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Catalogue of the papers of J.F.E. Bloss

Date range of material: 1903-1973

Durham University Library
July 2024

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Preface

Creation of catalogue

WP list JH February 1991, revised July 1994. SGML RIH August 1997

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Introduction

Collection title: Bloss, John Francis Escott

Reference code: GB-0033-SAD

Dates of creation: 1903-1973

Extent: 5 boxes

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Creator: Bloss, John Francis Escott

Language of material: English

John Francis Escott Bloss

(1908 - 1982)

1933-1934	Medical Inspector, Khartoum
1934-1935	Medical Inspector, Port Sudan
1935	Medical Inspector, Khartoum
1936-1937	Medical Inspector, Wad Medani, Kordofan
1938	Medical Inspector, Wau, Bahr el Ghazal
1939-1942	Senior Medical Inspector, Li Rangu, Equatoria
1943-1944	Senior Medical Inspector, Atbara, Northern Province
1945-1951	Province Medical Inspector and Medical Officer of Health, Malakal, Upper Nile Province
1948-1949	Study leave
1951-1952	Assistant Director (Hospitals), H.Q., Khartoum
1952-1953	Assistant Director, Public Health, H.Q., Khartoum
1953-1954	Deputy Director, Ministry, H.Q., Khartoum

Accession details

Presented by Bloss, 1960-1982. Additional gifts from Mrs C. Bloss, 1983-1994 and from Mrs G.A. Drew, 1981

Arrangement

1. Official Papers
 - (a) Equatoria Province
 - (b) Post Sudan Service
2. Personal Papers
3. Memoirs
4. Articles, Books (Unpublished Manuscripts)
 - (a) Articles by J.F.E. Bloss
 - (b) Articles by Others
 - (c) Books (Unpublished Manuscripts)
5. Miscellanea
6. Photographic Material
 - (a) Lantern slides
 - (b) Photographs
 - (c) Cinefilms
 - (d) Videos
7. Maps and Plans
8. Printed Material

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*

Most printed references 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) Equatoria Province

- SAD.703/6/1-32 [c. 1940]
Notes and recommendations on the agricultural development of Equatoria Province by J.D. Tothill, Director of Agriculture and Forests
- SAD.533/10/1 [n.d.]
Case notes on a tumour arising from a *pterygium*

(b) Post Sudan Service

- SAD.703/7/1-13 1961 May 4
Report by S. Khuri-Otaqui on a visit to the Sudan, 20-30 Mar 1961 with the Headquarters Diarrhoeal Diseases Advisory Team
- SAD.703/7/14-27 1966
Preliminary report on dental services in the Sudan by Professor Sir Robert Bradlaw, Dean, Institute of Dental Surgery
- SAD.703/8/1-6 [c. 1967]
Notes on World Health Organisation assisted medical activities in the Sudan (See WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATIONS: *Assignment report. Evaluation of health services in the Sudan II Education and training* by Prof. B. Kesic in library)
- SAD.703/8/7-25 1968
Report on a visit to Sudan, 15-28 Mar, 1968 to examine provisions for health care, by Brian Maegraith of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

2. Personal Papers

SAD.703/9/1-242 1938 Sep 29-1943 Oct 5

Family circular letters, incorporating notes from Bloss's diary and covering his service as Medical Inspector, Wau, Bahr el-Ghazal and Senior Medical Inspector Li Rangu, Equatoria and Atbara, Northern Province. Includes references to the outbreak of war and its progress; the organisation of the leper colony; sleeping sickness inspections and methods of control; description of a Zande magic seance (703/9/77-79); visit to French East Africa (703/9/92-93); leave spent in Uganda, Kenya and the Congo (703/9/110-129,166-172); and various treks around the province

3. Memoirs

- SAD.646/9/1-48 1972 Nov 3-1973 Apr 28
Papers re the work of the United Presbyterian Mission, U.S.A., in the Sudan, including letters to Miss Ray Huffman and Bloss from former medical missionaries re their experiences, chiefly in Southern Sudan, biographical notes on medical missionaries and an article on medical missionary work in the Southern Sudan by [Bloss] based on the above information
- SAD.704/1/1-173 [n.d.]
"The experiences of a medical inspector", covering Bloss's career in the Sudan Medical Service from 1933-48
- SAD.704/2/1-110 [n.d.]
"The people of the swamp. An account of the Nilotic peoples of the Upper Nile Province in the Sudan Republic" based on Bloss's diaries and experiences in the area from 1945 to 1955 while he was in charge of medical work in the province and later Deputy Director of the Sudan Ministry of Health in Khartoum
- SAD.704/3/1-98 [n.d.]
"Khartoum diary", an account of Bloss's life in Khartoum as Deputy Director, Ministry of Health from 1953 until his retirement in Aug 1954 and including chapters on the elections, the southern mutiny and independence

