



## **Inventory**

**Acc 8699**

**Papers of John B Kinross CBE**

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John Blythe Kinross (b.1904) was the son of John Kinross RSA, an Edinburgh architect. Early in life he developed an interest in financial matters, and after a short period in industry in Scotland left in 1928 for England, where he worked first of all for Sir Arthur Wheeler and the Gresham Trust, and then in various Issuing Houses of his own, before becoming involved, from its foundation in 1945, with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), an organisation formed specifically to finance small businesses, a subject on which Kinross had long held strong and innovatory views.

From the 1950's Kinross became interested in a number of important charitable works, mostly financed through the Mary Kinross Charitable Trust of which he is the founder. He has also done a great deal of work for the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal Scottish Academy, and for the foundation of university research scholarships. He was also, when young, a skilled actor and stage manager, and his papers contain a considerable amount of material relating to theatrical life in Edinburgh in the 1920s.

The main interest of the collection lies in the material to ICFC, to the financing of small businesses, and in general to Kinross's activities in the City of London from 1928 to the present day. In addition to formal business, the papers contain a significant quantity of private correspondence, and some interest diaries. All the papers carry useful and sometimes lengthy annotations by Kinross himself. The papers were used extensively for his autobiography Fifty Years in the City, 1982.

The general arrangements is as follows:

1-2. Correspondence and papers relating to the establishment of ICFC and its relations with the Committee of London Clearing Banks (CLCB). This consists of copies of correspondence from the files of the Bank of England, Barclays Bank, and the Westminster Bank, along with original material of Mr Kinross, and William Piercy, Lord Piercy, the first chairman of ICFC. The correspondence documents the early efforts to fill the 'Macmillan Gap', the subsequent birth of ICFC, the suspicion with which it was viewed by the CLCB, its early years, and its final success.

1. 1934-52.                      2. 1953-65.

3-4. Memoranda and correspondence relating to the management, organisation and staffing of ICFC.

3. 1945-66.                      4. 1967-83.

5. Letters and papers relating to the takeover of Finance Corporation for Industry by ICFC, 1964-74.

6. Letters of and concerning Lord Piercy, 1945-79. Piercy was the first chairman of ICFC, and he and Kinross developed a close business and personal friendship. These papers cover this relationship from its beginning in 1945 to Piercy's death in 1966, and include material relating to his obituary, and to the article on him for the Dictionary of National Biography.
7. Printed annual reports of ICFC, 1946-62.
8. 'ICFC 1945-61', a typescript history of the corporation compiled by Kinross and Dr Alan Butt-Philip.
9. Unallocated.
10. Appendices not included in 'ICFC 1945-1961', and two chapters concerning Joseph Braunsberg and Wood Bros (Glossop) Ltd which it was decided to exclude on account of their complexity.
11. Prospectuses, correspondence, and other papers relating to the Gresham Trust, ca 1927-33.
12. Prospectuses and other papers relating to the Cheviot Trust run by Kinross from 1934 when he left Gresham's and set up business on his own. Most of the papers relating to this enterprise with which Kinross was involved from 1934 to 1938 were destroyed by bombing in the war.

This folder also contains one Covenant Trust prospectus, 1936 (a Trust that Kinross ran concurrently with Cheviot), and one Montrose Trust issue, 1939, the Trust which succeeded Cheviot.

13. Clients' Syndicate. Notes 1954-60 prepared by Kinross for the small group of people whose investments he look after.
14. Estate Duties Investment Trust (EDITH). This was an offshoot of ICFC, designed specifically to deal with the problem presented by death duties for privately owned companies. The folder includes papers, 1952-5, relating to Lincoln Electric, the prototype EDITH arrangement, other EDITH papers, 1952-6, and annual accounts, 1953-78.
15. Papers relating to the firm of George Outram and Co, and in particular to the attempted takeover of the company by the Thomson Organisation in 1964. This folder includes a detailed narrative of the events surrounding the Thomson bid, and of the action taken by Kinross and Lord Fraser to defeat it. It also contains related press-cuttings and subsequent correspondence.

16. Diaries, speeches, correspondence and other papers relating to Kinross's visits to Australia in 1971, 1976 and 1977 (the last of these trips included visits to New Zealand and Hong Kong). Kinross's purpose was to investigate the investment possibilities of Australia, and to advise the Reserve Bank of Australia on the setting up of an Australian ICFC.
17. Correspondence of Kinross and Betram Ogle, 1970-9, concerning the case of the United Diamond Fields of British Guiana against Barnato Brothers, 1930. (For the printed transcript of the proceedings, see Dep.377).
18. Papers relating to Scottish Industrial Finance – the name given to Glasgow Industrial Finance after its takeover by ICFC in 1964 – including prospectuses for some issues, 1965-9.
19. Papers connected with various financial undertakings:

British Corosit Button Co: copies of a speech made by Kinross at a creditors' and shareholders' meeting, 1931.

Old Gate Estates Ltd: transcript of the evidence of Kinross in the case against the valuers Topliss, Harding and Russell, 1939.

Crown Flour Mills: Printed report and accounts, 1939, 1942.

Public Benefit Boot Co: Printed note concerning the board, ca. 1940.

Col W A Bristow, the inventor of coalite: Autographed copy of Scope for July 1943, carrying an article about him.

Texas Land and Mortgage Co: papers connected with the attempt by Sir Denys Lawson to take it over, including Kinross's attack on Lawson at a shareholders' meeting in 1944.

Sterling poultry: Printed papers, 1955-60, with two letters of G G Belfield, 1953, 1958.

Technical Development Capital: correspondence of Kinross with Sir John Benn, 1962-5.

London Atlantic Investment Trust: propectus, 1966.

