriyah is offered), then to the new X-ray department of the Royal Hospital, and on to the Boy's Reformatory School and adult jail, where inmates were busy weaving copies of Persian carpets. Main describes all of the above vividly and, with a few exceptions of lazy (but sadly typical) stereotyping, gives a positive and balanced view of the local people.

The last chapter moves out from the rush and din of the urban centre — the Coppersmith's quarter is said to be "like the Clyde or the Tyne for noise" (p.13) — to the Diyala plain, fifty miles North-East of the city. There Main observes the excavations of

ancient Eshunna at Tell Asmar, which were being carried out by the Chicago Oriental Institute. Poring over specific finds, he insists on the importance of the site as a whole, for how its parts come together to give "...an idea of what these ancient civilisations were like, and also how one stage of civilisation followed on and developed out of another stage" (p.84).

Scarce. Copac/Jisc locates three copies, at the British Library (two copies) and SOAS. WorldCat adds five more, at UCLA, UCSB, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.



Documenting the War in Mesopotamia

29 [MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN]. BARBER (Lieutenant F.H.). Three photograph albums documenting a British Officer's experiences during the Mesopotamian Campaign.

Three large octavo albums. Contemporary green cloth, extremities a little rubbed, a few hinges split but holding firmly. 220 original silver gelatin photographs (each approx. 75 by 100mm), all held in between sheets of card; several slightly faded, some light foxing to the card mounts (in a few cases affecting the images), otherwise in very good bright condition. Approximately two-thirds neatly captioned on the mount below image (others with captions on loosely inserted scraps of paper). Various places, Iraq, Persia, Bombay, Port Said, 1917-18. **£2,500**

An excellent collection of amateur photographs, recording the involvement of the 1/5th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment in the Mesopotamian Campaign of World War One. Compiled (and presumably taken) by Lieutenant F.H. Barber, they cover the progress of the Battalion from its arrival at Basra in December 1917 up to the Armistice of Mudros which ended hostilities on the 30 of October 1918.

The majority of the images document towns and cities at the opening of the Persian Gulf and those on the banks of the Tigris: Mohammerah (now Khorramshahr, Iran), Basra, Amarah, Samarra, Al Fathah, Al Aziziyah, Kut and, of course, Baghdad. There are numerous street scenes, cityscapes and respectful portraits of local people. Among the most notable efforts are sombre shots of the cemetery at Kut, beautiful studies of the al-Askari Shrine (Samarra) and a memorable image of several young Arab women standing in front of the Ctesiphon Arch (Taq Kasra).

The next largest grouping is more directly concerned with the Battalion, documenting the Indian and British soldiers, their camps, transport (horses and mules) and leisure time. None show conflict, but there are two images of the Fatha Gorge where



Ctesiphon: general view of Arch.



A closer view.

the Battalion saw action from 23-26 October 1918, and several photographs of Turkish prisoners. The latter include a fascinating series on a wrestling match — the two august combatants half-circled by a crowd of fellow convicts.

A small proportion of the photographs move beyond Mesopotamia. The second album ends with a road journey into Persia (at least twenty-four images) which may signal that Barber joined the North Persia Force after the Armistice of Mudros. This seems to be complicated by the leisurely nature of the images (picnicking beneath the Sassanid carvings at Taq-e Bostan and so on) and those on a hospital ship leaving Basra for Bombay at the close of the third album.

Overall, the albums comprise an unusually accomplished visual record of wartime Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).



Turkish prisoner's wrestling.



Ground-breaking English work on the Rashidun Caliphs

30 OCKLEY (Simon). **The Conquest of Syria, Persia and Aegypt, by the Saracens: Containing the Lives of Abubeker, Omar, and Othman, the immediate Successors of Mahomet. Giving an Account of their most remarkable Battles, Sieges, etc. particularly those of Aleppo, Antioch, Damascus, Alexandria and Jeruselem...**

First edition. 8vo. Contemporary full calf, label with gilt lettering to spine; short split at head of upper joint, title label slightly chipped, otherwise very good. Slight (defunct) worming to rear endpapers and margins of index pages, rest of interior very clean & bright. xxviii, 391, [xix]pp. London, R. Knaplock et al., 1708. **£750**

First edition of Ockley's ground-breaking history of the first three Rashidun Caliphs: Abu Bakr (r.632-34), Umar (r.634-44) and Uthman (r.644-56). **It was the first English work on early Islamic history to make extensive use of texts by Muslim authors, and did much to transmit their learning to the reading public.**

Ockley began his research on the Arab conquests at Cambridge, working from late texts by Christian authors. The foundation for the present work, however, was laid at the Bodleian, where he spent two six week spells of intense study in August 1701 and April/May 1706. It was there, among the Islamic manuscripts, that he discovered earlier histories detailing periods sketchily covered in European sources.

Later scholarship has proved some of the contributing manuscripts were not as early as Ockley had hoped, such as a copy of the *Futuh al-Sham* attributed to al-Waqidi (747-823), which, despite being dated 863, was actually copied around the time of the Crusades. Such mistakes were inevitable given the pioneering nature of Ockley's work and the *Futuh al-Sham* remained a significant find, providing an Arab perspective on the conquests of Syria and Persia.

Ockley later wrote a second volume, published in 1718, continuing his account from the fourth Caliph, Ali (r.656-61), to the fifth Umayyad Caliph 'Abd al-Malik (r.685-705). Though he was in a debtors' prison at the time of its publication and passed away in 1720, the two volumes were highly influential. They helped to supersede the Medieval Christian view of Islamic history (and Islam more generally), and informed the work of historians such as Edward Gibbon, who recognised Ockley as "an original in every sense" (E. Gibbon, *Autobiography*, World's Classics, n.d., p.32, quoted in the *ODNB*).



An Important work on Palestine

31 SEETZEN (Ulrich Jacob). A Brief Account of the Countries adjoining the Lake of Tiberias, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea. Published for the Palestine Association of London.

