

THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY OF AUBREY HERBERT

A distinguished friend of the Albanians and a lasting, effective example of “SOFT POWER” in strengthening the diplomatic and historical relations between Albania and Great Britain.



Ambasada e
Republikës së
Shqipërisë në
Londër
33 St. George's
Drive, SW1V
4DG, London





On the walls of the great hall of the Albanian Embassy in London, which we named “Herbert & Durham,” hang the portraits of these two Englishmen, who dedicated a significant part of their lives to our country.





Highclere Castle, located in Hampshire, England, is a grand Victorian country house built in the **Jacobean Revival style** by architect **Sir Charles Barry** in the 19th century. It is the ancestral home of the **Earls of Carnarvon**, including **Elizabeth Howard Herbert**, mother of Colonel **Aubrey Herbert**, a great friend of Albania.



Highclere Castle has been, and still is, world-renowned.

Historically, it has been a center of British aristocratic life, diplomacy, and philanthropy.

The 5th Earl of Carnarvon, George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon — whose family home is Highclere Castle — was the **financial sponsor** of the 1922 expedition that discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.





The castle is world-renowned today as the filming location of *Downton Abbey*, but historically it has been a center of British aristocratic life, diplomacy, and philanthropy.

**Elizabeth Catherine
Howard, (1856-1929)
Fourth Countess of
Carnarvon with her
husband
Henry Howard
Molyneux Herbert (
1831-1890)**



COUNTESS OF CARNARVON



THE EARL OF CARNARVON
Ex-Lord Lieutenant of Ireland



Elizabeth
Herbert (nee.
Howard) (1858–
1929) mother of
Colonel Aubrey
Herbert,
Countess of
Carnarvon,
Second wife of
the 4th Earl.

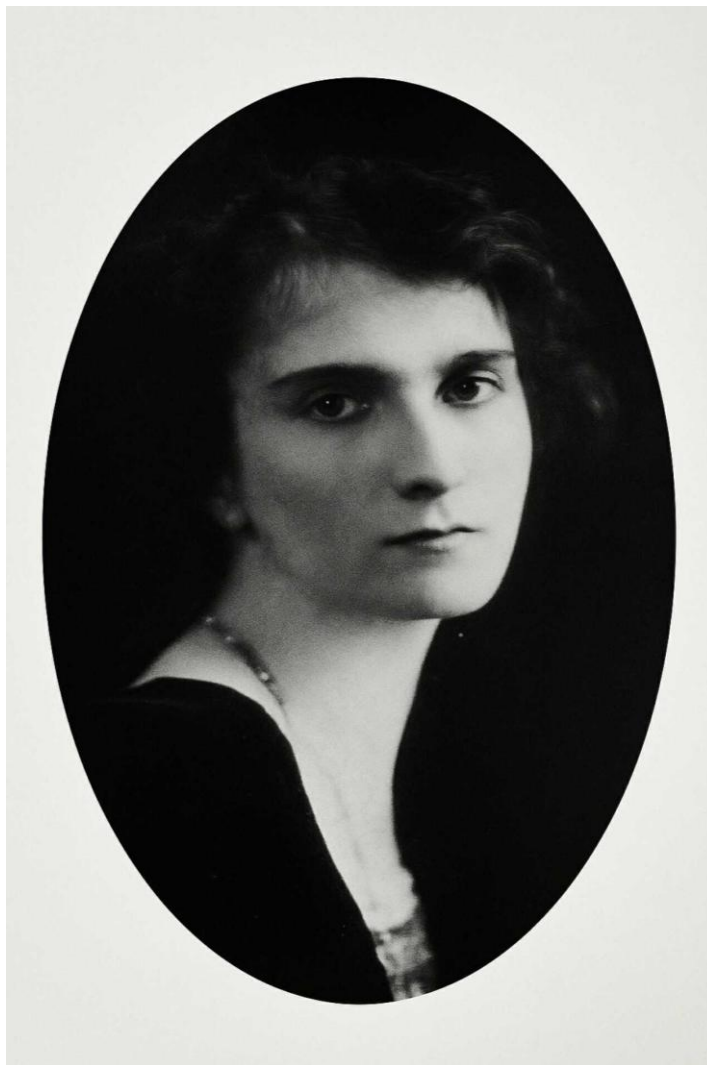
gettyimages
Credit: duncan1890



**Aubrey Herbert
at the age of
20th.**

**Photographed
in 1900**

In 1911
Aubrey
Herbert
married Mary
Herbert, nee
Vesey



AUBREY HERBERT



Qazim Kukeli, Aubrey Herbert's companion, in traditional Albanian dress.

