Dedicated to the memory of my friend and mentor
The late Dr. Muhammad Ibrāhīm Abū Salīm (1927-2004)
&
to the memory of the brothers, al-Tāyib and Ibrāhīm Muhammad al-Nūr,
Fulani merchants and scholars who made this collection possible through their material
generosity, but, more importantly, who through their generosity of spirit, scholarship and understanding
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NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The present work is a revised and extended version of the first catalogue, made as a typescript for limited circulation under a similar title in March 1981. This version is intended as a source-book to my ongoing project to lay out and make available the sources on the customary and sultanic law of Darfur. The next stage will be the publication of my notes on the same topic from the Condominium sources. A third stage, which will have to involve lawyers from Darfur, will be to extract from this body of material some general principles to act as guidelines for the redistribution of land in the province.

Thus my purpose in preparing this second version of the Catalogue is far from purely academic; the issue of land is a vital, contentious and fundamental issue in the ongoing conflict in Darfur, as I have discovered working as a consultant to the UN Mission to the Sudan (UNMIS) and the African Union (AU) over the last year. There will, assuredly, be no peace in Darfur until a just and equitable land settlement is reached. The collection I made back in the 1970s as part of my research as a professional historian now has a contemporary political aspect, and it would be naïve of me to pretend otherwise. Thus, one collection listed here, from Dār Suwaynī (DF306.45/1 to DF320.45/15), photographed in 1965 by Professor Joseph and Dr. Marie-José Tubiana at Dār in 1965, has recently been deliberately destroyed. The perpetrators of this particular cultural atrocity evidently were unaware that copies exist in France and Bergen and that translations have been published (O’Fahey & Abu Salim 1983-79-99). The significance of the documents listed here is enhanced by the 1 January 1956 principle, when the Sudan attained formal independence, adopted in the Abuja negotiations between the Khartoum Government and the rebel movements, namely that no documents issued after the end of colonial rule would be accepted as valid. Nothing has been said about the legal status of documents issued before the colonial period.

On this latter point I can make a few preliminary remarks which I shall pursue in greater detail elsewhere: the British were unhappy to discover that both in the Gezira region and in Darfur, there was evidence of a system of private landownership, the ḥākārā system. These were grants of allodial estates made by the Funj or Darfur sultans to members of the ruling dynasty (women included), title-holders and holy families. Although the British accepted the principle of land settlement and registration along the Nile and in urban areas, away from the Nile they emphasised communal or tribal land rights. This was a simplification of a much more complex system; de facto the British knew this but shied away from dealing with the issue in any formal way.

The overwhelming majority of the documents listed here concern land and provide a vivid insight into the land tenure system under the sultans, which system was continued under the Condominium (1916-56) and during the first years of independence (1956-1970s). When I

2 I have discontinued my earlier practice of writing the province’s name as Dār Für.
3 This is not the first time such vandalism has occurred in Darfur’s history; I quote from my fieldnotes, 8 June 1970 al-Fāshir, ”One of the elders of the [Native Administration] Court said, ‘Osman Jano [‘Uthmān Janū, Mahdist Governor of Darfur, 1887-89] said that the Mahdist state had come to develop the spiritual life and to deny worldly things, so he had many documents burnt,” “plus ça change ....
5 A hint of this comes out in S.R. Simpson, “Town planning and development during the Condominium: two extracts from a memoir”, in The Modernization of the Sudan, ed. M.W. Daly, New York 1985, 73-84. Simpson’s papers in the Sudan Archive, University of Durham, are the essential starting point for any study of land tenure and land settlement under the Condominium.
photographed many of the documents listed here, I did so in the courtyard of the Native Administration Court in al-Fashir presided over by its president, malik Riḥaymat Allāh Mahmūd al-Dādingāwī. The principle then was that if a litigant produced a sultanic document, a determination was made as to whether it was authentic or not; if it was determined that it was authentic, it was accepted as a valid title deed.\(^6\) The system began to unravel in the 1970s for three reasons, the abolition of native administration from 1970 onwards,\(^7\) environmental degradation and the concomitant loss of soil fertility from the mid-80s and, perhaps most importantly, population pressure (from c. 2 million in 1956 to over 6 million today). But the principles on which the system was based are still those most acceptable to the communities in Darfur. This latter point was made clear to me at meetings I have had in both Khartoum and Darfur (May-June 2005) and with the leaders of the Darfur movements recently (February 2006) in Abuja, Nigeria.\(^8\)