First English edition. With a frontispiece map (this slightly trimmed at the fore margin). 4to. Modern quarter red calf with decorative paste-paper boards, spine lettered in gilt, very good. vi, 47, 5pp. Bath, Printed and sold by Meyler and Son, 1810. **£750**

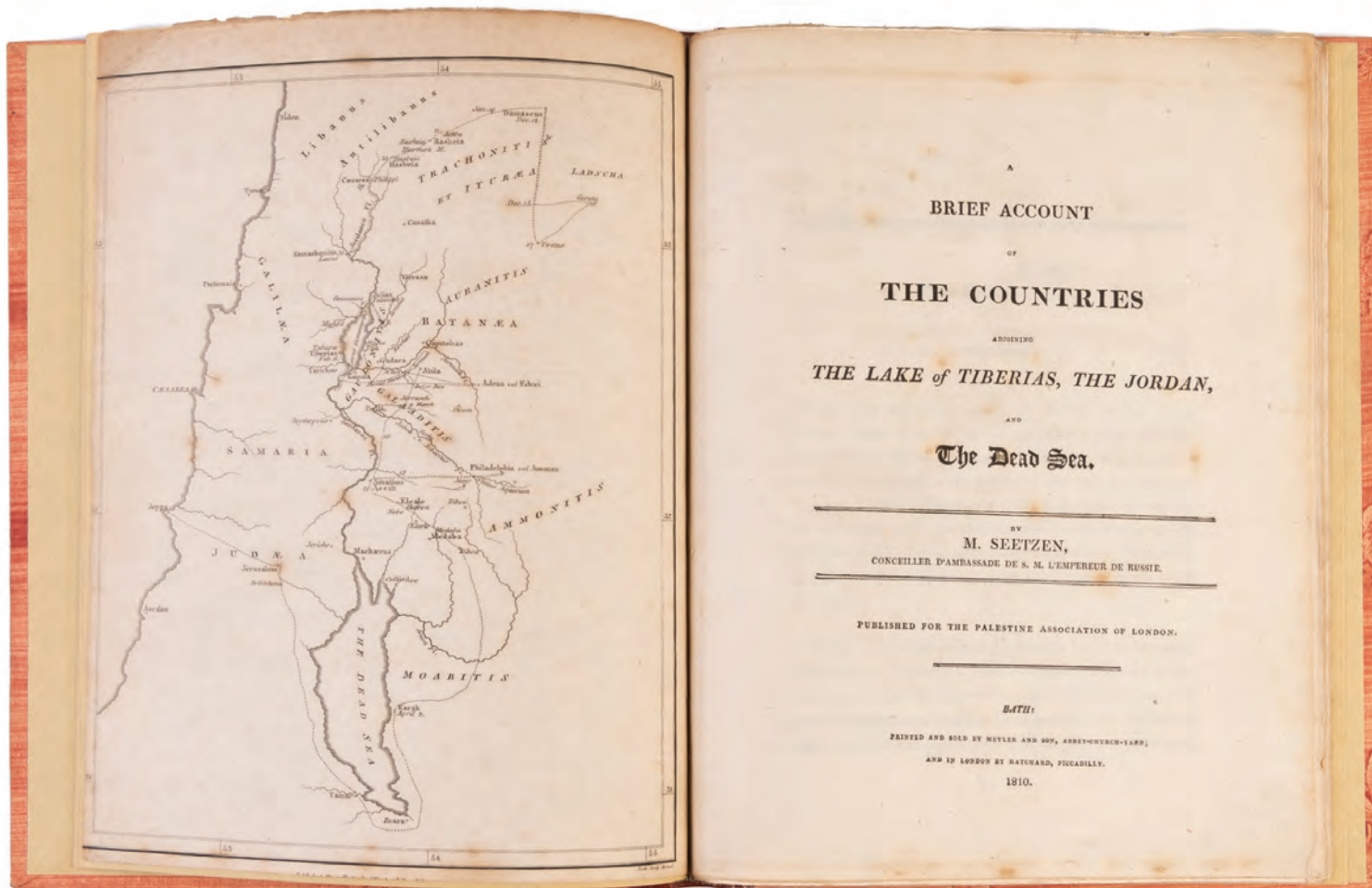
This is the first publication in book form describing the travels of Ulrich Seetzen, an unsung hero of Middle Eastern travel.

