



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Sir Robert G.A. Jackson papers 4078515

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical sketch	3
Scope and Content	6
Arrangement	7
Administrative Information	7
Related Materials	9
Controlled Access Headings	9
Collection Inventory	9
Series I: General	9
Series II: Oral Histories	12

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Jackson, Robert G. A, Sir (Robert Gillman Allen), 1911-1991
Title:	Sir Robert G.A. Jackson papers
ID:	4078515
ID:	MS#0659
Date [inclusive]:	1945-1983
Date [bulk]:	1945-1947
Physical Description:	1.5 linear feet 3 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection documents the work of Sir Robert G.A. Jackson, a UN administrator and development expert, as senior deputy director-general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) from 1945 to 1947.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Sir Robert G.A. Jackson papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Robert Gillman Allen Jackson was born in Melbourne, Australia on November 8, 1911. His father, Archibald Jackson, was one of the founders of Mentone Grammar School, which Jackson attended until he joined the Royal Australian Navy at age 18. Jackson transferred to the Royal Navy in 1937 and served in World War II in Malta. In 1940, he was chief staff officer to the governor and commander in chief of Malta, and created defense, rearmament, and supply schemes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

In 1941, Jackson was appointed adviser to Oliver Lyttleton, Minister of State in Cairo. There he worked with the Middle East Relief and Refugees Administration (MERRA), which was tasked with aiding 100,000 Polish refugees who had fled to Egypt, Pakistan, and Kenya. Jackson would take a special interest in refugee issues for the rest of his life. As director-general of the Middle East Supply Centre, he worked to encourage local agriculture in a large number of countries from 1942 to 1945. During this time he also worked on the development of a supply route to bring aid to Russia and established an anti-locust campaign. He worked with Allied Forces Headquarters for Special Duties in Greece from 1944-1945 and at the British treasury in 1945.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

From 1945 to 1947, Jackson served as senior deputy director-general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). UNRRA was responsible for overseeing post-war relief projects across Europe, Africa, and Asia, including the care of 8,500,000 displaced persons in Europe alone, providing aid to concentration camp survivors, reuniting children with families, and providing relief supplies to many countries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

After UNRRA was disbanded, Jackson supervised the transfer of its functions to other branches of the UN, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He also assisted in the establishment of the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). In 1947, he became assistant to first secretary-general of the United Nations, Trygve Lie.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Jackson was considered one of the world's foremost experts on multiple purpose river development schemes - systems of dams and equipment that provide both power and other benefits, such as flood control or irrigation. From 1950 to 1953, he was permanent secretary for the Ministry of National Development in Australia and worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme, a large hydroelectricity and irrigation complex. From 1953-1956, Jackson was chairman of the Preparatory Commission for Volta River Multipurpose Project in Ghana, which led to the construction of the Akosombo Dam, from and wrote a book about the experience, *The Volta River Project* (1956). He was also chairman of the Development Commission in Ghana, 1956-1961, and organized Royal Tours there in 1959 and 1961. He remained a consultant to the Volta River Authority, Ghana and a member of its board in the 1970s and 1980s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

In 1962, Jackson worked as consultant to Paul Hoffman, first administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). By the time he retired from the program in 1971, he had worked with UNDP projects in 60 countries. From 1968 to 1971, Jackson served as commissioner in charge of the survey of the UN Development System. With Margaret Anstee and other UN administrators, he wrote *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System* in 1969. The "Jackson Report" argued that UN should operate as a unitary system, providing information and resources from a central location but allowing UN projects to be tailored to each country's individual needs by local people who know the situation best.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

In 1972 and 1975, Jackson was under secretary-general in charge of the UN Relief Operation in Bangladesh, and he worked to bring aid to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand between 1979 and 1984.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Jackson's advice, particularly on development, was sought after worldwide; he was advisor to the President of Liberia (1962-1980s), to the government of India (1952, 1957; 1962-1963) and to government of Pakistan (1952), and offered assistance to Zambia (1973-1980s), Indo-China (1975-1980s) and the Cape Verde Islands (1975-1980s). He served on the advisory board of the Mekong Project, S.E. Asia (1962).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Jackson 's awards and honors included the Knight Commander of the Victorian Order (1962); Knight Bachelor (1956); Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (1944); Order of the British Empire (1941); and Companion of the Order of Australia (1986). Historian James Gibson wrote a biography Jackson, entitled Jacko, Where Are You Now? A life of Robert Jackson: Master of humanitarian relief, the man who saved Malta (Parsons, London 2006).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Jackson married Barbara Ward in 1950, and the couple had a son, Robert, Jr. Robert G.A. Jackson died in 1991.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

