

The defining issues of the Gulf region, as studied by one of its most successful early policymakers, a British diplomat who retired in Abu Dhabi under the protection of Sheikh Zayed

[Henderson Library]. The working library of the British diplomat Edward Henderson (1917–1995).

Various places, 1892–1995. A collection of 17 works in 27 volumes, including Lorimer’s *Gazetteer*, Aitchison’s *Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, and the Buraimi Arbitration memorials. A total of more than 7,500 pp., often profusely illustrated and with rare genealogical tables. € 115,000



A defining ensemble of specialist literature on the Arabian Gulf, assembled as a working library by the noted British diplomat Edward Henderson, himself a renowned scholar of the Arab world and long a prominent figure in the Gulf region, where he spent most of his life furthering Britain’s relations with the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf states.

Notably, the collection includes J. G. Lorimer’s almost unobtainable *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia*, widely considered the most important single source of historical material on the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia up to WWI. Produced in merely a few dozen copies for internal government use, this long-classified publication contains some the earliest photographic images of the region, such as a view of the Sheikh’s Fort at Abu Dhabi, and a genealogical table of the Al Bu Falah (Bani Yas) family of Abu Dhabi. Henderson’s copy is that formerly in the library of the “Political Resident of the Persian Gulf”. A copy of the seven-volume first edition of the *Gazetteer*’s first Arabic translation is also present.

Further, the collection contains Henderson’s personal copy of the 1955 first edition of the *Buraimi Memorials*, similarly published in a small press-run for internal use only and usually accessible only in

the Archive Editions facsimile produced in the 1980s. Henderson played a key role in defusing the Buraimi border dispute involving Abu Dhabi, Oman and Saudi Arabia between 1952 and 1955.

Two volumes from Aitchison's *Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads* cover in detail the various treaties between Great Britain and the Gulf States from the early 19th century to 1922, among them the "General Maritime Treaty" of 1235 H (1820 CE), with an illustration of the Trucial Flag.

Henderson's years as Britain's first ambassador to Qatar in the early 1970s are reflected in a special copyright photoreproduction of the 1904 *Precis of Katar Affairs*, an offprint from the Persian Gulf Gazetteer obtained from the India Office Records, Political and Secret Department. Similarly, Henderson owned an excessively rare government-printed volume of extracts from Lorimer's *Gazetteer*, undated but apparently produced in the 1950s in a very small press-run (the only other known copy being stored among the British Library's India Office Records and Private Papers).

Several volumes in the collection bear evidence of Henderson's linguistic interests: we find E. De Jong's guide to the *Spoken Arabic of the Arabian Gulf* as well as Thomas Bertram's rare 1930 of the *Kumzari Dialect of the Shihuh Tribe* of the Musandam Peninsula, but also a bilingual edition of Ibn Abi Zayd's *Bakurat al-sa'd*. His library also included the first Arabic edition of George Antonius's foundational textbook for the history of modern Arab Nationalism, as well as two inscribed works by Falih Hanzal on the history and the local dialects of the United Arab Emirates.

Henderson was a good friend of the famous British explorer Wilfred Thesiger (1910–2003), and it is little surprise that his library contains a number of titles by and relating to Thesiger, one a personally inscribed presentation copy.

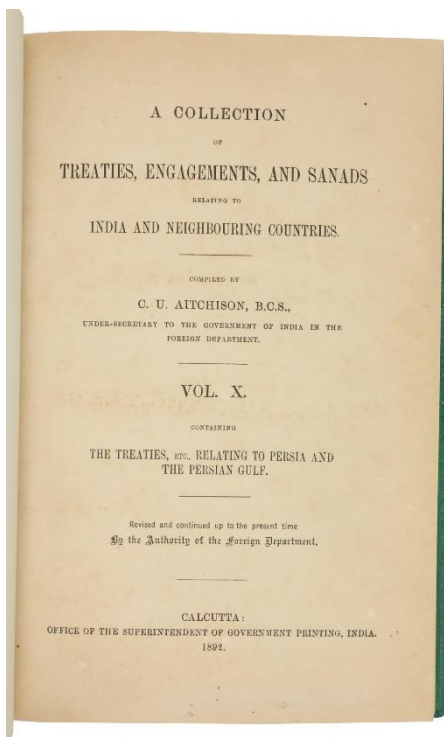
Henderson served in World War II as a member of the Arab Legion before he was seconded to the British foreign service in 1956. He was fully enlisted into the foreign service in 1959 when he was appointed political officer in Abu Dhabi; subsequent posts took him to Jerusalem and Bahrain. He was respected as a non-confrontational negotiator who achieved his goals through a combination of subtleness and sangfroid, harmonizing the aims of Britain with those of the Gulf with regard to oil exploration and the establishment of the local oil industry. Henderson retired from the foreign service in 1974 and went on to teach at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. However, in 1976, he returned to Abu Dhabi to settle permanently at the personal request of Sheikh Zayed. A recent feature in Arab News from September 2021 (see below) celebrated the 100th birthday of his surviving wife, Jocelyn Henderson of Abu Dhabi, and the Hendersons' close connection to the Al-Nahyan royal family.

Some early titles in the present ensemble of books show condition faults and flaws commensurate with prolonged use in the field, but on the whole the library is very well preserved. A complete list of titles is available upon application.

