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Catalogue of the papers of J.A.A. Blaikie

Date range of material: 1929-1986

Durham University Library
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Preface

Creation of catalogue

WP list WM October 1996. SGML RIH August 1997

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/>

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Introduction

Collection title: Blaikie, James Andrew Archibald

Reference code: GB-0033-SAD

Dates of creation: 1929-1986

Extent: 1 box

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Creator: Blaikie, James Andrew Archibald

Language of material: English; Arabic

James Andrew Archibald Blaikie

(1913 - 1987)

1936	A.D.C. El Fasher, Darfur
1937-1938	A.D.C. Nyala, Darfur
1938-1939	Inspector, Finance Department
1939-1940	A.D.C. Kassala
1940-1941	Governor-General's Temporary Commission as Bimbashi in the S.D.F.
1941	Seconded to General List (Major)
1941-1942	O.E.T.A. Eritrea and Cyrenaica
1942	Spears Mission, Syria
1942-1943	H.Q. O.E.T.A. M.E.F.
1943	A.D.C. Equatoria
1943-1946	A.D.C. Khartoum
1946-1948	D.C. Khartoum North
1948-1953	D.C. Fung, Blue Nile Province
1953-1954	Commissioner, Port Sudan
1954	Retired from Sudan service

Accession details

Presented by Blaikie, 1984-1985

Arrangement

1. Official Papers
2. Personal Papers
3. Memoirs
4. Articles (Drafts)
5. Photographic Material
6. Miscellanea
7. Museum Objects

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

SAD.815/17/1-11 1929-1939

Official correspondence between the D.C. at Roseires, the Governor of Fung Province and the Chief Justice concerning two assisted suicides (SAD.815/17/1,8-11) and a murder (SAD.815/17/2-7) where the law and tribal custom are in conflict

SAD.815/17/12 Short document consisting of a greeting followed by a list of names

2. Personal Papers

SAD.815/17/13 1986
Letter to Blaikie with news from a friend in the Sudan

3. Memoirs

- SAD.815/17/14-28 1936 Jan
Account of Blaikie's journey across the Sudan to El Fasher, including an appreciation of Sir Douglas Newbold, whom he met for the first time at the annual gathering of the Hamar tribe at En Nahud
- SAD.815/17/29-32 1936 Feb
Account of an execution at El Fasher Prison
- SAD.815/17/33-36 1936 May
"A supplicant from the past" : account of Blaikie's haunting by a ghost
- SAD.815/17/37-39 1937 Jan
Account of the horse shows at Nyala
- SAD.815/17/40-41 1938 Sep
Account of Blaikie's exploration of the 'Cave of the Dragon' near Nyala
- SAD.815/18/1-21 1939 Jun-1940 Jul
Account of Blaikie's experiences prior to and during the Italian invasion. Subjects covered include his transfer to Kassala to work under Brian Kennedy Cooke (SAD.815/18/1-3); plans for the evacuation of Government personnel from Kassala town in the event of invasion (SAD.815/18/3-6); invasion scare in September 1939 (SAD.815/18/6,8); sale of grain to the Italians (SAD.815/18/8-9); visit to Professore Gasperini in Asmara (SAD.815/18/9,11); colleagues and administrative work (SAD.815/18/9,11-14); declaration of war by Italy in June 1940 and evacuation of Kassala town (SAD.815/18/14,16); air raids and skirmishes (SAD.815/18/16-18); invasion in July and Blaikie's evacuation of the remaining Government personnel, destruction of the telephone exchange, and escape (SAD.815/18/19-20)

4. Articles (Drafts)

SAD.815/18/22-26 1948-1950

“Some effects of law and order upon the environment” : explanation of why the establishment of law and order in the Sudan has paradoxically led to overpopulation and environmental degradation in the hill zones of Kordofan and Blue Nile Province, with an account of Blaikie's scheme to counter this in the Ingessana Hills of Fung district by building a series of small dams ("check drops") in Khor Soda