Herbert: *“If I have any understanding of this people, it is to him that I owe it.”*



Kolonel Aubrey Nigel Henry Molyneux Herbert (1880–1923)

Diplomat dhe politikan britanik, një nga figurat më të ndritura që i shërbeu çështjes kombëtare shqiptare.

Ai themeloi Komitetin Shqiptar në Londër në vitin 1912 dhe ndihmoi në anëtarësimin e Shqipërisë në Lidhjen e Kombeve në vitin 1920.

Në zemrën e tij, Shqipëria mbeti një amanet i përjetshëm.

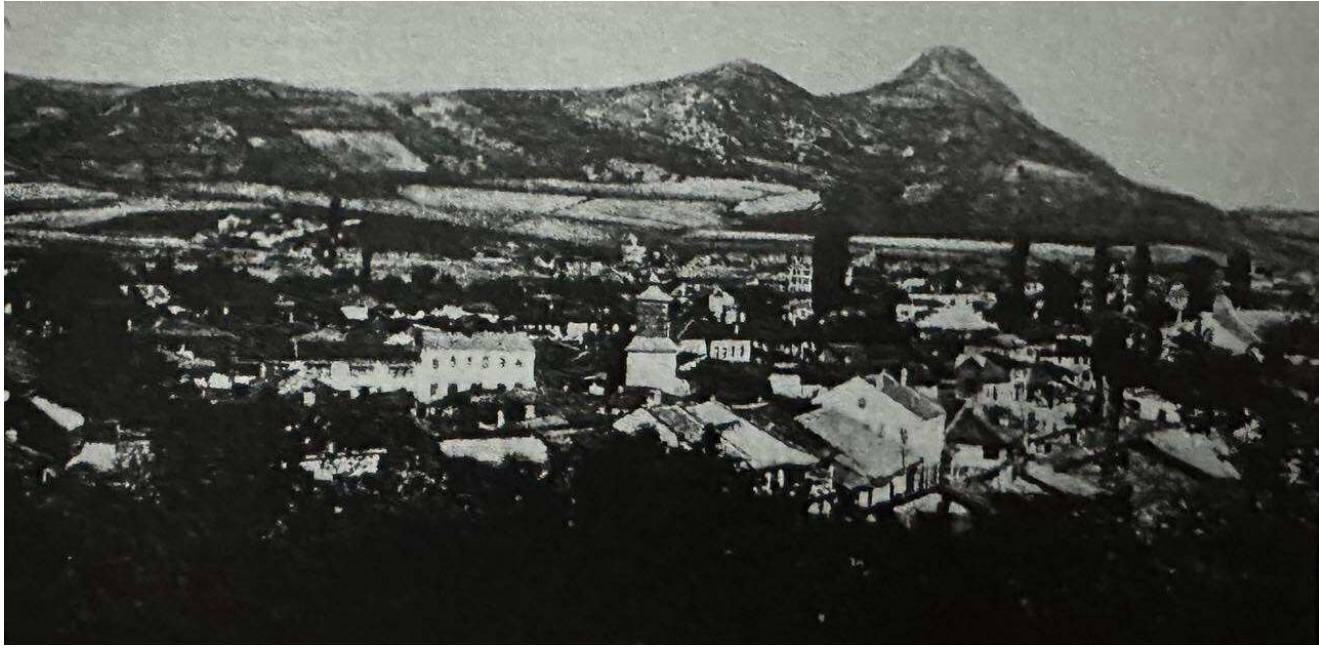
Kolonel Aubrey Nigel Henry Molyneux Herbert (1880–1923)