¶ Cf. Ashleigh Stewart, "Looking Back on the Memorable Life of the Grande Dame of Gulf Expats", in Arab News, 3 Sept. 2021.



Comprises individually:



Aitchison, C[harles] U[mpherston] (ed.). A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries. Large 8vo. 2 vols.

Vol. X, containing the treaties, etc., relating to Persia and the Persian Gulf. Revised and continued up to the present time by the Authority of the Foreign Department. Calcutta, Office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, India, 1892. (2), VIII, 139, (1), CLVII, (1), XXXII pp. Modern plain green library buckram.

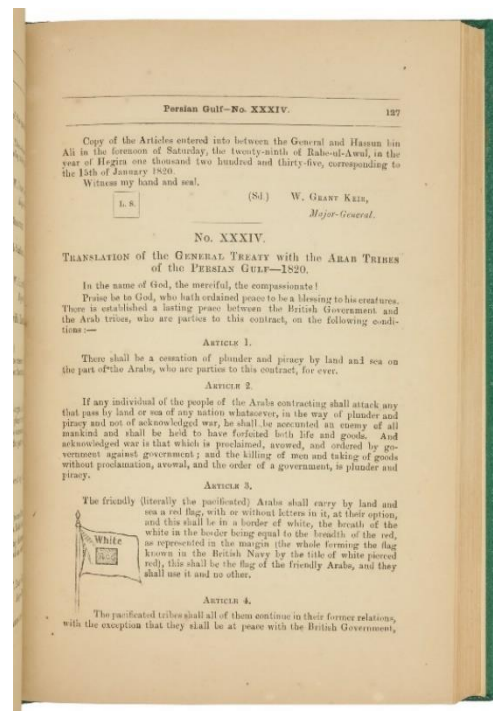
Vol. XI, containing the treaties, &c., relating to Aden and the South Western Coast of Arabia, the Arab Principalities in the Persian Gulf, Muscat (Oman), Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Province, revised and continued up to the end of 1930 under the authority of the Government of India. Delhi, Manager of Publications, 1933. (2), XXXI, (1), 633, (3), LXXXVI pp. Brown quarter calf with gilt title stamped to spine in Arabic.

Two volumes from Aitchison's "Collection of Treaties, Engagements, and Sanads" relating to the historical Gulf States: vol. X of the third edition (1892) and vol. XI of the fifth edition (1933). The first compilation covers various treaties dating from 1763 up to 1883, between Great Britain, Persia and the Gulf States. Included in vol. X are the General Maritime Treaty (1235 H / 1820 CE), signed among others by "Sultan bin Suggur, Chief of Shargah" and the agreement by which "Salim bin Sultan, Chief of Shargah" abolished the slave trade in 1289 H (1873 CE). The combination of these treaties presents a lively image of the rise of the various Gulf States throughout the 19th century. Describing his own time, the compiler notes that the Gulf States "are all now independent, and since the advent of the Turks and the isolation of the Wahabis in the highlands, have been exempted from the tribute or black-mail for the payment of which they were formerly directly or indirectly liable to the Wahabi Chief of Nejd" (p. 112).

Vol. XI covers Aden and Muscat, but also the Gulf coast of the Nejd, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the "Trucial Shaikhs of Oman", including the agreements and treaties of 1806, 1820, etc., to 1922.

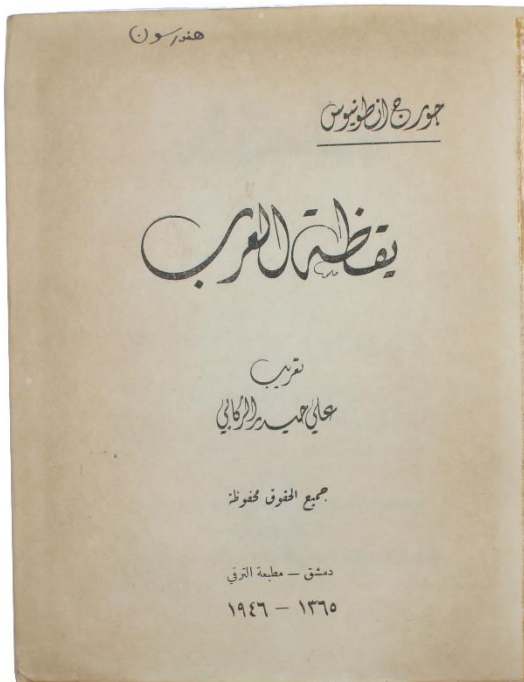
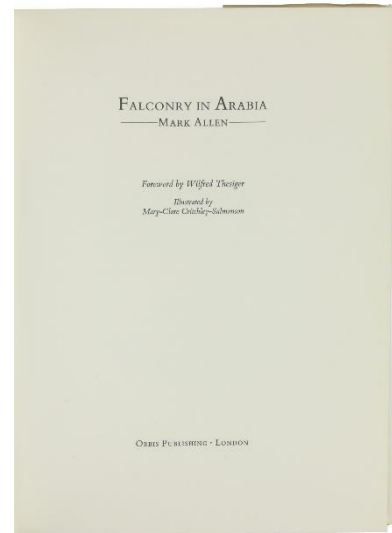
Paper of vol. X somewhat browned as common; title-page of vol. XI with clear adhesive tape repair to foot of inner margin. With ms. ownership by Henderson to the flyleaf of vol. XI.

