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American University of Beirut
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Stephen Penrose Collection, 1948-1954

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB
Prepared by Yasmine Younes

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: AA:2.3.5

Library Catalog ID: [b14618114](#)

Record Creator: Penrose, Stephen B. L. (Stephen Beasley Linnard), 1908-1954.

Collection Title: Stephen Penrose Collection, 1948-1954.

Collection Dates: 1948-1954

Physical Description: 6 boxes (2 linear feet)

Language(s): English and Arabic

Abstract: Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose (1908-1954) was the fourth president of the American University of Beirut, 1948-1954, after the retirement of President Bayard Dodge in 1948. Dr. Penrose played vital roles during his days in office in the fund-raising campaign, Point Four program, and in establishing the School of Public Health, which became the Faculty of Health Sciences. The small collection includes some correspondence, documents on President Penrose inauguration ceremony, financial campaign, conferences papers like the third UNESCO Conference in Beirut in 1953, United States tour, political articles and addresses, and death announcements, in addition to Penrose Memorial Fund documents.

Administrative Information

Source: N/A

Access Restrictions: The collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

Photocopying Restriction: No photocopying restriction except for fragile and handwritten material.

Preferred Citation: Stephen Penrose Collection, 1948-1954, AA:2.3.5, Box no., File no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives

Scope and Content

This collection includes documents related to Stephen Penrose service at AUB, list of his publications, a finding aid of Dr. Penrose papers in Whitman College, as well as some biographical information, correspondence, inauguration ceremony leaflets, financial campaign, conferences, United States tour, his political articles and addresses, his death announcements and press clippings, in addition to Penrose Memorial Fund. It is important to researchers interested in AUB history during critical time that the Middle East was passing by between 1948 and 1954. It also reflects the point of view of President of an American academic institution in the political issues of the area at that time.

Biographical Sketch

Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose, Jr. was born on March 19, 1908 in Walla Walla, Washington. He was the son of Whitman College President, Stephen B.L. Penrose, Sr. .In 1928, graduated magna cum laude from Whitman College with a BA in Greek language and chemistry. He came to AUB where he taught physics from 1928 to 1931. Penrose then returned to the US and enrolled at Columbia University, receiving a PhD in philosophy in 1934; that same year he married Margaret Dale whom he met at Columbia. Dr. Penrose became a professor of philosophy and

psychology in Rockford University, Illinois, 1938-1942, and served as the assistant director of the Near East Colleges Association, New York, 1942- 1954. Dr. Penrose was the special assistant to the office of Strategic Services and in 1947; he served as the assistant secretary to the Secretary of Defense, Washington. In 1948, Dr. Penrose was appointed as the advisor to the US delegation to the third UNESCO conference that same year he succeeded Bayard Dodge as fourth AUB President and was inaugurated at the opening ceremony of the 1948-1949 academic year.

The job of president of both AUB and International College was a challenging one. Penrose needed funds to keep both institutions going. Penrose had ambitious plans to raise ten and a half million dollars to cover the budget of the University for the next ten years. For accomplishing his goal, he traveled extensively in 1954 making numerous trips to the US to secure the financing needed for expansion. He died on December 9, 1954. The Penrose couple had three children: Margaret Dale, Mary Shipman (Polly), and Stephen Beasley Linnard (Stevie) Penrose, III.

During his six years as AUB president, Penrose established an Arab Studied Program, Schools of Engineering and Agriculture, the Department of Public administration, an Institute of Economic Research, School of public Health, the Office of Dean of Students and a Student Council. New buildings were erected: School of Engineering, the Jafet Memorial Library, the Gulbenkian Infirmary, Faculty apartments, a new wing for the University Hospital, and a classroom building and farm complex for the School of agriculture in addition to all of these two Arab vice presidents were appointed.

President Penrose wrote a book on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the University, 1941, "That They May Have Life", an invaluable resource of the history of the American University of Beirut.

Subject Headings

Penrose, Stephen B.L. (Stephen Beasley Linnard), 1907-1954.
American University of Beirut -- Presidents.
American University of Beirut -- Presidents -- Correspondence.
Middle East -- Foreign relations -- United States.
Middle East -- Foreign relations -- Middle East.
Inauguration ceremonies.
Memorial Rites and ceremonies.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

- Series I:** Biography, Articles, Correspondences.
- Series II:** Functions as AUB President: Inauguration, Point Four Program, fund raising campaign, addresses and articles
- Series III:** Honoring and condolences.

Container List

Series I: Biography, Articles, Correspondences

Box 1: Biography

File 1: Biography, list of President Penrose publications.

File 2: Finding aid of Dr. Penrose papers in Whitman College.