The collection consists of two boxes of material pertaining primarily to Sir Robert G.A. Jackson's role as senior deputy director-general of UNRRA, 1945-1947. It includes information on UNRRA's organization and finances, displaced persons, rehabilitation efforts in Greece, and

Russian involvement in UNRRA. It also contains interviews with Jackson that covers many other aspects of his life and career. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, reports, and maps. The collection contains photocopies only; the originals remained in the possession of Sir Robert G.A. Jackson.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into two series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carolyn Smith EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2013-06-04 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Reproduction Note

Type of reproduction--Photocopies

Location of Originals Note

Holder of originals: Originals in possession of--donor.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Correspondence, memoranda, documents: Source of acquisition--Jackson, Sir Robert G. A.
Date of acquisition--1976.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sir Robert G.A. Jackson, October 1976.

Processing Information

Correspondence, memoranda, documents Surveyed Julie Miller 05/--/87.

Processing Information

Papers processed Carolyn Smith Elena Locascio 2011.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Carolyn Smith 2013.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared.
Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Herbert H. Lehman papers, Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Refugees
- International relief
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Civilian relief
- Greece -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1974
- Soviet Union -- Foreign relations
- Noel-Baker, Philip, 1889-1982
- Mikoian, A. I (Anastas Ivanovich), 1895-1978
- Gale, Humphrey Myddleton, 1890-1971
- Hasler, William J
- La Guardia, Fiorello H (Fiorello Henry), 1882-1947
- Lehman, Herbert H (Herbert Henry), 1878-1963
- Morgan, Frederick, 1894-1967
- Jackson, R. G. A (Robert Gillman Allen)
- Herbert H. Lehman Collections (Columbia University)
- United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
- UNICEF

Collection Inventory

Series I: General, 1945-1983

Scope and Contents

Series I consists primarily of correspondence, memos, reports, and meeting minutes, most of which concern the organization and administration of UNNRA as a whole, and involve discussions of staffing, efficiency, priorities, shipping, supplies, and finances. It also includes Jackson's final report on the "life and death of UNRRA" which gives his summary of the organization's creation, successes, and flaws.

Title/Description	Instances	
Jackson Reorganization Meeting--Memos, 1945 May, 1945	box 1	folder 1

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with A. D. Marris, 1945 May 5, 1945	box 1	folder 2
Jackson to Richard K. Law, Foreign Office--Present State of UNRRA, 1945 May 15, 1945	box 1	folder 3
H. C. N. Wemyss to Sir George Rendel, Foreign Office, 1945 May 25, 1945	box 1	folder 4
Jackson to Herbert H. Lehman--Present State of European Region Office, 1945 May 25, 1945	box 1	folder 5
Memorandum of Treasury Meeting with Jackson Notations, 1945 May 28, 1945	box 1	folder 6
Covering Letters for John G. Winant, U.S. Ambassador in London, with W. Mabane, Foreign Office, undated	box 1	folder 7
UNRRA Needs--Memo, May 29, 1945	box 1	folder 8
Chancellor of Exchequer's Meeting--Memo for British Secretary of State, 1945 May 30, 1945	box 1	folder 9
Personnel--Memos, 1945 May 30, 1945	box 1	folder 10
Personnel--Memos with Notations, 1945 May 30, 1945	box 1	folder 11
Summary Report of Chancellor of Exchequer's Meeting, 1945 June 1, 1945	box 1	folder 12
Jackson to Sir James Grigg--Personnel, 1945 June 8, 1945	box 1	folder 13
Jackson to Sir Edward Bridges--Personnel, 1945 July 4, 1945	box 1	folder 14
Jackson to Sir Edward Jackson--State of UNRRA, 1945 July 13, 1945	box 1	folder 15
Jackson Notes and Guide for Sir Humfrey Gale--European Regional Office, 1945 August 31, 1945	box 1	folder 16
W. J. Hasler, British Foreign Service and UNRRA--Notes on a Visit to Greece, 1945 October -November, 1945	box 1	folder 17
Jackson to Sir Reginald Leeper, British Ambassador in Athens, 1945 November 20, 1945	box 1	folder 18
Hasler Memorandum on Ingredients and the Food Rations, 1945 November 24, 1945	box 1	folder 19
Hasler Memorandum on Assistance in the Rehabilitation of Greece, 1945 November 25, 1945	box 1	folder 20
Jackson "Top Secret and Personal"--Report on Problems of UNRRA as of this Date, with Copy of Lehman Statement on the Urgency of Second 1% Contribution, 1945 November 25, 1945	box 1	folder 21
Gale to Jackson, 1945 December 3, 1945	box 1	folder 22
Jackson to Gale, 1945 December 11, 1945	box 1	folder 23