¶ CBEL III, p. 1078. Cf. Macro 18.



Allen, Mark. *Falconry in Arabia*. London, Orbis, 1980. Large 4to. 142, (2) pp. Illustrated throughout. Publisher's original cloth with dust jacket.

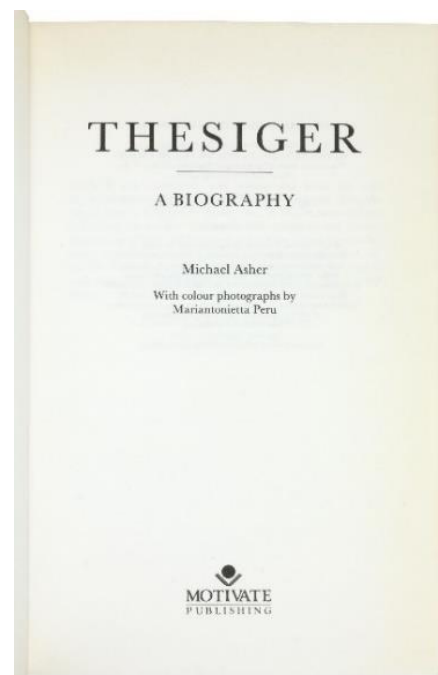
With a foreword by Wilfred Thesiger. Ms. ownership by Henderson to front flyleaf.

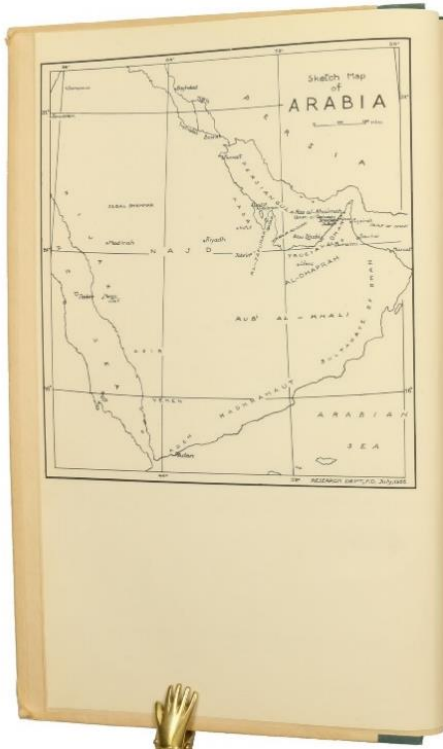


Antonius, George. *Yaqazat al-'Arab* (Arab Awakening). Dimashq, Matba'at al-Taraqqi, 1365 H [= 1946 CE]. 4to. 463 pp. With 5 folded maps. Original boards.

First Arabic edition of the foundational textbook for the history of modern Arab Nationalism, first published in London in 1938. With Henderson's ownership inscription in Arabic on the title-page.

Asher, Michael. *Thesiger. A Biography*. London, Motivate Publishing, 1994. Large 8vo. XXIV, 582 pp. Illustrated throughout. Publisher's original cloth with dust jacket.

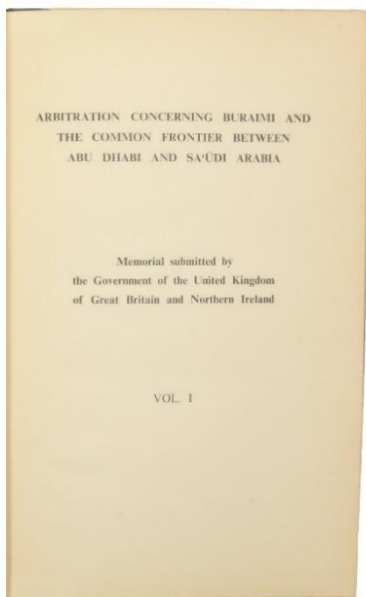




[Buraimi memorials]. Arbitration Concerning Buraimi and the Common Frontier Between Abu Dhabi and Sa'udi Arabia. Memorial Submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1955]. Folio (215 × 340 mm). 2 vols. (2), IV, 152 pp. (2), 338 pp. With frontispiece map of Arabia. Lacking the 10 maps and "Gazetteer of Place Names", as common. Original green cloth backed boards.

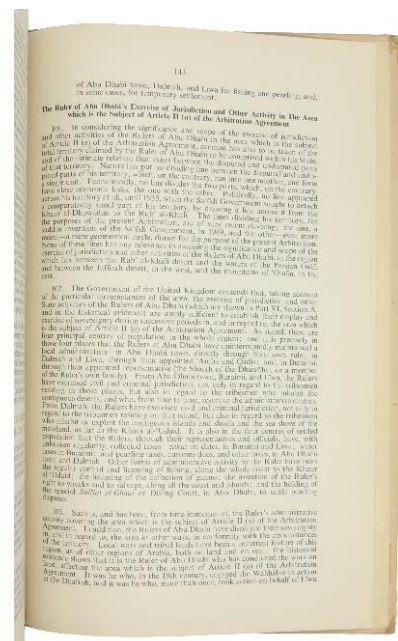
First edition, published in a small press-run for internal use only; of the utmost rarity and usually accessible only in the 1987 Archive Editions facsimile. Of particular interest are the original documents published in the Annexes, including treaties and engagements, correspondence, and notes on the various tribes, including the Bani Yas, Manasir, Awamir, Na'im, and Dhawahir (with genealogical tables). A copious separate section contains documents from UK government archives relating to the history of the region, with various mentions of the ruler of Sharjah, Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi; another annex even includes the minutes of informal meetings, subjects of which include discussions of the land frontier of Qatar.