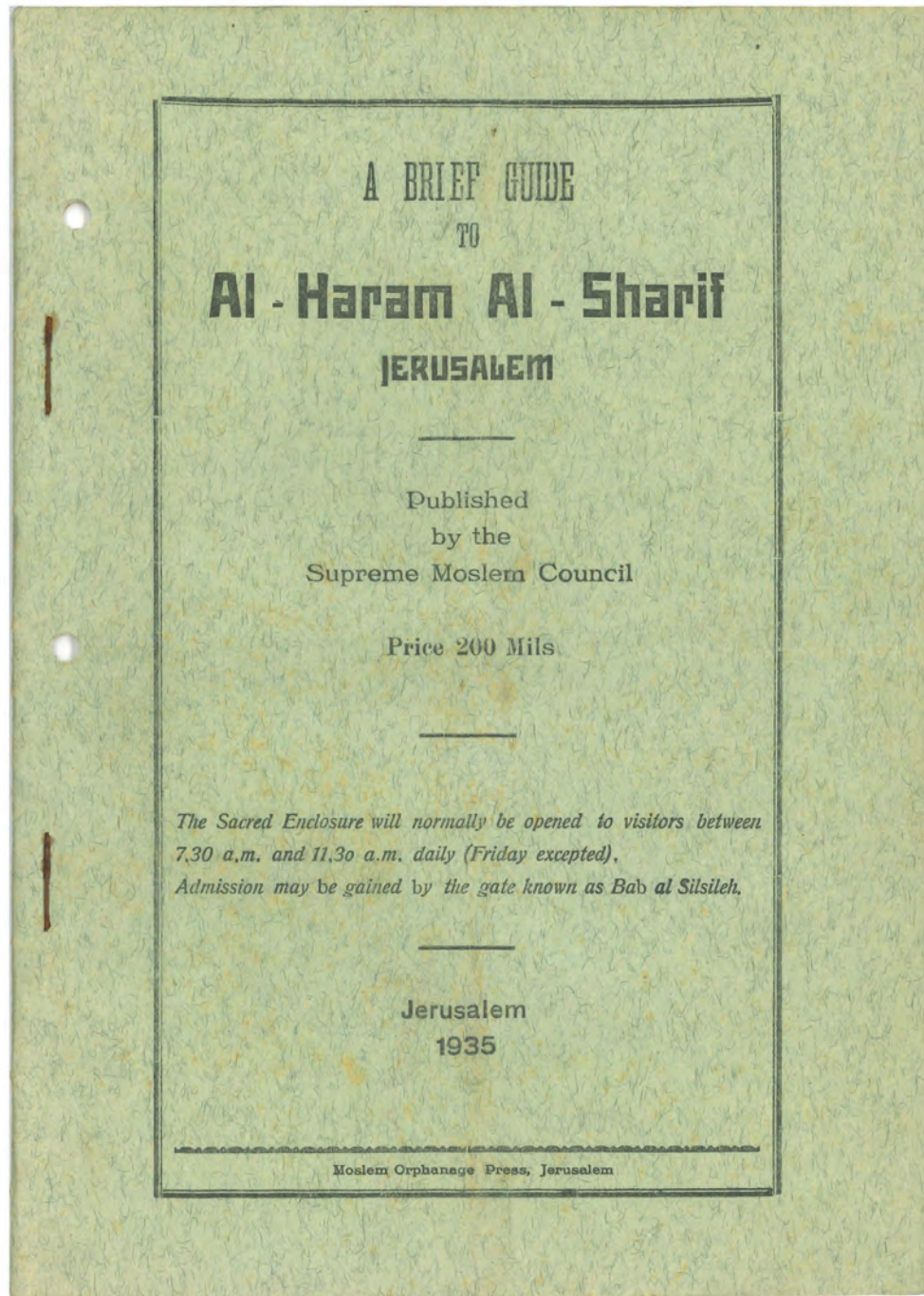
After learning Arabic in Syria, "In 1806 he began his travels to the east of Hermon, the Jordan and the Dead Sea, during which he discovered the ruins of several ancient cities previously unknown to Europeans, including the site of Jerash (ancient Gerasia). His journey took him round the sea of Galilee (February 1806) and then into Jordan as far as Amman..." (Howgego). At a later date, and not described in this account, he visited Mecca and Medina in disguise; he was last seen in Yemen where it is believed he was murdered as a spy. This brief account was composed from articles first published on the continent. His actual diaries and papers were later recovered and published (1854-9, in 4 volumes).

The author was *Conceiller d'Ambassade de S.M. l'Empereur de Russie* and the letters addressed to *M. de Zach, Grand Marechal de la Cour de Saxe Gotha...* Some members of the National Institute at Paris sent over these papers to Sir Joseph Banks, by whom they were obligingly forwarded to the Palestine Association. The Association was formed to remove "the present ignorance respecting Palestine."

Rare in commerce, with just two copies in auction records (Sotheby's 1994 and 1998).

Rohricht, 1615 (London ed., 1813); not in Blackmer.





One of the Holiest Sites in Islam

32 SUPREME MOSLEM COUNCIL. A brief guide to the Al-Haram Al-Sharif Jerusalem.

Later edition. With seven black and white photographic plates. 8vo. Original light green printed wrappers, stapled; two hole punches to inner margin, staples slightly rusty, top corner of lower wrapper clipped (as always), otherwise very good. Blue stamp of the "CONTROLLER OF THE GUIDE BOOK WAKF OFFICER - JERUSALEM" to lower wrapper. [2], 2-9pp. Jerusalem, Moslem Orphanage Press, 1935. **£200**

A nice copy of this short guide to the Haram esh-Sharif (al-Haram al-Šarif) compound in Jerusalem. There are myriad early twentieth century English-language guides to Jerusalem, but very few published by Muslim publishers and organisations. This pamphlet is an example of the latter and gives an Islamic perspective on the compound and its history.

The historical sketch - running from 637 AD to the brilliant restorations carried out by Suleiman the Magnificent in the sixteenth-century - is followed by a walk through the compound, mainly focusing on the Al-Aqsa Mosque (al-Masjid al-'Aqsa) and the Dome of the Rock (Qubbat al-Sakhrah).

Copac/Jisc records a number of editions, the earliest of which was published in 1924. Several French versions also appeared in the 1920s and 30s.

33 [VAN ESS (John), et al]. Historical Mesopotamia.