There is much confusion among outside experts and, indeed, among Darfurians themselves about the land system as it developed in Darfur. It is not customary law as understood in a Southern Sudan context, but rather a mixture of Islamic and sultanic law, thus in no way significantly different from much of the Muslim world, for example the Ottoman Empire. Darfur has had a written land law for some three hundred years; the earliest documents listed here date from about 1700-1720 (DF142.18/2 & DF160.18/20).

I have, in some instances, added information from my fieldnotes, but the bulk of the latter be made available at a later date.

I intend, at a later stage, to scan the entire collection for wider distribution.

R.S. O’F.

March 2006

\(^6\) DF78.8/10 and DF125.13/10 are transcripts of court hearings before the sultan concerning the authenticity of earlier documents, while DF271.33/6, DF272.33/7 and DF374.60/1 are examples of forged charters. The latter document was probably forged in the nineteenth century.

\(^7\) Its partial re-introduction since 1991 has been vitiated by the lack of any consultation with the communities involved.

\(^8\) On land as a political issue in Darfur, see Julie Flint & Alex de Waal, *Darfur, A short history of a long war*, London 2005, 3. 8-9, 42-43, 45, 58-59 & 125. The land issue is a *leitmotif* in the rhetoric of both the rebel movements and the Arab militias (*janjaweed*) and motivates many of the Khartoum Government’s local administrative decisions. The most egregious example of ethnic gerrymandering was in 1994 when Dār Maṣālīt was divided into eight Arab amirates and five Maṣālīt *firsha* (the Maṣālīt equivalent of *shartay* elsewhere in Darfur)—the Arabs form at most 25% of the population of Dār Maṣālīt; Flint & de Waal (2005), 58-59.
THE SULTANS OF DARFUR

(1) Sulayman c. 1930-90
(2) Moawia c. 1690-1700
(3) Ahmad ibn Idris c. 1699-1700
(4) Muhammad ibn Idris c. 1713-46
(5) Ahmad ibn Ali c. 1728-34
(6) Muhammad ibn Ali 1734-46
(7) Atib ibn Ali 1746-56
(8) Muhammad al-Fatih 1756-59
(9) Muhammad al-Fatih 1759-62
(10) Ahmad al-Din 1762-65
(11) Muhammad al-Din 1765-75
(12) Ahmad ibn Muhammad 1775-80
(13) Ahmad ibn Muhammad 1780-85
(14) Ahmad ibn Muhammad 1785-90
(15) Ahmad ibn Muhammad 1790-95
(16) Youssef 1795-1800
(17) Ahmad al-Din 1800-1801
(18) Muhammad al-Din 1801-1805
(19) Muhammad al-Din 1805-1807

Diagram 1: The Sultans of Darfur.
INTRODUCTION (March 1981)

The historian of Africa is frequently obliged to become his own archivist. Such, at least, has been my experience in the years I have devoted to the history of the Darfur Sultanate.

The following catalogue of approximately 350 documents (372 are listed, but this includes a number of repetitions), issued mainly by the sultans of Darfur or their officials, is based upon the card index of the photographic collection kept at the Department of History, University of Bergen. The majority were photographed by myself in the course of visits to the province in 1970, 1974 and 1976. The other documents come either from printed sources or have been deposited at Bergen by friends and colleagues. To the latter I am most grateful; all readily understood the advantages of making the collection as comprehensive as possible.