The Buraimi Dispute was an early source of tension between Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Abu Dhabi (then a Trucial Shaikhdom), as well as their respective American and British oil backers. In 1949 the Saudis first laid claim to the Buraimi area, believed to be rich in oil deposits, backed by the American company Aramco. A small invasion force occupied the territory in 1952, claiming the Oasis for Saudi Arabia, and the "Buraimi Dispute" made global headlines. A joint expedition of TOS forces from Abu Dhabi and the Sultan's forces from Sohar began to advance on Buraimi, but the Saudis withdrew due to international pressure. As a result of British arbitration, a Saudi police post was permitted to be established in the Oasis in 1954. The following year arbitration broke down, and Britain encouraged the forces of Abu Dhabi and Oman to expel the Saudi police, which was effected without major incident. The dispute had progressively wider ramifications for deteriorating British oil interests in Saudi Arabia, and Emir Feisal, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, took the conflict as an attack on the Arab League.



The front boards of both volumes bear pasted labels with copy numbers 53 and 73, respectively; the publication's internal identification number "48109" is printed throughout the Annexes. Several of the Annexes have printed "Explanatory Notes" pasted at the end of the text.

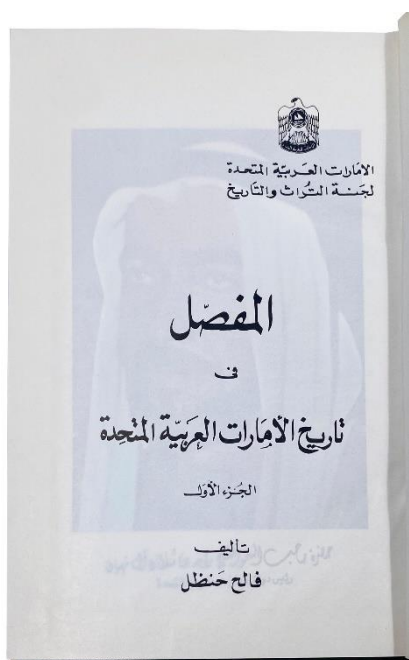
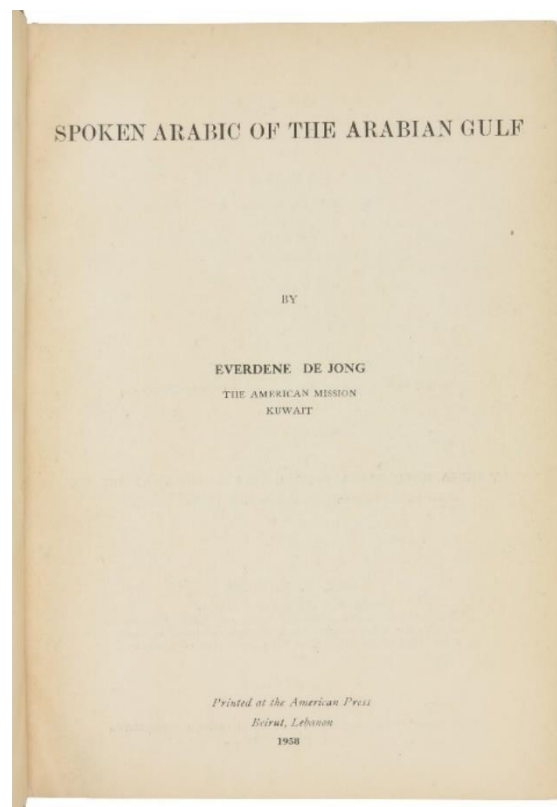
Corrigenda leaf tipped in to Vol. II. Extremities a little rubbed and bumped, but still an excellent copy, the third ever to have appeared on the market (another, auctioned at Sotheby's, commanded \$22,689 in 2009).



De Jong, Everdene. Spoken Arabic of the Arabian Gulf. Beirut, The American Press for the American Mission, 1958. 8vo. (8), 196, 52 pp. Original half cloth with printed cover title.

First edition. A scarce guide to Arabic in the Gulf, published in order to facilitate the teaching of the language at missionary stations. The publisher, The American Mission, was founded by the Dutch Reformed Church of America.

Extremities a little rubbed and bumped, inner hinges reinforced. Toning to endpapers, some marginal toning to leaves. With the stamp "H. M. Political Agency, Abu Dhabi" to front free endpaper, dated 12 Nov. 1958.

