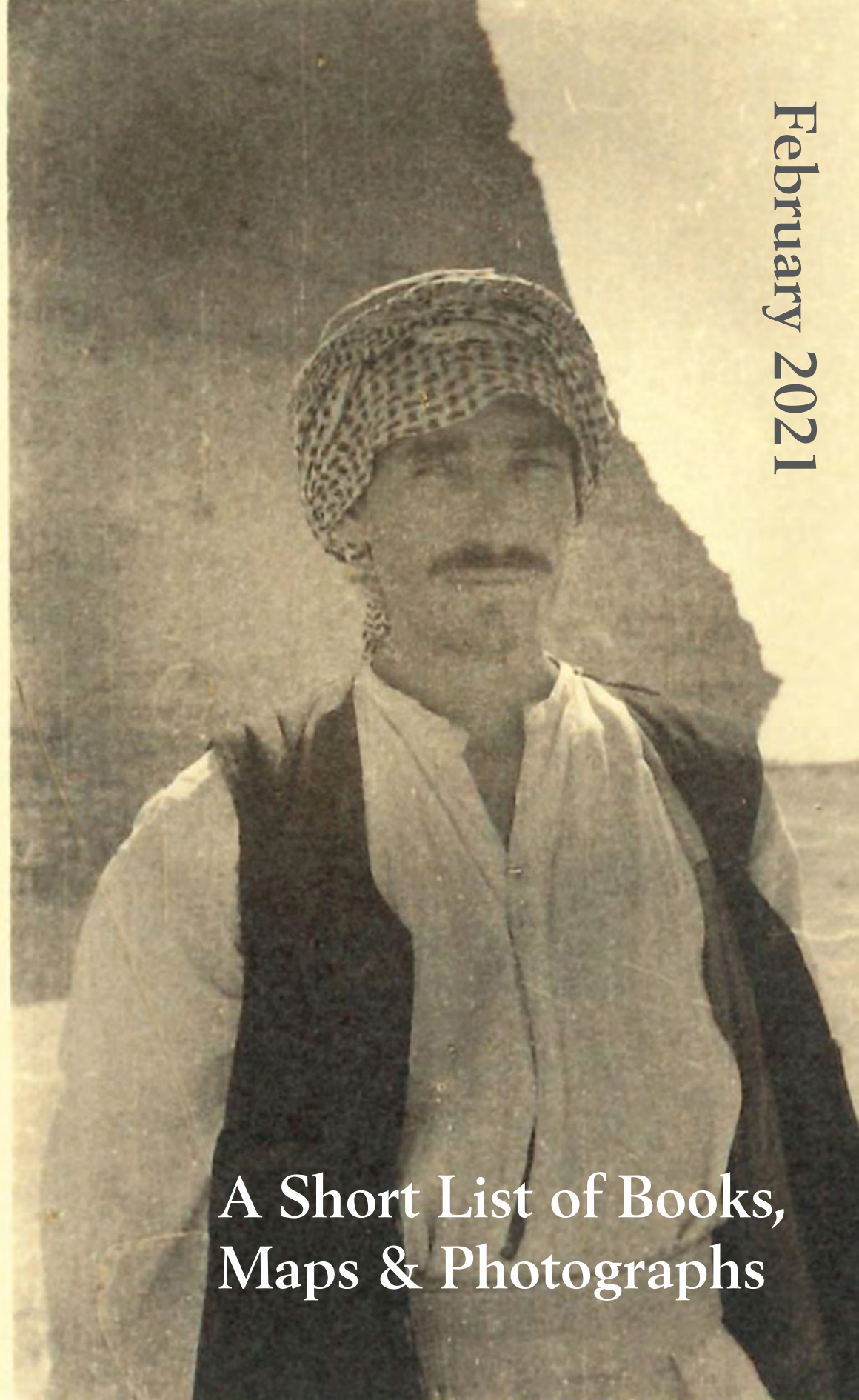


The Near & Middle East

Maggs Bros. Ltd.



February 2021

A Short List of Books,
Maps & Photographs



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*Cover photograph: item 12, [IRAQ].
Ellipse: item 21, [PERSIA].*

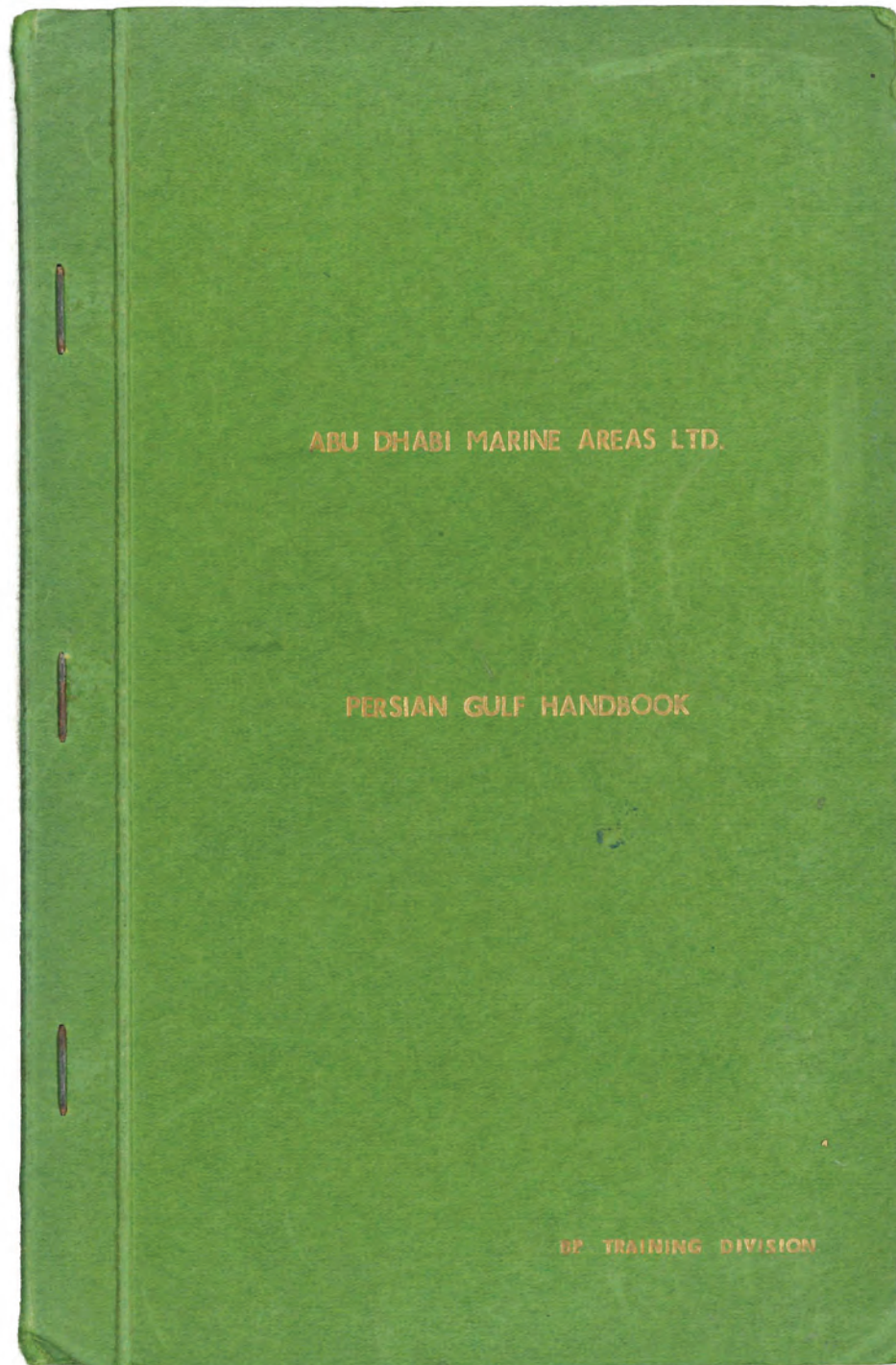
THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Striking Oil in Abu Dhabi

1 [ABU DHABI]. VARIOUS AUTHORS. A collection of material relating to the discovery of oil in Abu Dhabi.

[Including:] ABU DHABI MARINE AREAS LTD. **Persian Gulf Handbook**. Small 8vo. Original green card wrappers, stapled, gilt lettering to upper wrapper; staples rusted, extremities bumped, otherwise very good. [1], 23ff. N.p., n.d., but [Abu Dhabi, c.1954]. [With:] GRAVETT (Guy). **Fifteen original silver-gelatin photographs, mainly focusing on the inauguration of the Umm Shaif oilfield**. 9 prints measuring 168 by 216mm and 6 measuring 200 by 250mm. 14 with BP stamps to verso and all 15 have duplicated typescript captions. A few small stains, some curling, otherwise very good. Abu Dhabi, 1962. [And:] ROGERS (Lieut. Commander J. A.). **OFF-SHORE DRILLING**. Folio. Typescript lecture notes, stapled at top corner, a few ms. corrections. Illustrated with two maps (*The Island of Das. Sur. No.2761/2* and [*Coastline from Sharjah to Qatar*] *Sur. No.3598*) and a plan (*Umm Shaif. General arrangement, as laid, of 18" pipeline & lines connecting gathering platform. Sur. No.3604*). Ms. ownership inscription to both maps "LT CDR J ROGERS RN STAFF COLLEGE". 2, [3] maps ff. N.p., n.d., but [Greenwich, c.1960s]. [Plus:] [DICKSON, (H.R.P.)]. **Rough Tribal Map of Arabia**. Colour lithograph, measuring 290 by 260mm. Scale 180 miles = 1 inch. Old folds, pinholes to corners, a few small closed tears, light spotting to verso, otherwise good. N.p., n.d., but [London, 1949]. **SOLD**

A fascinating group of items pertaining to the early years of the oil industry in Abu Dhabi. It includes an unrecorded handbook for employees of Abu Dhabi Marine Areas Ltd. (ADMA), fifteen original photographs of Abu Dhabi by BP's official photographer and unpublished lecture notes on Umm Shaif oilfield.



The search for oil started in earnest in 1936 when Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast), a subsidiary company of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), began the first survey of Abu Dhabi. Despite much effort and expenditure, they failed to find commercial quantities with exploratory drilling at Ras Sadr (1950) and Jebel Ali (1951) proving unsuccessful. While the IPC had obtained a concession for the onshore territory, the first offshore concession was won by ADMA (jointly owned by BP and Compagnie Française des Pétroles).

ADMA commenced a geological survey of the sea bed, carried out by the famous explorer Jacques Cousteau aboard his research ship *Calypso*. A seismic survey was also undertaken by GSI Ltd. which decided the location of the first test well. The latter proved its worth in 1958 when oil was struck at Umm Shaif field, a super giant which came on stream in 1962, thus instantly changing the economic outlook of Abu Dhabi. What had been a period of decline – sparked by the arrival of the cultured pearl – suddenly pivoted toward immense wealth.

The ADMA *Persian Gulf Handbook* focuses entirely on Abu Dhabi and is an exceedingly rare survival from the years prior to the discovery of oil at Umm Shaif. Though undated the content confirms it is from that time: “No minerals have as yet been found in commercial quantities in Abu Dhabi. ... Messrs. Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast Ltd.), an associate of the Iraq Petroleum Company, have been engaged in drilling for oil for some years but up to date the most has been found has been some uncommercial oil and gas at Mirban.” (f.4). The *Handbook*, clearly printed for Western employees, provides a short history of Abu Dhabi, a profile of Sheikh Shakbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan (1905-1989) and an outline of the tribes inhabiting its territory. More immediately practical sections cover traditions, language (a list of two hundred Arabic words) and a bibliography. The leaf devoted to ‘Sports, pastimes and amusements’ makes for particularly interesting reading, describing falconry, camel races, shooting “at which the Beduin are excellent” and football “played in a rather unorthodox way” without “heavy boots [which] are considered unsporting”. (f.12).



The official BP photographs all appear to have been taken in 1962, the year the Umm Shaif field came on stream. They are almost certainly the work of Guy Gravett (1919-1996), who was commissioned by BP to document the explorations at Abu Dhabi. Six are of Sheikh Shakhbut: three handsome portraits at the entrance to his palace, and three showing him at the inauguration of the Umm Shaif field, operating and inspecting the machinery on Das Island. The rest focus on the inauguration and the various ships partaking in the first exports of oil, including the Japanese tanker *KOWA MARU* and the hulking 50,000 ton BP tanker *British Hussar*. Each photograph has a typescript caption to the verso, and all but one bear blue BP stamps (with ms. reference numbers). The original envelope for the photographs is also included, sent to Lieut. Commander J.A. Rogers, R.N. from BP and stamped 4 I [19]63.

It appears Rogers was the original owner of the material, as his typescript notes for a lecture on “Off-shore Drilling” are also present. Delivered at the Royal Navy Staff College, the lecture focuses on the Umm Shaif field: “Having recently spent twelve months in that part of the world [the Persian Gulf], where I visited many oilfields, I want this morning to talk about the one I found most fascinating.” (f.1). It provides a general sketch of the project, describing the drilling barge over the oilfield and the base at Das Island. Though the accompanying slides (noted in the margins) are not present **the typescript is supplemented with three small maps, showing Das Island, the coastline from Sharjah to Qatar and the arrangement of the Umm Shaif field.**

These items document a turning point in the fortunes of Abu Dhabi and an important moment in the modern history of the Middle East. Just four years after the success at Umm Shaif, Sheikh Shakhbut, reluctant to invest the royalties from oil sales, was deposed in a non-violent coup and replaced by his brother Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (1918-2004). It was then Sheikh Zayed who drove a series of ambitious changes, becoming President of the newly formed United Arab Emirates and creating the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

Scarcity: Such material is usually held in institutional or company archives and is seldom offered for sale. **The ADMA *Persian Gulf Handbook* is unrecorded, with no copies in Copac/Jisc or OCLC.** Neither database locates any ADMA publications before the 1960s, not even in the extensive collection at the University of Exeter.