4. Articles, Books (Unpublished Manuscripts)

(a) Articles by Bloss

SAD.703/10/1-25 1936 Mar

"A journey home through Egypt, seeing the tombs, temples, etc., of Ancient Egypt" (2 copies)

(b) Articles by others

SAD.703/10/26-42 1951 Feb 13

Notes on the Sultan's Palace, Darfur, by K.D.D. Henderson

(c) Books (Unpublished Manuscripts)

SAD.704/4/1-107; "The Sudan: A medical history" pts. 1, 2, 3(a), 3(b) by A. Cruickshank

SAD.704/5/1-67; and J.F.E. Bloss

SAD.704/6/1-97; Typescript, bound.

SAD.707/1/1-91

5. Miscellanea

- SAD.646/6/1-5 [n.d. post 1966]
Biographical note on N.L. Corkhill, formerly of the Sudan Medical Service and portions of autobiographical manuscript (xerox copies)
- SAD.533/10/2-3 1955 Oct 20
Account by Fr. Gabriele Dwatuka of the Roman Catholic Mission, Meridi, of his mistreatment by soldiers at Yambio
- SAD.533/10/4 1956 Apr 7
News bulletin describing the execution of fifteen southern Sudanese Catholics at Yambio for their part in the mutiny of southern troops in Aug 1955

6. Photographic Material

(a) Lantern slides

SAD.644/2/1-51; 1936-1951

SAD.644/3/1-8 Lantern slides taken by Bloss chiefly in Wau and Juba areas:

- SAD.644/2/1-2 Locusts, Wau, 1936
 - SAD.644/2/3-4 River Sueh, near Wau
 - SAD.644/2/5 Fish trap on the Sueh River
 - SAD.644/2/6-7 Wau-Juba road, 1940
 - SAD.644/2/8-9 Kpeile women
 - SAD.644/2/10-11 Jur woman and man, Wau 1936
 - SAD.644/2/12-17 Dinka men
 - SAD.644/2/18-19 Gogrial
 - SAD.644/2/20 Dinka man
 - SAD.644/2/21 Girl at Tonj
 - SAD.644/2/22 Mother with baby in crib, Karajok
 - SAD.644/2/23 Mother with crib, Bor
 - SAD.644/2/24-27 Mothers and children near Gogrial
 - SAD.644/2/28 Father and children near Beshia
 - SAD.644/2/29 Village near Rumbek
 - SAD.644/2/30 Dinka cattle, Lake Abiad
 - SAD.644/2/31 Crossing the River Lol by car
 - SAD.644/2/32 Girl with fishing basket near the River Lol
 - SAD.644/2/33-37 Villagers at Nyamllell on the River Lol
 - SAD.644/2/38 Thatching at Gogrial
 - SAD.644/2/39 Bor Dinka
 - SAD.644/2/40 Wau-Raga Road
 - SAD.644/2/41 Bridge over River Pongo, Wau-Raga Road
 - SAD.644/2/42 Woman at Pongo Bridge
 - SAD.644/2/43-45 Tonj Bridge, 1938
 - SAD.644/2/46 Dinka at Renk
 - SAD.644/2/47-50 Nuong Nuer
 - SAD.644/2/51 Thatching at Bor
 - SAD.644/3/1-2 Bari, near Juba
 - SAD.644/3/3-4 Mandari, Tali
 - SAD.644/3/5 Moru and grain-store, Awadi
 - SAD.644/3/6-7 Moru, near Awadi
 - SAD.644/3/8 Moru: Mvolo fish trap
- SAD.644/2/52-63 1952 Feb
Lantern slides of preparations to view the eclipse of the sun, Khartoum
(see article in *Discovery*, May 1952)

(b) Photographs

SAD.12/6/1-7 1903-1906

Photographs taken by A.E. Robinson, all mounted:

- SAD.12/6/1 1905
Pilgrim ship from Basra, at Suakin
- SAD.12/6/2 1905
Kitchener's Wall, Suakin, after the Shata Dam burst