File 3: Correspondence of President and Mrs. Penrose with their family: Description of inauguration ceremony, college life, social life, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to AUB and Arabic lessons

File 4: Announcement of the death of Mrs. Stephen Penrose, March 1993

Series II: Functions as AUB President: Inauguration, Point Four Program, Fund raising campaign, addresses and articles

Box 2: Inauguration

File 1: Committee on the Inauguration; Notice to members of the University Senate, June August 1948.

File 2: Program, invitation cards, list of official guests from different colleges and universities; Suggestions for overseas coverage; Forms of invitation letters.

File 3: Invitation cards, congratulations and regret letters, September- October 1948.

File 4: Inaugural Address: خطاب حفل التنصيب، October 1, 1948.

File 5: Press Summary about the Inauguration, 1 October 1948.

File 6: Press Clippings on the Inauguration.

Box 3: Point 4; Financial Campaign; Inter-office correspondence.

File 1: Point 4 Program, April 1951; Regional Training Program.

File 2: Financial Campaign report 1951: America and the Middle East; Statement by the Board of Trustees; Statement by the President of the American University of Beirut, AUB's importance to the area, its aims, its needs; President's annual report to the Board of Trustees, 1952-1953.

File 3: Inter-office correspondence, October 1952-June 1959.

Box 4: Conferences, United States Tour, Political articles and addresses.

File 1: Conferences: 3rd UNESCO Conference in Beirut, 1948-1950; Audio-Visual Conference, September 1953, مؤتمر جامعة بيروت الأميركية لدرس استخدام "السمع والبصر" في التربية.

File 2: United States Tour: Press Clippings on political addresses, articles and interviews: 4 Steps Suggested as policy on Palestine, 14 March 1948; Letters to our recognition of Israel, 20 May 1948; The Arab do not love us anymore, from Reader's Digest, June 1952; Penrose leaves on United States Tour, 23 October 1952.

وثيقة خطيرة: تحيز ايزنهاور وستيفنسون لإسرائيل، من جريدة الاهرام، ٤، نوفمبر، ١٩٥٢
Articles about AUB, Near East College Association, 15 December 1952.

Israeli stand on Arabs, by Penrose in New York Times, 29 December 1952.

يونيو مرب أميركي يقول: اذا خسر العالم الحر الشرق الاوسط حلت الفوضى الاقتصادية بأوروبا والولايات المتحدة،
الاهرام، ٤، ١٩٥٣

سررت بالتبدل الاميركي بقدر سروري بالمليونين، الحياة، ٢٩ يونيو ١٩٥٣

Dr. Penrose back from [US] tour with impressive accomplishments, from Al-Kulliyah
October 1953. Here is my home, 17 October 1953; What is Democracy, 6 December
1954?

File 3: Addresses: Commencement, 30 June 1954. - ١١ - افتتاح العام الجامعي، ١١ - 30 June 1954.

Dedication of the new hospital wing, 6 November 1954; Address on the Prophet's
Birthday, 8 November 1954.

Series III: Honoring and condolences

Box 5: Death announcement and press clippings.

File 1: Announcement, 9 December 1954.

الاميركية تنعي بنروز مع لمحة عن سيرته الذاتية.

Minutes on his death, 20 December 1954.

File 2: Letters and Cables received on his death, 9-10 December 1954.

File 3: Letters and Cables received on his death, 11- 27 December 1954.

File 4: Letters and replies to condolences, December 1954-January 1955.

File 5: List of Penrose funeral flowers wreaths senders.

File 6: Press clippings on the funeral, 9-10 December 1954.

File 7: Press clippings on the funeral, 11 December 1954.

File 8: Press clippings on the funeral, 12 December- February 1954.

File 9: Translation of press clippings.

Box 6: Penrose Memorial Fund.

File 1: Penrose Memorial Fund: Report, committee, Penrose Residence Hall, December 1954.

File 2: Penrose Memorial Fund: Accounts, receipts, contributions letters, December 1954-
December 1956.

File 3: Penrose Memorial Fund: New York Office: Report, list of contributors, December
1954-1956.

File 4: Penrose Memorial Service in USA, January 1955.

File 5: Penrose Memorial Fund: Donations, January 1955-December 1956.

File 6: Letters acknowledging donations, June 1955-August 1956.

File 7: Memorial Issue in the Newsletter of American University of Beirut, v.5, no. 1, February
1955; In Memoriam.

File 8: Penrose Memorial Service at University Chapel, 9 December 1955.

File 9: Request of a portrait painting of Dr. Penrose, May 1956.

File 10: 50th Anniversary of the death of Stephen Penrose, 9 December 2004.

