Sudanese Studies at Durham

Sudan Archive

Durham University Library contains a first class research resource for Sudanese studies. The most important part of this resource is the Sudan Archive at Durham. It was founded in 1957, the year after Sudan independence and is a collection of papers of former officials, soldiers, missionaries, businessmen and individuals who served or lived in the Sudan during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium period (1899-1955).

Where is the Sudan Archive?

Sudan Archive, Archives & Special Collections, Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN. Tel: 0191 33 42972 Fax: 0191 33 42942 Email: pg.library@durham.ac.uk See our web pages for access and opening hours: http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/

Who will find the Sudan Archive useful?

Academics and students who are interested in the history, politics, economics, geography and ethnography of the Sudan and, to a lesser extent, of neighbouring countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

What’s in the Sudan Archive?

Archives. All the collections are described in detail on the web pages including, where available, links to online finding aids. See http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc. The Archive contains official, semi-official and private papers, which document the Sudan under Mahdist and Condominium rule for the period 1883-1956. There are about 300 Mahdist documents in Arabic and there are also substantial numbers of papers relating to Egypt, Arabia, Palestine, Transjordan, Syria and African states bordering on the Sudan.

Individual collections include the papers of General Sir Reginald Wingate (1861-1953) and the Sudan papers of Sir James Robertson (1899-1983). There are over 300 other smaller collections, many of which are the papers of former Sudan Political Service officials.
Photographs, films. There are over 46,000 photographs in the Archive and a large number are indexed on a searchable database available in the Library. The collections also include over 130 cinefilms which have been remastered and copied on to video.

Maps. Maps of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in the Africa 1:250,000 series are catalogued separately but other maps, including hand-drawn maps of military campaigns, are within individual collections.


Printed Material

There are four main groups of printed material relating to the Sudan, two on public access housed at the Main Library and two at Palace Green. Printed items particularly associated with archival material are listed in the Archive catalogues. All printed material is recorded in the online Catalogue. The Main Library collection includes substantial holdings of Sudanese imprints and Arabic material. The Middle Eastern Documentation Unit (MEDU) has modern official publications including Sudan Government publications, bank reports, population censuses, publications of Sudanese institutions, some consultancy reports and a wide range of newsletters and other periodicals relating to Sudan since independence in 1956.

At Palace Green the early printed books collection includes material published up to 1850 and rare, sensitive and fragile material of later date, as well as Sudanese newspapers. The Condominium “grey” literature collection, also at Palace Green, is an extensive body of published and semi-published titles, including government publications, army and staff lists, journals, missionary literature, lectures, timetables, directories, and publications of Sudanese societies, companies and clubs.

For more details, please see our website:

http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc

This leaflet is also available in alternative fonts on request

Last updated September 2005