Provenance: Lieut. Commander J.A. Rogers. As well the aforementioned items the collection includes: three small format silver-gelatin photographs of Western men (likely ADMA employees) in traditional Arab clothing; a *Rough Tribal Map of Arabia* (updated with a few ms. place names), originally issued with H.R.P. Dickson’s *The Arab of the Desert* (London, 1949); a promotional photograph of Fort Picklecombe, a development of luxury flats in Plymouth, with a typescript letter to Rogers in response to his enquiry about a property.

Cf. Michael Quentin Moreton, “The Abu Dhabi Oil Discoveries” in *GEO ExPRO*, Vol.8, No.3, 2011. (accessed online 08 February 2021).



Uncommon History of Najd

2 ALUSI (Mahmud Shukri). SAHMAN (Sulayman Ibn).
Tarikh Najd, ta'lif Mahmud Shukri al-Alusi; wa-fi akhiri Tatimmah
wa-naqd li-Sulayman ibn Sahman...

Second edition. Arabic text. 8vo. Later blue cloth, ms. arabic title to spine, new endpapers, original printed wrappers bound in; back cover slightly stained and rubbed, spine darkened, amateur paper repairs to title and p.3/4 [A2], professional repairs to final leaf (with no loss to text). 148pp. Baghdad, al-Maktabah al-'Arabiyyah & Misr, (Al-Qahirah), Al-Matba'ah al-Salafiyah, 1347 AH [1928/29 AD].

RESERVED

An important work on Najd, which was first published in Cairo in 1924. It appears to be the last book written by Mahmud Shukri Alusi (1857-1924) and was continued by Sulayman ibn Sahman (1849/50-1930).

Though short, it contains a wealth of historical and geographical information on the vast region, including sections on Al Qassim (and Buraidah), Al-'Arid, Al-Kharj, Al-Aflaj and the Wadi Al Dawasir. Alusi then outlines the livelihoods, material culture (clothing, decoration etc.), morals and religion of the population. His part of the text ends with chapters on the Al Saud and their government of the country, and the teachings of Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab.

Sahman's continuation ventures beyond Najd, to 'Asir (which he describes in some detail) and several villages populated by the Qahtan, Otaibah and Mutayr tribes. He concludes with notes on the Ottoman-Saudi War (1811-1818).

تاريخ نجد

تأليف

السيد محمود شكري الآلوسي

وفي آخره تكملة ونقد الشيخ سليمان بن سحان

عني بتحقيقه والتعليق عليه

محمد بنجة الأثرى

الطبعة الثانية على نفقة

المكتب العربي

لصاحبها نومان الأوسلي بغداد

القاهرة - ١٣٤٧

المطبعة السلفية - بمصر

Rare Kuwait Crisis Pamphlet

**3 ARTS AND POPULAR CULTURE DIRECTORATE.
Kuwait. The Stolen Iraqi Province.**

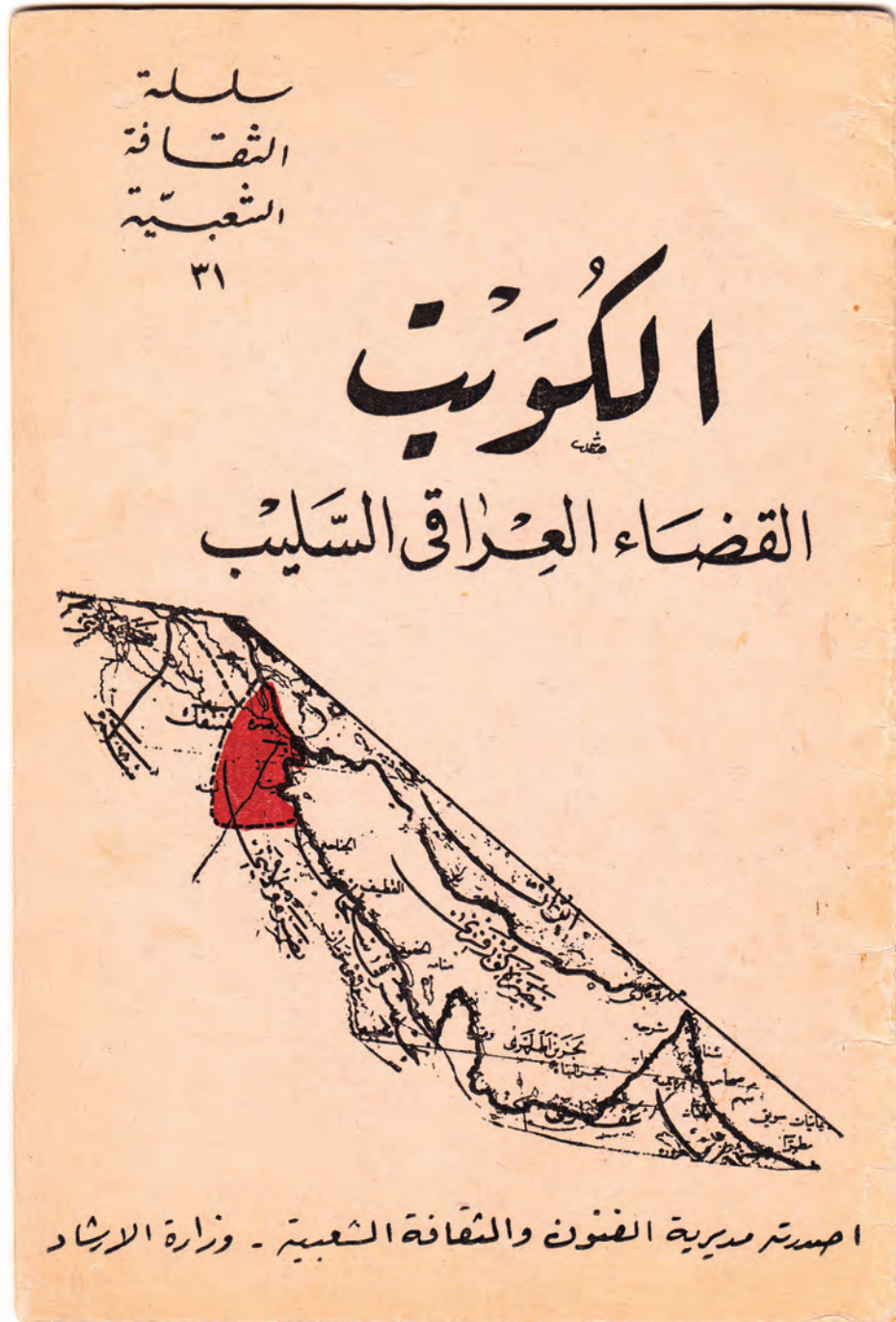
First edition. Arabic text. Half-tone portrait frontispiece of Abd al-Karim Qasim, two other full-page half-tone illustrations and a double-page map of the Persian Gulf. 8vo. Original printed wrappers, stapled; extremities darkened, some scuffs and light stains to lower wrapper, otherwise very good. 35, [1]pp. Baghdad, Matba'ah Al-Rabita, n.d., but [c.1961]. **£450**

A rare pamphlet outlining the Iraqi claim to Kuwait and opposing its independence.

Kuwait emerged as an independent state in June 1961, after sixty-two years as a British protectorate. With a new constitution, it held its first parliamentary elections in 1963, thereby becoming the first Arab state in the Gulf to establish a parliament. Such political developments, married with growing wealth and modernisations in health, culture and finance, helped to make Kuwait the most prosperous state in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Iraqi government argued that the move toward independence was a continuation of Kuwait's relationship with Britain, albeit under a new guise. Furthermore, they felt that the historical links between Iraq (specifically Basra Province) and Kuwait entitled the former to control over the latter and, one suspects, a share of its growing wealth. This position, argued in the pamphlet, led to a point of crisis, with Iraq threatening invasion. To the relief of Kuwait, the Iraqis were eventually deterred by the Arab League's promise of military opposition.

Seemingly unrecorded. No copies in Copac/Jisc or OCLC.



Classrooms of Kuwait

4 [KUWAIT].
Education Guide.

State of Kuwait. Ministry of

First edition. English and Arabic text. Numerous black and white and colour photographic illustrations. 8vo. Illustrated wrappers, stapled; a few closed tears to the wrappers, two discreet amateur paper repairs to inside of lower wrapper, otherwise very good. Ms. date at bottom of upper wrapper. 52, [2]pp. Kuwait, Ministry of Education, [c.1968].

SOLD

An official pamphlet on education in Kuwait, highlighting the advances made since the introduction of systematic teaching in 1936.

The text, in parallel English and Arabic, gives a short overview of the entire system, from kindergarten to adult education. The accompanying illustrations are particularly interesting, documenting the appearance of classrooms, teaching equipment (including artificial and live animals), public libraries and school buildings in the 1960s.



A student orchestra

حصة موسيقى

Lawrence's Photographs of the Arab Revolt



5 LAWRENCE (T.E.).
Contact prints of original
photographs by T.E. Lawrence.

Contact prints of original
photographs by T.E. Lawrence.

Thirty-five original silver-gelatin photographic prints, each approx. 54 by 75mm, three in portrait format, the others landscape. Newly mounted in archival window mounts and housed in four uniform black cloth solander boxes. N.p., n.d., but [c.1937]. **£30,000**

A remarkable collection of early contact prints of Lawrence's photographs of the Arab Revolt. They provide a rare visual record of the Revolt, to add to, and perhaps anchor, the voluminous and often mythologizing literature on Lawrence's role in the conflict.

Wing Commander Reginald Sims had a brief but intense friendship with Lawrence on his terminal service posting in Bridlington. He was a keen photographer, and took a well known series of photographs of Lawrence. On Lawrence's death he undertook the organisation of the photographic display at Clouds Hill, and a note on the back of one of the mounts here records how "The bookshelves in Clouds Hill are blocked up with enlargements of the photos ..." Elsewhere Sims described that he printed the large scale photographs himself from negatives lent by A.W. Lawrence, and it seems likely that these contacts were printed by Sims himself rather than by or for TE.

Lawrence was a serious amateur photographer, and his photographs taken during the Arab Revolt, using a Kodak Vest Pocket Camera, are among the finest war photographs ever taken. This group includes several of his finest images including Nasir glowering in front of his tent, three of Feisal's army marching on Wejh in January 1917 in the advance to Akaba, and the remarkable dawn photograph of camp at Nakhil Mubarak (between Medina and Yenbo) in hazy half light.

All early prints are rare.

ITEM 5



Trade of Muscat

6 [MUSCAT]. FOREIGN OFFICE. Diplomatic and Consular Reports. Muscat. Annual Series, Numbers 3415, 3684, 3925, 4085, 4392, 4616, 4822, 4922, 5198 & 5473.



No.3415. Report for the Year 1904-05 on the Trade of Muskat. Original blue printed wrappers, front wrapper dust-soiled, otherwise very good. 9, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1905. [*With:*] **No.3684. Report for the Year 1905-06 on the Trade of Muscat.** Disbound, very good. 11, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1906. [*With:*] **No.3925. Report for the Year 1906-07 on the Trade of Muscat.** Original blue printed wrappers, paper repairs to front wrapper and spine, recently re-sewn, otherwise good. 12pp. London, HMSO, 1907. [*With:*] **No.4085. Report for the Year 1907-08 on the Trade of Muscat.** Disbound, stamp of Codrington Library (All Souls College), Oxford to title-page, very good. 15, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1908. [*With:*] **No.4392. Report for the Year 1908-09 on the Trade of Muscat.** Disbound, stamp of the University of Hull to title-page, very good. 15, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1909. [*With:*] **No.4616. Report for the Year 1909-10 on the Trade of Muscat.** Disbound, removed from a larger volume, some residual glue to spine, otherwise good. 16, [2]pp. London, HMSO, 1910. [*With:*] **No.4822. Report for the Year 1910-11 on the Trade of Muscat.** Disbound, stamp of Middlesbrough Public Libraries to title-page, otherwise good. 30, [2]pp. London, HMSO, 1911. [*With:*] **No.4922. Report for the Year 1911-12 on the Trade of Muscat.** With a folding map of Oman. Disbound, removed from a larger volume, some residual glue to spine, stamp of the University of Hull to title-page, otherwise very good. 29, [3]pp. London, HMSO, 1912. [*With:*] **No.5198. Report for the Year 1912-13 on the Trade of Muscat.** With a folding sketch map of Oman. Disbound, removed from a larger volume, some residual glue to spine, otherwise very good. 33, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1913. [*And:*] **No.5473. Report for the Year 1913-14 on the Trade of Muscat.** With a sketch map of Oman. Disbound, very good. 31, [1]pp. London, HMSO, 1915. **SOLD**

A set of ten scarce official reports on the trade of Muscat. **They were the first in the Foreign Office's *Annual Series* to focus solely on the Omani port capital**, which had previously featured in general reports on the commerce of Persia and the Persian Gulf.

