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Catalogue of the papers of A.J.V. Arthur

Date range of material: 1933-1983

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Preface

Creation of catalogue

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Contact details

Durham University Library: Archives and Special Collections

Palace Green

Durham

DH1 3RN

England

Telephone: 0191 334 2972

Email: PG.Library@durham.ac.uk

URL: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/>

[ark:/32150/s1v692t624p](http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ark:/32150/s1v692t624p)

Introduction

Collection title: Arthur, Allan James Vincent

Reference code: GB-0033-SAD

Dates of creation: 1933-1983

Extent: 1.5 boxes

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections: Sudan Archive

Creator: Arthur, Allan James Vincent

Language of material: English

Allan James Vincent Arthur

(1915 - 1998)

1949-1951	A.D.C., Khartoum
1951-1954	D.C. Shendi, Northern Province
1951-1952	Chairman Shendi District Council
1954	Deputy Governor Designate, Northern Province
1954	Retired from the Sudan Political Service

Accession details

Presented by Mr & Mrs A. Arthur, 1985 and 1987

Arrangement

1. Official Papers
 2. Personal Correspondence
 3. Memoirs
 4. Photographs
- For Maps see under Official papers

Form of citation

Material in the Sudan Archive is given a reference number, which is unique across the collections of papers. Usually it is not necessary to give the name of the person or organisation within which collection the item is found, although it may be convenient to do so.

The short form of citation should be GB-0033-SAD.*reference number*

Printed references should take the form: SAD.*reference number*.

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

1. Official Papers

(a) Khartoum

- SAD.726/2/1-10 1950 Mar 14
Note on the reorganisation of the Sudan Police as a separate department of Government, by L.C. Beaty Powell, Acting Commissioner of Police, with covering letter from J.W. Robertson, Civil Secretary
- SAD.726/2/11-17 1950 Apr 11-12
Note on the organisation of the Indian Police, with particular reference to the system in force in the Punjab, by Arthur, with comments on the proposals of the Acting Commissioner of Police above
- SAD.725/12/1-15 1950 Jan 23
Khartoum District annual report, 1949 by Arthur, including information on staff and visitors to the District, local affairs, local government, labour, climate, agriculture and forests, public health, education, veterinary work, communications and water supply, game, buildings, lands, trade, finance, etc.
- SAD.725/12/16-45 1951 Mar 22
Khartoum District annual report Jan 1950 - Feb 1951 by Arthur Details as above but also includes a statement of land auction revenues from Jan 1950 - Feb 1951; statement of expenditure of slum clearance in 1949 and 1950 and proposed expenditure for 1951; a list of the Khartoum Markaz staff; and a list of members of the Khartoum Town Bench
- SAD.725/12/46-51 1951 Mar
Khartoum District monthly diary by Arthur

(b) Shendi, Northern Province

- SAD.725/13/1-10 1951 Jun 25
Shendi District annual report, 1950-51 by Arthur, including details of public security, local government, justice, finance, economics and trade, agriculture and forests, veterinary work, lands and buildings, communications, public health, education and labour
- SAD.725/13/11-29 1952 Jun 20
Shendi District annual report, 1951-52, by Arthur. Details as above but including also an account of the Governor-General's visit to Shendi in Dec 1951
- SAD.725/13/30-46 1953 May 11
Shendi District annual report, 1952-53, by Arthur Details as above
- SAD.726/1/1-60 1954
"Shendi District handbook, 1949" by P. Hogg, revised 1954 by Arthur
Includes the following:
- SAD.726/1/4-19 1954
General introduction covering geography, climate, communications, state administration, local government, agriculture, education, public health, economics and trade, population data, etc.

- SAD.726/1/20-40 1954 Feb
Handing-over notes by Arthur Details as above but also includes a large section on the replanning of Shendi town, notes on junior officials and clerks, index to Shendi personalities and list of holders of robes of honour
- SAD.726/1/41-44 1953 Apr 26
Letter from Arthur to the Governor, Northern Province on replanning at Shendi
- SAD.726/1/46-47 List of basins, Shendi District
- SAD.726/1/48-49 List of motor routes, Shendi District
- SAD.726/1/50-57 Note on agricultural lands by P. Hogg, 1949
- SAD.726/1/58 Map of Sabaloka. Africa series 1:250,000 sheet 45-N (1933)
- SAD.726/1/59 Map of Shendi. As above. Sheet 45-0 (1933)
- SAD.726/1/60 Map of Atbara. As above. Sheet 45-K (1937)

2. Personal Correspondence

(a) Letters home from Arthur

SAD.726/4/1-82 1949 Feb 2 - Dec 30

Personal letters from Arthur in Khartoum to his parents. They detail his social life (including sailing, films, plays and the girl guides) and his official work, especially slum clearance, land repossession, inspection of buildings, and local opposition to his projects (SAD.726/4/31). There are also descriptions of his house, domestic arrangements, problems with servants, the cosmopolitan nature of Khartoum (SAD.726/1/32), arrangements for his wedding and honeymoon and the cost of living in Khartoum (SAD.726/4/69)

SAD.726/5/1-61 1950 Jan 6 - Dec 29

Letters from Arthur in Khartoum to his parents describing the demolition of the old deims (SAD.726/5/6) and attempts to control further building (SAD.726/5/20,24,49); land auctions and assessments (SAD.726/5/12); his promotion to D.C. (SAD.726/5/16); the financial problems of the Sudan Club (SAD.726/5/16,19); the effectiveness of the Marshall Report (SAD.726/5/20); a 3 day strike by the Light and Power Co. (SAD.726/5/21) and the Railway strike (SAD.726/5/52,54,58); a visit to the Gebel Aulia Dam (SAD.726/5/25-26); a farewell parade of the S.D.F. (SAD.726/5/26); the opening of Khartoum North Civil Hospital (SAD.726/5/28); and the extension of the light industrial areas (SAD.726/5/59). He also discusses the effects of the economic war between India and Pakistan (SAD.726/5/37)