City of London Real Property Co: take over document by the Land Securities Investment Trust, 1969.

Miscellaneous printed prospectuses, 1927-8, 1936, including Beecham's Pills, and the Ford Motor Company.

Prospectuses, 1928: examples of near fraudulent issues.

Steel Industries of Great Britain Ltd: History of the formation of the Company, 1929, by Peter Morison.

20. Papers, 1953-83, connected with funds for the Royal Scottish Academy. This consists of some material relating to the John Kinross Memorial Fund, established for the widows of academicians (and in memory of Kinross's father whose widow was helped by the RSA), and of correspondence, reports etc relating to the fund established by Kinross to provide scholarships for study by Scottish art students in Florence.
21. Correspondence and papers connected with fundraising for the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 1954-67; this related to money raised for the Faculty of Anaesthetists, and for research into autoimmunity under Rupert Vaughan Hudson.
22. The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust, correspondence, papers and annual accounts, 1958-84.
23. Memoranda and accounts relating to Island Properties Ltd, 1959-84, a company substantially owned by the Mary Kinross Charitable Trust.
24. Correspondence, printed accounts, and memoranda relating to the Investment Trust of Guernsey, 1959-80.
25. Papers relating to ICFC Guernsey, 1984.
26. Correspondence, 1982-3, relating to the establishment of the Stanley Baldwin Fund at Cambridge University for research into British political history, 1919-39.

Correspondence relating to appeals for funds for the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, 1979.

Papers relating to the establishment of Bendrigg Lodge as a residential centre for the disadvantaged, 1968, 1979-80.

27-29. General correspondence.

27. 1920, 1927-62.      28. 1963-7.      29.1968-84, n.d.
30. Passports, 1938, 1957.
- Miscellaneous small pocket diaries, 1916, 1918-21, 1923. These cover Kinross's boyhood and early working years. He has added considerable annotations, particularly relating to the people he mentions.
31. Diary, 1928.
32. Private Cashbook, 1930-1.
- 33-41. Diaries. These vary from simple lists of appointments to very substantial accounts of a day's activities. They have all be extensively annotated in 1984.
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| 33. 1945 | 38. 1953 |
| 34. 1947 | 39. 1954 |
| 35. 1948 | 40. 1955 |
| 36. 1950 | 41. 1964 |
| 37. 1951 |          |
42. Extracts from office engagement diaries, 1949-77; holiday diaries: Italy, 1955, Marjorca, 1956; Cote d'Azur, 1957; English Lakes, 1965.
43. The original versions of what were to have been chapters 19-21 of Fifty Years in the City. These include information about Kinross's business trips to Australia and Hong Kong in 1976-7.
44. Album of presscuttings relating to Kinross's financial activities from the time he left Gresham's in 1933, to 1964.
45. Loose presscuttings, 1926-82, including no.2 of The British Gazette, 6 May 1926.
46. Curriculum vitae, 1931, 1966.
- Biographical Memoranda: possible knighthood, 1976.  
'Morality of the Distribution of Wealth', 1984.  
'My Stock Exchange Dealings', 1928-38.
- School Reports, 1916-20.
- Certificate of church membership, 1919 (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh).

- Option certificate for Hampton Properties shares, 1919.
- Notes on private financial affairs, 1920-30.  
Testimonials, 1927.
- Correspondence relating to an interview with Sir Eric Geddes, 1928.
- Brochure for United Wireworks, 1928, with two early contracts of employment, ca 1883, 1890.
- Note of income and expenditure, 1928-32.
47. Guest lists including Kinross, 1947-80.
- Company reports containing material to Kinross, 1982-4.
48. Papers relating to Service Fisheries, a retail business run by Kinross in Leith, 1925-6.
- Leaflet for Woodmans Farm Chicks, 1943.
- Brochures for the sale of Springfold House, Haslemere, 1942, and Blythe Cottage, Middlesmoor, Yorkshire, 1957.
49. Papers, advertisements, programmes etc for plays in which Kinross was involved either as an actor, or as a stage manager and supplier of scenery and lighting, 1921-7.
50. Theatre programmes:
- King's Theatre, Edinburgh, 1921-8.
- Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, 1919-28.
- London Theatre, 1924-81.
51. Literary material by Kinross.
- Notes on wire weaving, 1920-1.
- Notes in connection with new issues.
- Printed pamphlet concerning the services offered by ICFC, ca 1950.

Paper for delivery at a seminar at the London School of Economics on 'Practical Problems of Choosing Investment Projects', 1951.

Paper read at Nottingham University on 'Floating New Issues for Small Scale Businesses', 1951.

Speech at lunch of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants, 1950, and miscellaneous other articles and speeches relating to financing small businesses, 1951-83. Many of these were written for publication in The Accountant, and by the British Institute of Management, or were delivered on different ICFC celebratory occasions.

Note on 'the Art of negotiation', 1980.

52. Articles by 'The Successful Investor' (ie Kinross) for the Investor's Chronicle, 1954-64, with some associated presscuttings and correspondence.
53. Typescript of a proposed book on understanding prospectuses, 1928.
54. Children's stories.
55. Papers of John Kinross RSA.

This includes a list of his major works, an inventory of his personal estate, 1931; his Edinburgh Burgess Ticket, 1897; three investment books, 1921, 1924, 1928; and a typescript 'Account of the Family of Kinross', by John Kinross ( a different one), 1934.

56. Photocopies of letters of John Kinross senior to his son, 1928-30, and from Mrs Kinross, 1928-35.
57. Letters to Kinross's mother, 1904; her investment book, 1931-5; letters to her from her son, 1933-5; and her address book.
58. Photographs, mostly of Kinross, ca 1936 – ca 1984.