



SUDAN STUDIES

Official Newsletter of the
SUDAN STUDIES SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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Contents

SOCIETY NEWS	1
Sudan Studies: The Official Newsletter - by A Trilsbach	2
Sudan Stamps - by H R J Davies	3
THE SUDAN ARCHIVE (1) - by L Forbes	4
CAN YOU HELP?	5
RESEARCH PROFILE (1) Archaeological Investigation at Soba East - by D Welsby	6
FEATURE (1) Female Migrants to Greater Omdurman - by R M Page	7
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	10
DATA SOURCES IN THE UK (1) Sudan Meteorological Office: Salford Branch - by M Hulme	10
Photography in the Sudan - by D Hudspeth	12
FLORA OF EASTERN SUDAN	13
BOOK REVIEW (1) Desertification in Darfur - by M Hulme	14
RECENT PUBLICATIONS (1)	15
CROSSWORD (1)	20
(Capitals denote regular series)	

Society News

The steering group of the Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom are delighted to announce the launch of this new society and to welcome all prospective members.

The main aim of the society is to promote Sudanese studies in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Membership is open to anyone with Sudanese interests, regardless of their expertise. Amongst other aims the society hopes to act as a forum for mutual contacts, exchanges of experiences and ideas, and for the distribution of news about Sudan related events taking place in the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and elsewhere. Members assume a mutual responsibility to keep the society informed of new publications, coming events, visitors and new contracts which may be of interest to other members. The most visible outlet for this information will be the society's newsletter, SUDAN STUDIES, which will appear two or three times each year.

The steering group are particularly keen to attract members from all backgrounds and from a wide range of subject areas. An initial mailing list of over 1000 names has focussed on academics, publishers, the media, former members of the Sudan Government, schools teachers in the Sudan, businessmen, government institutions and the principal charities. In due course it is hoped to compile a database of members' knowledge, experiences, and primary sources of information (including photographs).



SUDAN STUDIES

The Official Newsletter

SUDAN STUDIES is the official newsletter of the SSSUK. This issue has been produced as a sample of the type of production which will be dispatched two or three times each year. Of course, to do this, considerable support is required from the Society's members; articles are needed from all disciplines and from members of varying backgrounds ranging perhaps from businessmen to engineers, and from school teachers to former members of the Sudan Government Service. Please let me know if you have something which you would like to contribute. This may be a short article, a letter, a request for data or information, a short profile about your own Sudanese interests or about your former service, details of a forthcoming visitor, lecture or TV programme, or even by acting as a volunteer to review a book. The range seems almost endless so please offer your help. Contributions are still needed for June's edition of SUDAN STUDIES.

To give a wide appeal to SSSUK members, a number of regular themes are proposed. These need not appear in every issue, but they should appear at least once in every calendar year. Some appear in this issue, such as Society News, The Sudan Archive, Can You Help?, Research Profile, An Original Feature, People In The News, Data Sources in the UK (or elsewhere!), Book Reviews, Recent Publications, and the Crossword. Other possible regular slots include Sudan Memoirs (especially by former members of the Sudan Government Service), Sudan Teachers, Charities Column, Sudan News (an update of economic and political events), Bargain Travel (cheap air fares etc), a column by the Sudan Studies Association (an American society similar to SSSUK), and no doubt many others that remain to be suggested. Please let me know if you feel that you can contribute.

It is possible to place advertisements in SUDAN STUDIES. If these are non-commercial they are free to members and subject to negotiation with non-members and businesses. Commercial advertisements may be placed at a rate agreed by the SSSUK committee. Publishers, in particular, are encouraged to advertise; normally there will be no direct charge but an arrangement for discounts to society members.

In addition to normal length articles, there is some provision for the publication of more lengthy pieces of work. If the Editor of Sudan Studies and the committee of the SSSUK can be convinced that the proposed article is likely to have a wide appeal, it may be published in the Occasional Papers series. These will be made available to the society's members at a discount rate and will be available for purchase outside the society at a commercial rate. The series will be launched officially in November with a new essay about General Gordon by Richard Hill.

I must set the record straight and offer some apologies about the content of this first issue. As this sample has been compiled before the establishment of a formal membership list, it has been necessary to seek help from personal friends and colleagues. An obvious consequence of this has been too much emphasis on articles from a small number of university departments and the absence of much material on the South (although this will be remedied in the next issue). This is not the pattern which is envisaged for the future, but in order to achieve diversity, once again I must appeal to members for their own contributions. I am particularly keen to receive offers for contributions to regular series mentioned above.

Please send your contributions and address all correspondence to me, Dr A Trilsbach, at the address on Page 19.



Sudan Stamps

Jack Davies identifies aspects of Sudanese Postal History.

In 1867 a post office was opened at Suakin. Although official letters were written from the Sudan earlier than this, 1867 marks the beginning of an organised postal service. Other Egyptian post offices using Egyptian stamps were later opened, including Khartoum in 1873. At this time a letter to Cairo took 30-50 days from Khartoum.

The postal service contracted from 1882 as the Mahdist forces occupied the country until by 1886 only Suakin and Wadi Haifa remained. There was no organised public postal service over most of the country during the Mahdia and 'stamps' inscribed "Mahdi, Pastes du Souden" are bogus.

