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Catalogue of the archive of Sir Clement Pleass

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 09, 2026.

Description is written in: English (Latin).

First edition

Bodleian Libraries

Weston Library
Broad Street
Oxford OX1 3BG
specialcollections.enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
URL: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston>

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Summary Information

Repository: Bodleian Libraries

Creator Pleass | Sir | Clement | 1901-1988 | Knight | colonial governor

Title: Archive of Sir Clement Pleass

Full range of

shelfmarks: MSS. 9452/1-17

ID: CMD ID 9452, 11496

ID [aspace_uri]: /repositories/2/resources/10264

Date [inclusive]: 1911-1966

Physical 5.97 Linear metres (17 boxes)

Description:

Language of the English

Material:

Abstract:

Personal and political papers of Sir Clement Pleass (1901-1988),
colonial governor

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Preferred

Citation: Oxford, Bodleian Libraries [followed by shelfmark and folio or
page reference, e.g. MS. 9452/1].

Biographical / Historical

Sir Clement Pleass (1901-1988) was a British politician who served as a British diplomat in Nigeria. He joined the Colonial Administrative Service in January of 1924, and served in Nigeria from 1924 to 1956. He acted as Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria from 1952 to 1954, and Governor from 1954 to 1956. Pleass was formerly a member of the Colonial Development Corporation.

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Scope and Contents

Comprises visitors' books, diaries of appointments, papers on British royal visits to Nigeria, reports, correspondence, and mixed media.

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Arrangement

As the collection was unsorted when it arrived, the contents have been sorted into six thematic series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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URL: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston>

Bodleian Libraries

Weston Library

Broad Street

Oxford OX1 3BG

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by A. M. Pleass and received in two accessions in February 1989 and May 2015.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Africa, East
- Autonomy and independence movements -- History -- 20th century
- Civil service -- Nigeria, Eastern -- Colonies
- Colonial administrators -- Nigeria -- Correspondence
- Decolonization -- Great Britain -- Colonies -- History -- 20th century
- Great Britain -- Politics and government
- Social sciences

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Full range of shelfmarks:

MSS. 9452/1-17

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Visitors books of Sir Clement Pleass, 1911-1952 <u>Full range of shelfmarks:</u> MSS. 9452/1-3 <u>Language of Materials</u> English	box 606144197

Visitors' books of Sir Clement Pleass, 1911-1929

Scope and Contents

box 606144197

Contains:

- Visitors' book titled Lieutenant-Governor. June 1911 - November 1925 (intermittent)
- Visitors' book titled Lieutenant-Governor Southern Provinces. November 1925 - December 1929

Shelfmark MS. 9452/1

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Visitors' books of Sir Clement Pleass, 1952-1956

Scope and Contents

box 606144198

Contains:

- Visitors' book titled Sir Clem. Pleass and Lady Pleass. October 1954 - March 1956
- Visitors' book titled Sir Clement J. Pleass and Lady Please, also contains 4 typed clues for a treasure hunt. March 1956 - November 1956
- Visitors' book titled Mr C. J. Pleass and Mrs Pleass. May 1952 - September 1954

Shelfmark MS. 9452/2

Physical Description 1 box (3 folders)

Language of Materials English

Visitors' books of Sir Clement Pleass, 1939-1952

Scope and Contents

box 606144199

Contains:

- Visitors' book titled Enugu, also contains a list of muslin clothes. July 1939 - June 1953
- Visitors' book titled Mr C. J. Pleass and Mrs Pleass. May 1952 - May 1952

Shelfmark MS. 9452/3

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Diaries of Sir Clement Pleass, 1931-1959

Full range of shelfmarks: MSS. 6452/4-5

Language of Materials English

Appointment diaries of Sir Clement Pleass, 1951-1953

Scope and Contents

box 606144202

Contains:

- Diary of appointments, also contains correspondence from son A. M. Pleass. 1951
- Diary of appointments. 1952
- Diary of appointments. 1953

Shelfmark MS. 9452/4

Physical Description 1 box (3 folders)

Language of Materials English

Appointment diaries of Sir Clement Pleass, 1931-1959

Scope and Contents

box 606927401

Contains:

- Calendar diary. 1931
- Calendar diary. 1932
- Calendar diary. 1933
- Calendar diary. 1934
- Calendar diary. 1935
- Calendar diary. 1936
- Calendar diary. 1937
- Calendar diary. 1938
- Calendar diary. 1951
- Calendar diary. 1952
- Calendar diary. 1953
- Calendar diary. 1954
- Calendar diary. 1955
- Calendar diary. 1957
- Calendar diary. 1959

Shelfmark MS. 9452/5

Physical Description 1 box

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to Royal visits belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1956-1960

Full range of shelfmarks: MSS. 9452/6-9

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960 belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1958-1960