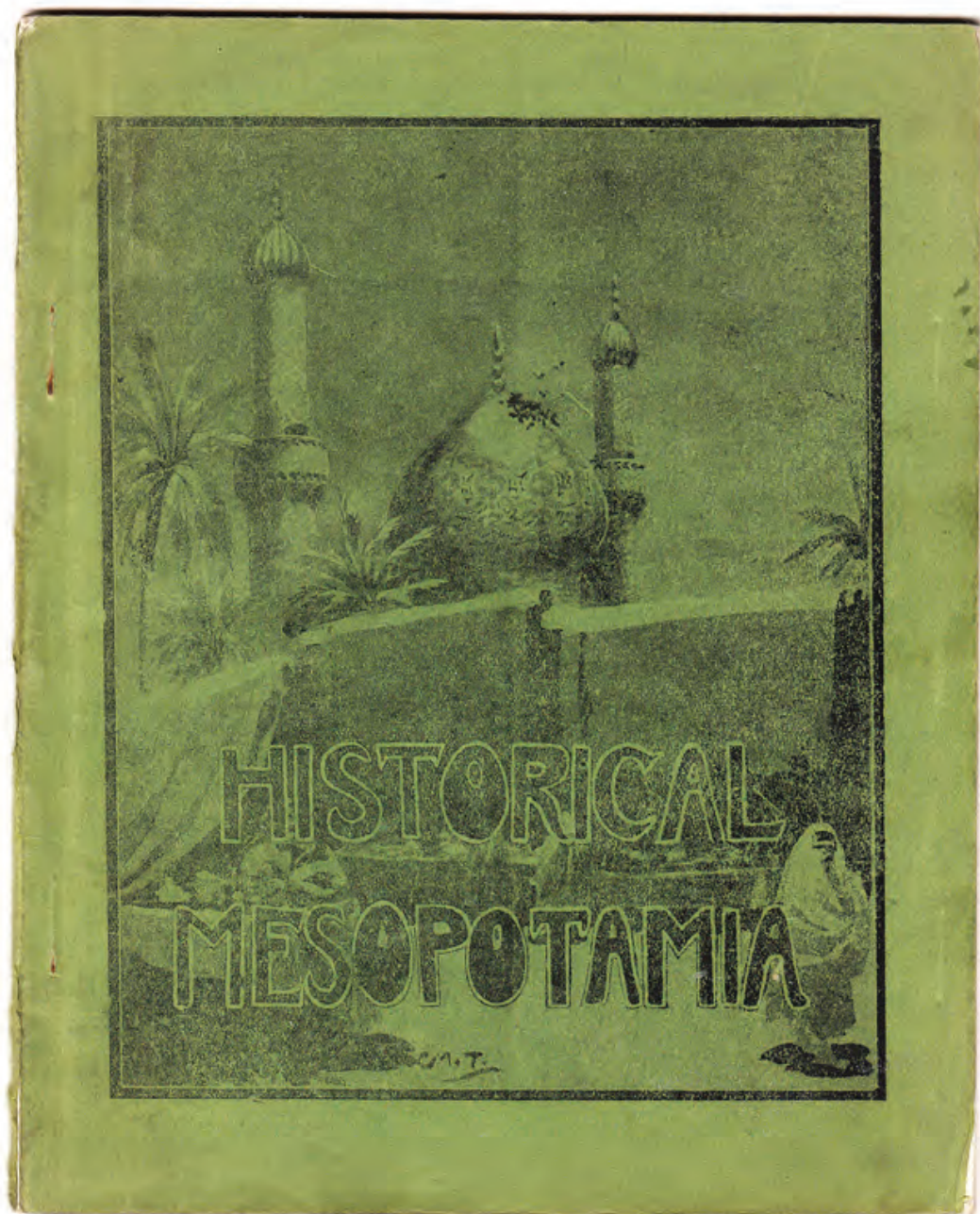
First edition. Sketch map (Babylonia and Assyria) and eight half-tone black and white photographic plates. 8vo. Original green pictorial wrappers, a few small stains, wrappers a little dusty, some short splits along spine. Interior clean and bright. Overall, a good copy of a fragile pamphlet. [iv], 51, [1]pp. Basrah, Times Press, 1924. **£350**

Ten excellent short essays on Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), printed at the Times offices in Basra. According to the preface, the pamphlet was published in response to growing curiosity about the country, sparked by British involvement post-WWI.

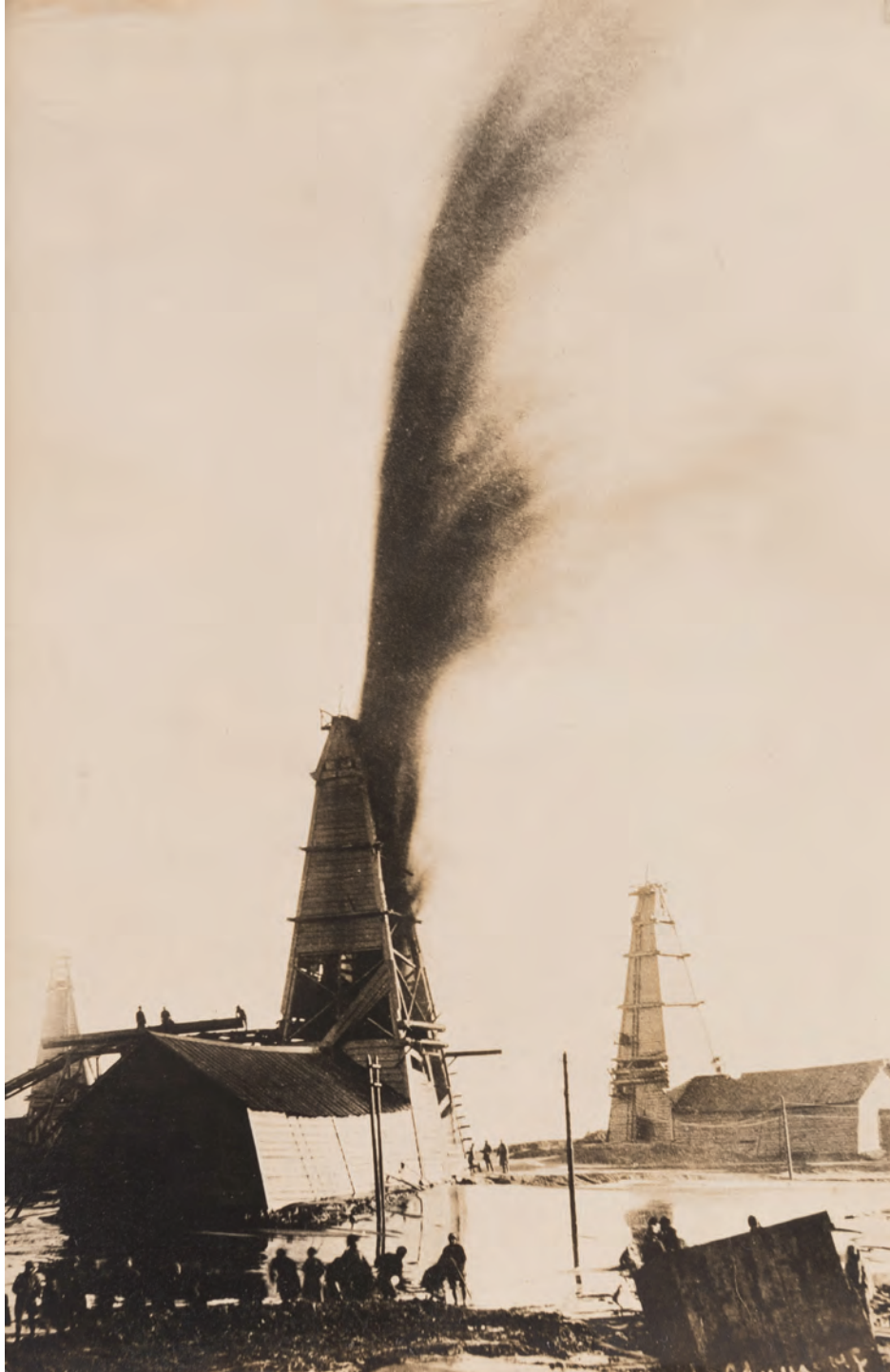
Most of the essays, as per the title, focus on the distant past, taking the reader to the founding of Baghdad in the eighth-century, Basra in the Middle Ages and the construction of the Ctesiphon Arch (Taq Kasra). The latter is one of the finer pieces, providing a brief but detailed account of the creation of the structure and its completed finery, drawing on Gertrude Bell's musical translation of al-Tabari's description of the famous carpet "woven into the likeness of a garden" (*Amurath to Amurath*, p.180).

