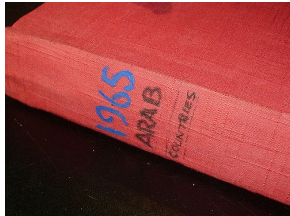


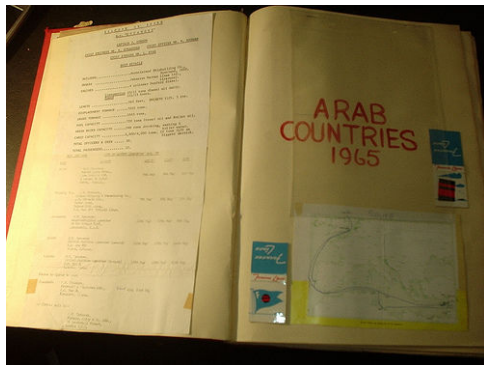
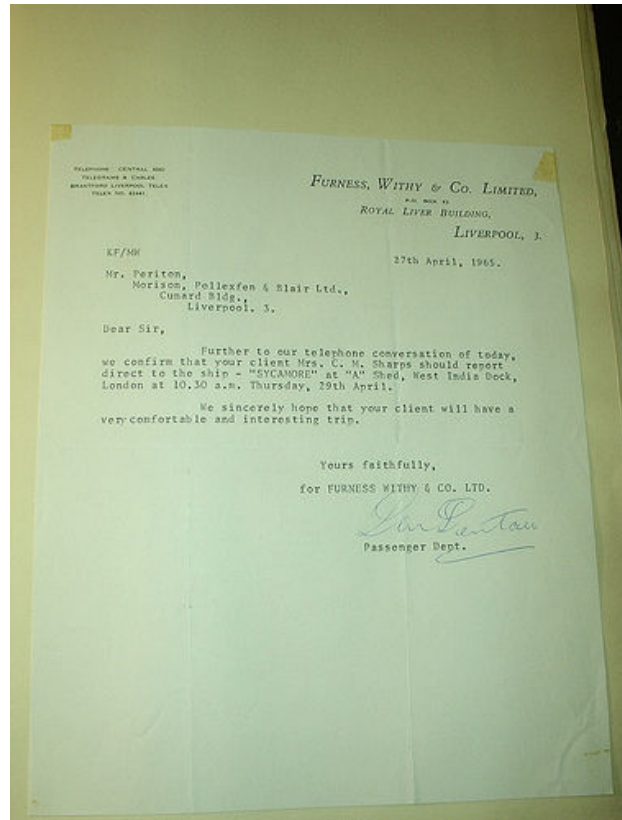
20. DIARY 1965 TUNISIA-LIBYA-LEBANON-SYRIA-CYPRUS

This is one of four personal diary travelogues written and painted in the 1930s and 1960s by



Mrs.
Constance
Sharps (née
Gaskill) that
are available
for study

This diary details a cruise onboard the "M.V. Sycamore" of the Furness Line, 29th April-5th June 1965. It contains approx 100 pages of writing, paintings, postcards and information about the ship and places visited. The writing is a personal account of a cruise: fellow passengers, places visited. As you can see from the paintings and drawings it is written with humour and observation. The ship must have been fairly small as there appear to be only a select few on board ~ the ship's passenger list has only 15 cabins. The book is very large, 30cm x 39cm and weighs over 2kg. As with Mrs. Sharps' two other Middle



East tour diaries, the trip is extremely timely, as the author makes her comfortable way through some of the world's greatest potential trouble-spots. Anyone researching this diary – and this could be a team project – would need to research the modern history of Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Note that Mrs. Sharps describes them the first four of these as 'Arab Countries'. Does her way of thinking evolve during her travels? Does travel broaden her mind? Certainly, like all Mrs. Sharps' diaries, this one is keenly observed, with

numerous sharply observed sketches and water colours of the passing scene and the idiosyncrasies of her fellow travellers. But does she really understand what is going on? This is one of the key questions for the student or pair of students who take on this diary in this course.