5. Photographic Material

(a) Albums

- SAD.837/2/1-135 1936-1950 [predominantly 1936-1939]
Album of photographs, mainly of El Fasher and Nyala: local scenery; friends; Blaikie's house, horses and pets; Sudanese life; official projects, including:
- SAD.837/2/1-3 The Governor-General presenting tribal drums to the Meidobi tribe (Feb 1936)
 - SAD.837/2/4 Storm at El Fasher
 - SAD.837/2/5 John Madden and Shartai Daw al-Beit?
 - SAD.837/2/6 Near Wadaa on trek
 - SAD.837/2/7 Ibrahim and Osman
 - SAD.837/2/8-14, 76-81, 110-114 Blaikie's horses
 - SAD.837/2/15-16 The "Cave of the Dragon" near Nyala
 - SAD.837/2/17-21 Ged Palmer and Blaikie climbing Jebel Nyala
 - SAD.837/2/22-27, 29, 31 Scenery at Suni Rest House, and Jebel Marra
 - SAD.837/2/28 Blaikie
 - SAD.837/2/30 Abdullahi Dikko
 - SAD.837/2/32 A tiang on the road to Musku
 - SAD.837/2/33 Jebel Tauro
 - SAD.837/2/34 Warangtong
 - SAD.837/2/35-39 Fishing in the Wadi Jawa
 - SAD.837/2/40-43 John Owen and serval kitten
 - SAD.837/2/44-46 John Rintoul
 - SAD.837/2/47 Looking westwards to Barameyu
 - SAD.837/2/48 A devil tree
 - SAD.837/2/49 "Looking down a "chimney" just climbed"
 - SAD.837/2/50 Looking south towards Tokar
 - SAD.837/2/51 Blaikie's lorry
 - SAD.837/2/52 Dam Gamad deep bore well
 - SAD.837/2/53 The Fasher road
 - SAD.837/2/54 Jebel el Hilla rest house
 - SAD.837/2/55 Water carriers
 - SAD.837/2/56 Hadanduwah boys at Erkowit
 - SAD.837/2/57 Arlie Stewart at Kitty's Leap
 - SAD.837/2/58-59 Blaikie and friends at Erkowit
 - SAD.837/2/60-62 Helen and Arthur Hankin at Kitty's Leap
 - SAD.837/2/63-68 Anti-locust patrol: digging trenches to trap them
 - SAD.837/2/69-72 Pet mongoose
 - SAD.837/2/73 Cheetah
 - SAD.837/2/74 Chameleon
 - SAD.837/2/75 A storm approaching Nyala
 - SAD.837/2/82-87 Crossing Wadi Bulbul
 - SAD.837/2/88-89 Head of rabid hyena
 - SAD.837/2/90 Large bug
 - SAD.837/2/91 Eise Haroun and a tiang
 - SAD.837/2/92 Pigeon

- SAD.837/2/93 W.H. Greany
 SAD.837/2/94-96 Blaikie's house at Nyala
 SAD.837/2/97-99 Rains at Nyala, Jun 1937
 SAD.837/2/100-102 Skies and a habub over Sinkat, Aug 1939
 SAD.837/2/103 Railway engine
 SAD.837/2/104 Scorpion
 SAD.837/2/105 Jebel Kassala
 SAD.837/2/106-109 Views from the Nile steamer
 SAD.837/2/115 Jenny and "Hima"
 SAD.837/2/116 Tea-party for Mek Hasan Adlan
 SAD.837/2/117 ?, Eileen and Marie
 SAD.837/2/118 Dead snake
 SAD.837/2/119 Introducing the tribal leaders of Fung District to the Governor, W.H.T. Luce, 1950
 SAD.837/2/120 Helen Cullen presenting the prizes at the Singa Flower Show
 SAD.837/2/121 Trekking to the Ingessana Hills, Aug 1950
 SAD.837/2/122 Khor Timsah
 SAD.837/2/123 Bari Rest House
 SAD.837/2/124 Ted, Blaikie and Marie at Suki
 SAD.837/2/125-128 Dance of the Berta tribesmen
 SAD.837/2/129-135 Building checkdrops on Khor Soda in the Ingessana Hills (Feb - Aug 1950)
- SAD.842/1/1-92 1950
 Album of photographs illustrating the opening of the Abu al-Ala Pump Scheme near Suki, southern Fung district, in 1950. The party, composed of British and Sudanese officials, are shown travelling to Suki on the paddlesteamer *Sultan Hussein* (SAD.842/1/1-24), gathering for a speech (SAD.842/1/25-48,61), at the opening ceremony and inspecting the Pump House (SAD.842/1/49-60, 69-77) and at an official dinner (SAD.842/1/62-68, 78-92)
- SAD.842/1/4 Muhammad Ahmad Abu Sin, Sayyid Ibrahim Ahmad, and `Abd-Allah Masood
 SAD.842/1/12 G.W. Bell, Dr Clifford Drew, W.R. Ahern
 SAD.842/1/18 `Abd-Allah Masood
 SAD.842/1/20 A.W.M. Disney, S.R. Simpson
 SAD.842/1/21-23 Abu al-Ala
 SAD.842/1/30 Surur Muhammad Ramli, S.R. Simpson, A.W.M. Disney, Sh. Muhammad Abu al-Ala
 SAD.842/1/31 Sh. Muhammad Abu al-Ala, Ahmad Yusuf Hakkin, Muhammad Ahmad Abu Sin, Sayyid Mirghani Hanza
 SAD.842/1/48 Surur Muhammad Ramli
 SAD.842/1/49-50,72-73 G.E.R. Sandars
 SAD.842/1/69 Pat Bacon, John Smith?
 SAD.842/1/70 Pat Bacon, Clifford Drew, W.R. Ahern, M.S. Mitchell-Innes
 SAD.842/1/71 Geoffrey and Greta Branston
 SAD.842/1/74 Dardiry Muhammad Ahmad, Abu al-Ala
 SAD.842/1/75 Ismail al-Atabani, Ahmad Yusuf Hashim, Dardiry Muhammad Ahmad, Abu al-Ala
 SAD.842/1/77 Blaikie(?) and his wife