SAD.726/6/1-68 1951 Jan 5 - Dec 18

Letters from Arthur to his parents from Khartoum (SAD.726/6/1-23), Shendi (SAD.726/6/24-68) and on trek, concerning social meetings with officials, arrangements for leave, his transfer to Shendi (SAD.726/6/7); the birth of their son Gordon (SAD.726/6/11); description of Shendi District (SAD.726/6/20,29); lack of administrative policy in Zeidab (SAD.726/6/32) and the election violence there (SAD.726/6/33-34); the police strike in Khartoum and repercussions in Shendi (SAD.726/6/41); abrogation of the Anglo-Egyptian treaties (SAD.726/6/49-51); Sudanese feelings on independence (SAD.726/6/50-51,54-55); student demonstrations in Khartoum (SAD.726/6/53); and the visit of H.E. and Lady Howe to Shendi (SAD.726/6/68)

SAD.726/6/69-90 1952 Jan 10 - 1954 Jun 17

Letters from Arthur in Shendi to his parents, detailing family matters; a trek to Massaniya West district (SAD.726/6/71-72); District Council Finance Committee proposals on tax reform (SAD.726/6/70, 73-74, 78); an illegal strike by the Sudan Federation of Trade Unions (SAD.726/6/77); and planning work for the extension of Shendi (SAD.726/6/78-79)

SAD.726/3/1-29 1948 Aug 1 - 1954 May 11

Letters from Arthur in the Sudan and on leave in England, to his parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Drake. They are almost entirely concerned with personal and family matters, wedding arrangements, the birth of Charles Vincent Arthur and the death of Arthur's father but there are

also brief references to political demonstrations and riots in Khartoum (SAD.726/3/26) and the proposed evacuation of British wives from Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile Provinces (SAD.726/3/27)

(b) Letters home from Dawn Arthur (D.A.)

SAD.707/16/1-64 1948 Sep 8 - 1949 Dec 30

Letters from D.A. en route to the Sudan and at Khartoum, to her parents Mr. and Mrs. Drake describing their house in Khartoum and social life there and arrangements for shipment of household articles and wedding presents. Brief mention is also made of the Civil Secretary's visit to Khartoum (SAD.707/16/27,32,39); the scheme to assign the duties of the D.C. to separate departments (SAD.707/16/55); and political demonstrations in Khartoum (SAD.707/16/44)

SAD.707/17/1-65 1950 Jan 7 - 1954 Apr 14

Letters from D.A. in Khartoum, Atbara and on leave, to her parents, describing her life in Khartoum, her involvement with the Girl Guides and arrangements for leave in England. Brief reference is made to a general strike and railway workers' demonstration (SAD.707/17/19-20); Arthur's work on a report on the Indian Police (SAD.707/17/30-31); strike of the workers in the power station and water works (SAD.707/17/34); Arthur's appointment on D.C. (SAD.707/17/38); and pay rises for all civil servants (SAD.707/17/41)

(c) Miscellaneous personal letters

SAD.726/8/1-20 1948-83

Miscellaneous personal letters including:

SAD.726/8/1-14 1948-49

Letters to Mrs. Drake (D.A.'s mother) from Beryl Simpson, Dorothy Arthur (Arthur's mother) and Bishop Gelsthorpe. All purely personal and family matters.

SAD.726/8/15-17 1949 May 2

Letter from James Lawrence at El Fasher, to Arthur re the purchase of Darfur carpets

SAD.726/8/18-20 1983 Sep 27

Letter from Ahmad Muhammad Al-Amin Abu Shama to Arthur concerning changes in the written law in the Sudan

3. Memoirs

- SAD.726/7/1-98 1982 Feb
Personal memoirs of Arthur concerning chiefly his life in the Sudan
Political Service (2 copies):
- SAD.726/7/1-4 Previous career in India and appointment to the S.P.S.
SAD.726/7/4-15 Life as D.C., Khartoum, Jan 1949 - Apr 1951, covering law and
order, taxation, the Khartoum Municipal Council, land auctions
and town planning, political situation, distinguished visitors,
impressions of the Sudanese, etc.
SAD.726/7/15-36 Life as D.C., Shendi, Apr 1951 - Apr 1954 covering law and
order, process of justice and his trial of cases, taxation, local
government, agriculture, boundary disputes, political
developments, etc.
SAD.726/7/36 Life as Deputy Governor, Northern Province, Apr - Jul 1954
SAD.726/7/36-37 Conclusions and description of a return to Sudan in 1964
SAD.726/7/37 Retirement and details of other jobs
SAD.726/7/38-74 Second copy of memoirs
SAD.726/7/76-82 1953 Dec 23
Appendix A - 'Slum clearance in the Sudan - the removal of the
old deims in Khartoum '
SAD.726/7/83-92 1951 May
Appendix B - 'Tenants' agitation in Zeidab ' - a series of letters
and reports to the Governor Northern Province on the
disturbances
SAD.726/7/93-97 Appendix C - 'The District Officer in India and the Sudan ' - a
paper by Arthur
SAD.726/7/98 1982 Feb 6
Appendix D - 'Sanders of the River ', extract from *The Times* on
Edgar Wallace

4. Photographs

SAD.718/42/1-3 1949-1952
Aerial photographs of:
SAD.718/42/1 1949
Khartoum
SAD.718/42/2 1952
Shendi
SAD.718/42/3 1952
Ed Damer