- SAD.12/6/3 1903
Tokar, fort and wall
- SAD.12/6/4 1906
Camel train at Erkowit
- SAD.12/6/5 [n.d.]
Jabal Kassala
- SAD.12/6/6-7 1905-1906
Suakin-Kassala road
- SAD.705/1-705/6; c. 1934-66
SAD.706/1 Large mounted photographs used for 1982 exhibition at Durham Sudan
Historical Records Conference:

(i) Blue Nile Province

- SAD.705/1/1 Geometric pattern of irrigation canals, Gezira
The main canal bringing water from the Sennar Dam
- SAD.705/1/3 Camel loaded with cotton
Camel loaded with dried stalks of grain
- SAD.705/1/5 Cattle and goats being driven home in the evening
- SAD.705/2/1 Red Sea Hills, near Sinkat, 1934
Nakasib Pass, near Dongonab, Red Sea Hills
- SAD.705/2/3 Beja tribesman driving his cattle to water
Typical tents of the Beja people
- SAD.705/2/5 Beja tribesman watering his camels at a well
Gordon's Gate, Suakin, 1934 and 1966
- SAD.705/2/8-9 Khoshid's House, Suakin, 1934 and 1966
Fishermen, Suakin, 1934

(iii) Khartoum

- SAD.705/3/1 Aerial view of Khartoum, 1966
Junction of the Blue and White Niles, 1934
- SAD.705/3/4 Part of the Omdurman *suq*
Silhouette of a *shaduf* at Mogren, 1934
- SAD.705/3/6 Boatbuilders in Omdurman sawing wood
Man on a donkey crossing the Blue Nile Bridge
- SAD.705/3/8 The new Shambat Bridge, seen from the river
- SAD.705/4/1 Fur tribesman and wife collecting water in the Wadi Azum
Zaghawa girls, drawing water at Wadi Hara
- SAD.705/4/3 The *fulah* at El Fasher
A *fulah* in Kordofan
- SAD.705/4/5 Baqqara family on tour
A member of the Rizeiqat tribe in chainmail
- SAD.705/4/7 Child on camel near Kebkabiya

- SAD.705/5/1 Aerial view of the second cataract, 1949
The palm trees of Sarras
- SAD.705/5/3 A typical *saqiyah* within the cataract area
A *saqiyah* partly constructed with old railway lines
- SAD.705/5/5 Broken railway bridge, originally constructed 1896
Typical house and farm on the river bank
- SAD.705/5/7 Typical house in Wadi Halfa
Arab loading his donkey on to the ferry
- SAD.705/5/9-10 Threshing and winnowing near Dongola
- SAD.705/6/1 Nuer with his favourite bull, Bahr el Zeraf area
Dinka hairstyle
- SAD.705/6/3 Dinka baby, Bahr el Ghazal
Shilluk hairstyle
- SAD.705/6/5 Lau Nuer hairstyle
Nuer girl at Bentiu
- SAD.705/6/7 Dinka mother and baby at Shambe
A Shilluk dressed for a dance
- SAD.705/6/9 Shilluk fisherman with a 60 lb. Nile perch, Lake No
Shilluk fishing party near Malakal
- SAD.705/6/11 Fish trap at Mvolo
Thaing Dinka homestead near Bor
- SAD.705/6/13 Nuer crossing Lake Ambadi
Nuer taking their cattle across the Bahr el-Ghazal
- SAD.705/6/15-17 Shilluk *ambach* canoes
Scene on the Nuer area of the River Sobat in the dry season

(vii) Murle and Zande

- SAD.706/1/1 Typical house of Mabaan at Boin
Kichepo woman on Boma Plateau
- SAD.706/1/3 Murle kidney-shaped house at Pibor
Zande man in cloak made from the bark of a tree
- SAD.706/1/6 Zande fishing party
Zande grain store
- SAD.706/1/8 Zande wearing hat decorated with guinea fowl feathers
Men reporting at a sleeping sickness inspection
- SAD.706/1/10 Mabaan women
Mandari man smoking pipe
- SAD.706/1/12 Murle women and baby
Old man fishing, Malakal
- SAD.706/1/14 Moru boy fishing with bow and arrow
Murle hair-styles (men)- Pibor and Akobo
- SAD.706/1/17 Baby wearing rings
Tapotha mother and baby, Torit
- SAD.706/1/19 Zande witchdoctor
[n.d.]
Large mounted photographs - Sudan general
- SAD.706/2/1 Thaing Dinka homestead near Bor (duplicate of 705/6/12)
- SAD.706/2/2 Boats on the river at Wad Medani
- SAD.706/2/3 The morning wash
- SAD.706/2/4 Old man fishing

