

U DX355

**Research material on Ro Bewsher
and John Beville Archer**

c.1947-1999

Biographical Background:

Roland (Ro) Bewsher, O.B.E. was born in Tasmania, Australia in 1910 Roland Bewsher joined the Borneo Evangelical Mission in 1932 and was sent to Limpasong to live and work amongst the Bisaya people. When the Japanese invaded he fled with his wife and adopted children but was captured and sent to Batu Lintang camp. He subsequently resigned from his missionary work and pursued a career in the Sarawak civil service.

After the war he was appointed Agricultural Education Officer and travelled across Sarawak to identify changes that could be made including the establishment of the Improvement School in Kanowit, although the school only lasted for nine years it did demonstrate the impact that education could have. In 1955 he was appointed Secretary of the Community Development Committee and broadcast, in English and Iban, on Radio Sarawak.

In 1962 Bewsher was awarded the OBE by the British Government and he also decided to retire to Australia. In 1990 aged 80 and following the death of his wife after a long illness he tried to return to Sarawak to record the history of the Bisaya people but was denied permission by the Sarawak government.

Bapak Guru Orang Bisaya translates to 'Father-Teacher of the Bisaya People'

John Beville Archer (1893-1948) was recruited from the Channel Islands to work in the Sarawak Administrative Service by Sir Charles Brooke rising to the post of Chief Secretary prior to the cession of the state to Britain in 1946.

Custodial history:

Donated by Vernon L. Porritt in September 1999

Description:

Research material on Ro Bewsher (1919-1998) that was published as 'Bapak Guru Orang Bisaya' and John Beville Archer (1893-1946)

Extent: 5 items

Related material:

Papers of Dr David Kenneth Bassett [Ref U DBA]

Papers of Dr Royston Aubrey Bruton [Ref U DRB]

Papers of Professor Mervyn Aubrey Jaspan [Ref U DJA]

Transcripts relating to the McDougall family by Revd AJM Saint [Ref U DX318]

Papers of Rev. Dr Harry Parkin [Ref U DPN]

Other archives:

Material relating to Bewsher is held by the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House, Oxford [Ref Mss.Pac.s.59-60]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Research material on Ro Bewsher and John Beville Archer

U DX355/1	Research material Bundle of research papers relating to 'Bapak Guru Orang Bisaya' (see U DX355/3 for the published book) including copies of articles by Ro Brewsher, newspaper articles, notes and extracts from other sources; correspondence re OBE, and photographs including some not used in the book. 1 bundle	c.1947-1999
U DX355/2	'Bapak Guru Orang Bisaya' Correspondence with Rhodes House Library and with contributors and publishers 1 file	Dec 1996- Jun 1999
U DX355/3	'Bapak Guru Orang Bisaya: A Pioneer in Social Experimentation in Sarawak: Ro Bewsher (1919-1998)' Book written by Vernon L Porritt and published by the Centre for South-East Asian Studies, University of Hull 1 item	1999
U DX355/4	John Beville Archer archive Typescript correspondence between between Vernon Porritt (in Western Australia) and Professor King (at the University of Hull) relating to Porritt's research on John Beville Archer. Correspondence relates to publishing this in the university's in-house occasional paper series with further discussion about the formatting and preparation of the text. 1 file	Sep 1996- Feb 1997
U DX355/5	John Beville Archer Typescript copy, believed to be [there is no title page] 'Glimpses of Sarawak Between 1912 and 1946: Autobiographical Extracts and Articles of an Officer of the Rajahs' edited by Vernon L. Porritt and published in 1997 1 file	[1997]