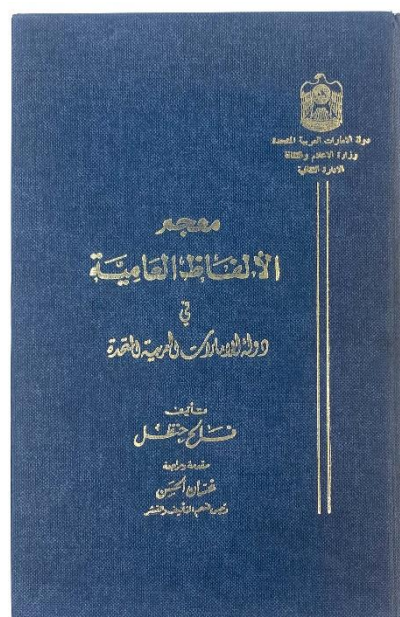


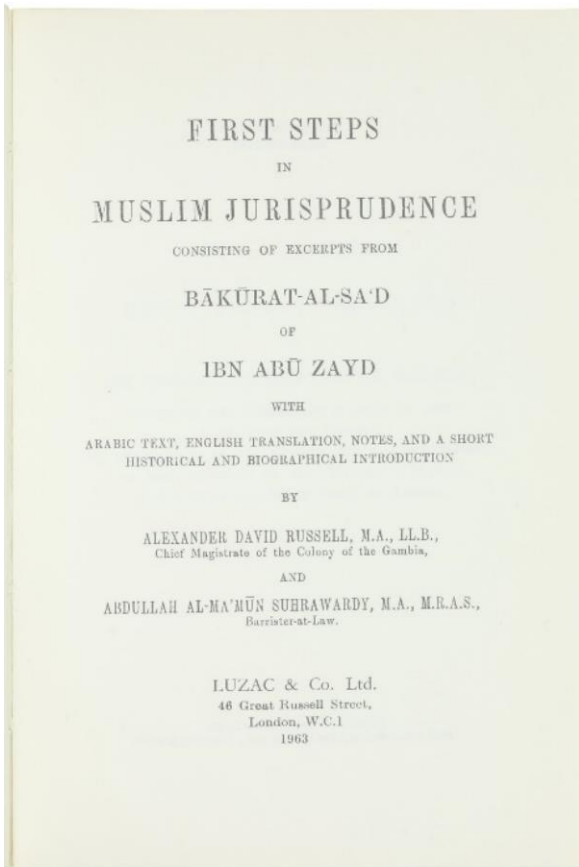
Hanzal, Falih. Al-Mufasssal fi tarikh al-Imarat al-'Arabiyah al-Muttahidah. Abu Dhabi, Mu'assasat Dar al-Fikr lil-Tiba'ah wa-al-Nashr, [1983]. 8vo. 2 vols. 774 pp.

First edition of this history of the United Arab Emirates. Inscribed to Henderson by the author.

Hanzal, Falih. Mu'jam al-alfaz al-'ammiyah fi Dawlat al-Imarat al-'Arabiyah al-Muttahidah. Abu Dhabi, Mu'assasat Dar al-Fikr lil-'iba'ah wa-al-Nash, [1977]. 8vo. 686 pp.

First edition of this philological work about the local dialects in the present-day UAE. Presentation copy from author to Henderson in 1979.





Ibn Abi Zayd al-Qayrawani. First Steps in Muslim Jurisprudence: consisting of excerpts from Bakurat al-sa'd of Ibn Abu Zayd, translated by Alexander David Russell and Abdullah Al-Ma'mun Suhrawardy. London, Luzac and Co., 1963. 8vo. XXI, (2)-121 pp. Original boards.

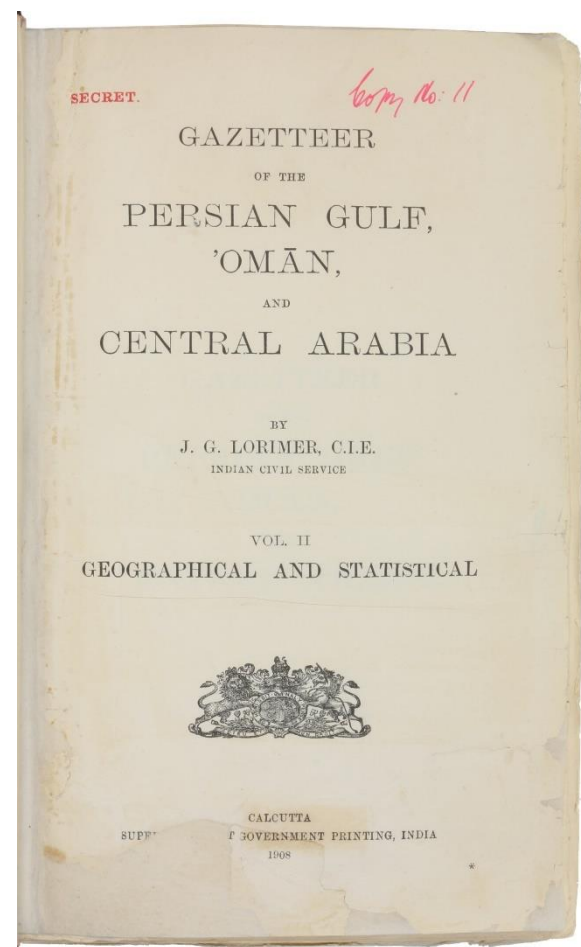
First reprint edition of the 1906 publication. Selections from the instructional Al-Risala, or the Epistle. The Arabic text faces the translation on opposite pages.