The reports were prepared by the Political Agent and H.B.M.'s Consul at Muscat and then sent to the Secretary to the Government of India (Foreign Department), where they were printed in short runs (often under 40 copies) on the Superintendent Government Printing presses in Calcutta (see British Library, IOR/L/PS/10/647). Copies were then sent to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf (Bushire) and the Foreign Office in London. The present reports were printed at the behest of the latter as part of its *Annual Series*, covering the trade of nations across the world (and in particular those forming part of the British Empire).

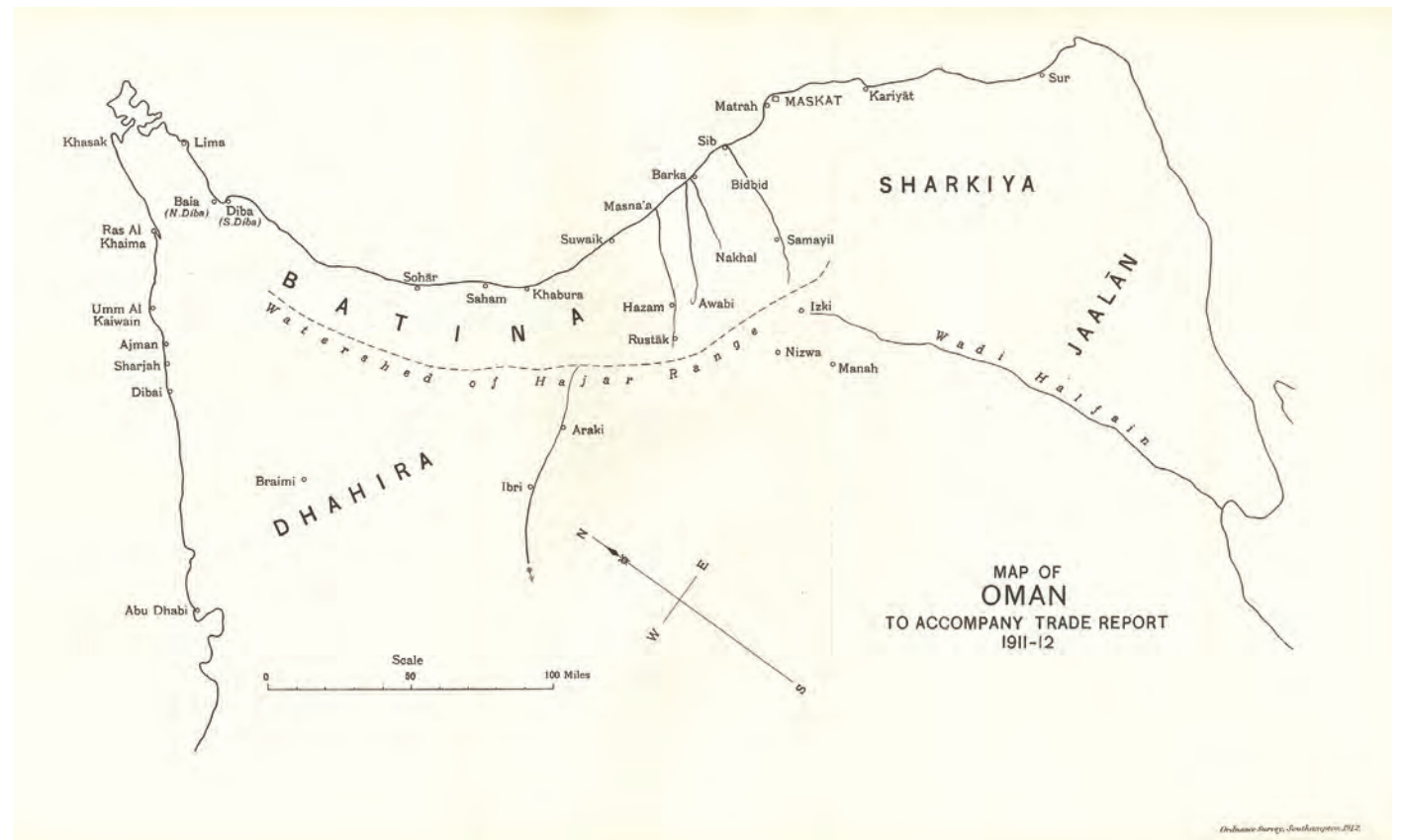
The first report, here in the original blue wrappers, covers 1904/05 and is understandably slim; comprising a general overview, statistical tables of imports and exports and the tonnage of each foreign nation's vessels entering and clearing the port from 1902-05. That template is gradually built on in the following reports which grow in detail, providing information on the city (public health, population, government etc.) and paragraphs on specific imports and exports, from dates to arms and ammunition. The last three even feature small maps of Oman, bound in at the start of each report.

There is also an increasing effort to situate Muscat's trade — its fortunes and misfortunes — in relation to that of neighbouring powers. The 1909/10 report, prepared by Major A.P. Trevor, notes several factors for a general decline, including Dubai's growing influence: "The rise of Debai, on the coast of Trucial Oman, which has been made a port of call by the British India Steam Navigation Company, has also adversely affected Muscat.

Many tribes and villages in the interior of Oman, which used formerly to import and export through Muscat, now use Debai as the latter place is a free port." (p.10).

Taken together, the reports provide a wealth of information on Muscat's commercial life at the start of the twentieth-century. Their tables and analyses help describe a difficult period for the famous port city, when new competitors and pre-oil modernity were reshaping the economic landscape of the Persian Gulf.

Scarce. Copac/Jisc locates an incomplete set at the British Library (lacking the 1909/10 and 1913/14 reports) and a copy of the 1904/05 report at the University of East Anglia. OCLC finds individual reports at Oxford (1910/11) and Leiden (1909/10), and sets at Tübingen University (1906/07 to 1913/14) and the German National Library of Economics (1904/05 to 1913/14). (It should be noted that there are almost certainly other institutional holdings, but that they are not, as serial publications, individually catalogued.)



Bahrain & Muscat in 1775

7 PARSONS (Abraham). *Travels in Asia and Africa; including a journey from Scanderoon to Aleppo and over the desert to Bagdad and Bussora; a voyage from Bussora to Bombay, and along the western coast of India; a voyage from Bombay to Mocha and Suez in the Red Sea; and a journey from Suez to Cairo and Rosetta, in Egypt.*

First edition. Aquatint frontispiece and one further aquatint plate (after drawings by the author, of Antioch and Baghdad). 4to. Contemporary diced russia, neatly rebacked, spine lettered in gilt, a.e.g., blue silk tie; joints a little rubbed and split at head (but holding firmly), corners bumped, otherwise very good. Plates offset as usual, opening and closing leaves a little browned, rest of interior clean and fresh. Engraved bookplate of John Brinton to front paste-down endpaper. vi, 346pp. London, Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1808. **SOLD**

An attractive copy of an excellent and often overlooked work, which includes early descriptions of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. It is arguably the best early nineteenth-century non-official English language source on the trade of those regions.

Parsons first travelled to the East in 1767, to take up a position with the Turkey Company at Iskenderun. He worked as their “consul and marine factor” for six years before poor health led to his resignation. The son of a merchant captain, he was highly interested in trade and decided to venture out from his base in Asiatic Turkey, to explore the commercial landscape of the Middle East.

From 1772-74 he undertook a number of travels in Syria and Ottoman Iraq, notably crossing the Syrian Desert to Baghdad in 1744, where he resided for six months. Thence he went to Hillah and Basrah, which was besieged by a Persian army during his stay. Escaping Basrah by boat, he sailed to Bushire and boarded the HMS *Seahorse* for a voyage down the Persian Gulf.

His description of the Gulf is very detailed for the period, with sections on Qeshm Island, Hormuz Island, Bandar Abbas, Bahrain and Muscat. At Bahrain, he visited “the greatest and most valuable pearl fishery in the known world” (p.202), recording the rules at the fishery, the uses of the pearls and shells, and the art of diving. He cast a similarly inquisitive eye over Muscat - where they delivered two armed ketches to the Imam - detailing its trade, goods, dominions and political relations (enmity with Persia and peace with the English).

After a period exploring the western coast of India he commenced his return voyage, which included a visit to Mocha. There he scouted for information on the Red Sea trade and enjoyed conversations with merchants from Jeddah, who expressed ire at English ships skipping their port en route from India to Suez.

Abbey, Travel 348; Atabey, 927; Hilmy II, p.94; Macro, 1737.



Mercator's Ptolemaic Map of the Arabian Peninsula

8 PTOLEMY (Claudius). MERCATOR (Gerard).
Asiae VI Tab: ...

Double-page engraved map, 360 by 455mm; Latin text printed on one side of the verso. Some marginal damp-staining and creasing, extremities dusty and a little fragile, two small closed tears to central fold. A good example overall. [Cologne, Gerard von Kempen, 1578].
£1,500

A nice example of Mercator's map of the Arabian Peninsula. It also shows the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and parts of Persia (present-day Iran) and the coast of East Africa.

Claudius Ptolemy, often considered the "Father of Geography", was a Greco-Egyptian scholar working in Alexandria, Egypt, circa 150 A.D. His most lasting monument was the 'Geographia', a summation of the geographical knowledge of the world as it was known in his time, possibly illustrated with maps, but certainly incorporating the technical data necessary to create them. With the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the text was lost to western scholars until about 1406 when the scholar Jacobo d'Angelo prepared a Latin translation of a Greek manuscript.

The rediscovery prompted great excitement; numerous manuscript copies were made, many of them containing maps from Ptolemy's calculations. Later, with the invention of printing - particularly printing from engraved plates - Ptolemy's text, and the accompanying maps, formed the basis of the earliest printed atlases.

This engraved map was prepared by Gerard Mercator, a towering figure in the history of cartography, who coined the name 'Atlas' for a book of maps, and gives his name to the famous projection. Mercator undertook an ambitious project of mapping the universe, producing an edition of Ptolemy to illustrate the classical world to contrast with his modern *Atlas*.

Unfortunately, Mercator died before the *Atlas* was completed, but his heirs saw it to completion. **His Ptolemaic maps are regarded as the finest engravings of any of the many editions of Ptolemy.**



With Rare Photographs of Socotra



9 [YEMEN]. BELL (M. H. G.). A handsome album of photographs, cuttings and invitations principally relating to the 1911 Royal visit to Aden en route to the Delhi Durbar. The final part of the album documents the visit of Sir James Alexander Bell (Political Resident, Aden) to the Island of Socotra.

Folio album. Contemporary full dark red morocco, front cover lettered M.H.G.B[ell]. in gilt; a few small scuffs to extremities, otherwise very good. 143 original silver-gelatin photographs (14 in the Delhi Durbar section include captions and are likely trimmed commemorative photographic postcards), approximately 70 pieces of printed ephemera, a manuscript list of some of the images and a manuscript plan of the British Residency at Aden. (Loosely inserted, along with several cuttings, is an 8ff. typescript account of the Royal visit by Lady Bell.) Several photographs in the Socotra section faded, the rest nice and crisp. Various places, including Aden, Delhi, Socotra and Mukalla, 1911-12.

SOLD

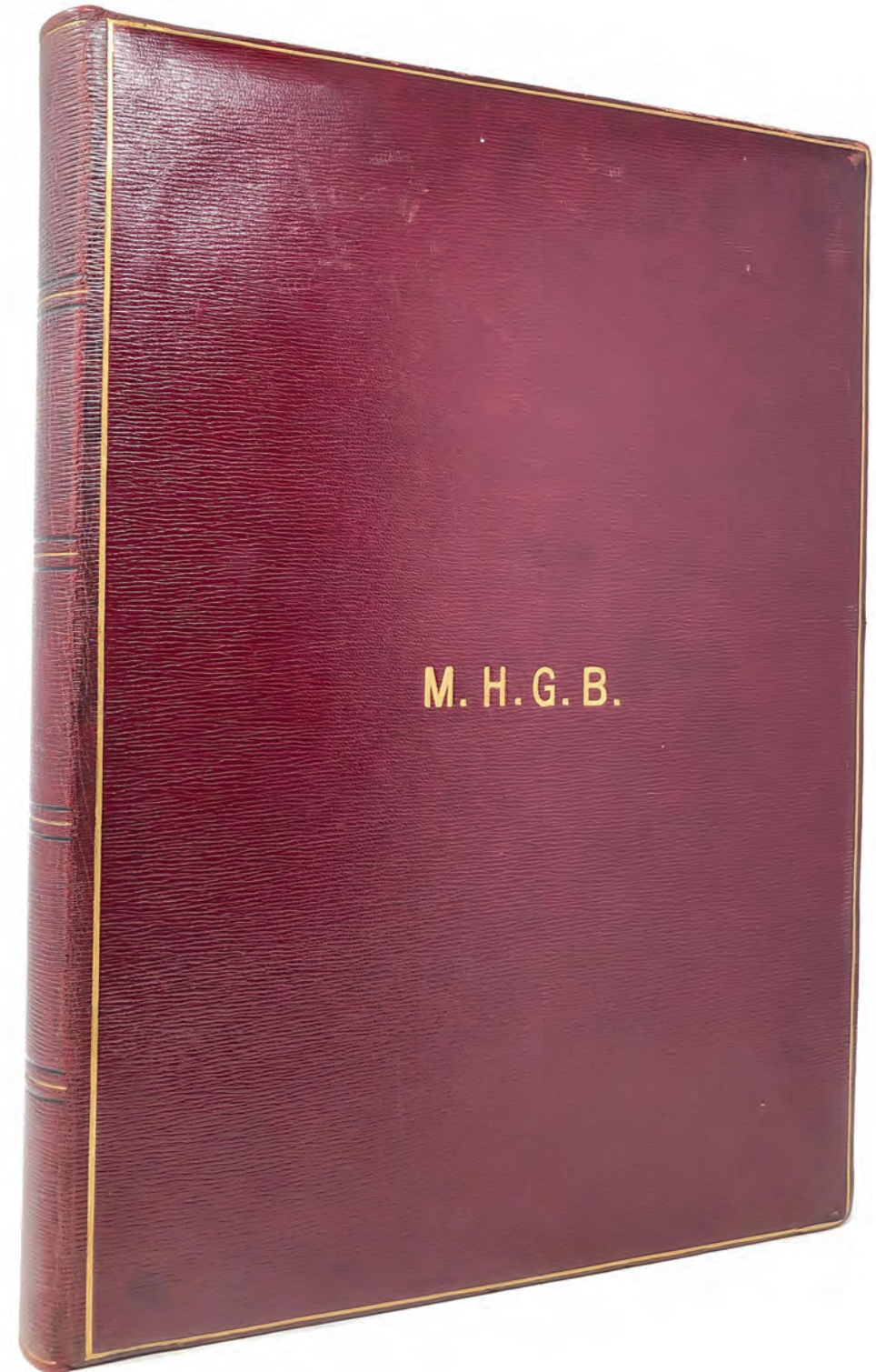
An excellent record of the Royal visits to Aden and the third Delhi Durbar, compiled by a "Miss Bell", the niece of the Political Resident at Aden, Sir James Alexander Bell (d.1926). **Significantly, it also includes thirty-five rare photographs of an official visit to Socotra, a remarkable Yemeni island found between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea.**

The first part of the album concerns Aden, including Bell's voyage out aboard SS *Himalaya*. The Residency is well covered (including a manuscript map presumably drawn by Bell) as is the harbour and crater. Several of the photographs show the preparations for the Royal visit and the event itself: troops rehearsing the Guard of Honour, HMS *Medina* out at sea and the arrival of the King and Queen.