The Anglo-Egyptian Reconquest led to a gradual reintroduction of the service. Khartoum post office reopened on 10th September 1898. Similar stamps to the earlier period were used depicting the Sphinx and the Pyramids but overprinted "Soudan" in French and Arabic. The year 1898 also saw the introduction of the first Permanent Issue of a separate Sudan Postal Service featuring the 'Camel Postman'. This design by Edward Stanton has been in use in some way ever since. At present it is the subject of the One Sudanese Pound stamp. It was temporarily out of use from 1941 to 1949 when the 'Palms' issue was in use. The 1951 and 1962 (6th and 7th) Permanent Issues depicted scenes from Sudanese Life.

The first watermark used for Sudanese stamps was a 'Quatrefoil'. This was changed in 1902 to a 'Star and Crescent' on the grounds that the first was unsuitably close to a 'cross' for the Muslim country of northern Sudan. In turn it was replaced in 1927 by 'S.G.', because it was too identifiable with Egypt. Since 1962 other watermarks have been used usually representing 'Republic of Sudan'.

Before Independence in 1956 only four commemorative issues appeared: the Gordon Commemorative (1935), the Camel Postman Jubilee (1948), and two series charting Sudan's progress to Independence. Since 1956 the policy has changed, but nevertheless, especially since 1970, the postal authorities have been sparing in the use of special issues. It is perhaps surprising that no special issue appeared in 1985 for the centenary of the fall of Khartoum.

Like many other countries, Sudan experimented with Air Mail stamps. Two beautiful series were issued (1931 and 1950) but were withdrawn as unnecessary at the end of 1953. Other stamps issued include "Official", "Army Service" and "Postage Due".

There is however much more to fascinate in Sudan philately than just these stamps. During the late 19th century and the Second World War, both British and Indian stamps can be found used in Sudan. Other fascinating study lies in routes followed by the mails; Travelling Post Offices on trains and steamers; sail from military operations; censorship during two World Wars; the varying cancellers used by the various post offices; and so on.

H.R.J. Davies is Senior Lecturer in Geography at University College, Swansea and is currently Secretary of the Sudan Study Group. Anyone further interested in Sudan philately should contact Mr H.L. Sawyer, President, Sudan Study Group, 27 Maidstone Drive, Marton, MIDDLESBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS7 89W.



THE SUDAN ARCHIVE

Lesley Forbes introduces the unique Sudan Archive collection at Durham.

The collection of Sudanese historical material at Durham is now the principal archival collection on the Sudan outside Khartoum. Most of the collection consists of private papers, formed to flesh out the official records which are held in Khartoum and London.

From its beginnings in 1957, the aim has been to encourage all those British people who lived or served in the Sudan during the Condominium period to pass on to Durham any relevant material. Much has been given (and not just by British people) although, sadly, much has undoubtedly been lost to posterity and much remains to be gathered in.

Major collections of the Sudan Archive include the papers of Wingate, Slatin, Clayton and Robertson, a small but significant body of Arabic manuscripts including 300 Mahdist items, plus over 850 other separate donations to date (February 1987); more material is being added all the time. Donations to the Archive range from six dustbin bags of letters, notes, reports, photos etc on education from Christopher Cox; a single letter written by Mrs Ysabel Hunter recording the course of the 1924 mutiny at Talodi; photographs of Wadi Halfa in the 1920s; agricultural consultancy reports of the 1960; records of the Khartoum Cathedral Sustentation Committee (1902—1968), and petrological thin sections from the Sudan in the 1930s. Chronologically, there are documents from c.1789 to the present but the main focus is on the Condominium period.

Rather than repeat descriptions of the contents of the Sudan Archive which have already appeared elsewhere (see bibliography), a list of the various types of material held in Durham may give some pointers to the wide range of possibilities for research which the Sudan Archive's holdings can sustain. As well as the traditional fodder for the researcher, i.e. reports, memoranda, correspondence (official and personal), diaries, trek notes, newspaper cuttings, maps etc., which cover the whole of the Sudan, there are over 10,000 photographs taken during an 80-year period and cinefilms shot between about 1927 and 1950. Both photographs and cinefilms provide not only unique records of Sudanese people, places, historical events, the way and pace of life, but also information about urbanisation, climate, ecology, education, medicine, communications, geology, agriculture, dress archaeology, irrigation, technology and so on, and in a way which the written record cannot match. This visual record is supplemented by a number of paintings and drawings. There are also museum objects, some of historical importance, others quite simply workaday equipment, but each

has its place as evidence for the discerning researcher. In this group we include a complete set of the Gordon banknotes, issued in 1884 at the time of the siege of Khartoum; these, together with coins of the Sultanate of Darfur, have proved to be of interest as much to the numismatist as to the historian. Likewise, early letters with envelopes have been sought by philatelists. The archive also holds Slatin's pistol and snuffbox, Mahdist flags, a sword and robe reputed to belong to Ali Diner, *jubbas*, a flag of the 1924 White Flag League, a midwifery box 1930's style (complete with contents and a description of the use of each item), a selection of Sudanese handicrafts, plus a large armoury of spears, javelins, swords, daggers, bows, arrows, quivers and shields, and other artefacts besides.

The collection of printed material published in and on the Sudan, which is held in the Oriental Section of the University Library, is unmatched in Britain and includes many items which are not commercially published. The collection of official and statistical data on contemporary Sudan, the Documentation Unit of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies of the University, complements the archival and library described above.



