The Edith Durham Balkan Scrapbooks: Description

Special Collections, University of Bradford

GB 0532 DUR

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# INTRODUCTION

Scrapbooks collected by Edith Durham, who travelled in and studied the Balkan countries. Her work links to the University of Bradford’s later connections to this region. This description was written in 2007. It is being made available with minor edits as part of our Quick Wins programme to publicise key archives by putting existing catalogues online.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection description

## Reference code

GB 0532 DUR.

## Title

The Edith Durham Balkan Scrapbooks.

## Dates

Circa 1919-1927.

## Level of description

Collection.

## 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Scrapbooks contain provenance of Chatham House (who confirmed in correspondence in 2004 that the materials were withdrawn from their stock and they were for Bradford to retain them).

## Immediate source of acquisition

Donated to Dr John Horton of the University Library circa 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. There are no restrictions on access to this material under current legislation.

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## Language of material

Mostly English, some French and German.

## 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 and with later minor edits by Alison Cullingford.

# Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

# Date(s) of description

February 2007 (minor edits August 2013).

# Indexing

Durham, Mary Edith, 1863-1944.

Albania.

Yugoslavia.

Balkan Region.