Other essays turn to the early twentieth-century and contemporary life. The piece on Mandaicism, in addition to outlining its history, features a short interview with a group of Mandaeans from the Mesopotamian Marshes, in which they discuss their beliefs and religious practices. The final essay, by the missionary John Van Ess (the only contributor to give his full name), reflects on his time in Mesopotamia among certain rural tribes, highlighting episodes of kindness and hospitality. Van Ess (1878-1949) is notable for the time he spent in Mesopotamia (nearly fifty years), his role as an advisor to British officials and, in that capacity, for his opposition to making Faisal King.

Rare. Copac/Jisc locates two copies, at the National Library of Scotland and the British Library. WorldCat finds just one more, at LMU Munich.



PERSIA & AZERBAIJAN



The Baku Oilfields

34 MADGWICK (Thomas George).
material relating to the oil fields in Baku.

A collection of

MADGWICK (T.G.). *Prometheus Unlimited, Random Musings of an Elderly Engineer*. Typescript memoir. Foolscap. 74pp. [With:] [ANON.] [Reference book for the Oil Industry.] Full roan, title gilt to upper cover, extremities a little rubbed. xi, [1], 185, [3], 112pp. Baku, 1904. [And:] GOLOUBIATNIKOV (D). [Principaux résultats des travaux géologiques effectués en 1903 dan le Péninsule d'Apcheron.] Text in Russian. Five plates (3 folding). 8vo. Contemporary black half cloth, original wrappers bound in. [ii], 291-330pp. Baku, 1904. [And:] Three offprints. 46, [2], 31, [1], 18pp. Baku, ... [And:] Box of four glass lantern slides of Baku. [And:] Three stereoviews of Baku. [And:] Two large albumen photographs of Baku: Khan's Palace and oil wells. Measuring 210 by 267 mm. Np, c. 1890. [Plus:] Three mounted silver print photographs of Baku and its oil fields. Measuring c.110 by 150 mm. N.p., c.1900. **£8,500**

An excellent group of material assembled by Thomas George Madgwick (b. 1877) during his time in Baku and the Orenburg steppe. Madgwick was a geologist, mining engineer & pioneering petroleum expert. He trained at the Royal School of Mines in London and was stationed first in Ashanti (West Africa) from where he returned with an enlarged liver and spleen. As such, the semi-arid climate of Baku made an appropriate second posting. He remained there from 1903-1906, which is the focus of this group.

The heart of the archive is the unpublished typescript memoir, *Prometheus Unlimited*, most of which (pp.18-65) is devoted to

his time in Azerbaijan. It is a valuable, amusing, and informative account of life in the early twentieth-century oil fields. During his time in Baku he worked with two firms: the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Co. and the Baku Russian Petroleum Co.

There are three chapters concerning Baku and Russia. The first of which, chapter 2, is both a historical overview of the oil industry in its early days as well as a detailed description of Baku itself, noting important architectural monuments as well as topographical features. He described old oil wells, natural gas deposits, and discusses the likes of Robert Nobel who, with his brothers Ludwig and Alfred, created the largest oil business in Russia. He mentions the old firms of Mirzoev and Korkorev and tells the story of an Armenian, Taghi-Ogli (Russianised to Tagiev), who had some success in the oil fields, eventually selling his land

to the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company in 1896. This occurred at about the same time as an auction of leases by the Russian government in September 1896, the first since 1873.

Chapter 3, "Life in Baku", gives a much fuller description of life of the ground. "The central part of the city had some fair streets, congregated mostly behind a short length of the sea shore not fronted by jetties. This quay, as it was termed, was backed by the Maiden's Tower, the old Palace, the Governor's residence, and a small park, and it formed a convenient spot for rich young Moslems to show off the points of their pacer ponies ... All houses were built of the local limestone, which when freshly quarried had a pleasing yellow tint and could be readily dressed with an axe; it darkened and hardened on weathering."