Scope and Contents

box 606144203

Contains:

- Promotional material: 'Nigercem' magazine from 1958, Port Harcourt guide, agenda of the opening of parliament 1960, agendas of Independence Ceremony 1 October 1960, map of the Nigeria Exhibition, book 'Eastern Nigeria' (Eastern Nigeria Ministry of Information, 1960), book 'Investment Opportunities in Eastern Nigeria' (the Economist Intelligence Unit, n. d.), pamphlet welcome message from the Federal Minister of Information, booklet advertising the University of Nigeria, booklets 'Medical Services, Eastern Nigeria', 'Agriculture, Eastern Nigeria', 'Development, Eastern Nigeria', 'Finance, Eastern Nigeria', 'Local Government, East Nigeria', 'Education, Eastern Nigeria', and pamphlets 'Freehold Houses for Sale', 'Welcome to Lagos', and 'Enugo'. 1958-1960
- Photograph Album documenting HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960. 1960
- Photographic negatives documenting HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960. 1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/6

Physical Description 1 box (3 folders)

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960 belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1960

Scope and Contents

box 606098937

Contains:

- Photographs of HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria. 1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/7

Physical Description 1 box (1 folder)

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960 belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1960

Scope and Contents

box 606144205

Contains:

- Programmes and invitations regarding HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960: programme of the Independence Tattoo 30 September 1960, detailed programmes, invitation to Sir Clement Pleass from the Rivers People's Dance Committee, booklet 'Nigerian Independence Celebration: National Pageant', Menu and invitations to commemorative events, programme for water regatta 2 October 1960, address of welcome, and order of service. 1960
- Newspapers commemorating HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent's visit to Nigeria in 1960: Eternal Gift, Nigerian Outlook, Sunday Times, The Service, Daily Express, West African Pilot. 1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/8

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Nigeria in 1956 belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1956

Scope and Contents

box 606144204

Contains:

- Printed addresses presented to HM the Queen with replies and farewell messages. 1956
- Newspapers and programmes regarding HM the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Nigeria. 1956

Shelfmark MS. 9452/9

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Reports, meeting papers and publications belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1949-1964

Full range of shelfmarks: MSS. 9452/10-15

Language of Materials English

Reports of Sir Clement Pleass, 1951

Scope and Contents

box 606144200

Contains:

- Roneo copy of draft report 'Conference on the Technique of Development Finance, Vol. I'; also contains correspondence from H. T. Bourdillon and copy of address by Eugene R. Black. 1951
- Roneo copy of draft report 'Conference on the Technique of Development Finance, Vol. II'; also contains correspondence from H. T. Bourdillon, and report from the Treasury on the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. 1951

Shelfmark MS. 9452/10

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Reports of Sir Clement Pleass, 1951-1960

Scope and Contents

box 606144201

Contains:

- Reports on Economic Development: costs of mechanized agriculture in Nigeria by W. T. Newlyn, n. d.; the oil palm economy of the Ibibio farmer, n. d.; land usage in the Sudan in relation to Nigerian mechanized groundnut scheme, n. d.; 10 year plan of development and welfare for the Cameroons under UK trusteeship, n. d.. n.d.
- Roneo copy of report on the Eastern Regional Development Plan 1955-60, with extract from address by Eugene R. Black, 1951, and correspondence from Oliver Lyttleton, 1953. 1951-1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/11

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Reports of Sir Clement Pleass, 1957-1964

Scope and Contents

box 606144206

Contains:

- Report of the Chairman of the CDC [Center for Disease Control and Prevention] tour of Nigeria, 24.11.1957-17.12. 1957
- Report of the Canon R. S. O. Stevens' visit to Nigeria, May-June 1963. 1963
- Unpublished typescript 'A Start in Freedom', autobiography by Sir Huhg Foot; also contains 3 newspaper clippings of reviews. 1964

Shelfmark MS. 9452/12

Physical Description 1 box (3 folders)

Language of Materials English

Reports of Sir Clement Pleass, 1949-1959

Scope and Contents

box 606098936

Contains:

- Reports on economic development: West African community development, the Eastern Provinces, medical research, civic education, A. G. Eyre report from tour 1952, the Niger Mission, the Commission of Enquiry, Commission of Taxation, Community Development, Banking and Finance, the oil palm of the Ibibio farmer, Rubber Estates, Committee on the Political Activities of Civil Servants, Drafting Committee, and Industrial and Urban Development. 1949-1959
- Reports on government: elections to the House of Representatives 1954 with personal notes, the House of Assembly, papers of the 1956 conference, papers from the 47th meeting of the Executive Council, and Board of Governors. 1951-1955

Shelfmark MS. 9452/13

Physical Description 1 box (2 folders)

Language of Materials English

Meeting papers and publications belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1951-1960