(c) Cinefilms
SAD.749/1

Red Sea Hills:

Port Sudan; ships in harbour; docks area; Mohamed Qol; Dongonab, once the site of a pearl fishery; Suakin; gateway and houses; boats in harbour; pilgrims embarking; cotton, loading in sacks; trek in Red Sea Hills; herd of camels; car negotiating track; gazelle; Hadendowa; camel inspection; drawing water from well; tribal meeting (Bija); racand sports meeting; camel race; high jump; Hadendowa mock battle

Bahr al-Ghazal 1:

The Bahr al-Ghazal river and the sudd; river ferry; crossing river by truck at ford; fish trap in river; fast flowing water and surrounding vegetation; village; truck negotiating rough track with local help; women carrying pots on their heads; crossing river by foot; Dinka cattle camp; leading cattle across river; song bull; Dinka woman bathing; crossing river in hollowed out canoe; tribal meeting; Dinka men smeared with ash; beating drum; young men dancing; children bathing in river; fishing from canoe; casting fishing nets; drawing in catch; setting out on trek; taking canoe through the sudd

SAD.749/3

Bahr al-Ghazal 2:

Birds in flight (pelicans); hippo in river; setting out on trek; porters in forest; camp; British man shaving; shooting party; dead buffalo; giraffe; gazelle; large nest; pelicans; bird sitting in tree-top next; ostrich; pelicans; two tame chimpanzees, one smoking cigarette; chimps playing with water

Li-Rangu/Meridi:

Bridge building; felling trees; hoeing ground; planting seed; harvest of peanuts; gathering maize; men beating grain with sticks; man making bark cloth; baskets full of cotton; loading cotton into sacks for transport to market; spinning cotton; women fishing with baskets, men with bows and arrows and spears; river views; fishing basket in river; view of hills

SAD.749/5

Lady Baker hospital ship on the Nile, southern Sudan:

Paddle in action; flag flying; British men on board; views of riverside; sudd; cattle; villagers; village scenes; men beating drums; crossing river by canoe; Shilluk warriors; birds in flight; 3 men in *ambach* canoe; cattle camp; baby in doorway of hut; dance; dispensary/operating room on ship; patients in ward; passengers embarking; casting off from riverbank; taking car on board at Kodok; steamer with barges from riverbank; felucca; woodstation; lorry; ostrich; women carrying loads on their heads; unfurling SMS flag in village; Bloss meeting villagers; medical inspection; passengers waiting on riverbank; embarking; cooking meal on board

16 mm, colour, 17 minutes

SAD.749/6

Khartoum and Blue Nile Province:

Scenes from Khartoum; *suq*; street scenes; Khartoum zoo - animals and birds; casting fishing net in river; sea planes at riverbank and taking off; *feluccas*; *habub* approaching; Blue Nile Province, police

tournament at Wad Medani, 1936 ; inspecting guard of honour; military parade; display of work of the police; loading car on ferry and disembarking at the other side; herd of camels watering; floods; donkeys loaded with fodder; women pounding grain; march-past of police and notables; Sennar Dam; British men and women fishing with rods; Nile perch

SAD.749/7 16 mm, black and white and colour, 9½ minutes
Nile journey: Seaplane; train arriving at Shellal; river steamer; Philae(?); ancient fortifications; Abu Simbel; *feluccas* ; train at Wadi Halfa; crossing desert; river scenes at Khartoum; Blue Nile bridge; docks area; steamers with barges; wood station; loading wood on steamer; White Nile bridge; loading supplies on steamer; *feluccas* ; village by river bank; Shilluk warriors; man crossing river in canoe; view of town from river; sudd; Dinka girl bathing; cattle camp; views of river and bank including village; grass fires; cattle camp; *ambach* canoe; vultures; hippos; crocodiles; herd of elephant; sunset over river
16 mm, black and white and colour, 20½ minutes

(d) Videos

SAD.Video 4 Time-coded VHS video copy of films 749/1-749/4 and (b & w) 749/6-749/7, all in black and white, whether black and white or colour in the original
Time-coded VHS video copy of film 749/5, plus sections (colour) of colour from the other films