Enquiries and, naturally, donations of material are welcomed and should be addressed to the Keeper of the Oriental Books, University Library. Oriental Section, Elvet Hill, DURHAM, DM1 3TH. Telephone (0355)—64971.

Lesley Forbes is the Keeper of Oriental Books at Durham University and is responsible for the Sudan Archive. More detailed descriptions of some of the specialist collections, such as photographs, drawings, bibliographies etc. plus an introduction to the Sudan section of the Documentation Unit of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies will be included in later editions of SUDAN STUDIES.

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CAN YOU HELP?

Dear Editor

I am part of a four man team which is mounting an expedition during the Summer of 1987 to investigate the impact of the introduction of Nile Perch (Lates niloticus) in Lake Victoria. The introduction of this fish into the lake was first mooted in the 1950s with a view to increasing the supplies of protein to lakeshore communities. Unfortunately, the experiment has led to irreversible losses of indigenous fish stocks in a number of ecosystems, and the local communities have not found the substitute Nile Perch to be to their liking in dietary terms. There have also been economic ramifications, especially for the 'traditional' lakeside fishermen.

In the context of our investigation, we are interested to discover some aspects of the role of Nile Perch within the economies, diets and ecosystems of other Nile communities, especially those in the Sudan. We are particularly keen to receive information on (1) The processing of Nile perch, (2) its principal markets, (3) Fishing techniques, (4) Experiences of planned changes in the river ecosystem, such as fish farming, and (5) information on recent publications concerned with Nile Perch in the Sudan and elsewhere.

If anyone is able to help could they please write to me or telephone.

Lawrence Talks, 36 Hallgarth Street, DURHAM, UK, DH1 3AT. (0385-41360)



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT SOBA EAST

Derek Welsby begins a regular series of RESEARCH PROFILES by describing some new archaeological work being conducted near Khartoum.

Since the Winter of 1981 the British Institute in Eastern Africa has been conducting archaeological excavations at Soba East, 22km upstream from Khartoum on the east bank of the Blue Nile. Soba has long been known as a site of considerable importance having been the capital of the richest and most powerful of the three Medieval Christian Kingdoms of Nubia which flourished from the 6th century AD until perhaps as late as the 13th or 14th centuries. After a season of survey work during which trial trenches were excavated across the whole site owned by the Department of Antiquities, an area of 2.75 km², large scale area excavations were confined to the western end of the largest mound on the site (Mound B).

Here three churches constructed throughout of red brick, two of them of a size comparable with the cathedral church at Faras and the similar buildings at Old Dongola to the north, have been uncovered. To the east of the churches the well preserved remains of the mud brick building, with walls still standing over 3m high, of very large size was excavated in part. The earliest phase, a long narrow building 19m wide by at least 45m in length may have been palatial in character. A marble tombstone recording the name of a King of Soba who reigned from AD 999 to 1015 was found within the building.

The excavations have yielded a vast amount of pottery, much of it probably of local manufacture and also metal objects including a series of crosses and a fine collection of imported Islamic glass. The excavations have ceased for the present while the results of the four seasons of work are brought to a publishable form. Among the finds which are being studied by a variety of specialists are the pottery, glass, inscriptions, ostraca, graffiti, objects of metal, wood and stone and the floral and faunal remains.

Dr D Welsby is Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Newcastle.

MIDDLE EAST AND SUDANESE GEOGRAPHY: AN OPPORTUNITY AT DURHAM

The Department of Geography at the University of Durham has run a one year MA course in the Geography of the Middle East and the Mediterranean since 1968. Candidates participate in course work, projects and seminars to prepare for two examination papers: they also have to write a 20,000 word dissertation. Suitable candidates would be permitted to prepare their dissertations drawing upon Durham's extensive SUDAN ARCHIVES. In this way, a good introduction to the human geography of the Middle East would be gained, together with an opportunity to use a world famous resource in depth.

Further information can be obtained from: Dr G.H. Blake, Department of Geography, University of Durham, DURHAM, DHI 3LE, England. (Telephone 0385-84971).



FEMALE MIGRANTS TO GREATER OMDURMAN: Changing Status and Temporal Routines

Becky Page summarises part of her undergraduate research carried out in the Umm Badda fringe of Omdurman during July and August 1986.

The role of women in society is increasingly recognised as an important factor in the development of Third World countries. Women's activities are now often an integral part of project designs and thus it is important to continually assess and re-evaluate changes in female status which are occurring - whether planned, unplanned, positive or negative. By these means planners and educational designers can identify the needs of women and how to meet them.

Massive rural to urban migration, common to most developing countries, is evident in Sudan. This can be seen clearly in the percentages of population living in urban areas. The proportion has increased from 9.3 per cent in 1955/6 (First Official Census) to 20 per cent in 1986 (Prytz, 1986). This short paper focuses on Umm Badda, an immigration and urban overspill area to the west of Omdurman (Figure 1), where the population growth between 1964 and 1985 was a staggering 13 per cent per annum (Norris, 1995). Most of this growth was due to migration from rural areas and, though it is true that a higher percentage of these migrants are male, there is an increasing trend for women to migrate with their husbands and thus the sex balance in the city is gradually being redressed.