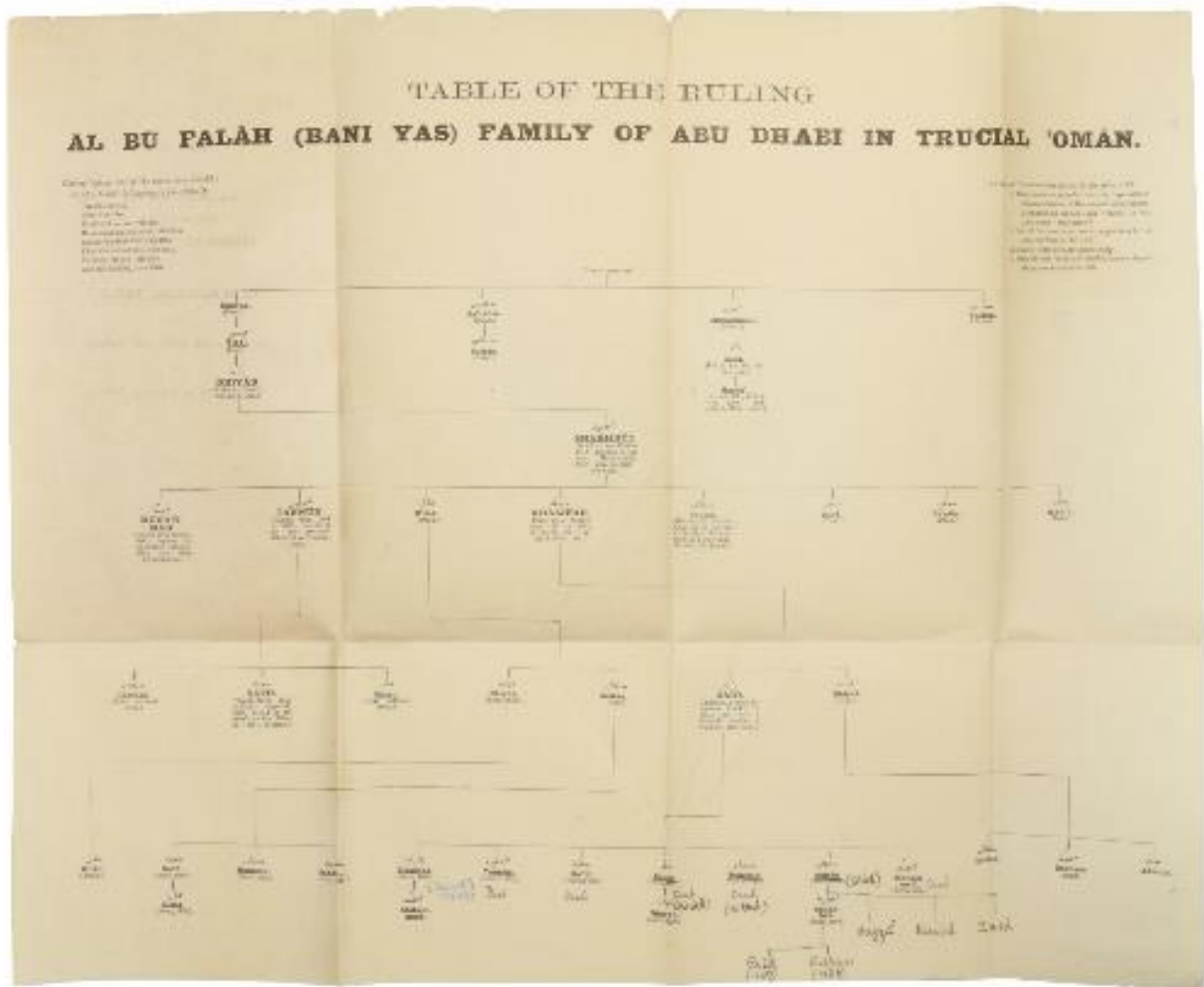
Some mild toning to boards & spine. Scarce, has never appeared at auction.

¶ OCLC 1042522.

Lorimer, John Gordon. Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia. Calcutta, Superintendent Government Printing, 1908-1915. 4to. 2 volumes (instead of 4): vol. 1 (Historical, 1915), part 1 (of 3), and vol. 2 (Geographical and Statistical, 1908). With 56 photoplates throughout vol. 2 and 5 (of 17?) genealogical tables (1 in facsimile), originally issued to form part 3 of vol. 1. Vol. 2 bound in original maroon half calf over red cloth; vol. 1 restored with modern cloth and maroon spine lettered by hand in gold ink. Marbled red endpapers.

Classified as a secret document at the time of issue and still almost unobtainable in the original first printing, Lorimer's Gazetteer remains the most important single source of historical material on the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia up to the First World War. The set was compiled with the intention of providing British agents and policymakers in the Gulf, India and London with a "convenient and





portable handbook to the places and interests with which they are likely to be concerned". Only a few dozen copies were printed for circulation to British government departments and agencies. The present set, issued for the Political Resident of the Persian Gulf, bears the handwritten copy numbers 43 and 11 inscribed to the title-pages, with the stamp "Secret" in red.

The range of the Gazetteer is extensive and complex. The geographical and statistical section (vol. 2, issued first) describes much that did not change until the profound effects of the oil industry began to be apparent in the 1950s. The historical volume was completed after Lorimer's death in early 1914. While primarily a British official handbook, it contains a sheer mass of factual information which no serious researcher can afford to be without. Many of the photographs here reproduced are among the earliest photographic images of the areas depicted (including views of the Fort of the Sheikh at Abu Dhabi and the Sheikh of Sharjah's Fort, all taken ca. 1905).