Scope and Contents

box 606098938

Contains:

- Minutes, Proposals, and Summaries from the Eastern Regional Executive Council, N.C.N.C., African Continental Bank, Eastern House of Assembly, and the House of Representatives of Nigeria. 1951-1956
- Papers from Board Meeting 08.01.1959. 1959
- Book by Kalu Ezera *Constitutional Developments in Nigeria* (Cambridge University Press, 1960), with hand written notes interleaved. 1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/14

Physical Description 1 box (3 folders)

Language of Materials English

Papers relating to the Constitutional Crisis and Tribunal of Inquiry belonging to Sir Clement Pleass, 1953-1956

Scope and Contents

box 606098934

Contains:

- Papers relating to the Constitutional Crisis 1953: correspondence with John Macpherson, G. G. Briggs, Arthur Benson, E. J. Gibbons, J. G. Mackenzie, and L. H. Goble, personal notes, report on the House of Assembly 12.02.1953, notes from conversation with Awolowo, notes from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northern Region, meeting notes, and notes from conversation with Northern Elements Progressive Union. 1953
- Papers relating to the Constitutional Crisis 1953: telegrams from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, correspondence with W. L. Gorell-Barnes, Arthur Benson, and J. Stocker, personal notes, and proposal New Constitution for Nigeria. 1953
- Papers relating to the Constitutional Crisis 1953: statement from the Onitsha Province, comments on Colonial Office Memorandum, and personal notes. 1953
- Papers relating to the Constitutional Crisis 1953: correspondence with Lieutenant Governors of Kaduna, Enugu, and Ibadan, Arthur Benson, H. R. E. Browne, E. J. Gibbons, John Macpherson, L. H. Goble, K. O. Mbadiwe, Nnamdi Azikiwe, W. L. Gorrell Barnes, clipping from the Daily Times 15.06.1953, notes from conversation with Azikiwe, notes from government meeting 19.06.1956, notes from council discussion 15.04.1953, proposal for a revised Nigerian Federal Constitution, and statement from the Onitsha Province. 1953
- Papers relating to the Tribunal of Inquiry and Counsel for Governors: correspondence from 1956 with G. F. Seel, K. J. Hilton, Sir Ralph Grey, T. B. Williamson, and Stephen Chapman, notes on 'White Paper', extract from conclusions of meeting of the Executive Council 05.06.1956 and 20.06.1956, report of the Native Courts 1953, draft bill for a customary courts ordinance, and departure notice for Stephen Chapman. 1953-1956
- Correspondence with T. B. Williamson, H. B. Shepheard, C. G. Eastwood, A. T. Lennox-Boyd, Sir Hugo Marshall, the Hon. M. Ojike, Sir James Robertson, and A. D. Garson. 1954-1956

Shelfmark MS. 9452/15

Physical Description 1 box (6 folders)

Language of Materials English

Correspondence of Sir Clement Pleass, 1951-1960

Full range of shelfmarks: MS. 6452/16

Language of Materials English

Correspondence of Sir Clement Pleass, 1951-1960

Scope and Contents

box 606098935

Contains:

- Correspondence with: T. B. Williamson, James Robertson, G. C. Eastwood, B. H. Brackenbury, R. F. A. Grey, A. T. Lennox-Boyd, Thomas Lloyd, John Hare, R. A. Harding, John Macpherson, Mallam Abdu Ismalla, O. P. Gunning, Oliver Lyttelton, Vernon Bartlett, Gerard Lewis Howe, Cuthbert Mayne, M. T. Mbu, and Nnamdi Azikiwe. 1951-1960

Shelfmark MS. 9452/16

Physical Description 1 box (1 folder)

Language of Materials English

Mixed media of Sir Clement Pleass, 1928, 1950-1966, bulk: 1950-1966

Full range of shelfmarks: MS. 9452/17

Language of Materials English

Mixed media of Sir Clement Pleass, 1928, 1950-1966, bulk: 1950-1966

Scope and Contents

box 606098939

Contains:

- Newspaper clippings: Nigerian Independence and Tribunal of Inquiry. 1956-1960
- Newspapers: Daily Times, Sunday Times, Daily Service, New Statesman, Nigerian Pioneer, and Eastern Sentinel. 1928, 1950-1966
- Printed material: booklet on Eastern Nigeria, armorial bearings, booklet on Women's Corona Society, Nigerian savings certificates, 5th anniversary souvenir invitation programme, and covers to programme companions. 1956
- Photographs. n.d.
- Film reel 'Presented to Sir Clement Pleass KBE CMR by the Nigeria Police, Easten Region, as a souvenir of his installation as Governor on 1st October 1954' (closed). 1954

Conditions Governing Access

Some material is closed.

Shelfmark MS. 9452/17

Physical Description 1 box (5 folders)

Language of Materials English