The effect of migration on women is immense. Ester Boserup (1970) described the 'psychic strain' caused by moving through a technological revolution in a matter of days. Not only are subsistence and domestic tasks, and patterns of employment changed rapidly, but women also acquire a new social status and have their perceptions altered as their lifestyles adapt to the urban environment. All these changes can be seen in the women of Umm Badda.

It has been estimated that some 87 per cent of rural women in Sudan are engaged in agriculture (Baxter, 1981) especially in the western regions of Kordofan and Darfur. The Umm Badda survey found that fewer women than this had formerly been engaged in agriculture, mainly due to the bias towards younger women amongst migrant families. Nevertheless, 49 per cent of those interviewed were denied this previous productive function on reaching the urban area. Similarly, two-thirds of women no longer spent several hours a day collecting wood. All cooking fuel at Umm Dadda is in

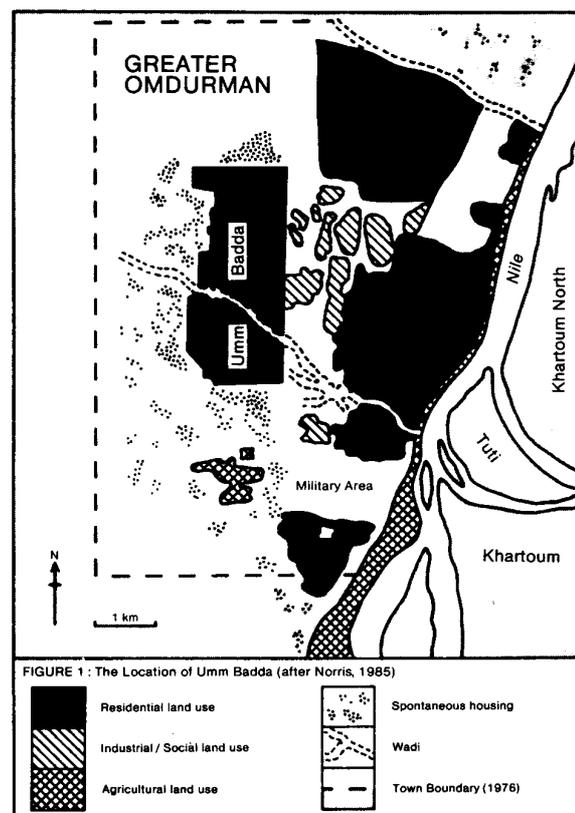


Figure 1



the form of locally purchased charcoal, which is also quicker and more efficient to use than other types of fuel commonly used in rural areas. Likewise water collecting has become easier for most people, saving considerable time. Migrant women from the northern provinces in particular commented that easier water collection saved up to two hours each day. It was in the light of similar trends that Boserup (1970) made the following statement, which clearly applies in Umm Badda.

“Migration from village to town entails for the African women the exchange of a life of toil for a life of leisure.” (p.191)

Despite apparent opportunities for increased leisure, new tasks, many of them peculiar to the urban environment, have imposed new burdens on women’s time in Umm Badda. About 70 per cent of the female migrants reported that shopping had become much more complicated and time-consuming and nearly all of them commented that housekeeping had become more demanding as higher standards were expected by their husbands. One of the strangest outcomes of the survey was the impact of cooking on time budgets. It has already been noted that, in one sense, cooking has become less time-consuming, but in another sense the opposite conclusion can be drawn as ‘urban’ expectations involve purchasing, preparing and cooking a greater variety of food and with more emphasis on presentation and hospitality (Table 1).

Source Region of Migrants	Daily Reductions in cooking time at Umm Badda (per cent)			Daily Increases in Cooking time at Umm Badda (per cent)			No Change (per cent)
	1-29	30-60	>60 mins	1-29	30-60	>60 mins	
North	14.3	18.6	21.4		14.3	7.1	14.3
West				5.3	31.6	5.3	57.8
Central				20.0	40.0	20.0	20.0
South		33.3			33.3		33.3

Table 1: Perceived changes in cooking times since arriving at Umm Badda

Source: Page, R.M. (1987), *The Changing Role of Women in Um Sadda*, Undergraduate Dissertation in Geography, University of Durham.

Whilst bearing in mind the changes in daily activities described above, it appears that in overall terms a majority of women felt that they had more ‘free time’ since moving to Umm Badda. This was mainly due to improved service provision and the loss of agricultural demands (Table 2).

Table 2:
Perceived changes in leisure time at Umm Badda

No Change	14.6	per cent
More free time	53.7	per cent
Less free time	7.30	per cent
No Answer	24.4	per cent

In terms of formal and informal sector employment, the survey discovered other interesting points. Not surprisingly, religious and educational factors virtually eliminate all female employment in the formal sector in rural areas of the Sudan. Yet, in some regions, especially in the west, there is considerable involvement of women in informal activities such as weaving, craft production, and food and beer selling at local markets. Such work is of social as well as economic importance. Although it is often recognised that migration to urban areas



leads to a reduction in female employment, this was not found to be true at Umm Badda, where almost a quarter of the migrant women of all ages took up new urban-based work. This trend has two main explanations. Firstly, financial hardship forces many women into market jobs or beer selling. Secondly, jobs such as hairdressing and handicraft production are often undertaken to utilise some of the more free time available to women migrants. The first point can be interpreted as a negative response to migration, whilst the second can be seen as a reflection of new opportunities generated by movement to the urban environment.

