

UQFL36

Sir Leslie Orme Wilson Papers

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| Size | 12 boxes, 30 parcels |
| Contents | Collection of official and private correspondence, diaries, photographs, press cuttings and miscellaneous papers. The material falls into two main periods: 1923 to 1928, when he was governor of Bombay; and 1932 to 1946 when he was Governor of Queensland. An interesting small section deals with the failure of the Coalition Government in Great Britain in 1922. There is also a synopsis and some draft chapters of Wilson's memoirs, which were never completed or published. |
| Date range | 1900 to 1955 |
| Biography | Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, soldier, politician and governor, was born in London in 1876. He became a soldier in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and progressed to Captain in 1901. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with 5 clasps and the Distinguished Service Order after being wounded in the South African war. In 1913 he won the seat of Reading and joined the House of Commons in 1914. Following service in Gallipoli and being wounded in France during WWI he was appointed GCIE and became governor of Bombay in 1923. He made contributions to education and voluntary institutions, and was appointed GCSI in 1929. In 1932 he became governor of Queensland. He was awarded an honorary LL.D. from the University of Queensland in 1935, and in 1937 was appointed G.C.M.G. In 1946 he left office. He died in England in 1955. |
| Notes | Unrestricted access The collection was rehoused in 2014 and box numbers were reallocated. Refer to the chart at the end of this listing to convert old box numbers to new numbers. |

Box 1

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|----------|---|
| A | Wilson, Sir Leslie Orme Autobiography: synopsis and some draft chapters of his memoirs, planned but never completed; with some notes and related correspondence. 1 folder. |
| B | Wilson, Sir Leslie Orme Official correspondence relating to the extension of his term of office as Governor of Queensland: 1942-43, 1944-45, 1945-46. 1 folder. Personal papers, including Royal Commissions, letters of appointment, certificates of qualification, miscellaneous papers (programmes, menus etc). 1 folder. |

Box 2

C/1

Wilson, Sir Leslie Orme

Correspondence, official: incoming, 1910 to 1946. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Correspondents listed and dates noted. This file includes personal and confidential letters from ministers and others, and memoranda of affairs in England and Europe for Wilson's private information. 1 box

Box 3

C/2

Correspondence, official: outgoing, 1922 to 1952. There are only four letters after 1946. Letters are arranged chronologically, correspondents listed and indexed. The file includes unofficial reports on affairs in Queensland and Australia generally, sent to the King usually at two-monthly intervals, also similar reports to the Dominions Office. 1 box.

Box 4

C/3

Correspondence, official: 1923 to 1926 with the Secretary of State for India. Incoming and outgoing correspondence filed separately. Correspondents listed. 4 folders.

Box 5

C/4

Correspondence, official: 1924 to 1928 with the Viceroy of India. Incoming and outgoing correspondence filed separately. 5 folders.

Box 6

C/4

Correspondence, official: 1924 to 1928 with the Viceroy of India. Incoming and outgoing correspondence filed separately. 3 folders.

C/5

Correspondence, personal: outgoing, 1909 to 1946. Chiefly letters of thanks or congratulations. 1 folder.

C/6

Correspondence, personal, 1936 to 1944 with government departments in Australia and Great Britain, legal advisers and other regarding income tax liability, pensions etc.

Box 7

D/1

Wilson, Sir Leslie Orme

Diary, 1900: covering Wilson's service in South Africa during the Boer War. Pocket notebook 11 x 8 cm.

D/2 – 8

Diaries, 1903 to 1909: covering Wilson's official and social activities as A.D.C. to Sir Harry Rawson, Governor of New South Wales. 7 volumes of varying size.

D/9 – 11

Diaries, 1910 to 1912: covering Wilson's social and family life in England during this period. 3 volumes, 17 x 11 cm.

- D/12 – 13** Diaries, 1913 to 1914: covering Wilson's social life and early political activities. 2 volumes of varying size
- D/14 – 20** Diaries, 1917 to 1923: covering Wilson's social life and political activities. 7 pocket notebooks of varying size.
- D/21 – 25** Diaries, 1924 to 1928: covering Wilson's social and official activities as Governor of Bombay. 4 bound volumes, 21 x 17 cm; 1 pocket notebook, 13 x 8 cm.