SAD.842/1/78 Ismail al-Atabani
 SAD.842/1/87 Ismail al-Atabani, Tom Kipling
 SAD.842/1/92 The top table at the official dinner, at which are seated Blaikie, Dorothy Molyneux Seel, Abu al-Ala, G.E.R. Sandars, Judge Muhammad Salih Shangieti, Vera Sandars, Dr Clifford Drew, and Betty Williams

(b) other photographs

SAD.815/17/42-76; 1936-1939

SAD.815/18/28-34 Photographs pasted into Blaikie's memoirs

SAD.815/17/42 Sunset in the Red Sea
 SAD.815/17/43-44 The two women Blaikie met on the journey out (1936)
 SAD.815/17/45-46 Hamar tribesmen ride past at a tribal gathering (1936)
 SAD.815/17/47 Sir Douglas Newbold
 SAD.815/17/48-50 The Shartai's band playing to Blaikie at Um Keddada
 SAD.815/17/51-52 "Part of the Government herd of giraffe south of El Fasher"
 SAD.815/17/53 Blaikie's horses
 SAD.815/17/54 Bill Hunt, Corporal Hope and O'Neill
 SAD.815/17/55-56 "Madu well on the way to Jebel Meidob"
 SAD.815/17/57 Meidobi girl
 SAD.815/17/58 Mellit
 SAD.815/17/59-60 "The view over the *fula* from my house in El Fasher"
 SAD.815/17/61-62 Cattle being watered at the *fula* at El Fasher
 SAD.815/17/63 Blaikie's house in El Fasher
 SAD.815/17/64-65 Blaikie's house in El Fasher during the rains
 SAD.815/17/66 "Looking over the mud wall to where the camels belched"
 SAD.815/17/67 "My staff at El Fasher"
 SAD.815/17/68, Lunch on trek
 70
 SAD.815/17/69, "The girls who came to look at me!"
 71
 SAD.815/17/72-75 Camels and their riders on trek with Blaikie
 SAD.815/17/76 Blaikie, Colin MacDonald, John Bowers, Pat and Helen Cullen, Mrs Cullen and Peter Hogg in Venice (1937)
 SAD.815/18/28-30 Dr Godfrey Clarke and Blaikie meeting Carbone and his staff on a visit to Eritrea (Nov 1939)
 SAD.815/18/31 "The engine that brought the last train to Kassala"
 SAD.815/18/32 William McDowall and Awad Gabr al-Dar
 SAD.815/18/33-34 Birds (*bulbuls*) on the verandah

(c) loose photographs

SAD.837/1/1-9 1965

Official functions during the State visit of the Queen to the Sudan: the Queen meeting dignitaries at a dinner

7. Museum Objects

- SAD.815/18/27 1937 Aug
Drawings of rock pictures from Jebel Teggam near Nyala
- SAD.815/19/1-5 1936-1953
Province badges of Darfur, Kassala, Equatoria, Khartoum and Blue Nile
- SAD.815/19/6-7 1953-1954
Anglo-Egyptian Condominium car flags