Next are her adventures with family throughout the Delhi Durbar and all the glittering events surrounding the celebrations. Painstakingly included are the very grand invitations she received (with most of the envelopes) and all the ephemera connected. Lady Bell's chatty description of her husband's impromptu knighthood and the Durbar —included in a loosely inserted duplicated typescript— provides an immersive commentary to the ephemera and images, describing the grandeur of the event and the litany of smaller celebrations afterward.

At the end of the album are the aforementioned photographs of Socotra (then a British protectorate after the 1886 and 1888 treaties), recording Sir James' official visit to remonstrate with Sultan 'Abd Allah ibn 'Isa Afrar al-Mahri (r.1907-1928?), after the wrecked SS *Kuala* had been looted there in November 1911. Thankfully the issue was resolved peacefully, as the Sultan explained he had been in the interior and his deputy, Ali ibn Barahan (a fascinating figure and formerly enslaved person), away undertaking the Hajj.

The images show the arrival of Sir James in February 1912, the formal interview with the Sultan aboard the *Dalhousie*, portraits of both parties and views of "Tamride, the Sultan's Capital". (A few captions are provided by an inserted cutting, possibly from the *Advocate of India* or *Illustrated London News*, which both reported the event.) Several photographs explore the unique landscape of the island, though none capture the famed dragon blood tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*). Taken together they are arguably the most significant photographs in the album, as early twentieth-century images of Aden and Delhi are fairly common, while those of Socotra — a place touched by Empire, but free (save the British flag at the Sultan's palace) of its physical features — are truly scarce.



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



BAALBEC—*The Great Stone in the Quarry.*

ITEM 10

Uncommon Sketch of Syria

10 ABRAM (Edward).

A Ride Through Syria.

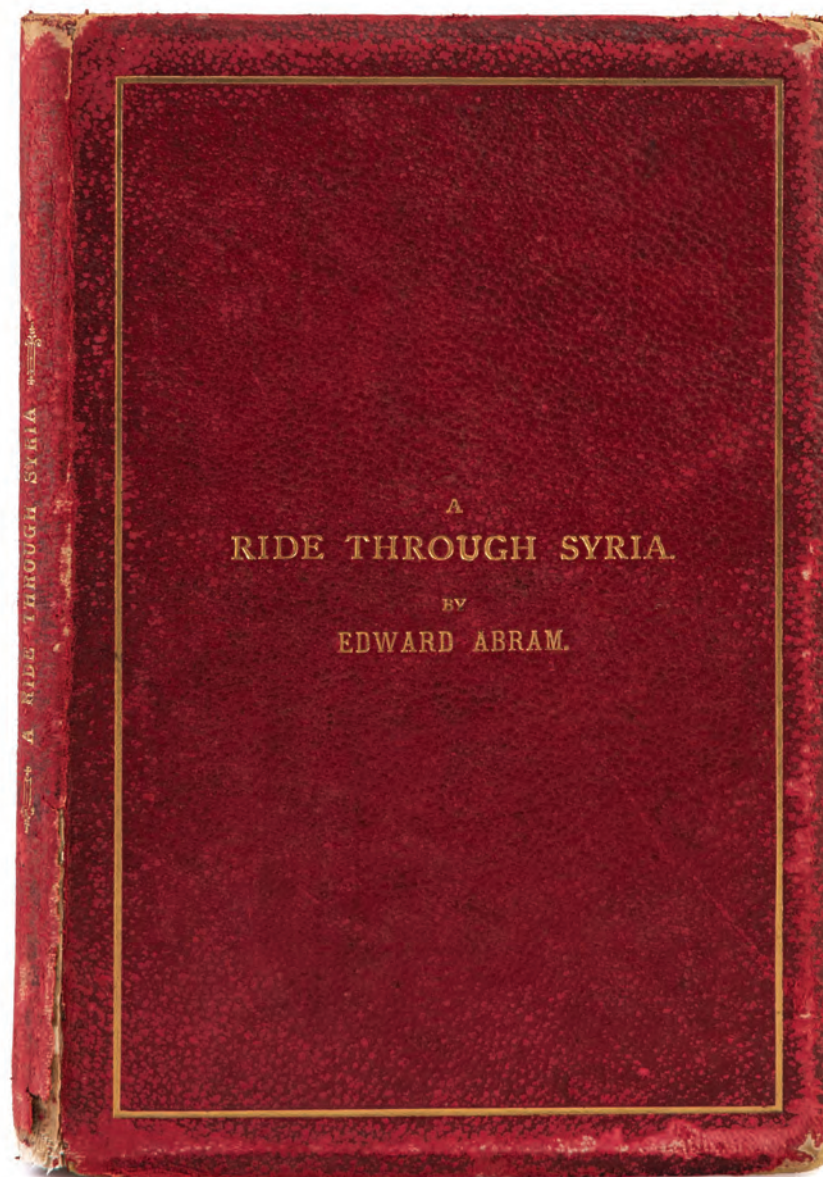
First edition. With a folding coloured frontispiece map, and 11 engraved illustrations (5 being full-page and 6 in the text). 8vo. Original full French-style textured red morocco, gilt, a.e.g., title on the upper board; extremities rubbed (especially foot of spine), textblock split between page 48 and 49 but all gatherings holding firmly. A good copy overall. [iv], 60, [i] [index leaf]pp. London, Abram & Sons, 1887. **SOLD**

True to its title, *A Ride Through Syria* surveys the people, geography, marketplaces and accommodations encountered on Abram's tour of Syrian cities. Abram moves indiscriminately between topics of geology, urban development, historic ruins, and sectarian violence (though his party is spared from any such skirmishes), creating a fluid, if somewhat sparse, commentary. He notes the Biblical history of each destination and concludes that with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which is "not a very difficult matter now-a-days," "The Bible henceforth becomes a more and more interesting book as we learn better to understand it" (p.60).

Abram's narrative, as is the case with many other Christian travelogues of the period, shows little inquisitiveness about the Muslim societies he passed through. In spite of a few confused rebuttals of Islam's origins he does recognise the people's remarkably strong adherence to their faith, comparing it favourably to that of "highly respectable" Christians (p.59).

The account is rather depersonalised, excepting a curious anecdote of Abram's party remedying a misunderstanding between an English rider, his Arabic-speaking guide, and the rider's Arab horse. Leaving the horse and rider as "better friends," Abram concludes "How many of us would also like each other better if we were less impatient, and took more trouble to understand" (pp.43-44).

Abram and Sons was a stationer and printer at Old Post Gate in Middle Temple from c.1775 to its closure in the 20th century under Ernest Abram's purview. They published similar Christian pilgrimage accounts in *A Ride through Palestine* and *Seven Churches of Asia*.



One of Maggs Bros' Most Famous Sales

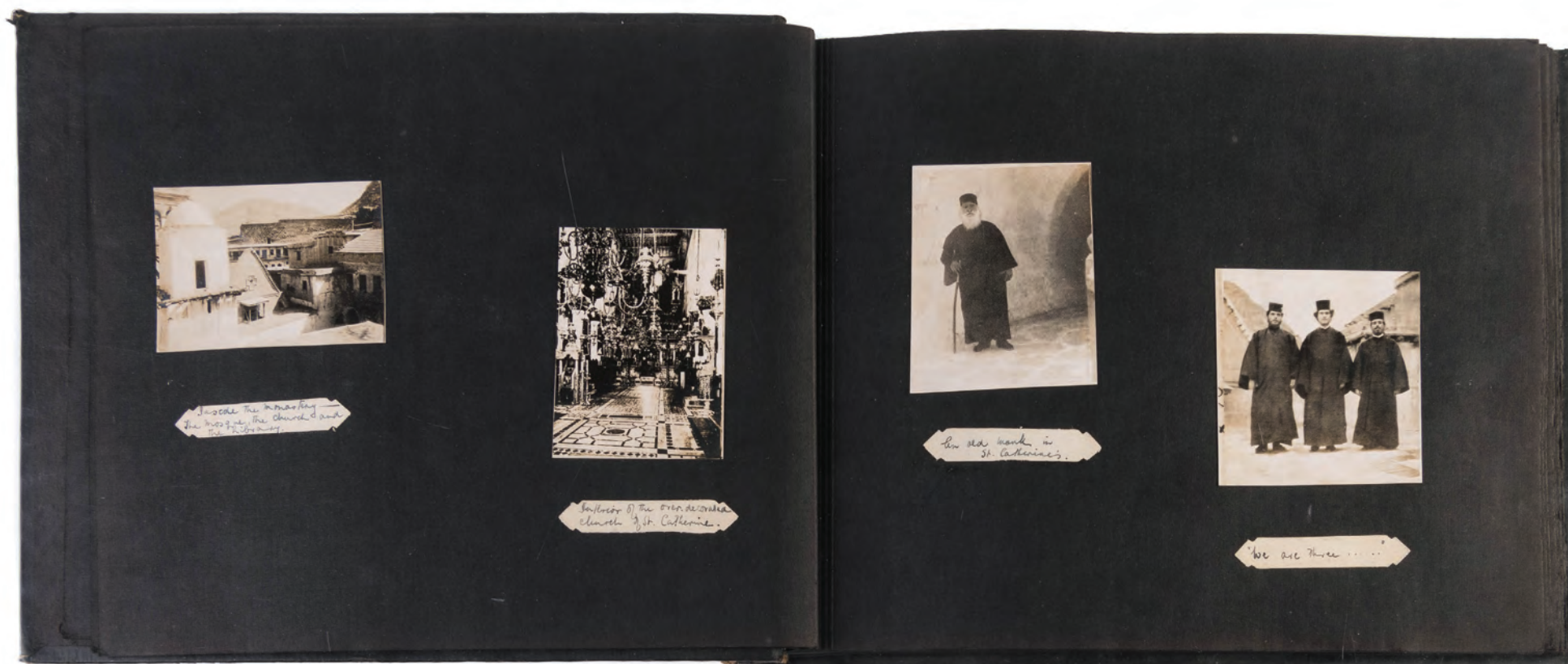
11 [CODEX SINAITICUS]. Album of photographs relating to the discovery and sale of the *Codex Sinaiticus*.

59 original silver-gelatin photographs measuring 165 by 150mm and smaller, most with ms. ink captions. Oblong 8vo black cloth album with cord tie, very good. 22 leaves. N.p., n.d., but [Sinai, Russia & London, 1930s]. **SOLD**

A curious album devoted to the *Codex Sinaiticus*. Discovered at Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai in the nineteenth century, the *Codex* was purchased by the British government in 1933

in a deal brokered by Maggs Bros Ltd. Most of the manuscript (347 leaves) now resides in the British Library, though there are portions still held at St. Catherine's (12 leaves and 14 fragments), Leipzig University Library (43 leaves), and the Russian National Library (fragments of 3 leaves).

The album contains photographs of St Catherine's and her monks, the *Codex Sinaiticus* itself, the *Syriac Sinaiticus* (the oldest copy of the gospels in Syriac), Constantin von Tischendorf (who discovered the codex – see item 16), the forger Constantin Simonides (who claimed to have written the *Codex*), and even one of "Mr Maggs handing the mss to Sir George Hill."





Sensitive Portraits of Iraqi Citizens

12 [IRAQ]. [WARREN (Christopher)]. Small collection of photographs taken by a British Intelligence Officer in Iraq.

Thirty-six vintage small format silver gelatin photographs, plus a photographic postcard of Faisal II as a boy; all photographs clearly removed from an album, with residual scraps of brown album paper to versos. [Iraq, but some printed in London], [c.1930s].

£600

A small collection of highly accomplished amateur photographs of inter-war Iraq.