Related Material

Archival Material

- **Students Awards** [AA:1.9.1.2](#) Box 2: AUB Students Award: Penrose Award.
- **Student Housing and Resident life, 1930s-** [AA:4.1.1.3.5](#) Box 3, files 6-7, The Campus of the American University of Beirut model and plan; Stephen B. L. Penrose 1908-1954;
- **Personnel Department**, 1924-2005: Boxes 8-9, [AA:2.5.0.3](#) Box 8 1954-1964 File 5: M-N: Penrose's death
- **International College (IC)**, [AA:7.8.5](#) Box 1 File 10: Letters written by the Rev. Theodore Nace, and remarks on his meeting with President Penrose, 1947-1949.
- **Students 1920s**, [AA:4.3.4](#) Box 3 File 12: Letter from Acting President Constantine Zurayk to President Penrose in New York, detailing Student unrest and demonstration, March-April, 1954.
- **Office of University Publications** 1970, [AA: 2.5.2.10.2](#) File 8: Stephen B. L. Penrose "That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut, 1866-1941": Correspondence

Photos

- Stephen Penrose's 50th commemoration, 2004, Simonian, Nishan, [Ph:AUB:2004/12/09\(01\):1-8:78](#)
- Mrs. Stephen Penrose with her son at the Penrose Hall dedication ceremony, [Ph:AUB:1960\(01\):01:49](#)
- Visitors on campus with president Stephen Penrose, 1948-1954, [Ph:AUB:1948-1954\(02\):1-4:43](#)
- President Stephen Penrose Awarded by free Polish Government, 1950, [Ph:AUB:1950/12/01\(01\):01:44](#)
- Stephen Penrose at different occasions, 1950, [Ph:AUB:1950s\(02\):1-19:44](#)
- President Stephen Penrose giving his speech at commencement, 1950, Photo Sayak, [Ph:AUB:1950/06/26\(01\):01:44](#)
- President Stephen Penrose giving a speech during the Memorial Ceremony for Ahmad Khalidy, 1950, Nohra, Antoine, [Ph:AUB:1950/11/15:01:44](#)
- Mrs. Stephen Penrose with her three children, 1948, [Ph:AUB:1948\(02\):01:43](#)
- Visit of Stephen B. Penrose, Joseph Sudki and Samuel Edgecombe to AREC Farm, 1954, [Ph:AUB:1954\(12\):01:46](#)
- Funeral procession of President Stephen B.L. Penrose, 1954, [Ph:AUB:1954/12/10:1-29:46](#)
- Luncheon in honor of President Stephen B.L. Penrose at the Alumni Club, 1953, [Ph:AUB:1953/09/02\(02\):1-8:45](#)
- Plaque awarded to president Stephen B. L. Penrose, 1953, [Ph:AUB: 1953/04/26:01:45](#)
- Stephen B.L. Penrose and Charles Malik, 1950s, Dynamo pictures, [Ph:AUB: 1950s\(39\):01:44](#)
- Inauguration of Stephen B.L. Penrose, 1948, [Ph:AUB:1948/10/01\(01\):1-2:43](#), [Ph:AUB:1948/10/01\(01\):1-51:43](#)
- Rev. Daniel Bliss Dr. Stephen B.L. Penrose, 1948, [Ph:AUB:1948\(08\):1-3:43](#)
- Portraits of Stephen B.L. Penrose, Ph:AUB:1948-1954(01):01:26, [Ph:AUB:1948\(01\):1-14:43](#)
- Donation by Beirut Propeller Club Ball Penrose Memorial Fund, 1955, [Ph:AUB:1955/04/16\(01\):1-3:46](#)
- Penrose Hall plaque, 1955, [Ph:AUB:1955\(04\):01:46](#)

- Public Health Commencement ceremony, 1954, [Ph:AUB:1954/09/02:1-4:46](#)
- Dedication ceremony of new hospital wing, 1954, [Ph:AUB:1954/11/06:1-20:46](#)
- Commencement, 1954, Photo Sayak, [Ph:AUB:1954/06/28:1-12:46](#)
- Public Health Commencement ceremony, 1953, [Ph:AUB:1953/09/02\(01\):1-9:45](#)
- Visit of Congressmen Leroy Johnson and C.S. Ducander to campus, 1953, [Ph:AUB:1953/10/26:1-2:45](#)
- Photograph album, the American University of Beirut, 1953-1955, Photo Paramount, [Ph:AUB:1953-1955:1-111:45](#)
- Visit of Eleanor Roosevelt to AUB, 1952, [Ph:AUB:1952/02/10:1-2:45](#)
- President Penrose's reception, 1951, Photo Sayak, [Ph:AUB:1951/06\(01\):1-5:44](#)
- Commencement, 1951 , Photo Sayak, [Ph:AUB:1951/06\(02\):1-20:44](#)
- Visit of Yemeni delegation to American University of Beirut, 1950s, Albert Issa and Hadaya. [Ph:AUB:1950s\(41\):01:44](#)
- Exhibition on Public Health attended by Prime Minister Riad El-Solh, 1949, American University of Beirut. University Health Services, [Ph:AUB:1949/01/20:1-3:43](#)