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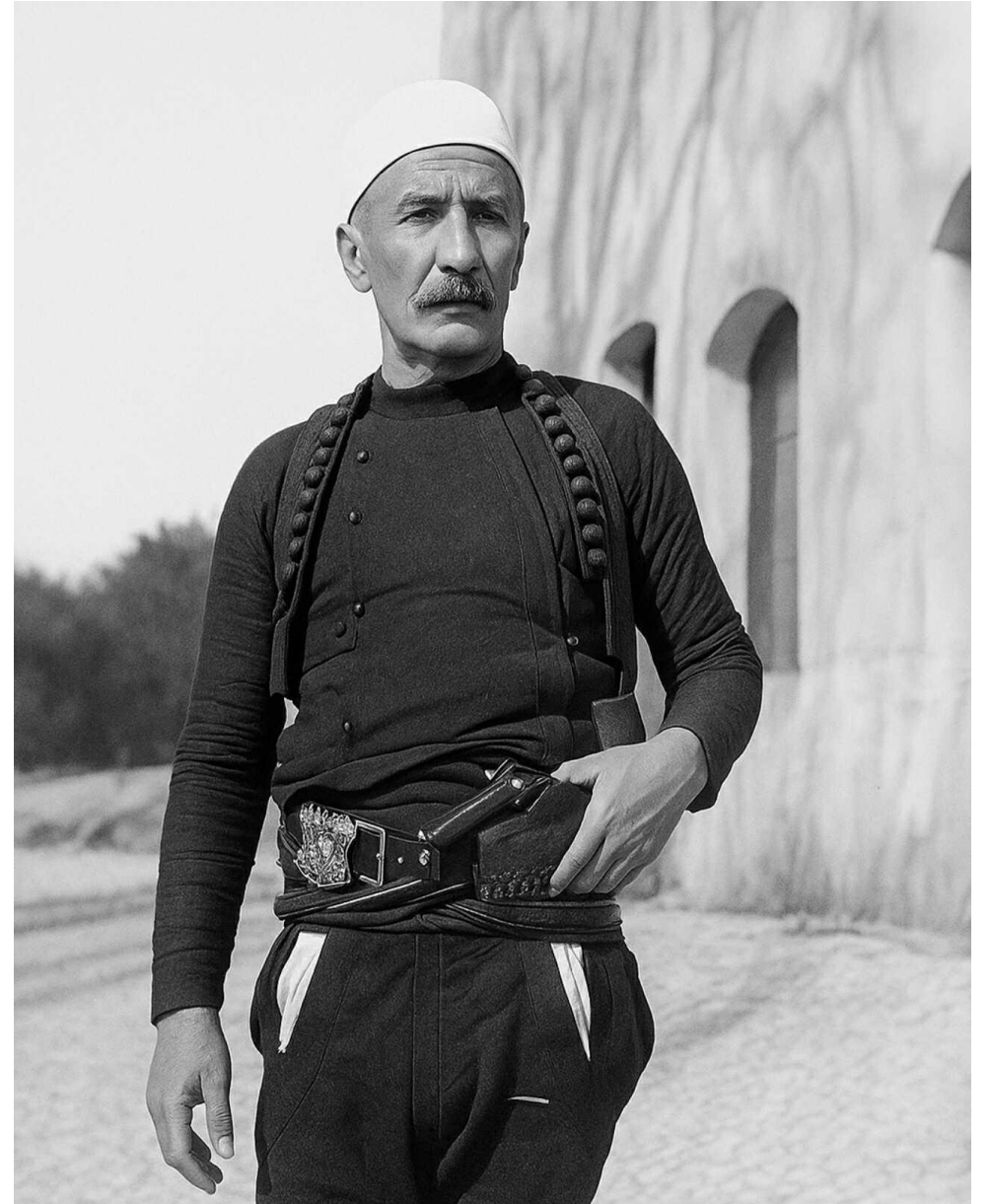
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Aubrey Herbert met the famous Albanian leader Isa Boletini for the first time on August 27, 1912, in Mitrovica.



Aubrey Herbert
visited Kosova
while it was still
part of the
Ottoman Empire,
first in Prizren in
May 1907.





In January
1909 Herbert
visited Peja, in
Kosova

Mitrovica railway station was the terminus of the line from Istanbul



Aubrey Nigel Henry
Molyneux Herbert was
first elected as a
Member of the British
Parliament in
November 1911,
winning a by-election
for the constituency of
South Somerset.



Aubrey Herbert had close relationship with Ismail Qemali, the founder of the Albanian independent state.

He arranged Qemali's and Isa Boletini's trip to London and organized meetings with British dignitaries, including the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey.





- Aubrey Herbert played a key role in securing Albania's membership in the League of Nations in 1920, through his close friends Lord Robert Cecil, Arthur Balfour, and the historian M. Fisher.

Books written by Colonel Aubrey Herbert, in which the Albanian element in the Balkans is portrayed in a way that makes every Albanian feel proud.

“Ben Kendim” (1924) is Aubrey Herbert’s autobiographical travel book, recounting his journeys and experiences in the East, especially in the Balkans and the Ottoman lands.

It reflects his deep empathy for Eastern peoples — particularly the Albanians — and his belief in understanding cultures through respect and friendship.

BEN KENDIM
A RECORD OF EASTERN TRAVEL
BY
AUBREY HERBERT
EDITED BY
DESMOND MACCARTHY
SECOND EDITION
LONDON
HUTCHINSON & CO.
PATERNOSTER ROW

this is a question that touches high statecraft. Accept this compromise. Let there be Turkish judges, and we promise that they shall judge no man.”