Educational and formal sector job opportunities in the city are potentially very advantageous to migrant women. Yet not one of the women surveyed was employed in the latter, and although 22 per cent of the women were attending, or had attended, adult education classes since arriving at Umm Badda, in every case they returned to carry out their normal domestic life.

From the survey it seems that migration does one of two things for women, depending largely on the economic success of her husband. Either she is forced to work long hours in local markets or she remains at home to live a much more idle, less-productive life. Some of the more adventurous in this latter group engage in craft-related activities to occupy some of their free time. Without exception however, all the women perceived that they were more home-based and secluded in the city and had less demand on their time. The increase in leisure time is reflected in new urban attitudes of dress sense and housekeeping, and in new perceptions and aspirations. Many women spoke of a new belief in education and work for their daughters. Thus, although migration seems to lead to a decline in the productivity opportunities for women migrants and a more home-based lifestyle, it is in the next generation of women that the greatest changes will occur.

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Acknowledgements

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Miss R.M. Page is a final year undergraduate in geography at the University of Durham.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Professor R.O. Collins (University of Santa Barbara, California) is Visiting Fellow at Balliol College (Oxford) until the Summer of 1987. His main objective is to complete a new book on the history of the Jonglei Canal and the Nile waters. His fellowship at Balliol follows a term as Visiting Fellow at Trevelyan College (Durham) where he was utilising some of the documents housed at the Sudan Archive.

Professor R.S. O'Fahey (University of Bergen) will be visiting Durham University during the Spring where he will be working on 19th century Sufism. Whilst in Durham, he will also be doing some work utilising the Sudan Archive.

Dr D. Johnson is Visiting Fellow at St Aidan's College (Durham) from January 1987 until July 4th. Whilst in Durham he will be using the Sudan Archive to investigate military slavery.

Dr M.E.H. Abu Sin (University of Khartoum) will be visiting University College, Swansea (Department of Geography) for two months from May 1987.

Mr Yousif El Mahi has started a three year programme of research for a Ph.D. at the University of Durham (Department of Geography). He will be investigating aspects of vegetational changes in Kordofan during the Twentieth Century.

SUDAN METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE:

SALFORD BRANCH

Mike Hulme begins our regular DATA SOURCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM series with a description of his rainfall archive at Salford University.

A database consisting of daily, monthly and annual rainfall data for Sudanese stations has been compiled by the author at the Department of Geography, University of Salford. Data have been extracted directly from the Sudan Meteorological Service (SMS) archive in Khartoum, from published reports of the SMS (Annual Meteorological Reports and Annual Rainfall Reports) and limited additions from data compiled by S E Nicholson and the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia.

The database is continually being updated through contacts in Khartoum and data for 1986 (all months) are already available. The longest unbroken series available is for Khartoum, which commenced in 1900.

The database has three levels of resolution:

Annual Rainfall Totals and Frequencies of >1mm and >10mm Raindays:

126 stations are incorporated -	11 for Sudan north of 16 degrees N
	101 for central Sudan (12-16 degrees N)
	14 for Sudan south of 12 degrees N

A total of more than 6,300 station-years is in the database, with 30 stations possessing pre-1920 records (<10% missing values) and a further 33 with pre-1950 records (<10% missing values).



Monthly Rainfall Totals:

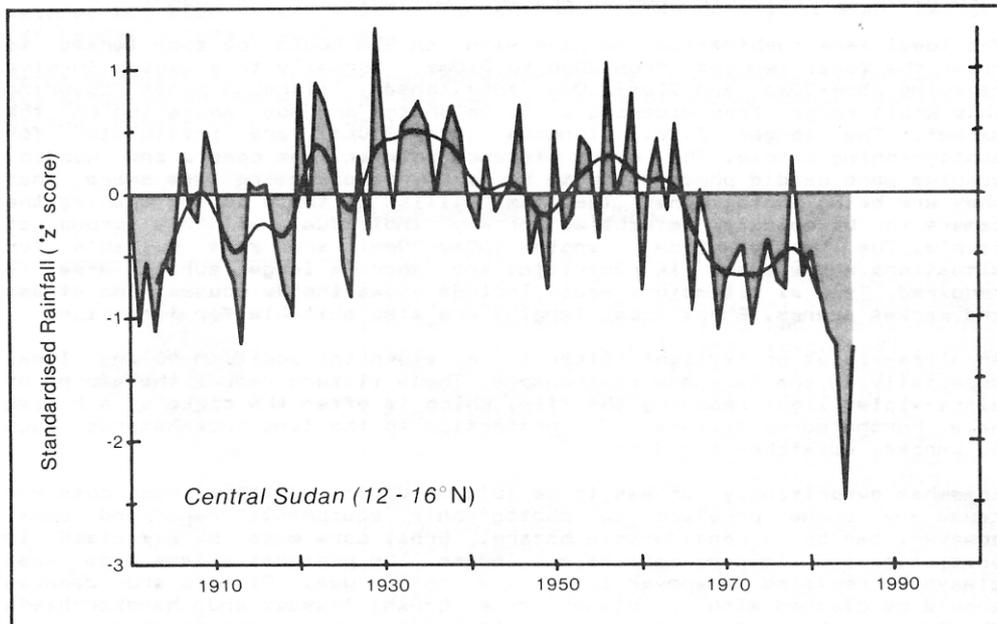
30 stations have full monthly rainfall totals compiled, these being stations commencing prior to 1920.

