

Museum of English Rural Life

Sir Norman Wright Collection

D MS1252

Correspondence and other papers relating to the visit of Sir Norman Wright to the Middle East 1944 - 1947; Notebooks 1944-1947; Reports 1944-1947; Map 1943; Photographs 1944-1945; Graphs 1953; Telegrams 1944; Blueprints of farm buildings c. 1944; Newscuttings 1947

The Collection covers the year's 1936 - 1953.

The physical extent of the collection is 51 files.

Introduction

Sir Norman Charles Wright, (1900–1970), agricultural and nutritional scientist, was born in Reading on 19 February 1900, the second son of the Revd Francis Henry Wright, registrar of the University of Reading, and his second wife, Agnes Mary Dunkley. He was educated at Christ Church choir school, Oxford. From University College, Reading, he gained a scholarship to Christ Church, Oxford, where he obtained a fourth class in chemistry and physiology in 1922. As a Ministry of Agriculture research scholar at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, he obtained a PhD in 1925. He proceeded to an Oxford DSc in 1937. At both universities he won a college oar, which could be seen on the walls of his homes. From 1924 to 1926 he was a research assistant at the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield, Reading; the next two years were spent as a Commonwealth Fund fellow in the United States—first at Cornell University, New York, and later, in the US Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

On his return to Britain in 1928 Wright was appointed physiologist to the newly established Hannah Dairy Research Institute, Ayr, and two years later, at the early age of thirty, became its first director. While at Hannah, in 1928, Wright married Janet Robison Ledingham, eldest daughter of Dr John Rennie of Aberdeen University. They had one daughter, Mary Elizabeth. In 1936–7 Wright advised the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in India on the development of the Indian beef and dairy industries. In 1945 he was special adviser to the government of Ceylon. In 1944–5 he was a member of the Anglo-American Scientific Mission to the Middle East Supply Centre and in 1946 was British member of the first United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission to Greece. In 1947 Wright succeeded Sir Jack C. Drummond as chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Food; later he became chief scientific adviser (food) of the merged Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a post which he held until he

Museum of English Rural Life

was invited to become deputy director-general of the FAO, based in Rome, in 1959.

He chaired the Food Standards Committee from 1947 to 1959 and the National Food Survey Committee from 1948 to 1959. In those functions he developed an extensive knowledge of agricultural and food sciences, nutrition, and social and economic sciences. He also chaired or served on many other committees and councils, including the Agricultural Research Council (1950–55) and the Colonial Research Council (1950–54). He was successively chairman, vice-chairman, and a member of the committee for colonial agricultural animal health and forestry research from 1946 to 1959. He was chairman of the FAO programme committee in Rome from 1953 to 1959.

Wright stayed with the FAO at their headquarters in Rome until 1963 when he returned to London and became for five years secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the first honorary president of the British Dietetic Association (from 1963 to 1969) and addressed the association on food and the future. He became a member of the UN advisory committee on the application of science and technology to development in 1964 and of the council of the British Nutrition Foundation and of the Nestlé Foundation in 1967, holding all three appointments until his death. Wright was appointed CB in 1955, knighted in 1963, and received the honorary degree of LLD from the University of Leeds in 1967.

He was severely red–green colour blind and in spite of an apparently strong physique he suffered much from spinal trouble. His chief recreations were travel and photography. Many of his photographs were added to the pictorial archives of the Royal Borough of Kensington. He also enjoyed playing the piano. He died on 16 July 1970 at his home in Kensington, London.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| D MS1252
1/1 | Typescript copy of official notes by Norman C Wright on Middle East livestock
c.1943 |
| D MS1252
1/2 | Notebook containing an account of livestock in Syria
undated |
| D MS1252
1/3 | Loose-leaf note book containing classified notes on the social and economic geography of the Middle East
c.1943 |

Museum of English Rural Life

- D MS1252**
1/4 Rough draft of a final report on a survey of Middle East resources, undertaken by Norman C Wright
1944-1945
- D MS1252**
1/5 TS report on a visit to Iran by A B Fowler, animal husbandry adviser
1947
- D MS1252**
1/6 Rough notes for a report by Norman C Wright on animal husbandry in the Middle East
c.1943
- D MS1252**
1/7 TS report by Norman C Wright on cattle breeding and dairy farming in Syria
1947
- D MS1252**
1/8 TS notes y Dr Ismail Sirry on a scheme for the improvement of dairy cattle in Egypt
c.1948
- D MS1252**
1/9 Printed map of the Near East and Middle East (scale 1:4,000,000)
1943
- D MS1252**
1/10 Photostat copy of a TS history of the BMEO work on animal husbandry in Persia, by T Threlkeld
1950
- D MS1252**
1/11 Note book containing notes by 'Miss Hughes' of the Hannah Institute, Ayr, on livestock in the Middle East, with TS copy
1944
- D MS1252**
1/12 Photographs of samples of wool from sheep in Ethiopia
1945
- D MS1252**
2/1 Correspondence, reports and notes on agriculture in the Sudan
1938-1947
- D MS1252**
2/2 Correspondence, notes and reports on agriculture in Eritrea and the Aden Protectorate
1944-1945
- D MS1252**
2/3 Correspondence, and other papers relating to the visit of Dr Norman Wright to the Middle East
1944-1947

