

TITLE: Sykes papers

DATE RANGE: 1892-1962

CALL NUMBER: MS 0778

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .75 linear ft. (2 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Glenton G. Sykes in 1977.

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CREDIT LINE: Sykes papers, MS 0778, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: William Tackenberg in July 1998.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Glenton Sykes was born in Flagstaff in 1896 and came by wagon to Tucson in 1906. During World War I, he served in England with the British Army in the Royal Corps of Engineers. He graduated in civil engineering from the University of Arizona in 1923. As a structural engineer in Tucson from 1926 to 1930 he designed many of the downtown underpasses. After spending some time with the U.S. Forrest Service in New Mexico in 1944, he returned to Tucson as city engineer until his retirement in 1962. He died July 30, 1985 in Tucson.

Godfrey Sykes (father of Glenton and Gilbert Sykes) was born in Yorkshire, England in 1861 and came to American in 1879, working his way to Texas and participating in cattle drives over the Overland Trail to Wyoming. In 1886-1887 he was employed as a hydraulic and mining engineer in Japan. In 1895 he returned to Flagstaff, Arizona and purchased a ranch. While in Flagstaff he constructed a boat with his own hands, transported it to Needles, and descended to Colorado River to its mouth. During the years of 1901-1902 he explored the Arizona, Sonora, California and Libyan deserts. He constructed the dome of the Lowell Observatory and built a road up to the Mt. Wilson Observatory in Pasadena. He participated in World War I in England and worked with the British government as an engineer. He published numerous scientific papers related to the southwest and exploration of the Colorado River including "The Colorado Delta," "Estuary of the Lower Colorado," "The Camino del Diablo," "Isles of California," and "The Reclamation of a Desert." He died December 22, 1948 in Tucson.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection contains information and materials on both Glenton and Godfrey Sykes. Correspondence between Godfrey Sykes (1905-1946), Mrs. Kitt, and Dr. Lockwood concerned publication of *A Westerly Trend*. Manuscripts include a publisher copy of *A Westerly Trend* by Godfrey and numerous published and unpublished manuscripts by Glenton, including "Quest for Port Isabel," "A Sonoran Adventure," and "The Relationship of Stream Flow to Precipitation on the Salt River

Watershed Above Roosevelt Dam.” One folder concerns the 1891 journey down the Colorado River conducted by Godfrey Sykes and Charles McLean in a boat they made themselves. Pencil and ink sketches by Godfrey include many utilized for his publication of *A Westerly Trend* in 1937.