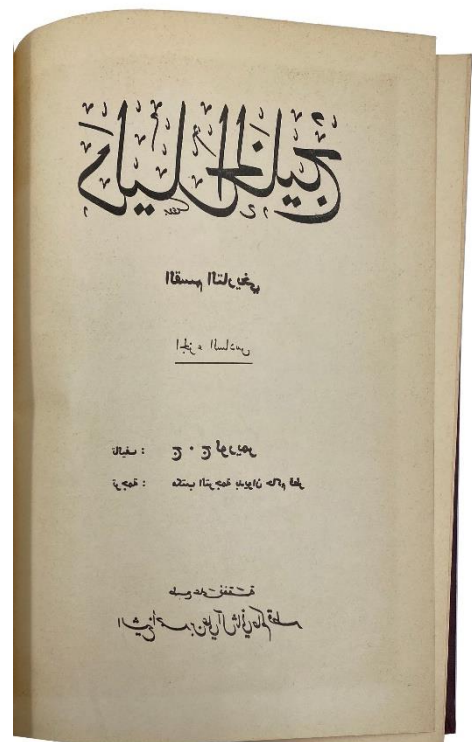
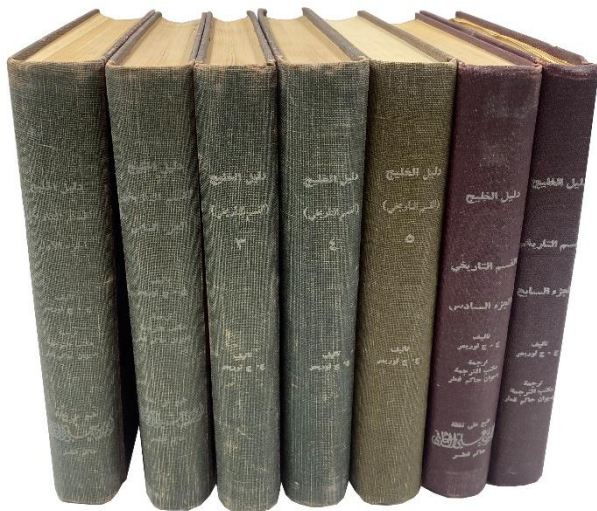
Condition: 26 leaves of vol. 1 supplied in photocopy (mostly old double-sided copies bound in). Old marginal clear tape repairs to vol. 1 without loss of text, notably affecting pp. xliii, xlv, 673, 758, 759, 761, 764, 823 (lower part including text), 932, 934, 936, 938, 939 & 941. A few scattered smaller tape repairs, some closed tears to leaves in both volumes, some tears extending into text but without loss. First 3 preliminary leaves of vol. 2 frayed with some loss of title imprint and repairs to title and following leaf half-title. Vol. 1 rebound with binding note dated 1959 at rear, stating that the book was received in an incomplete state at the Foreign Office bindery. Without the second part of vol. 1 (Historical); of the third part (Genealogical tables, maps), four folded tables are present, inserted at the back of vol. 2. The following 50 pages of vol. 1 have been supplied in sympathetic double-sided photocopies and carefully bound into the text in the correct places: pp. 17-20, 29-32, 41-49, 785-90,

705–96, 817–18, 1345–60, 1615–22. Additionally, the final two pages, 1623–24, are supplied loose in more modern photocopies. The flyleaf of vol. 2 includes an accession note dated 10 Aug. 1910, as well as a warning that “this document is the property of the Government of India”, issued “for the personal information of the Political Resident, Persian Gulf”, who is “personally responsible for its custody” and must keep it “under lock and key when not in actual use”.



Lorimer, J[ohn] G[ordon]. Dalil al-Khalij: al-qism al-tarikhi. Doha, Matabi al-Urubah, 1967. 4to. 7 volumes. Original cloth.

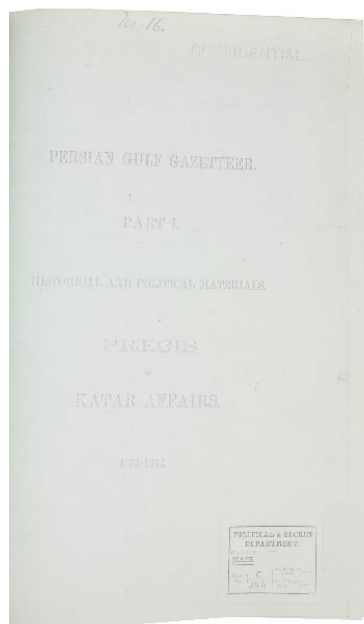
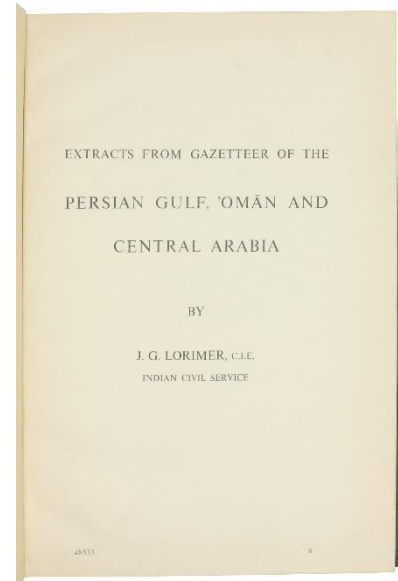
Rare first edition of the first Arabic translation of Lorimer’s *Gazetteer*. Printed at the expense of the ruler of Qatar, Ahmad bin Ali Al Thani, on the country’s first printing press.