There is considerable information regarding the oil fields: from mundane directions, to notes on underwater drilling ("seepages occurred out in the sea, and on occasion parties would go out in a boat and set fire to the gas bubbling up ..."); and even the organisation of buildings: "Oleum's 27.5 acres was too valuable to clutter with any but essential buildings, such as the manager's quarters, machine shop and stores." Madgwick also describes production methods in considerable detail: "it was based on the idea that it would be deleterious to the well to use deep-well pumps, because of the often very friable sands that entered the well in considerable quantity, and to screen off which might drive the oil away - a danger not without some foundation considering the proximity of one's neighbour's wells!" He gives further detail: "Our newer derricks would



on Oleum were 84 feet high, and before a well was placed on production a superstructure, fourteen feet high, would be added to give plenty of room for the fast winding of the baler, often as much as 56 feet in length. Winding was done by a drum apart from the drilling rig and operated by belt from an electric meter through the medium of a clutch ... I should add that much baling was done by steam and with seventy foot derricks. We pioneered with the outfit above described."

Madgwick gives his opinions on what has helped and hindered the development of the industry in Baku, as well as notes on regulations - focusing alternately on water and sand, the constant danger of fire - including several anecdotes, especially regarding the "Ogulevich fire". The dangers were not confined to the oil rigs. On page 36 we read: "To return to European Russia it would be necessary to obtain papers of identity, and the simplest way would be to murder somebody and take his." Throughout the text there are several such throw away lines that make for very enjoyable reading.

Chapter 4 - "Mining in Russia" - also commences with a topographical and historical overview, with remarks on drainage flowing toward the Ural and Obi rivers and the principal railways. Indeed, Madgwick travelled to Cheliabinsk, where the mayor had "negotiated the option for our company [Orsk Goldfields Ltd.] and acted as our agent." On the Orenburg steppe, they worked under the leadership of Richard Provis, and had but one neighbour, plus a one-eyed cossack driver. Madgwick writes: "Our ore was white quartz containing free gold ... the gold occurred occasionally in quite spectacular accumulations ... The mine was worked by contractors, or 'tributers', who were allotted a certain length along the strike of the ore-body ... Our problem was to find what prospects existed of developing a deeper mine that would pay dividends on the company's capital." He continues, "Our ore was naturally free-milling and in accordance with the general practice in the Urals was crushed and ground under edge-runners, all made in Ekaterinburg (now Sverdlovsk) by the old-established Scottish engineering firm of Yates."

Madgwick stayed only a short time before being lured to Siberia by Leslie Urquart, who'd been advised to leave Baku after an attempt had been made on his life. On joining him in Moscow, Madgwick learned that "he had capitalised his prospects as a mining magnate in the form of the Anglo-Siberian Syndicate ... and was very confident of success." They travelled to Cheliabinsk first, then Ekaterinburg, and Kyshtim. We learn quite a bit about the financing of mines in Russia, mortgages, company guarantees, as well as the specifics of mining, pyritic smelting, etc.

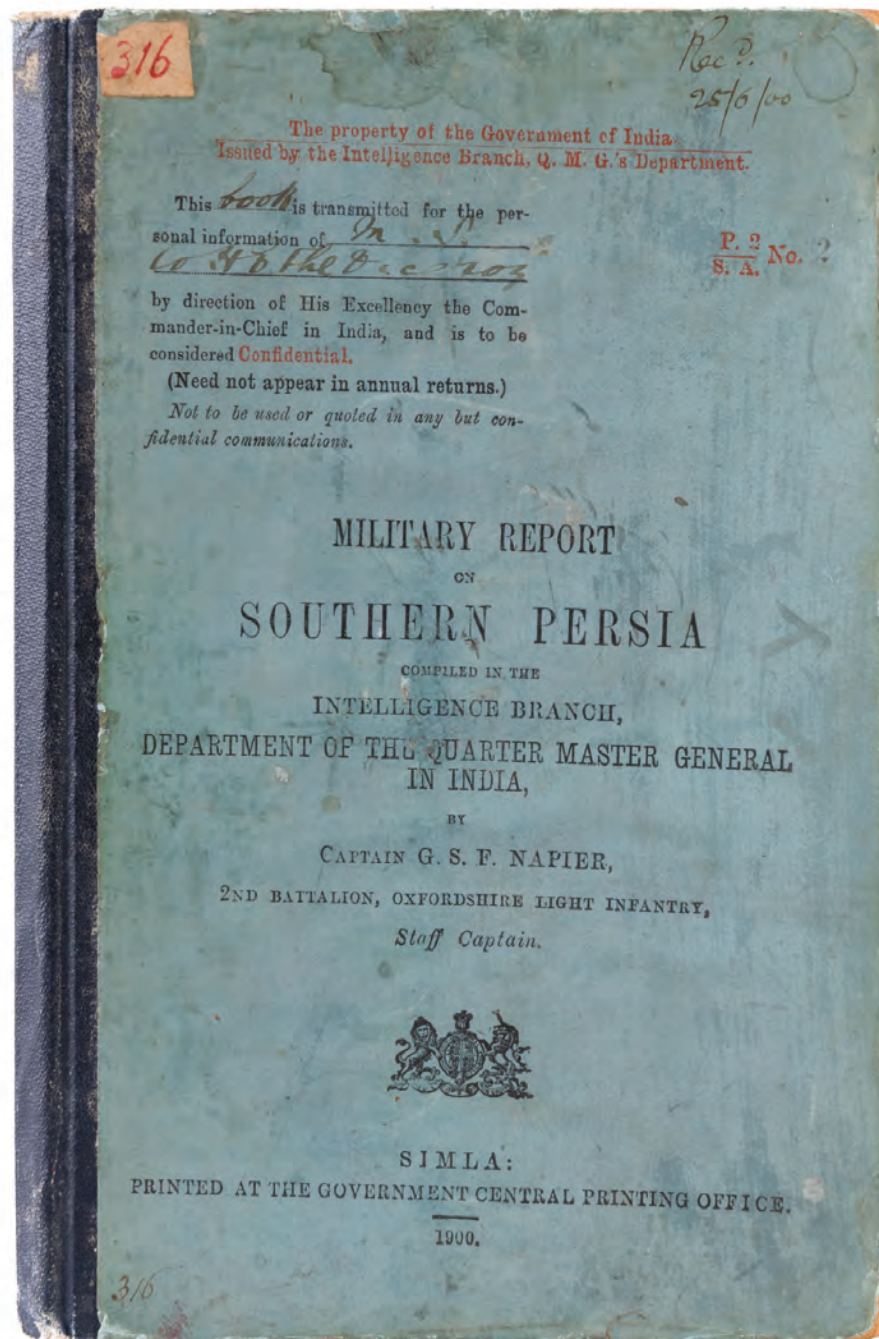
This memoir is augmented by the additional material, the Baku imprints (the directory for example, is rare, being unlocated on OCLC and COPAC) as well as the photographic material. The whole group is supplemented by documents confirming Madgwick's curriculum vitae.



