

Henry Hector Bolitho papers

Ms. Coll. 1079

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Last updated on July 29, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 20

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Bolitho, Hector, 1897-1974
Title	Henry Hector Bolitho papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1079
Date [bulk]	1940-1956
Date [inclusive]	1914-1956
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 box)
Language	English
Abstract	This collection mostly contains research materials and correspondence between Bolitho, Aga Khan III, M.A. Jinnah and others, including Mountbatten and W.S. Maugham, on the subject of the newly formed country of Pakistan.

Cite as:

Henry Hector Bolitho papers, 1914-1956 (bulk: 1940-1956), Ms. Coll. 1079, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Henry Hector Bolitho was born in 1897, in Auckland, New Zealand. At the age of fifteen, he began work as a reporter for the *New Zealand Herald*; and in 1915, he started at the *Auckland Star* as a shipping reporter, before moving to Australia in 1921 where he served as editor of the *Shakespearean Quarterly* and literary editor and drama critic of the *Sydney Evening News*.

In 1923, Bolitho moved to London, but traveled throughout Europe, Africa, North America, and Australia, working on newspapers and writing books. Bolitho wrote widely on historical subjects, most notably on the royal family, including *Albert the Good and the Victorian Reign* (1932), *The Reign of Queen Victoria* (1948), and *Albert, Prince Consort* (1964). His book, *Jinnah, Creator of Pakistan* (1954) was the only internationally acknowledged work on Mohammad Ali Jinnah for thirty years.

Bolitho served in both World War I and II. During the last two years of World War I, Bolitho was a corporal in the New Zealand army, and from 1939 to 1945, he served as a squadron leader with the RAF and was the editor of the RAF journal. In addition to his writing career, Bolitho raised money for polio research as chairman of the Committee for Writing and Reading Aids for the Paralyzed. In 1962, Bolitho's autobiography, *My Restless Years*, was published. Henry Bolitho died in England on September 12, 1974. Source: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Scope and Contents

This collection mostly contains research materials and correspondence between Bolitho, Aga Khan III, M.A. Jinnah and others, including Mountbatten and W.S. Maugham, on the subject of the newly formed country of Pakistan. The collection is broken into three series. The first (1943, 1956) is books and scrapbooks on these subjects. The second (1952-54) is correspondence between Bolitho and others on specific subjects such as the Aga Khan's autobiography and a chapter in Bolitho's book "Jinnah." Lastly, the third series (1940-1953) is composed of materials (correspondence, notes, and other research materials) relating to Jinnah, likely in relation to Bolitho's publication.

The materials contained within present a glance at the work done by Bolitho while preparing for one of his most important publications, as well as the relationship he maintained with his subject and other leaders of Pakistan at that time.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 20

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At the Harry Ransom Center: Hector Bolitho collection, 1851-1969 (bulk 1926-1969)
At Kent State University: Hector Bolitho papers, 1927-1968

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Research notes
- Scrapbooks
- Writings (document genre)

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Pakistan--History--20th century

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Aga Khan III, 1877-1957
- Jinnah, Mahomed Ali, 1876-1948
- Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965
- Mountbatten of Burma, Louis Mountbatten, Earl, 1900-1979

SUBJECT(S)

- Authors, English--20th century

Collection Inventory

I. BOOKS AND SCRAPBOOKS, 1943-1956.

	Box	Folder
"Jinnah Faces An Assassin," by Husain Beg Mohamad (bound typescript), 1943.	1	1
"Aga Khan Notes & Cuttings," scrapbook containing letters, newspaper clippings, chronologies, essays, etc., 1956.	1	2
"Notes on Pakistan", 1956.	1	3

II. CORRESPONDENCE, 1952-1954.

	Box	Folder
15 letters between Aga Khan, Bolitho and W.S. Maugham, 1952-1953.	1	4
28 letters between Bolitho, Mountbatten and others, 1954.	1	5

III. MATERIALS RELATING TO M.A. JINNAH, 1940-1953.

	Box	Folder
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Copies of correspondence between M.A. Jinnah and Begum Liaquat, 1940-1947.	1	6
Correspondence, others, 1952-1953.	1	7
Notes, 1952-1953.	1	8
Miscellaneous research materials, undated.	1	9
Reproductions of press articles, 1914-1952.	1	10
Obituaries of M.A. Jinnah, 1948.	1	11