The catalogue is far from being an exhaustive list of all the Arabic material originating in Darfur; it does not include the correspondence of the Mahdist administration in the province (1886-1898) or the letters of Sultan ʿAli Dinār (1898-1916) now located in the Central Records Office, Khartoum [now, the National Records Office], nor does it list the numerous historical fragments, genealogies and king-lists to be found in the papers of Muhammad ʿAbd al-Raḥīm and Dr. A.J. Arkell.9

The documents listed here were generally written on imported paper, mainly from Italy, in what might be termed a Sudanese hand. They were usually written on the recto only, continuing in the righthand margin where necessary. They range in date from about 1710 (DF142.18/2 & DF160.18/20) to 1968. The overwhelming majority of the documents from the pre-1874 Sultanate are charters granting landed estates, rights over people or privileged status, or are records of court cases arising from disputes over land. Those from ʿAli Dinār’s reign are more varied in content and, taken together, give a detailed and vivid picture of his administration.

A set of those documents photographed by myself has been deposited at the CRO under “Miscellaneous, O’Fahey”.

The work of registering and photographing the documents has been carried out in close co-operation with the CRO, whose Director, Dr. M.I. Abu Ṣalim, has given unfailing support to the enterprise. I am most grateful to sayyids Ahmad Muhammad ʿUthmān and ʿAlī Ṣāliḥ Karrār who were with me in Darfur in 1974 and 1976 respectively. I must also thank the Province Administration officials and in particular the former Commissioner, sayyid al-Tayyib al-Mardī, for all their help. Finally, but not least, I owe an immense debt to the owners of the documents for their generous hospitality and enthusiastic help.

R.S. O’Fahey
Bergen

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THE CATALOGUE


DF1.1/1  CONFIRMATORY CHARTER
Sultan Ḥusayn al-Rashid b. al-sultan Muḥammad ‘Ajīb (Abu Kowda),
faqīh Idrīs ‘Abd Allāh and others,
Confirming their estate.
2 Jumāda II 1316/18 October 1898.
Text & transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmad (1973), 1, 24-29.

DF2.1/2  CONFIRMATORY CHARTER
Sultan ‘Alī Dīnār,
faqīh Idrīs ‘Abd Allāh al-Kinānī,
confirming his estate,
undated.
Text & transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmad (1973), 1, 30-35.

DF3.1/3  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
abūl-jabbāyyīn ‘umūm Dār Fūr
Yaṣīn Aḥmad & Uthmān b. ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
faqīh Idrīs ‘Abd Allāh al-Kinānī,
recipient is not to be molested by the tax collectors.
19 Shābān 1319/1 December 1901.
Text & transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmed (1973), 1, 44-47.

DF4.1/4  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Ambaddā al-Raḍḍī,
Idrīs ‘Abd Allāh,
Recipient is not to be molested.
3 Dhu’l-hijja 1314/5 May 1897 [Mahdiyya].
Text & transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmed (1973), 1, 21-23.

DF5.1/5  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
al-ʿumda Yūsuf b. al-maqdūm Muḥammad Sharīf,
al-ʿumda Muḥammad Mahdī,
complaint by ‘Abd Allāh ʿAbd al-Hādī.
1925 : Condominium.

DF6.1/6  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
Idrīs ‘Abd Allāh and his brother,

10 A pretender, allegedly of Bideyat origin, who seized al-Fāshir in mid or late 1898 and proclaimed himself sultan. He tried to negotiate with ʿAlī Dīnār as the latter approached al-Fāshir in October of that year; see DF14.4/1 and DF251.28/32. According to oral sources, ʿAlī Dīnār spared his life and made him sultan al-hadādīn, ”king of the iron-workers”, a despised endogamous caste in Darfur. For a variant version, see Müsāl-Mubarak al-Ḥasan, Ta’rīkh Dār Fūr al-siyāsī, Khartoum n.d., 225-34.
11 Head of the tax-collectors.
12 On whom, see al-Ḥasan, Ta’rīkh Dār Fūr, 224 ff. , where the name is spelt Umm Baddā al-Raḍḍī.
Recipients are not to be molested.
Rajab 1317/November-December 1899.

DF7.1/7
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, Ādam Yahyā, ṣāḥib Idrīs ʿAbd Allāh is to be helped to rebuild his mosque.
28 Dhu’l-Ḥijja 1317/19 May 1900.