Books

- Penrose, Stephen B. L. (1951). The Palestine problem: retrospect and prospect. Beirut: World Council of Churches. [J:956.94:P417p:c.1](#)
- Penrose, Stephen B. L. (1954). The Palestine Problem: retrospect and prospect. New York: American Friends of the Middle East. [CA 956.94:P417pa:c.1](#)
- Farley, Shirley Rogers, Peel, Patrick. (1993). Papers of Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr., 1908-1954 Walla Walla, WA: Northwest and Whitman College Archives. [CA: 378.5692:P417p:c.1](#)
- Penrose, Stephen B.L. (1970). That they may have life: the story of the American University of Beirut 1866-1941. Beirut: American University of Beirut. [LB 2301 P417t 1970 LEB](#)
- Penrose, Stephen B. L. (1941). That they may have life: the story of the American University of Beirut, 1866-1941 / New York: Trustees of American University of Beirut. [CA: AUB: 378.5692:P417t:1941 c1](#)
- Penrose, Stephen B. L. (1934). The reputation and influence of Francis Bacon in the seventeenth century [CA: 192. 1:P41r:c1](#)

Articles by or about Stephen Penrose

- AUB president trip: Dr. Penrose at N.Y. Alumni dinner, Kulliyah, v.28 (1953:Jun.), p. 39
- Alumni banquet in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1949:Feb.) p.19-22.
- At the installation Ceremony of Dr. Stephen B. L. Penrose, delegates of Universities and colleges, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1948: Nov.), p.5-7
- At the installation ceremony of Dr. Stephen B.L. Penrose, delegates of Universities and colleges, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1948:Nov.) p.8
- At the installation ceremony of Dr. Stephen B.L. Penrose, delegates of Universities and colleges, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1948: Nov.), p.4-7
- Presidents Penrose's speech at 80th commencement, AUB – June 26th, Kulliyah, v. 25 (1950: Jun-Jul.)

- If I were twins for a day. Stephen B. L. Penrose installation ceremony of Dr. Stephen Penrose, delegates of Universities and Colleges, Kulliyah, v 25 (1950:May), p.3
- Dr. Penrose and Alumni educators participate in “L’Orient” Forum, Kulliyah, v. 28 (1953: Nov.), p.35.
- Dr. Penrose back from tour with impressive accomplishments, Kulliyah, v. 28 (1953: Nov.), p. 36-37
- Dr. Penrose first message to his students, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1948:Oct.), p. 9-10
- Dr. Penrose travels, speaks: Extracts from the AUB president’s remarks at the Lebanon Club, Rio de Janeiro, Kulliyah, v. 28 (1953:Aug.), p. 27-28, 31
- From Dr. Stephen B. L. Penrose to Alumni, from the Penrose scrapbook, Kulliyah, v. 23 (23 (1948: Mar.)
- Far Beyond Sannin... S. B. L. Penrose. Kulliyah. v. 30 (1955: Jan.)
- First Football match. Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 25 (1950: Aug. – Sep.)
- First year of the Penrose regime Stephen B.L. Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 16 (1930: Jun.), p. 8.
- First Football match. Penrose football, Kulliyah, v. 16 (1930:Jun.), p. 201.
- Can you help the Palestinian students, Stephen Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 24 (1949: Feb.) p. 25.
- Building the voltage. Stephen B. L. Penrose, Banquets, Kulliyah, v.28 (1953: Nov.)
- Operation Pontius Pilate, Stephen B. L. Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 28 (1953. Feb.) p. 21.
- Pack trip in the Lebanon Mountains, Stephen B. L. Penrose, Kulliyah, v. 25 (1950: Aug-Sep), p. 17-19, 32.
- Penrose Cited in the U. S. Congress. Kulliyah, v. 24 (1949: March), p. 23-24

Related Digital Resources

- [AUB Commemorates 50 years of the Death of President Stephen B. Penrose](#)
- [Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose grave](#)
- [Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose](#)
- [Obituary for Stephen b. l. Penrose \(aged 46\)](#)
- [Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr. Papers, 1908-1990](#)