“Agreed,” said the Albanians.

The Old Régime in Turkey was prepared to countenance liberty, licence and to approve anarchy in Albania, which at times was a useful servant, and it may be fairly said that Turkish law ran nowhere in those mountains, though it crawled in the cities of Scutari, Elbasan and Janina.

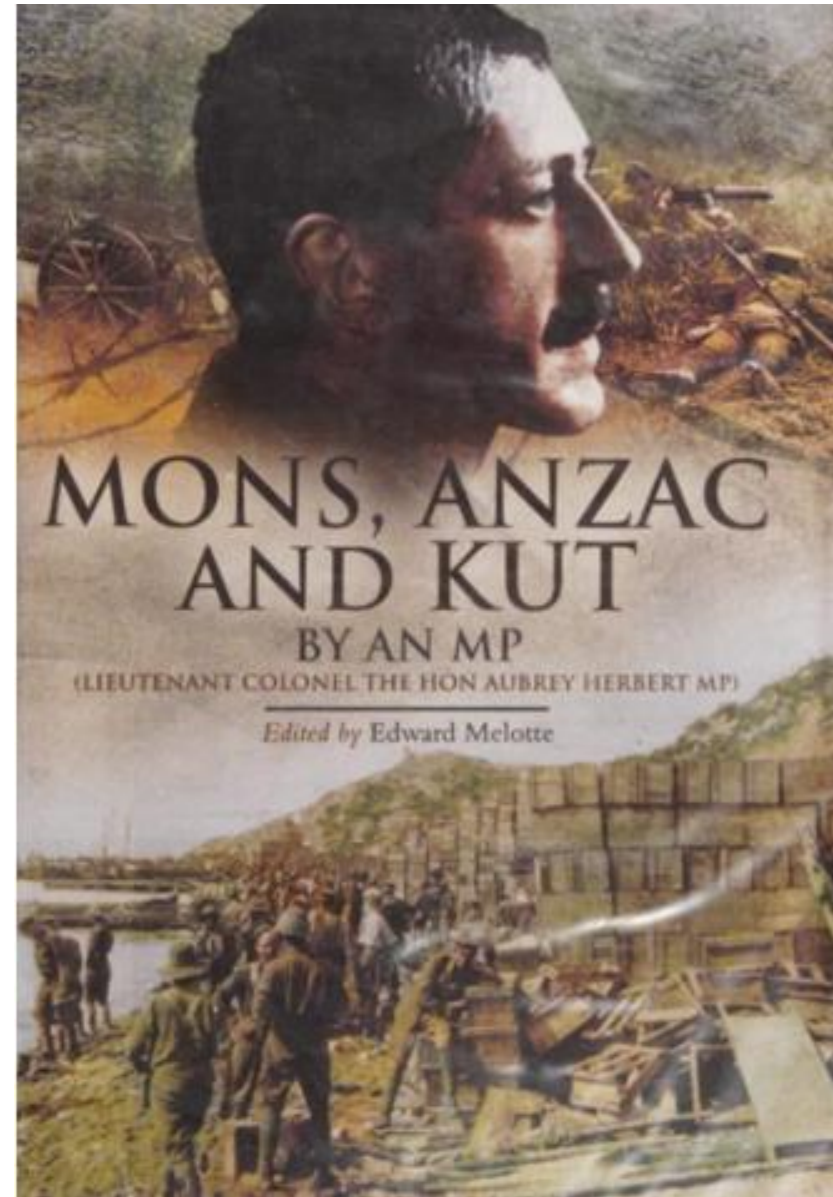
The Albanians have always been and are passionate lovers of their soil and of their rocks, and the system of their life was built up on them. It was a rough system, but it suited the people; every man was his own efficient policeman, and vengeance was their recognised code. What Europe would have labelled vengeance, they called justice. From the point of view of civilised countries, Albania was a lawless land, but the meaner crimes that smirch the chronicles of the police-courts of Western Europe were rare.

There was much to be said for the Albanian code.

If there were no railways, the chivalry of the Middle Ages continued to exist; if men died a violent death by the wayside, there was no petty larceny. Truth, courage and fidelity were the qualities that this people cultivated and esteemed, and this fact was recognised all over the Near East. The guardians of the banks from Cairo to Greece, and from Constantinople to Jerusalem, were often Albanians. A breach of trust or a theft of money by an Albanian in a responsible position was so rare as to be practically unknown.