Museum of English Rural Life

- D MS1252**
2/4 Report on the activities of the hides, skins and tannery section, Directorate General of local products, during the period August 1944 to July 1946
undated
- D MS1252**
2/5 Correspondence, and other papers relating to a livestock survey of Syria and the Lebanon
1944-1947
- D MS1252**
3/1 Album of photographs of livestock in the Middle East
c.1944
- D MS1252**
3/2 Looseleaf bibliography of agriculture in the Middle East, compiled by Dr Norman Wright
c.1943
- D MS1252**
4/1 Graphs and notes on the temperature, relative humidity and rainfall of Alaska, Northern Siberia and Tibet
1953
- D MS1252**
4/2 Correspondence and notes relating to climatic data in the Middle East
1945-1946
- D MS1252**
4/3 Correspondence and other papers relating to climatic data for a report on animal industry in the Middle East
1945-1946
- D MS1252**
4/4 Memoranda and other papers relating to livestock in Palestine and TransJordan
1941-1945
- D MS1252**
4/5 TS report on cattle breeding and dairy farming in Syria
c.1945
- D MS1252**
4/6 Correspondence and statistics relating to livestock and livestock products in the Middle East
1936-1944
- D MS1252**
4/7 TS copy of a report by R O Whyte on the fodder resources of Cyprus
1945-1946
- D MS1252**
5/1 Loose-leaf manuscript bibliography of livestock in the Middle East
1945

Museum of English Rural Life

- D MS1252** Correspondence relating to an economic survey of Syria
6/4 1947
- D MS1252** Report by Dr A B Fowler on proposals for livestock improvement
6/5 in Cyrenaica
1947
- D MS1252** Sundry statistics relating to livestock in the Middle east
6/6 1944
- D MS1252** Correspondence relating to hides and skins derived from the
6/7 Middle East
1944
- D MS1252** Correspondence and other papers relating to Iran
6/8 1945
- D MS1252** Correspondence and memoranda relating to livestock in Cyprus
6/9 1939-1945
- D MS1252** Correspondence relating to a survey of livestock in Egypt
6/10 1945-1947
- D MS1252** Correspondence and memoranda relating to livestock in the
6/11 Middle East
1946
- D MS1252** Correspondence and notes on livestock in the Middle East
6/12 undated
- D MS1252** Sundry correspondence relating to livestock in the Middle East
6/13 1945-1946
- D MS1252** Copies of telegrams relating to Dr Norman Wright's visit to the
6/14 Middle East
1944
- D MS1252** Correspondence relating to Dr Norman Wright's visit to the
6/15 Middle East
1944

Museum of English Rural Life

- D MS1252
6/16** Memoranda arising from Dr Norman Wright's visit to the Middle East
1944
- D MS1252
7/1** Correspondence, memoranda and notes on livestock in the Middle East
1945-1947
- D MS1252
7/2** Correspondence and other papers relating to hides and skins in the Middle East
1943-1946
- D MS1252
7/3** Correspondence and other papers relating to livestock in the Middle East
1946-1947
- D MS1252
7/4** Blue prints of farm buildings
c.1944
- D MS1252
7/5** Correspondence and other papers relating to livestock in the Middle East
1945-1950
- D MS1252
7/6** Correspondence, news cuttings and other papers relating to the Middle East
1947
- D MS1252
7/7** Correspondence relating to the report by Dr Norman Wright on the livestock in the Middle East
1946-1947
- D MS1252
7/8** Notes by various authors on agriculture in Saudi Arabia, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania
1944-1945
- D MS1252
7/9** Memoranda on veterinary affairs in Cyrenaica
1943-1945
- D MS1252
7/10** Correspondence and other papers relating to a Scientific Advisory Commission to the Middle East
1945-1947
- D MS1252
7/11** Correspondence, notes, photographs and other papers relating to livestock in the Middle East
1945-1946