Though there is no material evidence to support the attribution (captions, signatures etc.) they came from a collection of similar material said to belong to Christopher Warren, who worked as an Intelligence Officer in Iraq, Lebanon and Kuwait in the 1930s. Other photographs, offered for sale at the same time as these (albeit in separate groups), show that he was active in those locations and was, at one point, based at "Moon House, Dar Al Qamar, Karradat Marrian" (from a typed caption).

The many intimate and beautiful portraits (making up over half the collection) would suggest the photographer spoke Arabic and understood enough about his subjects to foment the mutual comfort necessary for such candid images. Several show young people from both the city and the countryside: the sons of shop-owners at ease in the hustle and bustle of Baghdad and children gathering crops, hunting and playing reed flutes in the open expanse of the desert. Some, such as the portrait of a suited young man in a local boat, potentially imply a professional relationship.

As a group, the images express a peacefulness far removed from the tensions of the interwar period, in which protests against British influence were common (even after the independence of the country in 1932). Only a photographic postcard, present with the images, reminds one of the broader historical context: a portrait of Faisal II, still a child but standing upright in military dress.



ITEM 13





Finely Drawn Bosphorus Panorama

13 [SCHRANZ (Joseph)] after. Original pencil drawing depicting the Northern Bosphorus from the Black Sea to Therapia (Tarabya), taken from the Asiatic side.

Pencil on four sheets of paper, backed with linen. Each sheet 250 by 420mm (thus 25 by 168cm in total). Some light browning and a few small dents, otherwise very good. Ms. captions (also in pencil) running below drawing in English and Italian. N.p., n.d., but [c.1850-1854]. **£5,750**

A beautiful rendering of the Northern part of the famous strait dividing European and Asiatic Turkey.

This highly detailed panorama corresponds closely to one offered as part of lot 1081 in the Atabey sale, wherein two pencil panoramas — copies or preparatory drawings for Schranz's lithograph panorama (*Panorama du Bosphore...*, Constantinople, [c.1854]) — were offered.

Evidently the panorama circulated in pencil copies before it was lithographed. The workmanship is very fine, a professional hand rather than that of an amateur.

Stunning Photographic Panorama of Istanbul

14 SÉBAH (Jean [Pascal]) & JOAILLIER (Policarpe). Panorama de Constantinople pris de la Tour de Galata.

10 original albumen photographs (247 by 355mm) mounted on card, leporello-style, several pencil captions above the prints. Original quarter dark red roan with scarlet grained cloth boards, covers decorated in gilt; head of spine split and worn with some loss, part of upper cover sunned and water-stained, otherwise good. The photographs attached to the inside of front cover and folding into the binding (last photograph appears to have once adhered to the back cover, now freed in order to fully open). Photographs largely in excellent crisp condition, with only minor instances of bubbling, fading and marginal darkening. Sébah & Joaillier, [Istanbul, c.1895]. **£1,750**

A magnificent panorama of nearly 360 degrees, taken from the Galata Tower at the turn of the twentieth century. The photographer takes the viewer on a journey across Istanbul from the centre of Pera down to the Bosphorus as far as the Sea of Marmara, and then up the Golden Horn to the shipyards at Kasimpasa and Taskizak, and back to Pera. As one would expect from an image primarily produced for the wealthy tourist the majority of the city's famous sites are visible: the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Aqueduct of Valens, and both the Beyazit and Maiden's Tower, with the fine Admiralty building by the dockyards. The Golden Horn provides a very evocative scene with a mix of steam ships, coastal sailing vessels and small boats all gathered together on the shores.

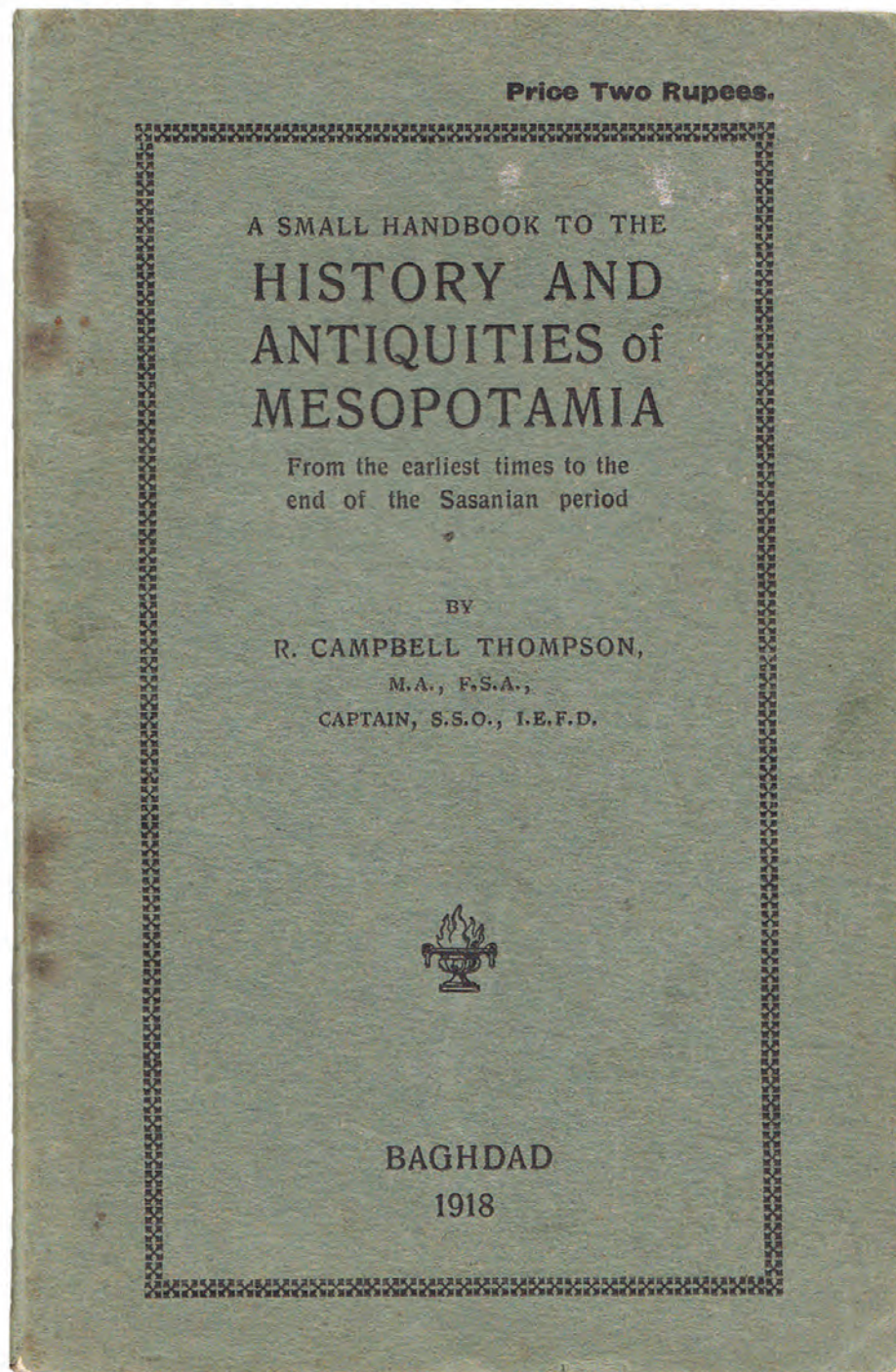
It is possible to date this panorama from a number of structures, including the Ottoman Bank which appears in the foreground of the panorama, and the Galata bridge connecting Eminönü and Galata, just to the left. The former, which still appears fresh and new in this panorama, was completed in 1892, whilst the latter was replaced by the fourth Galata bridge in 1912.

Sébah & Joaillier were one of the foremost photographic studios in Istanbul at the end of the nineteenth century. Formed following the death of Pascal Sébah in 1886, the business was re-invigorated by the energy that Policarpe Joaillier brought to the business and he produced several panoramas such as the one described here in the following years. Although they failed in their efforts to become photographers to the Ottoman Court, they were recognised by

the Sultan and awarded the Medjidie Order (3rd Class), and were appointed official photographers to Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1889 during his visit to Istanbul.

Cf. Öztuncay, Bahattin, *The Photographers of Constantinople*, I, Aygaz, 2003, p.281.





"a history in the midst of war"

15 THOMPSON (R. Campbell). A small handbook to the history and antiquities of Mesopotamia from the earliest times to the Sasanian period.

First edition. 12mo. Original olive printed wrappers, book-block stapled; a few small stains to wrappers, one small section of loss to lower wrapper, staples rusted, otherwise very good for such a fragile publication. [2], ii, 68pp. Baghdad (but printed at the Times Press, Bombay), 1918. **SOLD**

An uncommon handbook, published toward the terminus of the Mesopotamian Campaign of the First World War. Like similar booklets produced during the conflict, its primary readership would have been the British soldiers serving in the region.

The content comprises a short historical sketch up to Alexander's death in 323 BC, a chronological table carrying events forward to the close of the Sasanian period (652 AD) and a list of ancient archaeological sites. In his comparatively wordy introduction Campbell Thompson muses on writing in wartime: "The author who sits down to compile a history in the midst of war, even though he be with a Headquarter staff, is apt to find his meditations, researches and thefts rudely curtailed by alarums and excursions." (p.i).

TRAVELS
IN THE EAST.

BY

CONSTANTINE TISCHENDORFF,

EDITOR OF THE

"CODEX EPHRÁMI RESCRIPTUS," "CODEX FRIDERICO-AUGUSTANUS,"
ETC.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

BY

W. E. SHUCKARD.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1847.

A Biblical Scholar in the Holy Land

16 TISCHENDORFF (Constantine). **Travels in the East.**
Translated from the German by W.E. Shuckard.

First English edition. 16mo. Recent quarter morocco, gilt, with marbled paper boards, near fine. Interior pages very clean and fresh. Bound without the half-title. xvi, 287, 32(ads.)pp. London, Longman, Brown, Green & Longmans, 1847. **£400**

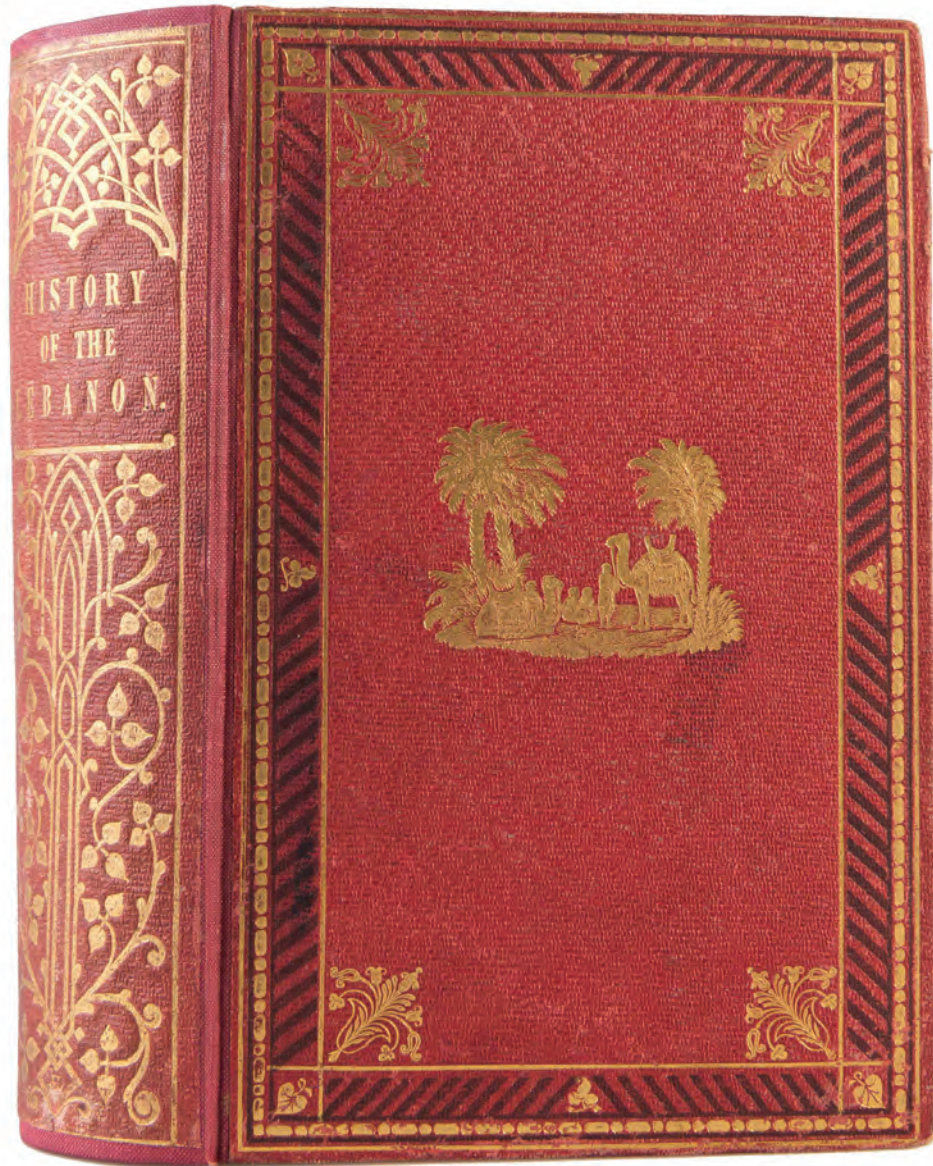
A learned account of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, first published in German as *Reise in den Orient* (1846). Constantin von Tischendorf (1815-1874) was an important biblical scholar, who discovered a number of leaves from the *Codex Sinaiticus* when visiting St. Catherine's Monastery in 1844. The present text describes the Monastery but makes no reference to his great discovery.

