

The Edith Durham Balkan Collection : collection description

Special Collections, J.B. Priestley Library

REFERENCE CODE

GB 0532 DUR

TITLE

The Edith Durham Balkan Collection.

DATES

c.1919-1927.

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION

Fonds.

EXTENT

0.14 metres.

NAME OF CREATOR(S)

Durham, (Mary) Edith (1863-1944), Balkan traveller, author and anthropologist.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Mary Edith Durham was born in 1863 in London, daughter of a surgeon. Educated at Bedford College and at the Royal Academy of Arts, she worked as an artist and illustrator. However, in the late 1890s, she became ill and depressed and was prescribed travel. Sailing to Montenegro, she was captivated by Balkan life and culture. Thereafter she travelled extensively in the region and began systematically to study its history and languages, with a view to understanding the customs and manners of each area. She published several books, including "Through the lands of the Serb" (1904), "The Burden of the Balkans" (1905), and "High Albania" (1909). In particular, she championed the cause of the Albanians, becoming secretary of the Anglo-Albanian Society (later Association), launched in 1918. Ill-health ended her travels in 1921, but she

continued to publish and was active on the Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

Scrapbooks contain provenance of Chatham House (confirmed in correspondence 2004 that materials withdrawn from their stock).

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

Donated to Dr John Horton of the University Library c.1970 by Dr Fred Singleton.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Two scrapbooks compiled by Durham during her time as Hon. Secretary of the Anglo-Albanian Society, containing cuttings from English and overseas press, letters and other documents relating to Albania and Yugoslavia.

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Available to researchers, by appointment. Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation.

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LANGUAGE OF MATERIAL

Mostly English, some French, German.

FINDING AIDS

Handlist in progress.

RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION

Durham's correspondence, notebooks, journals, sketchbooks and papers are held by the Royal Anthropological Institute (MSS 41-59).

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

Described by Alison Cullingford.

RULES OR CONVENTIONS

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

DATE(S) OF DESCRIPTION

February 2007.

INDEXING

Durham, Mary Edith, 1863-1944.

Albania.

Yugoslavia.

Balkan Region.

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