Daily Rainfall Totals:

15 stations from central Sudan have full daily rainfall totals compiled, 11 of these being pre-1920 starts. Khartoum is the longest complete series with 56 years of daily rainfalls. A further 55 stations have daily rainfalls for selected years (1929-30, 1945-9, 1962-3, 1971-2, 1978-9). This section of the database is constructed so that only days with rainfall recorded are included, a day number being associated with each fall. Over 31,000 daily totals are on file.

A suite of FORTRAN77 programs has been written to analyse annual, rainday and daily rainfall totals (programs for monthly analysis have not yet been prepared). Options available from this suite include.

- filtering annual series (moving average, Gaussian filters)
- deriving standardised series for specified regions (see example diagram)
- statistical tests for randomness (Kendall's test and runs test)
- frequencies of daily falls of selected thresholds
- mean daily/pentadly falls per station
- wet season definitions (e.g. start and termination dates), according to specified models, both relative and absolute.



Anyone who would like a specific data set extracted, or an analysis performed, or who can contribute to the data base expansion should contact the author at the address below. Arrangements can be made to transfer data files within the UK through the JANET network, or abroad through EARN Gateway to international networks ARPANET or BITNET.

Dr M Hulme is Lecturer in Geography at the University of Salford, SALFOAD M5 4WT (telephone 061 736 5943 extension 7294).



PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SUDAN

Derek Hudspeth offers some tips for amateur photographers travelling around the Sudan.

As in most African countries, the Sudanese authorities are suspicious of foreign visitors with a camera. This is particularly so in 'vulnerable' areas such as in the general vicinity of military establishments, bridges, and on the fringes of war zones. With this in mind, it is important to obtain permission to take photographs in all regions of the country. Permits are obtainable from the Ministry of Culture and Information in Khartoum. Even with a permit, photographers should be prepared to answer questions from the military and police authorities.

The most commonly used camera equipment today is, without doubt, the 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) camera, and therefore the following comments are based on the use of this type of equipment. These cameras have the advantage of 'built in' exposure meters and interchangeable lenses. They are available in varying degrees of sophistication, but bearing in mind the harsh conditions that the camera is likely to be subjected to, the more basic and reliable cameras are more suitable for the Sudan.

The ideal lens combination to have with an SLR would be zoom lenses to cover the focal lengths from 35mm to 210mm. Normally this would involve carrying 35mm-70mm and 70mm-210mm zoom lenses, although zooms covering this whole range from wide-angle to telephoto are now appearing on the market. The longer focal lengths (70mm-210mm) are invaluable for photographing people. The extra distance between the camera and subject enables more candid photographs to be taken, people being less aware that they are being photographed. The zoom facility of these lenses enables the camera to be quickly refocussed on any individual within a group of people. The shorter focal lengths (35mm-70mm) are most suitable for situations where space is restricted and where a large subject area is required. Typical situations would include views inside houses, and street and market scenes. Short focal lengths are also suitable for landscapes.

An ultra-violet or skylight filter is an essential addition to any lens, especially in the Sudanese environment. These filters reduce the amount of ultra-violet light reaching the film, which is often the cause of a bluish haze. Furthermore, filters offer protection to the lens from hazards such as knocks, scratches and dust.

Somewhat surprisingly, unless it is left in direct sunlight, heat does not cause any undue problems to photographic equipment. Sand and dust, however, can be a considerable hazard. Great care must be exercised in protecting and cleaning cameras and lenses. The protective lens caps must always be replaced whenever lenses are not in use. Filters and cameras should be cleaned with a 'blower' type brush; tissues and handkerchiefs should never be used as they can easily scratch the precision glass.

The Sudan abounds with subjects to photograph. It is always advisable to take enough film to meet all your expected needs and then add a few extra rolls for luck. The expense of buying the extra film before your trip will be rewarded by not having to purchase extra film locally. Photographic film is not a priority in the Sudan and any that is found in some of the specialist shops and in larger hotels is usually out of date and/or improperly stored. If film is to be kept for a while before it is needed it is advisable to store it in a refrigerator. It needs to be removed two or three hours before use. As this is not always possible, it is advisable to keep the film away from the direct heat and rays of the sun.

The speed and type of film to be used are really a matter of personal preference, but one or two points are useful to bear in mind. Firstly, there is the question of whether to use colour