Confidential

35 NAPIER (Captain G.S.F.).
Southern Persia.

Military Report on



First edition, **one of 150 copies**. Compiled in the Intelligence Branch, Department of the Quarter Master General in India. Four folding maps (one coloured), stored in the front and rear pockets. Tall 8vo. Original quarter blue cloth and light blue printed boards; extremities rubbed, corners slightly worn, boards a little stained and dust-soiled. Amateur paper repair to rear free-endpaper, some evidence of damp to endpapers & opening & closing leaves, interior pages generally clean and bright (albeit a little musty), maps in excellent condition. Overall, just shy of very good. [2], ii, x, 119, [1] blank pp. Simla, printed at the Government Central Printing Office, 1900. **£5,500**

An extremely rare report on Southern Persia. Compiled in the Intelligence Branch (Department of the Quarter Master General in India) and marked 'Confidential', it was printed in a run of just 150 copies and issued to Government of India officials.

The report concerns all of Persia (modern-day Iran) south of (and including) the cities of Nosratabad, Kerman, Yazd, Isfahan and Borujerd. The first part is descriptive - covering, inter alia, geography, harbours, resources, history, political and naval and military - and the second is statistical, providing information on everything from bazar prices to the Summer and Winter residences of the principal tribes. (One of the tables even numbers the cattle, sheep and goats of several small villages.)

Due to its commercial and strategic importance to the British Empire, **the report abounds with information on the Persian Gulf**. The chapter on harbours describes of all the main port cities and towns on the Gulf coast, including Lengeh, Jask, Bandar Abbas and Bushehr, "the principal seaport of Persia" (p.14). Of Bushehr, Napier writes four pages, noting the communications, supplies, anchorage and principal buildings, such as the telegraph

cable house: "painted white, [it] stands on Rishire point, on the east side of which there is landing in calm weather" (p.15). The chapter on history and commercial history is largely a list of episodes involving Western imperial powers in the Gulf, including the British punitive expeditions to Ras al-Khaimah (see p.61-62). Further mentions of the Al Qasimi are made in relation to Lengeh, where they held an outpost until 1887 and, according to the report, are "still at large" (p.77).

Napier (c.1862-1942) was Staff Captain of the 2nd Battalion, Oxford Light Infantry and later served as British Military Attache

at Teheran, 1916-18. During his time as Attache he travelled all over Persia, by his own estimation some 4000 miles. His reflections on that period were published as 'The Road from Baghdad to Baku' in *The Geographical Journal* (January, 1919, Vol.53, No.1, pp.1-16).

Rare. No copies in Copac/Jisc or WorldCat. We can only find one other copy, held in the India Office Records at the British Library (IOR/L/MIL/17/15/8).

Not in Diba, Ghani or Wilson.



A Female Missionary in Isfahan

36 [PERSIA]. SALISBURY (Ruth). Archive of letters and photographs documenting the Salisbury family's work with the Church Missionary Society, mainly focusing on Ruth Salisbury's time as a CMS missionary in Isfahan, Persia.

The material relating to Persia is as follows. **Photographs:** 22 original small-format silver-gelatin photographs (most captioned on verso) and 88 negatives (around half captioned), various places incl. Shiraz, Soh, Persepolis and Isfahan, 1920-23. **Notebooks:** Ruth's letter & diary book, manuscript in ink & pencil, 12mo., [13], [17], [4]notes pp., 1922-24; Ruth's personal account book, manuscript in ink & pencil, 12mo., approx.. 50pp., 1922-24. **Letters:** 65 autograph letters signed in English (incl. 38 from Ruth to Hilda, 1912-13), 177pp.; 32 letters in Farsi (mostly from Ruth's students and fellow teachers, 1342-43 AH/1923-25 AD), 64pp. (plus 6pp. notes); manuscript in ink & pencil, various formats (most 8vo.), various places incl. Resht, Bideshk and Isfahan, 1912-1925.

£3,250

A substantial archive centred on the missionary work of siblings Ruth and Mark Salisbury, collected by their sister Hilda. The majority of the archive relates to Ruth's time with the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in Persia from 1912 to 1924. Her photographs, notes and letters record her endeavours at the Girls' School in Isfahan (where she became principal), with correspondence not only to and from British missionaries, but also Armenian and Persian students and teachers. As most of the letters are to Hilda, and are therefore written in a personal and non-professional capacity, they give an unusually frank account of Ruth's experience in the challenging environment of the Persia mission, in which women undertook the lion's share of the work and left few opinionated accounts of it.

The first CMS mission station in Persia was established in 1875, at Julfa (the Armenian quarter of Isfahan), with further stations founded at Yezd in 1893 and Shiraz in 1900. Women were active participants from the start — Emily Bruce helped her husband Rev. Robert Bruce set up what would become the station at Julfa — and took on an increasingly large role as the endeavour

expanded. From 1891 to 1980 there were more women than men working in the Persia mission, and from 1903 single women outnumbered all male missionaries (cf. Gulnar Eleanor Francis-Dehqani, *Religious Feminism in an Age of Empire: CMS Women Missionaries in Iran, 1869-1934*, pp.60-61). Weight of numbers and workload, however, was not reflected in official power and responsibility. The CMS was a highly patriarchal institution, denying female members the right to vote at conferences until 1924.

