



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Gerald Grey Fitzmaurice papers

1939-1971

MssCol 18381

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2011

Summary

Creator: Fitzmaurice, Gerald, 1901-1982 -- Sir

Title: Gerald Grey Fitzmaurice papers

Date: 1939-1971

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract: Sir Gerald Grey Fitzmaurice (1901–1982) was an English barrister and judge who was actively involved in advising the British government until 1960, and later became a judge in the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the main judicial organ of the United Nations, and the European Court of Human Rights. His papers document his career beginning with his work as legal advisor to the Ministry of Economic Warfare through his work with the United Nations.

Preferred citation: Gerald Grey Fitzmaurice papers, Patricia Cornwell collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Kit Messick, 2011

Related Materials:

Forms part of [Patricia Cornwell collection](#)

Creator History

Sir Gerald Grey Fitzmaurice (1901–1982) was born on 24 October 1901 to Vice-Admiral Sir Maurice Swynfen Fitzmaurice and Mabel Gertrude Gray. He gained a Bachelor of Laws at Cambridge in 1922. He became a Barrister-at-Law at Gray's Inn in 1925. After five years of law practice, Fitzmaurice was appointed assistant legal adviser to the Foreign Office. He remained in government service until 1960. He was principal legal adviser to the Ministry of Economic Warfare from 1939 to 1943, during the early years of the Second World War, dealing with the important subject of contraband control, and returned to the Foreign Office as deputy legal adviser in 1943. Fitzmaurice was the British counsel to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the main judicial organ of the United Nations, between 1948 and 1954, and served as the Senior Legal Advisor between 1953 and 1960, after which he as

elected as a judge of the International Court. After his retirement from the International Court 1973, he sat on the European Court of Human Rights from 1974 to 1980. He was a member of the Grotius Society, and was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1960.

Scope and Content Note

The papers document Fitzmaurice's career, almost exclusively through correspondence and memoranda, beginning with his work as legal advisor to the Ministry of Economic Warfare (1939-1943) through his work with the United Nations. Material relating to his early career includes correspondence discussing the seizure of contraband and diversion of merchant ships during World War II, and circulars by Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, and Clement Richard Attlee. One folder contains correspondence relating to the transition from the old International Council at the Hague, including correspondence with Cecil Hurst. Additional correspondence pertains to matters of international law and to the activities of the Grotius Society.

Key Terms

Occupations

Judges
Lawyers

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945 -- History -- Great Britain

Names

Attlee, C. R. (Clement Richard), 1883-1967
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965
Eden, Anthony, 1897-1977 -- Earl of Avon
Hurst, C. J. B. (Cecil James Barrington), 1870-1963 -- Sir
European Court of Human Rights -- Officials and employees
Great Britain -- Ministry of Economic Warfare -- Officials and employees
Grotius Society
International Court of Justice -- Officials and employees
United Nations -- Great Britain