Lorimer, John Gordon. Extracts from Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia. No place or publisher, ca. 1950. 4to. 161 pp. Contemporary black buckram, title in gilt to spine.

A rare volume documenting 19th century Arabian history, contemporary local geography and demographics. As the Qatar National Library states in the description of its digital reproduction, “The volume consists of approximately forty extracts from Volume I, Parts I and II, and Volume II of John Gordon Lorimer’s Gazetteer. The reason for the compilation of this volume of extracts is unclear”.

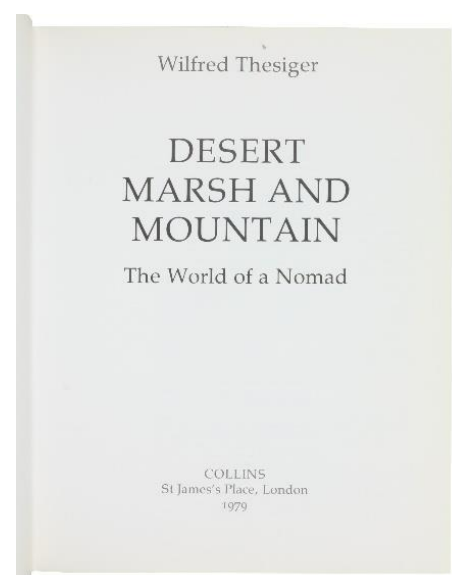
Inner hinges reinforced, boards lightly rubbed. With his ownership inscription to front free endpaper.



(Saldanha, Jerome A. [ed.]). Persian Gulf Gazetteer, Part I. Historical and Political Materials. Precis of Katar Affairs. 1873–1904. [Reproduction of 1904 Government Printing edition, probably 1970s]. Folio. (4), ii, 66 leaves, printed on rectos only. Bound in modern silver wrappers.

Copyright photoreproduction from the India Office Records, Political and Secret Department, copy no. 16, retaining the original “Confidential” and “Secret” stamps. A modern reissue was produced in 1986 within the Archive Editions series.

Thesiger, Wilfred. Desert, Marsh and Mountain. The World of a Nomad. London, Collins, 1979. Large 4to. 304 pp. Illustrated throughout. Publisher’s original cloth with dust jacket.

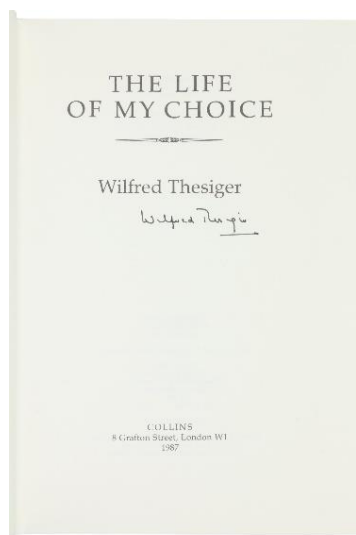
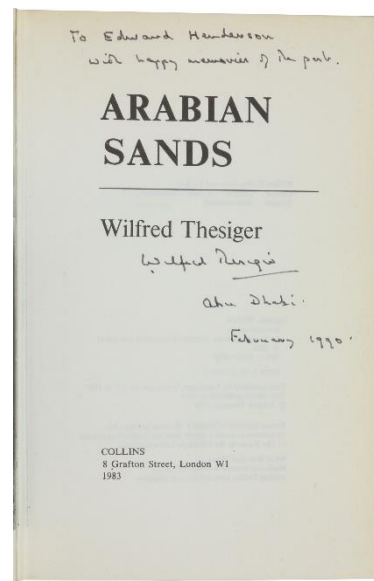


Thesiger, Wilfred. *Arabian Sands*. London, Collins, 1983. 8vo. 347, (1) pp. With folding map and numerous illustrations. Original cloth with printed dust jacket.

Presentation copy to Edward Henderson signed by the author on the title-page.

An important association copy. Posted to Syria in 1942, Henderson served with the explorer Wilfred Thesiger, who, under the command of Col Gerald de Gaury, "was raising a Druze squadron with which to fight the Vichy French and resist an expected German invasion of the region via the Caucasus" (Independent obituary).

Slight rubbing to extremities.



Thesiger, Wilfred. *The Life of My Choice*. London, Collins, 1987. 4to. 459, (7) pp. Black cloth with original printed dust jacket.

First edition, second issue, signed by Thesiger to title page.

With Henderson's handwritten ownership to flyleaf.

Thomas, Bertram. *The Kumzari Dialect of the Shihuh Tribe, Arabia, and a Vocabulary*. London, Royal Asiatic Society, 1930. 8vo. 70 pp. Original boards.

First book edition. The earliest study of Kumzari, a still-surviving Arabic-Persian compound dialect spoken exclusively by certain coastal elements of the Shihuh tribe, the Kumazara section, who occupy Kumzar at the head of the Musandam Peninsula, and are found at Dibah, Khasab, the coastal villages of Elphinstone and Malcolm Inlets and at Larek Island. Published the same year within the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

Spine with tape repair, rear board with paper cover folded back. Scarce, has only appeared at auction once. With inscription to front free endpaper.

¶ Cf. Macro 2192.