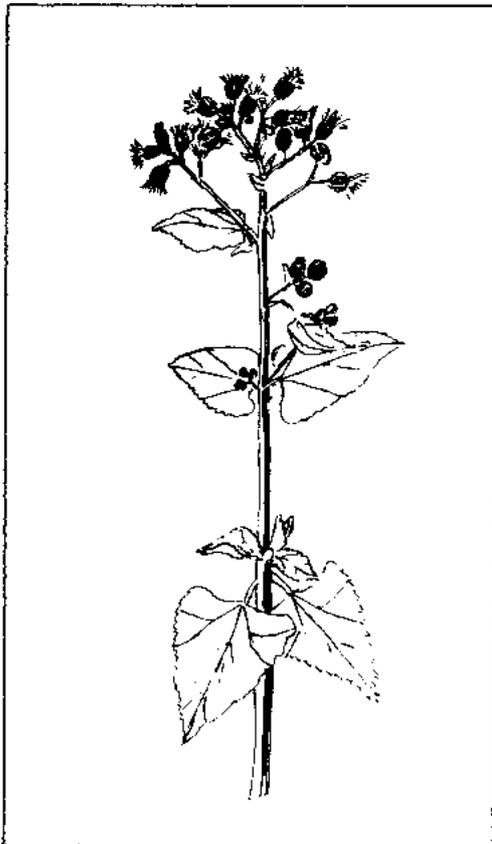


transparency film for slides or colour negative film for prints. The latter has two main advantages for the amateur. Firstly, it has a much greater tolerance of over and under exposure, unlike colour transparency film which has to be perfectly exposed to yield acceptable results. Secondly, slides can now be made from colour negative material much more cheaply and successfully than prints can be made from transparency material. Film speed is also a question of choice. Slow film (such as 25 and 64 ASA) has the advantage of finer grain characteristics, whereas faster film, whilst being more grainy, is more suitable for poor light conditions. A point to remember is that although conditions in Sudan are often very bright in the open, most people sit and work in the shade and hence lighting conditions are less favourable.

Finally, it is essential to always carry a spare camera battery. Most modern cameras are not only dependent on batteries to power their exposure meters, but also their shutter mechanisms. Consequently, a dead battery can render a camera useless.

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FLORA OF EASTERN SUDAN



Much has been published about the role of officials in the Sudan Government Service. In this respect, one is normally referring to males, whilst their wives and families have been left very much in the background. Some of the activities of wives are described in R. Kenrick's book (see list of recent publications), but one hobby is well preserved. Mrs A. R. Kennedy-Cooke was the wife of Brian Kennedy-Cooke CBE MC and Bar, who served in the Sudan from 1920 to 1940, and was the Governor of Kassala Province between 1935 and 1940. One of her interests was the local flora, and she produced a number of water-colours of the varied species, which have now been donated to the Sudan Archive (Durham).

From time to time, we hope to reproduce some of her pictures (unfortunately in black and white only). The reproductions begin with a painting which she did on December 16th 1929 at Wad Gabir along the River Atbara. Details from her own notes are included below.

Compositae ageratum conyzoides L.
Square stemmed fleshy plant.
Florets of pale lavender.



BOOK REVIEW: DESERTIFICATION IN DARFUR

Mike Hulme reviews *ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN WITH REFERENCE TO DESERTIFICATION IN DARFUR*, F.N. Ibrahim, Bayreuth (1984), 40 figures, 37 tables, 49 plates and 5 colour fold-out maps, 215pp., ISBN. 3-922808-09-3. Price: DM 32.00.

Anyone familiar with Fouad Ibrahim's work on the human ecology of desertification will not be surprised by both the breadth and detail with which he addresses the process of desertification in Darfur. His intention is to provide a considered and factual regional study of desertification, a term which is notorious for its rather liberal use as rhetoric. In this volume (no.6 in a series of Monographs of Geographical Science from the University of Bayreuth), Ibrahim draws together much of his previously published work which is based on extensive fieldwork in Darfur between 1977 and 1983. The volume breaks down into five substantive chapters, respectively concerned with methods of monitoring ecological imbalance, the physical and human ecological bases of the processes of degradation, regional variations of desertification intensity, and a chapter on programmes specifically aimed at restoring balance in this semi-arid region.

Detailed field observation and data accumulation is a characteristic of Ibrahim's work, yet even his methodical approach cannot completely overcome the acute problems of data reliability that anyone who works in Sudan and the Sahel encounters. The colour fold-out maps in the backpocket suggest a more definitive version of, for example, transhumance routes and well locations than can realistically be determined. Existing quantitative data are subject to inaccuracy too and the visibility data on p.33 are substantially in error with even published sources (let alone inaccuracies in these sources themselves).

The above criticisms should not detract, however, from the value of this volume which provides a penetrating study of the '...complex of processes leading to ecological imbalance...', Ibrahim's favoured expression. A useful variety of alternative indices of precipitation occurrence and aridity are presented between pp.55-72 and a separate section (4.4) on the role of women in both suffering from and perpetuating the desertification process is pertinent. A fascinating relationship between polygamy and the adaptation to spatial variability in rainfall of cultivators is of particular interest. A good 330 item reference list is included and the appendix of names of indigenous and botanical plant species helps clarify the often ambiguous use of these terms elsewhere in the literature.

Ibrahim identifies with the tendency to itemise specific measures recommended to restore ecological balance, a tendency that often can be either infuriatingly bland or else supremely idealistic. His 10 point programme fails to break any new ground, the key recurring terms being 'plans', 'control', 'campaigns' and 'training centres'. We seem to have heard it all before and Ibrahim is more on target in an offhand comment about the political power and means (centralised or devolved) to implement any policy suggestions. Of course, we are now witnessing in Sudan, among other countries, an increasing usurping of Sudanese sovereignty by the economic (political?) control asserted by Non-Governmental and International Organisations. Because this basic political issue is not tackled, the strength of the book remains in its descriptive and analytical modes rather than in any prescriptive framework.