Box 8

- D/26-28** Diaries, 1929 to 1931: covering Wilson's family and social life in England. 3 bound volumes, 21 x 18 cm.
- D/29 – 36** Diaries, 1932 to 1946: covering Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland. 5 volumes, 26 x 20 cm; 1 volume, 21 x 31 cm.

Box 9

- D/37 – 40** Diaries, 1932 to 1946: covering Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland. 7 volumes, 26 x 20 cm

Box 10

- D/41 – 43** Diaries, 1944 to 1946: covering Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland. 7 volumes, 26 x 20 cm
- D/44 –46** Diaries, 1947 to 1953: covering Wilson's family and social life during his retirement in England. 7 bound volumes, 26 x 21 cm.
- D/51a – m** Appointment and memorandum books, 1946 to 1956. Includes 13 pocket notebooks.

Box 11

- E** **Wilson, Sir Leslie Orme**
Notes on India, for election speeches and other related purposes. 1 folder.
- F** Includes papers in connection with the Carlton Club meeting 1922, and events leading to the break-up of the Coalition Government. Letters from this file have been included with other official correspondence in this collection, both ingoing and outgoing. Included in this file are memoranda of important confidential meetings, which were circulated privately, and other notes. 1 folder.
- G** Loose press cuttings. 1 folder.

H Confidential letter to Sir John Simon, Chairman of the Indian Statutory Commission, dated May 1928, reporting on the political situation in India. Letterhead: Governor of Bombay. 31 pages.

Photographs of Wilson's life in England and Australia, c1900 to c1905. Album, 21 x 26 cm.

Photographs of Wilson's social and official life in New South Wales and a visit to North Queensland in July 1904, 1903 to c1905. Includes press cuttings. Album. 25 x 32 cm.

Box 12

Photographs of Wilson's social and official life in New South Wales, and visits to other parts of Australia, c1905 to c1907. Includes press cuttings. Album, 26 x 30 cm.

Newspaper cuttings, n.d. to Nov 1910

9 photographs

14 photographs and postcards **[4 items formerly catalogued at PIC329 – PIC332]**

Parcel 1

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, 1923 to 1927. Bound volume, 42 x 31 cm.

Parcel 2

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, 1923 to 1927. Bound volume, 42 x 31 cm.

Parcel 3

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, 1932 to 1942. Bound volume, 41 x 30 cm.

Parcel 4

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, 1932 to 1942. Bound volume, 41 x 30 cm.

Parcel 5

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, 1941 to 1945. Bound volume, 41 x 30 cm.

Parcel 6

Press cuttings of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, 1945 to 1946. Bound volume, 41 x 30 cm.

Parcel 7

Photographs of Wilson's family and social life in England, and war service in France and the Near East, 1908 to 1915. Includes press cuttings. Album 28 x 39 cm.

Parcel 8

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Mar to Aug 1924. Includes press cuttings, menus etc. Album 19 x 40 cm.

Parcel 9

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Aug to Nov 1924. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 40 cm.

Parcel 10

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Nov 1924 to Jan 1925. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 40 cm.

Parcel 11

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Jan to Apr 1925. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 40 cm.

Parcel 12

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Oct 1925 to Feb 1926. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 13

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Feb to Nov 1926. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 14

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Nov 1926 to May 1927. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 15

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, May to Sep 1927. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 16

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Sep 1927 to Mar 1928. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 17

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay, Apr to Aug 1928. Includes press cuttings. Album 29 x 39 cm.

Parcel 18

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Bombay and family and social life in England, Aug 1928 to Aug 1930. Includes press cuttings. Album 33 x 43 cm.

Parcel 19

Photographs of Wilson's family and social life in England, and activities as Governor of Queensland, Sep 1930 to Oct 1933. Includes press cuttings. Album 36 x 46 cm.

Parcel 20

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, Sep 1933 to Jan 1935. Album 36 x 46 cm.

Parcel 21

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, Jan 1935 to Sep 1936. Album 34 x 43 cm.

Parcel 22

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, Sep 1936 to Aug 1940. Album 34 x 46 cm.

Parcel 23

Photographs of Wilson's activities as Governor of Queensland, Aug 1940 to Sep 1945. Album 34 x 46 cm.

Parcel 24

Newspaper cuttings, Nov 1911 to Nov 1913

Parcel 25

Newspaper cuttings, Apr 1921 to Nov 1923

Parcel 26

Newspaper cuttings, Jan 1914 to Mar 1921

Parcel 27

Photographs and newspaper cuttings, 1915[?] to 1920

Parcel 28

Photographs, 1890 to 1902[?]