The Albanians possess another and a more undefinable quality: for they have a charm that is their own, and their land has an almost magical attraction that leaves a permanent impression upon the majority of those who have been there. It is to be felt in the aromatic sun-scorched highlands of the Catholic north,

The book ***Mons, Anzac and Kut***, written by Lieutenant Colonel The Hon. Aubrey Herbert, MP, and edited by Edward Melotte, is a first-hand account of Herbert's wartime experiences during World War I.

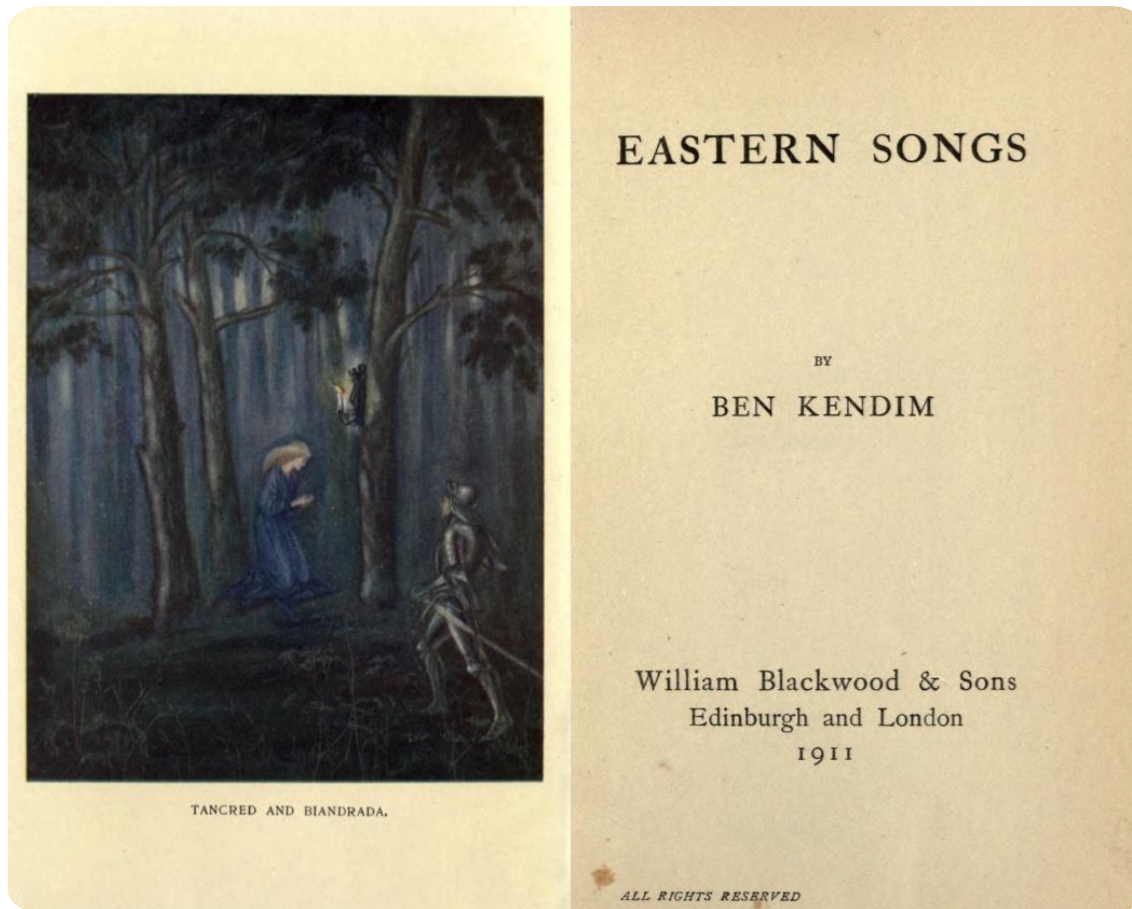


This picture shows the back cover of *Mons, Anzac and Kut* by Lt. Col. Aubrey Herbert, featuring several wartime photographs from World War I that illustrate the experiences described in the book.

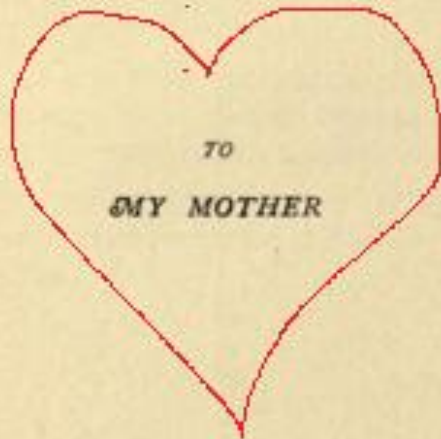


“Eastern Songs” (1911) is a collection of poems by Aubrey Herbert, inspired by his travels in the Balkans and the Near East.