7. Maps and Plans

(a) Maps of the Sudan

- SAD.646/7/21 [n.d.]
Large print war map of the Egyptian Sudan by G.W. Bacon, London, from maps issued by the War Office
Scale: 3.5 cms to 50 miles
Size: 72 cms x 49 cm.
- SAD.707/2 1939
Map of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 4th edition from original map of 1914 by the War Office.
Scale: 1 to 3,000,000
Size: 67 cms x 89 cm.
- SAD.707/3/1 [n.d.]
Map of the Sudan showing areas of movement and main tribal groups of the nomadic tribes
Size: 18 cms x 21 cms
- SAD.646/7/19 [n.d.]
Map of the Southern Sudan
Scale: 2 cms to 100 miles
Size: 21 cms x 12.5 cm.
- SAD.707/3/2 1951 Nov
Map of the Southern Sudan, revised from original map of Dec 1946
Sudan Survey Dept
Scale: 1 to 2,000,000
Size: 69 cms x 46 cm.
- SAD.707/3/3 1950 Jan
Map of north-eastern Sudan
Sudan Survey Dept., Khartoum
Scale: 1 to 2,000,000
Size: 52 cms x 63 cm.

(b) Maps of Sudan provinces

- SAD.646/7/13-18 1888
Map of the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Littoral including a sketch map of routes north and west of Suakin, from *'83 to '87 in the Soudan* by A.B. Wylde
Scale: 1 in to 100 miles
Size: 39 cms x 54.5 cms, cut into 6 sections
- SAD.707/4/1 1909
Map of the border area between Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria and the Congo Free State, including the Lado Enclave, for Sudan Intelligence Report no. 183.
Ordnance Survey, Southampton
Scale: 1 to 4,000,000
Size: 23.5 cms x 23.5 cm
- SAD.646/7/1 1930 Apr
Map of the Beja District of Kassala Province
Sudan Survey Department

- SAD.707/4/2 Scale: 1 to 3,000,000
Size: 20.5 cms x 34 cm
1944 Dec
Handkerchief map of the area around Maridi, in Equatoria, including part of the Belgian Congo
Africa series, sheet 77-p
- SAD.707/4/3 Scale: 1 to 250,000
Size: 68 cms x 46 cm
1952 Nov
Street map of Khartoum
Sudan Survey Department
- Scale: 1 to 7,500
Size: 88 cms x 46 cm

(c) Plans and sketch maps

- SAD.646/7/20 [n.d.]
Plan and section of ancient washing table for catching gold
- SAD.646/7/2-14 1934
Maps and plans of battles, etc., during the Sudan campaigns of 1880-1885 :
- SAD.646/7/2 Plan of Berber fortifications erected by Farahat Bey, 1880
Scale: None
Size: 25 cms x 18 cm
- SAD.646/7/3 Sketch map illustrating places of importance in the campaign in Eastern Sudan, 1883-85.
Scale: 3 cms to 20 miles
Size: 21.5 cms x 21.5 cm
- SAD.646/7/4 Diagrammatic sketch of Fort Tokar
Scale: None
Size: 20.5 cms x 12.5 cm
- SAD.646/7/5 Diagrammatic sketch of Fort Ansari
Scale: None
Size: 20.5 cms x 13 cm
- SAD.646/7/6 Plan of the Battle of Tofrek, 22 Mar 1885, showing McNeill's *zariba*. Copied from *Life, letters and diaries of Sir Gerald Graham*, by Vetch
Scale: None
Size: 10 cms x 15 cm
- SAD.646/7/7 1934 Apr 15
Plan of McNeill's *zariba*, Battle of Tofrek, 1885
Scale: 3 ins to 100 yds
Size: 20.5 cms x 25.5 cm
- SAD.646/7/8 Sketch map of Suakin and district
Scale: 1½ ins. to 5 miles
Size: 20 cms x 21 cm
- SAD.646/7/9 Sketch plan of Suakin (draft)
- SAD.646/7/10 Sketch map of Condenser or Quarantine Island as it was in 1885
Scale: 8 cms to 440 yds.
Size: 26 cms x 20 cm

- SAD.646/7/11 1934 May 11
Sketch map of Suakin and surroundings showing fortifications
Scale: 2¼ ins. to 1 mile.
Size: 33 cms x 20.5 cm
- SAD.646/7/12 Map of the Nile between Wadi Halfa and Sabaloka, showing
position of dispensaries and dressing stations
Size: 43 cms x 53.5 cm

8. Printed material

Separated printed material now in Durham University Library