

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Kenya National Archives microfilm collection (C003)

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Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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Kenya National Archives microfilm collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	Kenya National Archives microfilm collection
ID:	C003
Date:	[196-] (date of creation)
Date:	[1886-1962] (date of creation)
Physical description:	139 microfilm reels
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Kenya National Archives, now known as the Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service (KNADS), was established in 1965 by an Act of Parliament. KNADS mission is to preserve and make accessible the information resources of the Republic of Kenya. Initially KNADS was placed under the office of the Vice President and the Minister of Home Affairs. Currently it is under the office of the Vice-President and the Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture.

KNADS Director is John G. M'reria (2008-present). Past Directors include Mr. Musila Musembi (1991-2005) and Lawrence I. Mwangi (2005-2008). Past Archivists include: C. Bwye (Senior Registry Superintendent, 1956-1959), R. R. Mann (Archivist, 1960-1961; Controller of Office Services, 1961-1962), Derek Charman (Archivist, 1963-1965), Nathan W. Fedha (Government Archivist, 1965 – 1974), Maina Kagombe (Chief Archivist, 1974-1981), and Musila Musembi (Chief Archivist, 1982-1990).

Custodial history

The original documents were collected and microfilmed by Syracuse University in collaboration with Nathan Fedha, the Chief Archivist of Kenya, in the mid-1960s. The microfilms were purchased for Loyola College from the Kenya National Archives ca. 1972.

Scope and content

Mainly consists of archival materials documenting the actions and activities of the British colonial and the post-colonial governments in Kenya between the late 1880s through the early 1960s. 139 microfilm reels

contain copies of thousands of government records, including annual and quarterly reports, intelligence reports, correspondence, secretariat circulars, and record books, amongst others. These once confidential records serve to document the economic, social, religious, and political upheavals in Kenya in the twentieth century leading to its independence from the United Kingdom in 1963.

The Collection is divided into 6 series, which were assigned to the documents when they were first microfilmed by Syracuse University:

C003/A Provincial and district annual and quarterly reports

C003/B Provincial and district record books

C003/C Provincial and district handing over reports

C003/D Correspondence

C003/E Intelligence reports

C003/F Secretariat circulars

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on provenance of the collection.

Physical condition

Microfilm reels generally in good condition. Some fading has occurred.

Immediate source of acquisition

Purchased from the Kenya National Archives ca. 1972.

Arrangement

Original order of the material has been maintained.

Location of originals

Originals in Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service.

Conditions governing use

No reproductions can be made in part or in full without prior written consent of the copyright holder.
No material can be published in part or in full without prior written consent of the copyright holder.

Finding aids

Box list, indexes, and guides available.

The following indexes are available: geographic, subject, and author.

Unpublished guide to the collection prepared by Edward A. Collister (1977-1981).

Other useful guide: Gregory, R.G., Maxon, R.M., & Spencer, L.P. (1968). A guide to the Kenya

National Archives: to the microfilms of the provincial and district annual reports, record books, and

handing-over reports, miscellaneous correspondence, and intelligence reports. Syracuse University Eastern African Bibliographical Series No. 3, Kenya. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University. These resources are available for consultation in the Special Collections reading room.

Related material

Syracuse University Libraries', Syracuse, New York, and the Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, Illinois, have microforms from the Kenya National Archives in their collections.

Accruals

No further accruals expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final
- **Conservation:** Microfilm boxes replaced when necessary.
- **Rights:** Copyright held by the Kenya National Archives and documentation Service.

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Series C003/A: Provincial and district annual and quarterly reports

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Date: [1906-1962] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of provincial and district annual and quarterly reports dating between 1906 and 1962.

Physical description: 56 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series C003/B: Provincial and district record books

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Date: [1888-1959] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of provincial and district record books dating between 1888 and 1959.

Physical description: 34 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series C003/C: Provincial and district handing over reports

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Date: [1910-1962] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of provincial and district handing over reports dating between 1910 and 1962.

Physical description: 14 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series C003/D: Correspondence

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Date: [1896-1962] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of miscellaneous correspondence dating between 1896 and 1962.

Physical description: 11 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series C003/E: Intelligence reports

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Date: [1921-1951] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of intelligence reports dated between 1921 and 1951.

Physical description: 12 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series C003/F: Secretariat circulars

Date: [before 1962] (date of creation)

Date: [196-] (reproduction) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Consists of Secretariat circulars dating before 1962.

Physical description: 5 microfilm reels

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list