H.E. Caustin--Note of Meeting between Director-General and Senior Deputy Direction-General, 1945 December 13, 1945	box 1	folder 24
Jackson to P.J. Noel-Baker--Expansion of Report, 1945 December 17, 1945	box 1	folder 25
Memorandum of Jackson Meeting with Rabbi S. S. Wise and Henry Monsky--General Morgan Case, 1946 January 9, 1946	box 1	folder 26
Teletype Hasler to Jackson--Morgan Case, 1946 January 12, 1946	box 1	folder 27
Teletype Hasler to Jackson--Re: Morgan Case, 1946 January 17, 1946	box 1	folder 28
Jackson to Noel-Baker--Expansion of Report of 1945 December 17-January 22, 1946, 1945, December 17-January 22, 1946	box 1	folder 29
Teletype Hasler to Jackson--Morgan Case, 1946 January 23, 1946	box 1	folder 30
Jackson Aide--Memo with Notation, 1946 March7, 1946	box 1	folder 31
Council Meeting--Excerpts from Transcripts of 8th Meeting of Special Subcommittee on Resolution 71, 1946 March17, 1946	box 1	folder 32
Humorous Agenda of a Supposed Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Council, 1946 April 1, 1946	box 1	folder 33
Hasler to Jackson--Supplies, 1946 April 6, 1946	box 1	folder 34
Jackson to Hasler--Supplies and Administration, 1946 April 7, 1946	box 1	folder 35
Jackson to Sir Edward Jackson--State of UNRRA, 1946 April 9, 1946	box 1	folder 36
Hasler to Jackson--Supplies, 1946 April 22, 1946	box 1	folder 37
Jackson "Targets of Work"--Report for F.H. LaGuardia, 1946 April 26, 1946	box 1	folder 38
Jackson to Max Nicholson, Lord President's Office--Middle East, 1946 July 19, 1946	box 1	folder 39
Jackson Aide--Memoir of Stalin-LaGuardia Meeting, 1946 August 30, 1946	box 1	folder 40
Radio Address by Dean Acheson--Relief Supplies, 1946 December 7, 1946	box 1	folder 41
Jackson to A.I. Mikoyan--UNRRA and the Continuation of International Assistance with Draft of Letter, 1946 December 9, 1946	box 1	folder 42
"A Modern Ballet about UNRRA"--Humorous Ballet with Chart, 1947 April, 1947	box 1	folder 43

"UNRRA's Ghost"--Humorous Poem by Undell M. Lewis, 1947 April 7, 1947	box 1	folder 44
Memorandum from Grace R. Fox to Jackson--Including Preliminary Draft of "UNRRA and the Struggle for the Continuation of International Relief," by Thomas J. Maycock, 1947 June 26, 1947	box 1	folder 45
Address of Minister of Labor Rusinek at the Dedication of the Plaque on the UNRRA Office Building, Warsaw, 1947 June 27, 1947	box 1	folder 46
Messages Received by the Director-General on the Closing of UNRRA Missions in Europe from Officials of the Following Countries, 1947 July 15, 1947	box 1	folder 47
Memorandum on Conversation between the Director-General, the Senior Deputy Director-General, and the Controller--Future Organization of the Controller's Office, 1947 July 18, 1947	box 1	folder 48
Jackson to Director-General--Controller's Department, 1947 July 23, 1947	box 1	folder 49
Jackson to Minister of State--Final Report of "Life and Death of the UNRRA," August 25, 1947	box 1	folder 50
Notes on Chief Executive's Office Staff Meeting, 1947 October 3, 1947	box 1	folder 51
Draft of Statement for Ending UNRRA with Marginal Notes, 1947	box 1	folder 52
R. G. Lewis to Lehman--Appreciation of Mrs. Hutchinson of European Regional Office, 1948 March 30, 1948	box 1	folder 53
George Woodbridge to Jackson--UNRRA History, 1948 August 9, 1948	box 1	folder 54
Jackson to Woodbridge--UNRRA History, 1948 September 22, 1948	box 1	folder 55
Jackson to William V. Shannon--UNRRA and Lehman, with Attachments, 1954 August 31, 1954	box 1	folder 56
Map of Yellow River and Grand Canal Areas of China, Outlining Supply Depots, Dyke Areas, Grand Canal, Railroads and Truck Routes, undated	box 1	folder 57

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Oral Histories, 1978-1983

Scope and Contents

Series II contains transcripts of two oral history interviews with Jackson, one from 1978 and one from 1986. He discusses many aspects of his career and work with refugees, including the creation of UNRRA and UNICEF, the Jackson report, and his efforts to provide aid to Kampuchea.

Title/Description	Instances	
Robert G.A. Jackson Interview conducted by William B. Liebmann, 1978 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 folders)	box 2	folder 1-4
Robert G. A. Jackson Interview with Jonathan Power, 1983	box 1	folder 58

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)