Its connection with Albania lies in Herbert’s deep admiration for Albanian courage, honor, and love of freedom, which he celebrates poetically — portraying Albania as the noble and untamed heart of the East. It is dedicated to his Albanian friend Kyazim Kukeli.



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**SOME OF THE WORKS OF COUNTESS OF
CARNARVON, ELIZABETH HERBERT (HOWARD),
DEDICATED TO ALBANIA**

- She built the Elementary School in Qerret.**
 - She founded the Anti-Malaria “Rockefeller” Foundation**, with the assistance of her brother, the British Ambassador to Washington, **Sir Esme Howard (1863–1939)**, and with the financial support of the **Rockefeller Foundation**.
 - She built the Psychiatric Hospital of Vlora.**
 - She organized the mission of British nurses**, among whom **Ruth Paddington** distinguished herself in **Kavaja**.
- She founded the National Library of Albania**, donating **3.200 books**, initially established on **St. George Street** (today **Li Demi Street**) in Tirana.
- She founded the first Albanian Tennis and Scout Association.**



Elizabeth Herbert

Mary Herbert

Foto of the ruins or a part of the school donated by Countess Elizabeth Herbert, built in 1927.

It is the duty of the Albanian and British authorities to restore it and turn it into a museum dedicated to the British family's legacy in Albania, including all their deeds and contributions.





Spitali i Nevropsiqiatrik i Shtetit në Vlorë.

Photo of the
Neuropsychiatric
Hospital of Vlorë,
built thanks to the
philanthropy of
Countess Elizabeth
Herbert.



Photo of the
Neuropsychiatric
Hospital of Vlora,
built thanks to
the philanthropy
of Countess
Elizabeth
Herbert.

For fifteen years in Albania, Ruth Pennington worked tirelessly to settle the refugees from Kosova in small villages, to ease their suffering, to fight malaria, to open hospitals, and to support agriculture.





Lady Elizabeth Herbert passed away suddenly at her villa in Portofino, Italy, on February 1, 1929. She was preparing to come to Albania to inaugurate the National Library. Her will was fulfilled by Colonel Aubrey Herbert's widow, Lady Mary, and his brother Mervin Herbert.

Villa Carnarvon. Soggiorno del principe Federico Guglielmo.

This is the **HERBERT** Pavilion of the **ALBANIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY** - a collection of books donated by Countess **ELIZABETH HERBERT**, which became the nucleus of the future National Library of Albania.





The Anglo–Albanian Association, founded in **1912** by **Colonel Aubrey Herbert**, has played a vital role in promoting friendship, understanding, and cultural exchange between **Britain and Albania**. From supporting Albania’s independence to encouraging educational and humanitarian cooperation through turbulent decades, the Association has remained a bridge of goodwill.

Today, under the distinguished leadership of **Sir Noel Malcolm**, it continues its mission through lectures, publications, and scholarly dialogue—honoring Herbert’s enduring legacy of Anglo–Albanian friendship.



Board members and activists of the Anglo–Albanian Association during one of their frequent activities inside the ‘**Herbert & Durham**’ Hall of the Albanian Embassy in London, 2014

Two Great Friends of Kosova: Lord Robertson and Sir Noel Malcolm

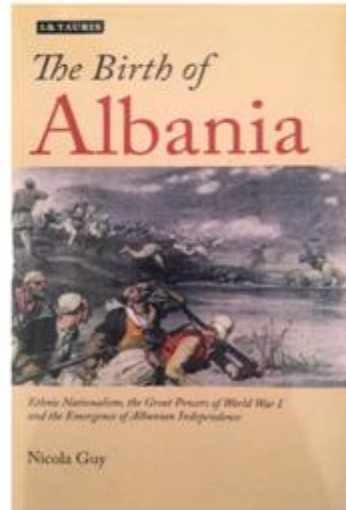


The light of Colonel **Aubrey Herbert's** legacy shone through **Sir Noel Malcolm** and **Lord Robertson** who upheld his dream of freedom for Kosova.

A talk on SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE at the Albanian Embassy



26 February 2013: Anglo Albanian Association and the Embassy of Albania host a talk by Dr Roderick Bailey on The Wild Province dedicated to 53 British martyrs who lost their life in Albania during the so called Special Operations Executive mission, or the Secret Army of Churchill.