Parcel 29

3 photographs, signed

Parcel 30

Three photograph albums:

Album 1 [removed from Box 12]

Photograph album, 24 x 31.5 cm, belonging to Winifred Smith (later became Lady Wilson), taken during a tour of the Far East, January to August 1907. Front and back covers are missing. Commercially produced, expandable photograph album with 25 double-sided pages inserted, tied together with emerald green yarn at the spine. Each page is 24 x 31.5 cm, holding four photographs, 8 x 10.5 cm; the photographs are held in place with light green yarn that is threaded between the pages. The pages are made of heavy paper, brown with woodgrain appearance. There are 196 black and white albumen prints in the album. Photographs are mainly of scenery, shrines, and buildings. Most photographs have captioning. There is one loose photograph. Very fragile.

Album 2

Photograph album, 24 x 31.5cm, with inscription on verso of front cover "Winifred Smith. Vol. II of Views taken in Ceylon, Burma, Japan, Korea, Chine etc: between January 12th and August 17th 1907". Covers have come away from album. Commercially produced, expandable photograph album with 25 double-sided pages inserted, tied together with emerald green yarn at the spine. Each page is 24 x 31.5 cm, holding four photographs, 8 x 10.5 cm; the photographs are held in place with light green yarn that is threaded between the pages. The pages are made of heavy paper, brown with woodgrain appearance. There are 194 black and white albumen prints the

album; the last page has only two photographs. Photographs are mainly of scenery, shrines and buildings. Most photographs have captioning, except for the last few pages after the return to Sydney. There are two loose photographs and one negative. Very fragile.

Album 3

Photograph album, 19 x 32 cm. Commercially produced, expandable photograph album with brown hard covers with 12 doubled sided pages, tied together with fawn cord at the spine. Each page is 19 x 32 cm, with four spaces 5.5 x 10 cm for photographs to be inserted. Most inserted pages have broken at the spine. The pages are made of heavy thick card, with 96 black and white photographs inserted. Most of the uncaptioned photographs appear to be of Japan; captioned photographs are dated 1935 and include Japan, Rabaul, Brisbane, aboard the S.S. Tanda, and Noorindoo. Sticker on inside back cover: Elite, no. [6] Kodak, Australia.

Publications received and catalogued to Fryer Library

Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme, *Constitution*, April 1936

Box number conversion chart

| Old no. | New no. |
|---------|-----------|
| Box 1 | Box 1 |
| Box 2 | Box 2 |
| Box 3 | Box 3 |
| Box 4 | Box 4 |
| Box 5a | Box 5 |
| Box 5 | Box 6 |
| Box 6 | Box 6 |
| Box 7 | Box 7 |
| Box 8 | Box 7 |
| Box 9 | Box 8 |
| Box 10 | Box 8 |
| Box 11 | Box 9 |
| Box 12 | Box 9, 10 |
| Box 13 | Box 10 |

| Old no. | New no. |
|-----------|-----------|
| Box 14 | Box 11 |
| Parcel 15 | Parcel 1 |
| Parcel 16 | Parcel 2 |
| Parcel 17 | Parcel 3 |
| Parcel 18 | Parcel 4 |
| Parcel 19 | Parcel 5 |
| Parcel 20 | Parcel 6 |
| Box 21 | Box 11 |
| Box 22 | Box 12 |
| Parcel 23 | Parcel 7 |
| Parcel 24 | Parcel 8 |
| Parcel 25 | Parcel 9 |
| Parcel 26 | Parcel 10 |
| Parcel 27 | Parcel 11 |
| Parcel 28 | Parcel 12 |
| Parcel 29 | Parcel 13 |
| Parcel 30 | Parcel 14 |
| Parcel 31 | Parcel 15 |
| Parcel 32 | Parcel 16 |
| Parcel 33 | Parcel 17 |
| Parcel 34 | Parcel 18 |
| Parcel 35 | Parcel 19 |
| Parcel 36 | Parcel 20 |
| Parcel 37 | Parcel 21 |
| Parcel 38 | Parcel 22 |
| Parcel 39 | Parcel 23 |

| Old no. | New no. |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Parcel 40 | Box 12 |
| Parcel 41 | Parcels 24, 25 |
| Parcel 42 | Parcels 26, 27, 28 |