He devotes a number of chapters to Constantinople and its environs, with interesting descriptions of various libraries, including that of the Seraglio.

Rare in commerce with no copies in auction records.

Blackmer, 1661; Röhricht, 2067; Weber, 405.

One of the Best Nineteenth Century Works on Lebanon



**17 URQUHART (David). The Lebanon: (Mount Souria).
A History and a Diary.**

First edition. 2 vols in one. Each with an engraved frontispiece. 8vo. Original red cloth, elaborately gilt and with vignette on the upper board and blind decorated on the lower, a.e.g., neatly recased with the spine relaid, new endpapers. Frontispieces and facing pages slightly foxed, interior otherwise clean and fresh. A good copy of a book usually found in poor condition. x, 402; iv, 455pp. London, Thomas Cautley Newby, 1860. **SOLD**

An important title, three quarters of the work comprising the author's diary during the years 1849 and 1850, following the initial historical section.

Urquhart was a fascinating figure, a philhellene who later became a Turcophile. His diary is an excellent source for nineteenth-century Lebanon, and also for the politics of the European powers in the Levant, and the Eastern Question in general. A fine writer and astute observer, he was interested in all the peoples he encountered, but especially the Maronite Christians. He visited the Jumblat family, who were to remain significant in Lebanese affairs up to the present time. He also comments in detail on the Turkish administration, finances, taxes and army (which at the time was engaged against the Russians).

Blackmer, 1708; Weber, 580.

PERSIA

Telegraphy in the Persian Gulf

18 GOLDSMID (Colonel Sir Frederic John).
Telegraph and Travel. A Narrative of the Formation and Development of Telegraphic Communication between England and India, under the Orders of Her Majesty's Government, with Incidental Notices of the Countries traversed by the Lines.

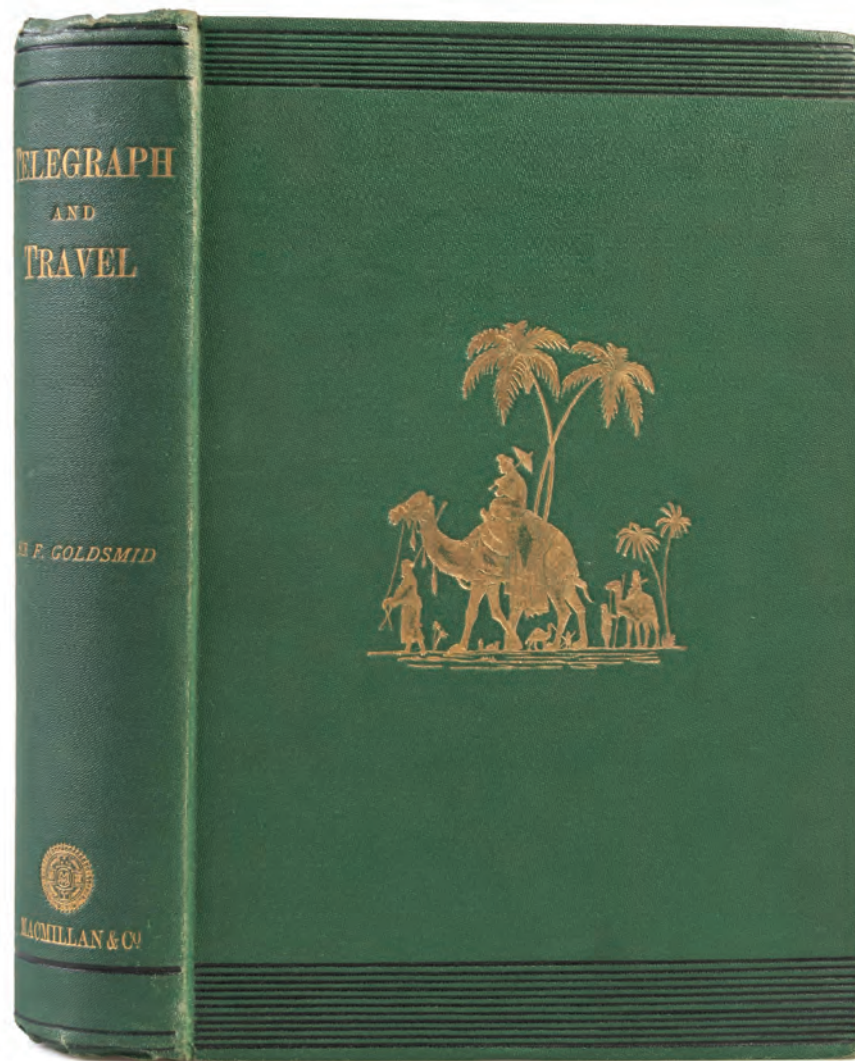
First edition. Steel-engraved portrait plate, 4 wood-engraved plates, numerous illustrations in the text, 2 folding maps, a diagram and a tipped-in errata slip. 8vo. Original green cloth, gilt, with gilt cover vignette; very light wear to extremities of spine, corners bumped, small split to front hinge (still holding firmly). A very good copy. xiv, 673, 62(publisher's cat.)pp. London, Macmillan, 1874. **SOLD**

A lovely copy of the essential work on the creation of the Persian Gulf Cable.

As Chief Director of the Government Indo-European Telegraph from 1865 to 1870, Goldsmid was perfectly placed to give a full account of how a submarine line was extended down the Gulf, linking Turkish Arabia to Karachi. The first part of the book covers the development and implementation of the project, and the second concerns Goldsmid's travels in, inter alia, Turkish Arabia (principally modern-day Iraq), Turkey and Persia.

The appendix includes a short account of "The Arabs at Masandam" by Col. Patrick Stewart (1832-65), who was Director-General of the Indo-European Telegraph and masterminded the laying of the Persian Gulf Cable. He came into contact with the local people at Musandam (Oman) when scouting for a suitable site for a repeater station, which was eventually built on what is now known as Telegraph Island.

Wilson, p.82.



Painted in the Persian Gulf

19 HOLMES (Colonel Ponsonby Ross). Two watercolours of Kharg Island and one of Lengeh, Persia.

[1] 'KARAK PERSIA'. Watercolour on paper, measuring 239 by 327mm, figures in foreground heightened with gum arabic, mounted on sheet removed from album; some marginal browning, otherwise very good. Initialed P.R.H. and dated May 9th 1856.

[2] 'KARRACK'. Watercolour on paper, measuring 202 by 251mm, mounted on sheet removed from album; some light spotting, otherwise very good with striking undimmed colour. Initialed P.R.H. and dated May 13th 1856.

[3] 'Lingar Laristan Persia'. Watercolour on paper, measuring 177 by 248mm, mounted on sheet removed from album; some marginal staining (likely glue used to mount sheet), otherwise very good with nice bright colour. Initialed P.R.H. and dated May 15th, year indecipherable but almost certainly [1856]. **£2,500**

Col. Ponsonby Ross Holmes (1838-1892) joined the Royal Navy in 1854 and almost certainly painted the present works on active service. The naive but attractive views show Kharg Island (two studies) and Bandar Lengeh.

With Persian, Arab, British and Dutch interests at play, Kharg Island was hotly contested ground in the eighteenth century and continued to change hands in the nineteenth, most notably in the midst of Anglo-Persian disagreements. It was briefly occupied by British forces in 1838 in an attempt to end the Persian Siege of Herat (see item 26), and was seized by the British again in December 1856 during the Anglo-Persian war (a conflict again sparked by the issue of Herat). As both of Holmes's studies were painted in May 1856, they predate the war and were likely inspired by a cruise in the Gulf.

The pink-skied view of Lengeh is a rare study of one of the most historically important port cities on the Persian littoral. A major centre for trade between seafaring Arab tribes, Oman and Persia

in the second half of the eighteenth century, it belonged to the Al Qasimi from 1760 to 1887. During that period the town was subject to several attacks by British and Muscati forces, but none dating to the year (again 1856) of Holmes's study, which suggests he was a passive observer.

Though the British Indian Navy and British merchant vessels were active in the Gulf at the time, very few original nineteenth century artworks of its places and people find their way onto the market. As a result, these humble pictures, especially that of Lengeh, are uncommon and desirable.

Cf. D.T. Potts, "KHARG ISLAND ii. History and archeology," *Encyclopædia Iranica*, online edition, 2004, available at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kharg-island> (accessed on 12 December 2020); D.T. Potts, "BANDAR-E LENGA," *Encyclopædia Iranica*, online edition, 2004, available at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kharg-island> (accessed on 12 December 2020).



ITEM 19



Translated by a Young Parsi Woman

20 MENANT (D.). VAKIL (Miss Ratanbai Ardeshir), translator.
Les Parsis.

First English edition. With a photogravure frontispiece of the translator. 8vo. Original black cloth, spine and front cover lettered in gilt; boards slightly bowed, corners a little worn, otherwise very good. Light foxing to opening and closing leaves, rest of interior clean and fresh. Ink presentation inscription to half-title. xv, [1] blank, 108pp. London, printed for private circulation, 1902.

£350

Inscribed to Menant's godson: "A mon cher petit filleul. Sa marraine. D Menant."

Delphine Menant (1850-?) was the daughter of the esteemed Joachim Menant and a notable orientalist in her own right. The present work is the first English translation of her excellent *Les Parsis...* (first published in Paris in 1898), which focuses on their early history and exodus after the Muslim conquest, and on those Zoroastrians that remained in Persia. It was well received in France and afforded her the chance to study the Parsi communities of Western India, where she travelled in 1900.

The introduction provides a short but very tender tribute to the translator, Ratanbai Ardeshir Vakil (1869-1895), a young Parsi woman who passed away before finishing her version of the text. **Vakil, along with her sister, were the second and third female arts undergraduates to enrol at Wilson College (in Mumbai), which had only recently opened its doors to women.** She excelled in French and stayed on to teach after graduation. After her early passing the bereaved staff and students established the *Ratanbai Collection of French Works* in the College Library, as a memorial to her life and work.



Photographs of Persia for the American Press

21 [PERSIA]. SEVRUGUIN (Antoin). A small group of photographs of people and places in Persia.

Seven original silver-gelatin photographs, the smallest measuring 154 by 131mm and the largest 224 by 173mm. All with Brown Brothers stamps to versos apart from the tomb in Salmas which bears the stamp of Frank A. Munsey. Like all vintage prints from stock photo agencies these show sign of handling and vary in condition. Four have creases and chipped corners, and a few have penciled crop marks and hand-painted heightening. Persia, various places, [c.1890-1915]. **SOLD**

A highly interesting set of photographs of Persia, dating from the turn of the twentieth century. Several were taken by Antoin Sevruguin (c.1838-1933) who established a studio in Tehran and was an official court photographer to Naser al-Din Shah (1831-1896). All seven images are from the archive of the Brown Brothers stock photo agency, which was established in New York in 1904.

Three relate to the Persian Constitutional Revolution (1905-1911): 'Persian Soldiers' (title from verso), a group portrait of Russian notables at Tabriz and a striking view of a large crowd in one of Tehran's public squares. As part of the Brown Brothers inventory they would have been loaned to American publishers reporting on the revolutionaries, their struggle to establish a parliament and the actions taken against them by the Qajar Dynasty. Evidence of that process is most obvious with the group portrait at Tabriz, no doubt taken during the Russian occupation of the city, which has a half-tone reproduction of the image pasted to the verso. The caption gives a sense of the tone of the missing article: "A CENTER OF RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN PERSIA. The Russian Colony at Tabriz, showing the civil, military, spiritual and spirituous exemplars of Slav civilization and enlightenment."



Of special significance are the photographs by Sevruguin, of which there are at least three (identified by either the distinctive order numbers or their presence in public and private collections). Though we cannot find another example, the image of the tomb of Arghun Agha's daughter — a beautifully decorated and minutely detailed leaning tower — is also possibly his work, as he took two well-known photographs of it. The presence of his photographs in the Brown Brothers archive show the geographic reach they had in his own lifetime, illustrating printed works well beyond Persia and Europe.

The details of the photographs are as follows:

[1] SEVRUGUIN (Antoin). **Tehran (Iran): Maydan-i Arg (Arg Square) or the Old Canon's Square (Maydan-i Tupkhana'I Qadim)**. [Title from the Freer and Sackler Archives at the Smithsonian.] 208 by 158mm.

[2] UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER. **Scene at Tabriz, Persia**. [Ms. title to verso.] 212 by 155mm.

[3] UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER. **Persian Soldiers**. [Ms. title to verso.] 198 by 153mm.

[4] UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER, [but likely SEVRUGUIN (Antoin)]. **The Tomb of the Emir Arghun (Agha's) daughter, Salmas**. [Title from a different Sevruguin photograph of the same structure in the Nelson Collection of Qajar Photography.] 224 by 173mm, mounted on card.

[5] UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER. **Turkoman Kurds in the Mountains between Turkey and Persia**. [Ms. title to verso.] 221 by 170mm, mounted on card.

[6] SEVRUGUIN (Antoin). **Villagers under the koorsie [korsi], Persia**. [Title in negative.] 216 by 165mm.

[7] SEVRUGUIN (Antoin). **Teheran, Procession de Derviches Martyrs**. [French caption from colour photogravure in the Nelson Collection.] 187 by 155mm.