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All members of SSSUK are invited to contribute to SUDAN STUDIES. The Editor is always pleased to receive short articles (c.350-500 words) on any subject related to the Sudan and its affairs. Original factual, research or philosophical articles can be accepted to a length of c.1500 words (longer by negotiation with the editor). Requests for specific information can also be included in the 'CAN YOU HELP' section.

Please note that the Editor is looking for members to contribute to regular features, such as DATA SOURCES IN THE UK, RESEARCH PROFILE, SUDAN MEMOIRS and TEACHERS IN SUDAN. Volunteers to write BOOK REVIEWS and design the CROSSWORD are also wanted. Please inform the Editor of Sudan publications noted in any discipline for inclusion in the regular list of references.

If members have any ideas about SUDAN STUDIES, for example with respect to format, length, new features and so on, please write to the Editor indicating whether or not you would wish your letter to be published (possibly in summary form).

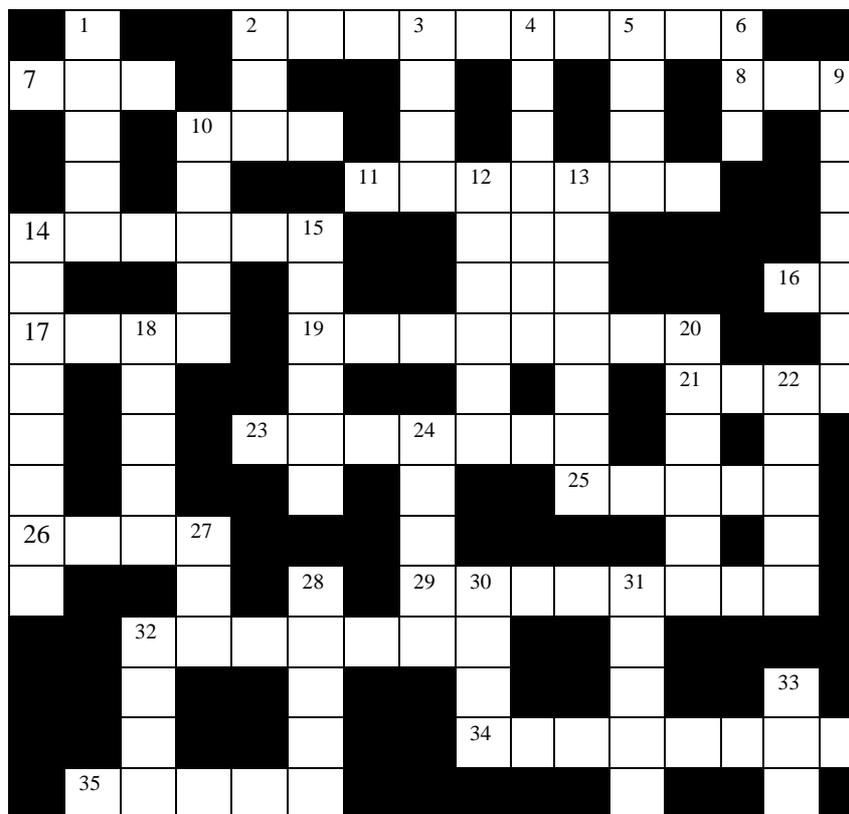
All contributions to the newsletter should be typed or written in legible handwriting and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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CROSSWORD (Number 1) – Places, Rivers and Hills

(All answers can be found in the TIMES COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF THE WORLD)



Across

2. Antiquity site near Shendi (3.3.4)
7. Not the 'Old' Halfa (3)
8. A 'well-named' common prefix (3)
10. A meandering female of Nester Equatoria (3)
11. A feline addition to 17 across (7)
14. Old capital on the Blue Nile (6)
16. Not a very positive sort of lake (2)
17. Important oasis town of North Kordofan (4)
19. Nearest town to 35 across (8)
21. Ethiopian lake source of the Blue Nile (4)
23. Major town of the Upper Nile (7)
25. Airport settlement near Gedaref (5)
26. 10.41'N, 32.13'E (4)
29. Part of a settlement on the road from El Obeid to Omdurman (8)
32. Principal town of 4 down (7)
34. Central place of Northern Darfur (2.6)
35. Prefix-less White Nile capital (5)

Down

1. Island label of the Butana (5)
2. Follow 10 across to arrive here (3)
3. Plateau on the Ethiopian border (4)
4. The 'relief centre' of Sudan (4)
5. Mathematician 'snaking' its way to the Bahr el Arab (4)
6. Virtually the meeting point of Sudan, Egypt & Libya (3)
9. Steamer destination from Karima (7)
10. Blue Nile town south of 14 across (5)
12. Major centre between Juba and Wau (6)
13. Principal town of a province with the same name (7)
14. Another name for the sixth cataract (8)
15. Important settlement of 4 down (6)
18. Town with a well-cemented relationship with Kosti (5)
20. Site of major battle in 1896 (6)
22. Railhead in Southern Darfur (5)
24. Rice growing town in the Bahr el Ghazal (5)
27. Favourite island of the Mahdi (3)
28. Town north west of 34 across (5)
30. Sudan's major life source (4)
31. Blue Nile town opposite Hasaheisa (5)
32. Between the Pongo and the Biri (4)
33. Town on the road from Juba to Zaire (3)