16 May 2012: British scholar Dr Nicola Guy launches her book "*The Birth of Albania*" at the Albanian Embassy.

- Together with Sir Noel Malcolm, President of the Anglo-Albanian Association, and Ambassador Stephen Nash, Executive Director, during one of the Association's events at the Albanian Embassy in London.



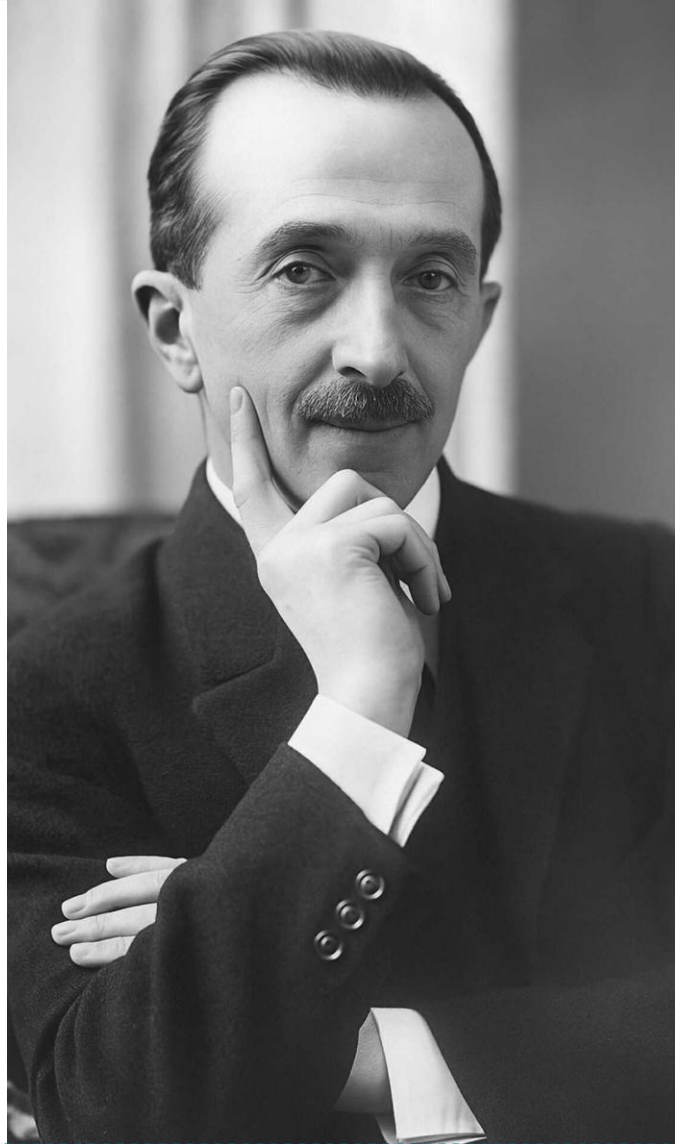
**Director of the Centre for Albanian Studies in London,
Mr Bejtullah Destani gives a talk at the Albanian Embassy**



10 September 2012: A talk by Bejtullah Destani on the History of the Anglo Albanian Association, founded in 1912.



Charles Telford
Erickson and Mehmet
Konica offered the
crown of the Kingdom
of Albania to Colonel
Aubrey Herbert on
August 13, 1923, at
Pixton Park, Somerset.



- The house where Aubrey Herbert passed away, at Pixton Park in Somerset, England — as it appeared in his time.