**22 [PERSIA]. [UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER].
Photograph of the British Telegraph Station at Jask.**

Original albumen photograph, measuring by 177 by 244mm, laid down on thin card and captioned in pencil. Some staining to the card mount, photograph in excellent unfaded condition. Albumen photograph of 'Mugger Peer' (the Pir Mangho shrine in Manghopir, Karachi) to verso. Jask, Persia, [c.1880]. **£350**



An early view of the British Telegraph Station at Bandar-e Jask, now a port city on the Iranian stretch of the Makran coast.

Jask became “the first site of mercantile settlement made by the East India Company on Persian soil” (Curzon) when a factory and fort were established there in 1619. When more opportune positions were discovered it was somewhat forgotten by imperial powers until a site was required for the main telegraph station between Bushire and Karachi. With the Musandam peninsula on the Omani coast proving inhospitable, operations were transferred to Jask and the first station was opened in 1869. As the meeting point for all of the land and marine cables between the Persian Gulf and India it served an extremely important function for the time the technology was operational.

Though we cannot find any other examples of this image, there are two early photographs of the station in the India Office Archives at the British Library; one in the Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison album (taken circa 1870) and another by Lt. A. A. Crookshank (taken November 1900). The present photograph is closer to the Aitchison image, capturing an austere and slightly barren site, whereas the Crookshank print appears to show more outbuildings, trees and a British flagpole in the central clearing.

Curzon, George N., *Persia and the Persian Question*, Longmans, 1892, II, p.427; ‘Telegraph Station, Jask’, British Library: Visual Arts, Photo 355/1/41; ‘Telegraph Station at Jask, Makran, November 1900’, British Library: Visual Arts, Photo 430/8/7.

Life with the APOC at Tembi

23 [PERSIA]. [UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHER].
Photograph album of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company works at
Tembi, Persia.

Small folio album (oblong). Contemporary quarter black cloth with snake-skin effect cloth boards, corners somewhat worn otherwise very good. 81 original silver-gelatin photographs, all held in at corners; a few overexposed, otherwise sharp and unfaded. 17 are captioned below the image on the mount and the great majority have detailed ms. captions on the versos (all with location and date). Various places, including Damascus, Baghdad and Tembi, 1929-31.

SOLD

An excellent album documenting life and work at the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) facilities at Tembi, a small town close to Masjed Soleyman in south-west Persia. The photographer, though unnamed, was a Scottish engineer employed at the power house.

The album begins with the departure of SS *Pierre Loti* from Marseille, followed by attractive Mediterranean views and images of the hotels 'Victoria' at Damascus and 'Maude' in Baghdad. The latter suggest the photographer took an overland route across the Syrian Desert on his way through Iraq to Persia.

The rest of the album focuses on Persia, specifically Tembi, where the APOC built a power house soon after discovering oil at Masjed Soleyman in 1908. The 68 images cover the entire site: the exterior and interior of the power house, the pumping station across the Tembi River and the picturesque bungalow where he and his fellow workers stayed. The annotations to the versos of the images describe the machinery at the power house (an "11,000 volt switch board", "3000 kilowatt English electric alternator" and so on), the surrounding landscape of the Tembi Valley and events such as the flooding of the river in December 1929.

Despite being an amateur behind the lens, he was clearly intent on documenting not only the oil works but also the areas surrounding Tembi. Some of the most interesting images show nearby sites (including a local graveyard) and local people he met whilst out exploring. One image, titled “Out in the Blue” 1929, shows a fellow worker with a “group of Persians at a lovely manzel [house] miles from anywhere. They were very hospitable to us.”

Though we have handled several APOC albums — some officially produced and some private — few match the comprehensiveness with which this one documents a specific site.



Istanbul-printed Pocket Gulistan

24 SA'DI SHIRAZI (Muslih al-Din). Gulistan.

Farsi text. 12mo. Contemporary French quarter red morocco over marbled boards, five raised bands and gilt lettering to spine, a.e.g., silk page marker, original printed wrappers bound in; extremities slightly rubbed, original wrappers a little dusty, otherwise very good. 232pp. Istanbul, in the last quarter of the year 1304 AH [1887 AD]. **£350**

An attractive and well-preserved edition of Sa'di's *Gulistan* (completed 656/1258), “probably the most influential work of prose in the Persian tradition” (*Encyclopaedia Iranica*).

Seemingly unrecorded. Though Copac/Jisc and OCLC list several Istanbul editions in Persian, the present example does not feature.

Scarce Official Map of Persia

25 SURVEY OF INDIA.
Northern Persia.

Southern Asia Series.

Heliozincographed colour map, folded, measuring 820 by 470mm; a few very small tears along folds, an 80mm closed tear to left margin, scattered foxing to verso, extremities dusty. Scale 1:2,000,000 or 1.014 inches to 32 miles. [Dehradun], Survey of India, Published under the direction of Colonel S.G. Burrard, 1914. **£450**



An official map of northern Persia, published by the Survey of India at its field office in Dehradun. It not only shows most of modern day Iran — the whole country north of Shooshtar and Birjand — but also parts of Iraq (including Baghdad), Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and the Caucasus.

Colonel Sidney Burrard was Surveyor General of India when the map was published and it was his decision, in 1912, to produce 'Degree Sheet' surveys of Iraq and Persia, made to a scale of 1 inch to 4 miles. These extremely detailed maps improved on the extant British cartography of those countries and were surely executed in an effort to maintain control over newly discovered oil reserves in south-western Persia. Small scale maps, such as *Northern Persia*, would have been used alongside the degree sheets when a regional overview was required.

As the present map focuses on the north of the country it would have been highly useful toward the close of the First World War when British forces travelled up through Persia in order to replace the departing Tsarist armies.

The *Southern Asia Series* ran from 1912 to 1945, extending from Northern Persia and the Gulf of Aden to Vladivostok and Papua New Guinea. Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham and the British Library all hold multiple sheets from the series, but Reading is the only UK institution to list the *Northern Persia* sheet separately. OCLC locates just two further holdings at the University of Chicago and the CECMC (Paris).

The Occupation of Kharg Island

26 TAYLOR (Lieut. Col. Robert). ALS to W. Cabell, regarding the potential independence of Muhammad Ali of Egypt and the British occupation of Kharg Island.

Autograph letter signed. Manuscript in ink, a few later pencil annotations in a different hand, pages a little dusty. 8pp. 8vo. Baghdad, 9th July 1838. **£1,000**

A fascinating letter, composed at a time of great tumult in the Near and Middle East. It relays news of important events and evidences the willingness of the British to use force to implement their policy in the region. Lieut. Col. Robert Taylor (1788-1852) went to India as a cadet in 1803 and did not return to England for over forty years, serving as Political Resident at Basra (1819-21) and Baghdad (1821-43). His library was purchased by the British Library in 1860 and formed the bedrock of its Arabic-language collection.

Writing from Baghdad, Taylor addresses W. Cabell of the India Board Office in London. He first informs Cabell of two loads of missing post; one outgoing tranche “lost by dromedaries running away with the bags and throwing their riders”, and the mail from India “robbed by a party of Wahabis[sic]”.

He then notes Ottoman alarm at “the threatened independence of Mohamed Ali”, and comments at length on relations with Persia, which were extremely tense due to the ongoing siege of Herat by Qajar and Russian forces: “Our envoy [John McNeill]... was not listened to; while the Russian [Count Simonich] & his staff conducted their approaches to the fortress which was expected to fall.” In response, the British occupied Kharg Island with a “small force... not exceeding 500 men”, thereby threatening military intervention. Reporting that it had “instilled a wholesome fear into the Persians”, Taylor advocates the use of gunboat diplomacy elsewhere “to produce similar effects.”

Official correspondence relating to Persia and the Gulf is rarely found outside of institutional archives such as the India Office Records. This example is interesting on a number of levels, not least for showing how Britain’s aggression in the first decades of “The Great Game” manifested in the Gulf.

A full transcription is available on request.



ISLAMIC AFRICA

*“Very little has been written by the African himself
of his country and people”*

27 BLYDEN (Edward W.).

**Christianity, Islam and the
Negro Race.**

Second edition, with frontispiece portrait of the author. 8vo. Original black cloth, gilt titling to spine; extremities slightly rubbed, corners bumped, hinges split but holding, damp-staining to rear free-endpaper, otherwise very good. Several pencil underlinings to text. [4], [i]-xv, [1], [1]-432, 16[publisher’s cat]pp. London, W. B. Whittingham & Co., 1888.

£1,250

A highly important book, bringing together Blyden’s occasional essays on religion, race and nation. The chief focus is Africa and its future development, a subject that inspired Blyden throughout his life. **This, the second edition, is the first to include his portrait as a frontispiece.**

Edward Wilmot Blyden (1832-1912) was born in the Danish Island of St. Thomas, West Indies to parents of African heritage. From an early age he was inspired to return to his ancestral homeland, but not before equipping himself with knowledge and skills that could be used to aid the development of Africa. Once recognised as a student of exceptional promise he travelled to America, where efforts were made to gain his admission to an institution of higher learning. Due to his race, Blyden was denied acceptance, and subsequently changed his plans: settling on the idea of moving to Liberia in West Africa, where the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States was establishing a High School.



EDWARD W. BLYDEN, L.L.D.

He subsequently joined the school and rose to the position of Headship, a title that he carried until being elected to a professorship in 1862, at the newly-established College of Liberia. He later balanced his academic duties with a political position as Secretary of State (1864), before terminating his professorship in order to devote his time to travel and his political duties. He was made Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia in 1877.

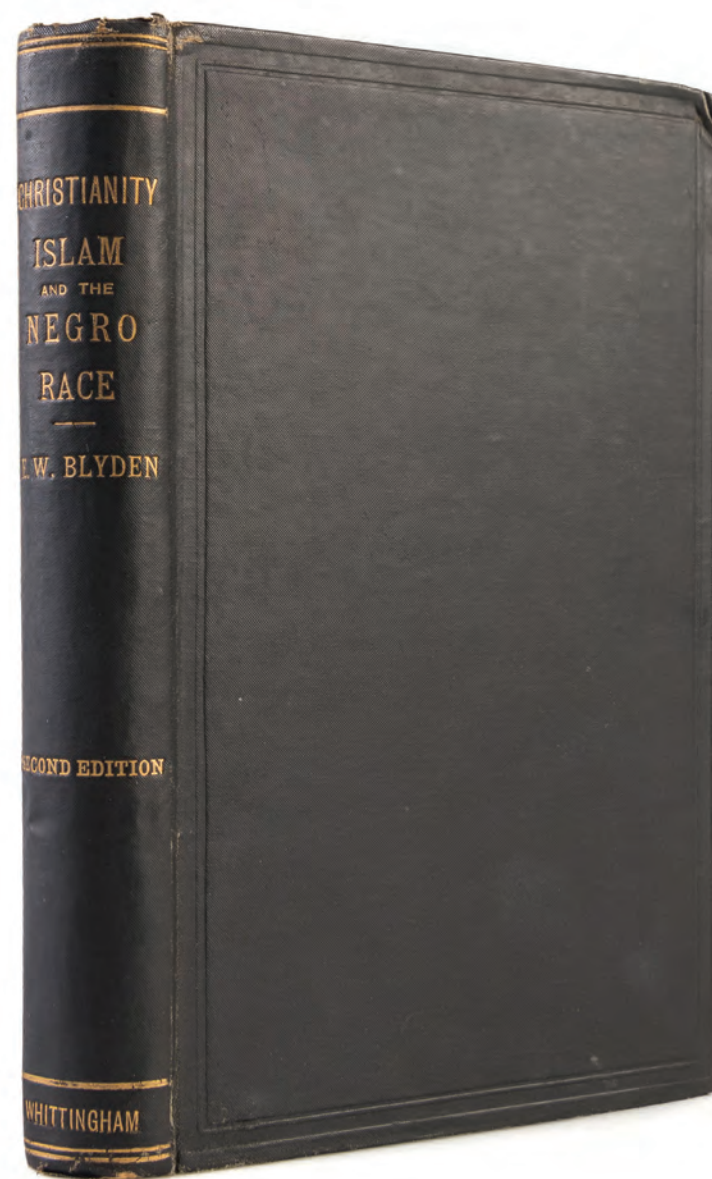
Throughout his career Blyden devoted his energy, in myriad ways, to contributing to the empowerment of the African People. He undertook numerous travels — soaking up all that he could in the way of foreign customs, languages and political systems — and brought his findings back to Liberia, where they might be employed, or rather integrated, into African life.

This collection of essays draws on all of that experience and communicates the thoughts and convictions at which he arrived. One is unlikely to find a more remarkable and hard-earned body of work in nineteenth-century writing on the subject of African development; especially one that provides an essential counterpoint to the hegemonic European perspective, such as Blyden's does. **Of particular interest are his arguments for the usefulness and suitability of Islam to the people of Africa**, and his thoughts as to how the religion might work alongside Christianity. While he stresses the need to subdue harmful paganism, he maintains, in a number of passages, the importance of allowing the traditional cultures to grow alongside the newly introduced religions. Samuel Lewis, in his biographical note on Blyden, states that he put into words what many educated black Africans believed: that “the aim of philanthropists should be not to distort or to destroy any of the characteristics which are most distinctive of the [African] race, but to ensure then, as far as possible, their normal and natural development”.

Also present are numerous expressions of Blyden's desire for Africans living elsewhere (especially in America) to escape

discrimination and return to, and therefore enrich, the homeland. This part of his ideology led to his current status as one of the founding fathers of Pan-Africanism.

The second edition is shown to be institutionally rarer than the first edition in the UK. Copac/Jisc locates three holdings, at SOAS, the British Museum and Edinburgh (compared to eight for the first). There are also two copies in the British Library catalogue. OCLC locates numerous copies in North American universities.