ARCHIVE 2: four documents located in file no. DP 66.K.1.29, Arida Omodia (al-Fāshir Province Archives).

DF8.2/1
SULH
Settlement of a boundary dispute between the Banī ʿUmran and the Maʿāqiliyya.
Undated: Condominium: in transcription only.

DF9.2/2
SULH
Settlement of a boundary dispute between the Banī ʿUmran and the Maʿāqiliyya.
Jumāda I 1335/February-March 1917: Condominium.

DF10.2/3
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
[Musaym Kashām] ʿUrabī, Shaykh Ḥāsab Allāh Khalīl and shaykh ṣāḥib Muḥammad Ḥusayn, concerning the disposition of land.
1335/1916-17.

DF11.2/4
CHARTER?
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, … …
8 Rabīʿ 1317/16 August 1899.
A forgery?


DF12.3/1
SIJILL
Hearing before the hīkīndār Ismāʿīl Ayyūb Pasha13 of a dispute over land between Abuʾl-Hasan and Ridwān.
30 Rabīʿ 1291/6 May 1875.
The only extant document issued by the Turco-Egyptian administration in Darfur, 1875-82.

DF13.3/2
CONFIRMATORY CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn, ṣāḥib ṣāḥib ʿAbd Allāh b. Abūʾl-Ḥasan, confirming his estate.

13 Hill (1967), 183-84.

DF14.4/1 LETTER
Sultan Husayn b. al-sulṭān Muḥammad ʿAjīb [Abū Kowda],
"our brother" Sultan ʿAlī Dinār,
asserting his claim to Darfur and offering to negotiate a settlement of their differences.
Undated [1898]; see DF 251.28/32.

ARCHIVE 5: One document located in file [number missing] Beira Omodia (al-Fāshir Province Archives).

DF15.5/1 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dinār,
ʿIrāyqāt tribe,
appointing Muḥammad ʿAlī Šālīh as their chief and delimiting their boundaries.
15 Rabī’ II 1318/13 July 1900 [transl. only]
transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmed (1973), 1, 7-9.

ARCHIVE 6: Twelve documents in the possession (1970) of Bashār al-Ḥājī of Dār Simiyāt, al-Fāshir District. This archive was later partly incorporated into ARCHIVE 28, but the separate numbering of the documents has been retained.
From my fieldnotes, 14 June 1970,
"Bashār’s pedigree:—

Bashār
| al-Ḥājī
| Muḥammad
| ʿAbdullāḥi
| al-Dōma
| Muḥammad

"The Simiat consist of twelve khashm al-bayt, originally from the Berti."14 Bashār could remember only the following names:—
Kajanga — the khashm al-bayt of al-Dōma
Safartu
Wad Bertu
Wafanga,
Nangze.
Tagarangze,
Difarwertu,
Jidaybo.”

DF 16.6/1  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad,
revenues from Dār ʿSimīyāt not yet received: ʿSimīyāt ”is allocated to our palace”: send 50
ardabhs before the beginning of next month.
22 Dhuʾl-qaʿda 1316/3 April 1899.

DF 17.6/2  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad and the shaykhs of al-ʿSimīyāt and al-Ḥamar,
requests that they come to him “to assist in the deliberations and consultations”.
17 ʿīn 1316/2 November 1898.

DF 18.6/3  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
Muḥammad Quwwa,
all guns and ammunition are to be confiscated: it is forbidden to carry them in public.
16 Rajab 1316/30 November 1898.

DF 19.6/4  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad,
”officials of the granary” are coming: the kharāj is to be collected and stored.
5 Rajab 1317/9 November 1899.

DF 20.6/5  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
Ādōma (sic) Muḥammad, ʿumda al-ʿSimīyāt,
recipient is not to interfere with a Zaghāwa community in his district who have complained of
his exactions.
9 Shawwāl 1317/10 February 1900.

DF 21.6/6  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda al-ʿSimīyāt,
recipient is to return some Birqid (Birged), who have deserted their land to their chief, Ahmad
Duhayshh.
26 Ẓafar 1317/6 July 1899.