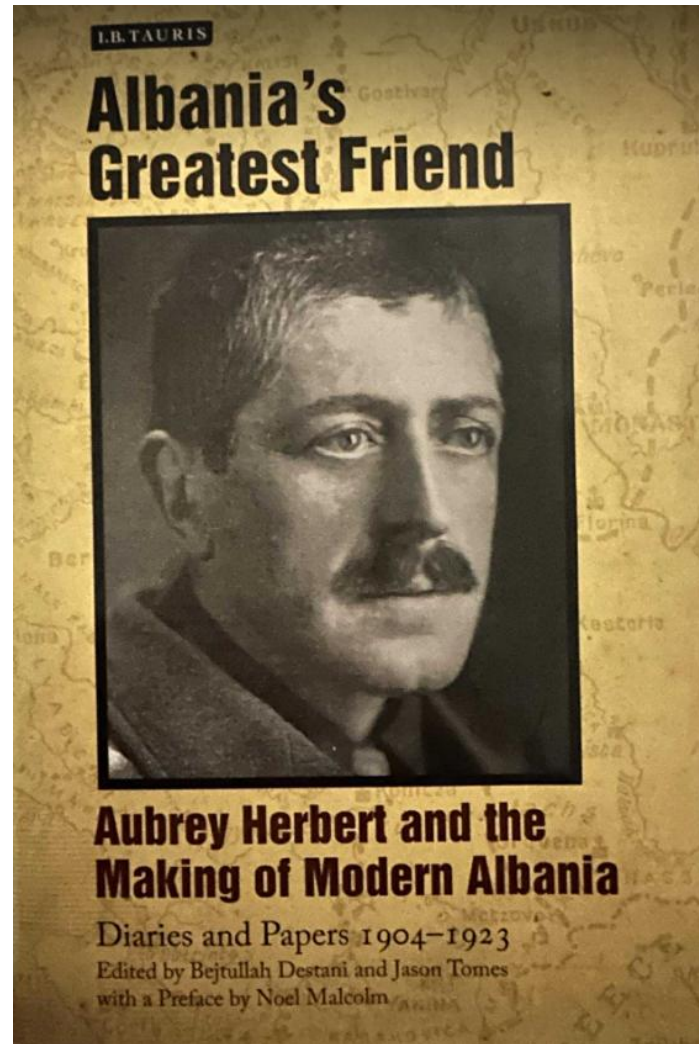
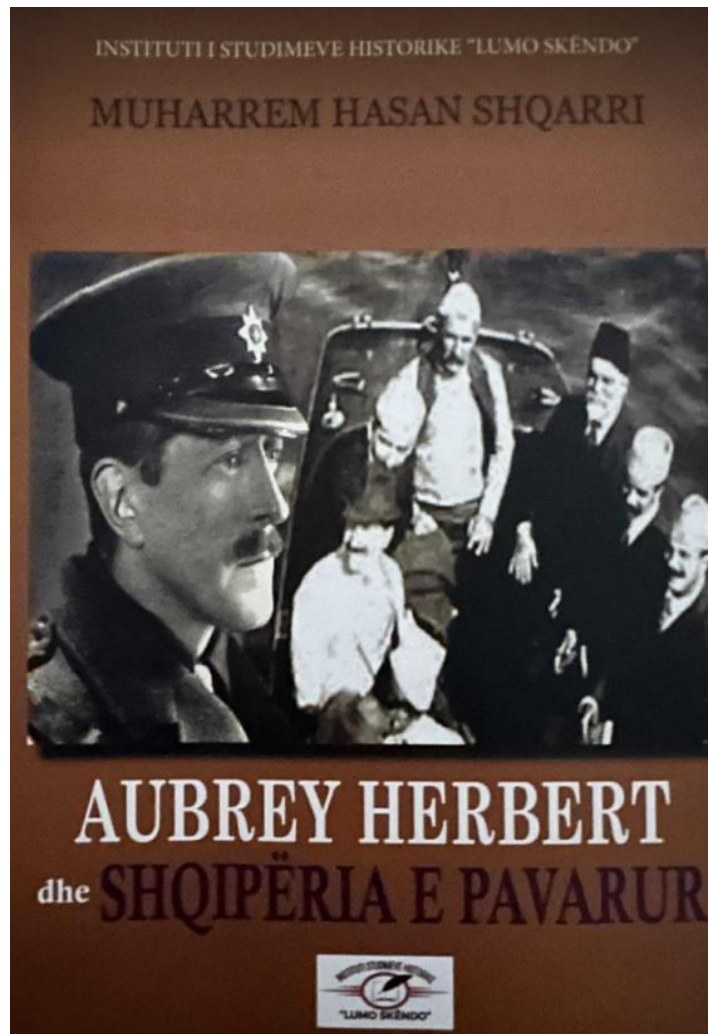
ixton Park, near Dulverton, Somerset, the country home of Aubrey Herbert.

The house where
Aubrey Herbert
passed away, at
Pixton Park in
Somerset, England
— as it appears
today.





A tribute to the work of the great friend of the Albanians, Aubrey Herbert, held in 2012 on the 100th anniversary of the Independence of the Albanian State, together with his biographer, the author of the book *Albania's Greatest Friend – Aubrey Herbert, Mr Bejtullah Destani*



**TRIBUTE TO THE
BIOGRAPHERS
OF THE
HERBERT
FAMILY
MR. BEJTULLAH
DESTANI AND
MR. MUHARREM
SHQARRI**

*Prepared by: Mal Berisha – former
Ambassador and scholar of
Albanian–British - American
Relations.*





Faleminderit!

Thank you!

Maleberisha.com

