

The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044

Web site: www.rpsl.org.uk

Fax: 020 7486 0803

Email: secretary@rpsl.org.uk



PRESS RELEASE

Postal services in the Sudan

The development of postal services in the Sudan was explained to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London by Richard Stock at a recent meeting. Combining a presentation with an outstanding display of material, Richard told how postal arrangements in the Sudan are fairly recent, with the earliest covers dating from the mid 1840s, the first post offices opened in 1867 and postage stamps first issued in 1897.

A letter sent from Khartoum to Cairo in 1844 is probably the earliest recorded item. Much of the early mail was to and from merchants, administrators and explorers. Included in the display was a letter sent by Colonel (later General) Gordon in 1876, plus other items written by General Gordon and the explorer James Grant.

In the late 1890 the use of river and rail travelling post offices grew. Then on 4 January 1914, after an abortive attempt in December 1913, Lt Marc Pourpe successfully carried around 60 letters by air from Cairo (Heliopolis) to Khartoum, returning on 19 January.



Richard Stock (left)
with Brian Trotter, President
of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are kindly asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

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