DF 22.6/7  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda al-ʿSimīyāt,
Jād Allāh is coming with fifteen men to cut wood for saddle-frames for camels: he is to be
assisted.
21 Ẓafar 1318/20 June 1900.

DF 23.6/8  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda al-ʿSimīyāt,
recipient has allowed unauthorized travellers through his district on the road to Omdurman and has been involved in trade himself: no one is allowed [to trade] without the sultan’s permission.

28 Śafar 1318/27 June 1900.

DF24.6/9  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad al-Simiyāṭī,
the rainy season has come: the people are to prepare a field for the sultan: recipient is to send a report on the size of the cultivation.
23 Muḥarram 1318/28 May 1900.

DF25.6/10  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda al-Simiyāṭī,
huts and a storage enclosure (zarība mashayyina) are to be erected on deserted land.
19 Muḥarram 1319/8 May 1901.

DF26.6/11  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad al-Simiyāṭī,
recipient is to give 10 ardabbās from his revenues to Jārayn Bāṣī.
5 Śafar 1319/24 May 1901.

DF27.6/12  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad al-Simiyāṭī,
the sultan has written to the muqaddam of the fuqārā‘ in recipient’s district to collect the “emergency provisions” and bring them to al-Fāshir: the muqaddam is to appoint a deputy to recite the Qur’ān for victory.¹⁵
19 Jumādā II 1322/31 August 1904.


DF28.7/1  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn,
granting recipient authority over his community (26 names are listed) permitting them to develop some deserted land at Saylī: their zakāḥ is to be brought to the sultan by the recipient.
10 Muḥarram 1318/10 May 1900.

DF29.7/2  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Idrīs ʿAbd Allāh, qāḍī ʿumūm Dār Für,¹⁶
the shaykhs and people of Azaqarfa district,

¹⁵ Probably on the occasion of a campaign against faqīh Sinīn, who was based at Kabkābiyya; on Sinīn (Sanīn), see Theobald (1965), passim.
¹⁶ On whom, see Theobald (1965), 212-3.
‘Ali Najm al-Dīn possesses a charter of Sultan ‘Ali Dinār, dated 5 Shawwāl 1318/4 February 1901, granting him his grandfather’s land at t.k.li and al-Bayya: the recipients are to keep away from it. 16 Rabi‘ 1319/3 July 1901.

DF30.7/3 CHARTER

DF31.7/4 LETTER

DF32.7/5 CHARTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār, Hamd ‘Abd al-Qādir, nā‘ib (deputy judge), granting land at. z.nāra near al-Fāshir (boundaries given) because of recipient’s position as nā‘ib shar‘ī. 24 Dhu’l-ḥijja 1318/14 April 1901.

DF33.7/6 LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

DF34.7/7 SIJILL

DF35.7/8 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār, ‘Ali Najm al-Dīn, recipient had been ordered to supply some wood but has been dilatory: the sultan reproves him. 28 Ṣafar 1317/8 July 1899.

DF36.7/9 LETTER

17 A position he evidently held under the Mahdiyya, as the following documents evidence.
18 Evidently deputy judge for Darfur; see Holt (1970), 264 on Mahdist judicial administration.
Undated (1311/1893).
DF36.7/9 to DF38.7/11 concern the same topic.

DF37.7/10
LETTER
Muhammád al-Rayyáh, nā‘ib al-shar‘í bi-Dár Fúr,
Hamad ʿAbd al-Qádir,
authorizing the exchange of slaves requested in DF36.7/9.
27 Šafár 1311/9 September 1893.

DF38.7/11
LETTER
Hamad ʿAbd al-Qádir, nā‘ib Jadíd al-Sayl,
ʿAlí Najm al-Dín,
execution of the exchange of slaves (description or awṣáf given) authorized in DF37.7/10.
29 Šafár 1311/11 September 1893.

DF39.7/12
LETTER
Mahmúd Ahmad,20
"all the people of the twenty-four villages listed below",
in response to a petition from ʿAlí Najm al-Dín complaining of interference by the
muláźimiyya,21 Mahmúd has appointed his son, Zá‘íd, [to administer] the district.
12 Jumáda II 1314/16 November 1896.