Ruth was among the single women attached to the mission, joining after studies at Somerville College, Oxford



and various CMS camps and hostels. She travelled to Persia via an enlivening train journey through Russia (described in a letter dated 10 October 1912) and a Caspian voyage from Baku. Thence she made the overland journey to Isfahan where she was introduced to her fellow missionaries, including well-known figures such as Dr Emmeline Stuart. After gaining some command of Farsi and accompanying more experienced missionaries on visits — including trips to teach the late Shah's grand-daughters French — she started work at the Girls' School. She soon established herself as a skilful educator and began training local girls and women to be teachers.

The bulk of the letters from Ruth (all to Hilda) detail this early period, from her arrival in November 1912 to December 1913. They capture a mix of feelings and contradictions often found in other missionary accounts of the Near East: excitement and trepidation; growing care for the local people versus an unquestioned sense of religious and cultural superiority; increased understanding of Islamic society set against an embedded opposition to its values. In Ruth's case, it is noteworthy that negative remarks on Persian culture — such as a somewhat frightened reaction to Ashura celebrations — diminish at an early stage, giving way to tolerance and genuine affection for those people she got to know, regardless of their faith, ethnicity and class status.

1914 and 1915 are barely accounted for, with just one apprehensive letter from April 1915 mentioning the war and the massacres of Armenian and Syrian Christians in North Persia. Though none of the letters state it, Ruth was evacuated soon after, and spent much of 1916 in India, first in Agra and later in the temperate heights of Thandiani (now in Pakistan). A letter from August 1916 suggests a return to Isfahan in October, yet she appears to have gone back to England that December. Her photographs indicate she returned to Persia in early 1920, documenting boats in the Persian Gulf, the South Persia Rifles in Shiraz and a road journey in an old Ford car.

Correspondence with Hilda and friends only starts again in 1923, with Ruth's letters dwelling on her enormous workload: training staff for other stations, running the Girls' School, overseeing the establishment of a new Boys' School and attending interminable committee meetings. In addition to those challenges she faced poor health, which goes unmentioned in her letters but is recorded in her diary as days "In bed". Her condition clearly worsened in the first months of 1924 as she moved from her residence to the CMS hospital in Isfahan. Several letters are addressed to her there, mostly by teachers and pupils desperate to visit her. Four are from Khatoon Sarafian (an Armenian teacher), wishing for Ruth's recovery, updating her on school news and hoping for a hospital visit: "Though I am not allowed to come and see you, but every day I come down to the hospital & enquire about you." (received [Isfahan], 13 [19]24.)

By Spring it was decided Ruth should be moved to the Shiraz hospital and then return to England, but not until Autumn to avoid the Summer heat. Despite the best hopes of her doctors she sadly passed away in November 1924, either at sea or on arrival in England, a fate shared with 10% (ibid., p.61) of the single CMS women in Persia (ibid., p.61). The remaining letters in the archive are to Hilda and their mother, mourning Ruth's loss. They not only stress her importance to the school and to the Christian community in Isfahan, but reveal the extent to which she went beyond her duty of care as a teacher to many of her pupils. Mary Brighty, in a letter to Ruth's mother (Isfahan, 29 Sept. [19]25), explains that Ruth supported a girl with a hand disability called Ruhani, who would continue to be supported via the orphan fund. Such actions no doubt created a familial closeness between Ruth and her students, best expressed in a letter from 'Martha' to Ruth dated Sept 17/[19]24: "Because I have no mother you are instad[sic] may mother." ([Isfahan], Sept. 17 [19]24.)

Letters containing voices such as Martha's and Khatoon's are rarely found in CMS archives, partly due to the scarcity of personal letters and also because of the unpopularity of domestic post with Persians at the time. Their voices combine with Ruth's

to form a remarkably complete picture of the CMS in Isfahan and Ruth's school in particular: its strengths and flaws as an institution, the commitment of its members (especially the CMS women) and the impact (positive and negative) on the people of Persia.

The rest of the archive — approximately 120 letters and 50 photographs — is comprised of material relating to Ruth's siblings, Hilda (chief recipient of Ruth's letters and almost certainly organiser of the archive), Mark (who worked with the

CMS in Pune, India) and Walter (a musician). Around 20 letters and 40 photographs concern India and Pakistan, providing some context for Ruth's time away from Persia during the war.

See: Gulnar Eleanor Francis-Dehqani, *Religious Feminism in an Age of Empire: CMS Women Missionaries in Iran, 1869-1934*, PhD, Bristol University, 1999.

For more information, please contact sam@maggs.com



First Ship Built for the BTC

37 [PERSIA.] UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER.

Photograph album compiled by a crew member of the S.S. British Emperor.

Small oblong album. 76 original small format silver gelatin photographs, all but one tipped in, around two thirds captioned in ink. Contemporary floral cloth, a little dusty, corners bumped. Various places, including Abadan, Bahmanshir River and Aden, 1926-27. **£1,500**

S.S. *British Emperor* was the first ship built for the British Tanker Company Ltd (BTC), the maritime transport arm of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The present album was compiled by one of her crew and contains twenty-two photographs of Abadan and the Bahmanshir River, which flows parallel to the Shatt al-Arab/Arvand Rud, emptying into the Persian Gulf.

Though APOC-related albums generally tend to focus on the oil fields, this photographer shows more interest in the local people, with a series of excellent portraits being among the best images, including young men carrying tanks of kerosene, a fireman, two uniformed river pilots, Persian cavalry and a class of Jewish schoolchildren and their teacher.

There are also photographs of a Kuwaiti dhow, numerous steamships and views of Port Said, Mombasa and Aden.



*Israelite school. Abadan.
Jan. 1927.*



*Persian Fireman.
Nov. 1926.*

*Persian Cavalry.
Jan. 1927.*

*River Pilots, Abadan.
Dec. 1926.*