Thesiger's Copy of an Essential Work on Africa

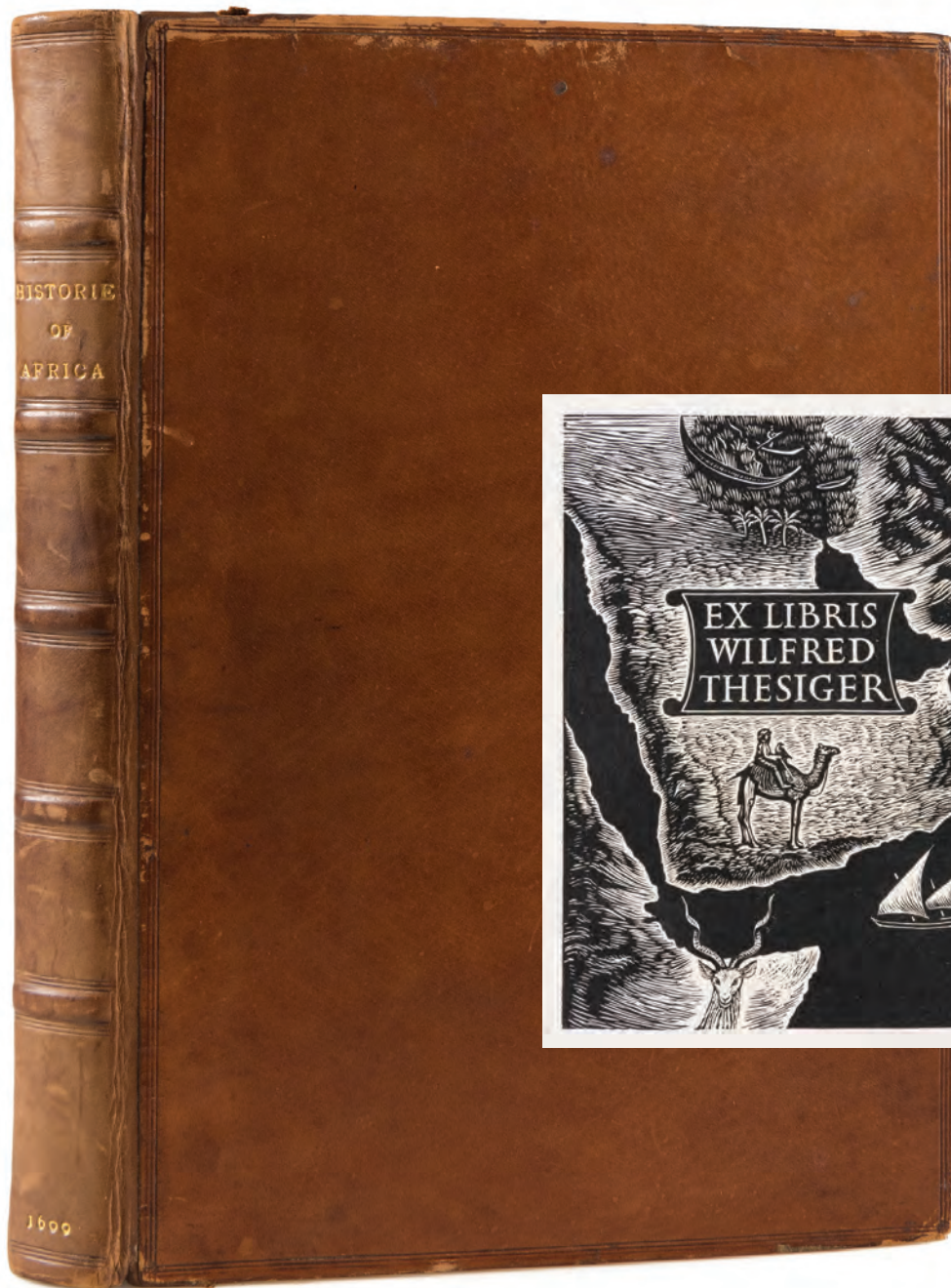
28 LEO AFRICANUS. A Geographical Historie of Africa,

Written in Arabicke and Italian by Iohn Leo a More, borne in Granada, and brought up in Barbarie. Wherein he hath at large described, not onely the qualities, situations, and true distances of the regions, cities, townes, mountaines, rivers, and other places throughout all the north and principall partes of Africa; but also the descents and families of their kings, the causes and events of their warres, with their manners, customes, religions, and civile government, and many other memorable matters: ...

First edition in English. Folding engraved map. Large 8vo. Nineteenth-century calf, rebaked. [8], 420pp. London, [Eliot's Court Press] Imp. Georg. Bishop, 1600. **RESERVED**

A lovely copy of one of the most significant early books on Africa. The first Italian edition (Venice, 1550) was the first European publication to provide detailed descriptions of the North African coast and parts of West-central Africa, including the then famously elusive city of Timbuktu. It is also an essential text on Islam in Africa, and one importantly written from an Islamic perspective (the author was born and undertook his travels as a Muslim). **This copy has a distinguished provenance, having formerly belonged to Wilfred Thesiger (1910-2003),** who was born in Addis Ababa, and whose decade-long exploration of the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) is recounted in his 1959 classic, *Arabian Sands*.

Leo Africanus (c.1485-c.1554), whose arabic name was Al Hasan Ibn Muhammad Al-Wazzan Az-Zayyatti, or Al Fasi, was born in Granada and educated at Fez. He travelled extensively in northern Africa before being captured by Christian pirates on his return from an ascent of the Nile to Aswan. The pirates, captivated by his intelligence, presented him as a gift to Pope Leo X who persuaded him to convert and stood sponsor at his baptism in 1520 when he took the name Giovanni Leone. He subsequently returned to Africa and died at Tunis. After leaving Cambridge the translator John Pory

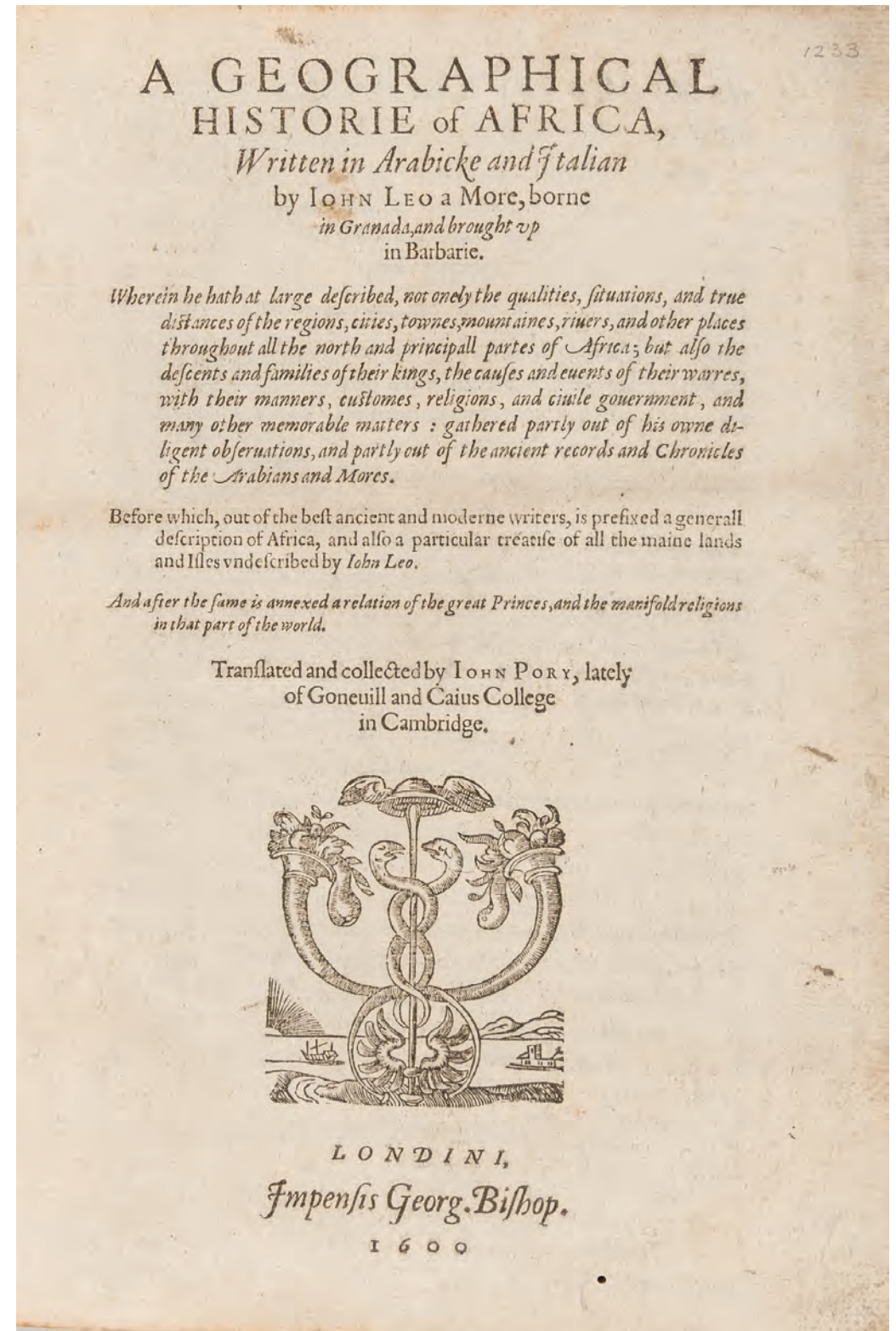


(1570?-1635) became an assistant to the travel writer Richard Hakluyt who encouraged him to produce this work which is dedicated to Sir Robert Cecil and contains 60 pages of additional material consisting of a general description of Africa and of places undescribed by Leo. He later became M.P. for Bridgwater (1605) and travelled extensively in Europe as far as Constantinople and visited Virginia in 1619-21 and 1623-24.

Originally published in 1550 by Ramusio in Italian, this text subsequently became the basis of all future translations. Pory's translation was a "major landmark in the spread of knowledge of Africa in England" (Eldred Jones), and the book remained a standard work of reference until the nineteenth century. It is credited by the OED with the first use of the words *hippopotamus* and *zebra* in the English language; and literary scholars engaged on the never-ending quest for Shakespearian source-books have suggested that it may have been one of the sources for *Othello*. Ben Jonson certainly knew the work, as he cites "Leo the African" in the notes to his *Masque of Blackness* (1605).

Provenance: armorial bookplate of the Hon. Charles Howard, the "Gift of Rt. Hon Sir David Dundas of Ochertyre 1877", thence in the library of the Earls of Carlisle; cartographical Reynolds Stone bookplate of Wilfred Thesiger.

See: Jones (Eldred), *Othello's Countrymen: the African in English Renaissance Drama*, 1965; Powell (W. S.), *John Pory, 1572-1636: the life and letters of a man of many parts*, 1977; STC, 15481.



A Prussian Baroness in Egypt

**29 MINUTOLI (The Baroness [Wolferdine Menu] von).
Recollections of Egypt.**

First edition in English. Lithographed hand coloured portrait frontispiece of Muhammad Ali Pasha. 8vo. Modern quarter calf with green buckram cloth, black label lettered in gilt to spine; extremities a little rubbed, otherwise very good. Engraved bookplate of Lord Harris to front paste-down endpaper. Bound without the half-title. xvii, [1]blank, 279, [1]blank pp. London, Treuttel & Würtz, Treuttel, Jun., & Richter, 1827. **SOLD**

The uncommon English translation of Wolferdine Minutoli's valuable account of Egypt. The author's husband, Heinrich Carl Menu von Minutoli, also published on Egypt (*Reise zum Tempel des Jupiter Ammon und nach Oberägypten*, Berlin, 1824), but his work was not translated and failed to enjoy the same success on the continent.

The couple arrived at Alexandria in September 1820, before moving on to Cairo and then Upper Egypt via a Nile journey. Minutoli describes each stopping off point with a keen eye and a good understanding of Egyptian history and topography (she made use of her husband's library over the sea voyage, consulting Herodotus, Volney, Denon and Hamilton). **Her writing on Egyptian women is the most important aspect of the narrative, as she had access to spaces denied to male visitors. Chapter XXI is devoted to her visits to two harems in Damietta - first to that of the Agha, then to the harem of the first Ulama.** Though affected by the prejudices of her time, her account of the first harem (where she was accompanied by a translator) is full of empathy and compliments to the women she met, who were of Syrian, Circassian and Georgian heritage.

The work is illustrated with a fine portrait of Muhammad Ali Pasha, the Governor of Egypt, in what was to become an iconic pose, on a divan in an upper room with views out to a bay with ships,

presumably at Alexandria. The translator, "S.H.L.", in a prefatory note, includes Heinrich Minutoli's description of him: "Mahomet Ali Pacha was born at Cavalla, a village in Ancient Macedonia; and is now about fifty-nine years of age. He is well made, and of the middle size, and has black animated eyes, which are always in motion. An affection of the lungs, under which he sometimes evidently labours, is not the effect of poison administered to him, as I was at first assured, but is said to have been caused by the great exertion with which he maintained, with only nine hundred men, a victorious combat against forty thousand Arabs. He speaks only Arabic and Turkish, and is wholly unacquainted with and of the European languages." (p.x).

Ibrahim-Hilmy II, p. 36 [citing a German second edition of 1841, a French edition of 1826 (from which this is a translation), and this English edition, although erroneously stating it as a two volume work, and with two plates].