DF40.7/13
FRAGMENT
A list of villages “that have left the Jadíd al-Sayl district (khút̩t̩) and those within it”.
Probably written by ʿAlí Najm al-Dín.
Undated.

DF41.7/16
PETITION
Thábit Abbákr and others,
Ṣaláh Abú,
asking for confirmation of ʿAlí Najm al-Dín’s authority over them.
DF48.7/21 was written in answer to the petition.
Undated (1896).

DF42.7/15
PROCLAMATION
ʿUthmán Ádám,22
"all the people of the country generally",
copy of a proclamation (šúrat manshúr) warning the people of Darfur against supporting the
revolt of Abú Jummáyza.
10 Shawwáli 1307/30 May 1890.23

DF43.7/16
LETTER
Bishára Zayn,

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19 Same recto as DF36.7/9.
20 Mahdist governor of Darfur and Kordofan, 1892-96; Hill (1967), 224.
22 Mahdist governor of Darfur and Kordofan from 1887 until his death in 1889 after his victory over
Abú Jummáyza; see Hill (1967), 367
23 The date is a puzzle, since, according to the standard sources, by 1890 both Abú Jummáyza and
ʿUthmán Jánú were dead.
‘Ali Najm al-Din, enclosing a copy of Uthmān Ādam’s proclamation, i.e. DF42.7/15, and ordering recipient to inform his people.
13 Shawwāl 1307/2 June 1890.

DF44.7/17 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
‘Ali Najm al-Din,
ordering the payment of 30 dollars within four days.
10 Dhu’l-qada’da 1317/12 March 1900.

DF45.7/18 LETTER
al-Nūr Jadīd,
Sh. q.r. and Mahmūd ‘Ali Najm al-Din,
asking them to hand over a donkey to bearer without delay.
1306/1888-89.

DF46.7/19 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
‘Ali Najm al-Din,
acknowledging receipt of a ”milk camel”.
1316-7/1898-99.

DF47.7/20 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
‘Ali Najm al-Din,
”our sons” are coming to collect wood: do not delay.
24 Jumāda II 1317/7 November 1899.

DF48.7/21 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Ṣalāḥ Abū,
‘Ali Najm al-Din,
has received a petition (i.e. DF41.7/14) from a group of people who say that they owe their agricultural labour to recipient: he is to investigate the matter.
29 Rajab 1313/15 January 1896.

DF49.7/22 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
‘Ali Najm al-Din,
reminding recipient of an earlier demand (i.e. DF60.7/33) for a hundred wooden poles needed for weapons.
6 Rabī’ II 1317/14 August 1899.

DF50.7/23 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
Hamūd Bishāra,
in response to DF51.7/24: ‘Ali Najm al-Din is responsible for the petitioners.
22 Ramaḍān 1316/3 February 1899.

DF51.7/24 PETITION
Hamīd Bishāra and others,  
Sultan ʾAlī Dīnār,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn has been neglecting them.  
3 Ramaḍān 1316/15 January 1899.

DF52.7/25  SIJILL  
Hearing of a dispute before … between faqīh Markaz and ʾAlī Najm al-Dīn over the alleged illegal sale of a cow.  
15 Muḥarram 1317/26 May 1899.

DF53.7/26  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER  
Sultan ʾAlī Dīnār,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn,  
acknowledging receipt of 50 ardabb from Jadīd al-Šayl.  
[date missing]

DF54.7/27  ADMINISTRATIVE TITLE  
al-abū Sitayba Khāṭir,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn and others,  
requisition of grain for the palace.  
17 Shaʿbān 1317/21 December 1899.

DF55.7/28  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER  
al-abū Sitayba Khāṭir,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn,  
order that Jadīd al-Šayl is to pay an additional 50 dollars a month.  
22 Shaʿbān 1317/26 December 1899.

DF56.7/29  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER  
al-abū Sitayba Khāṭir,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn,  
four named people at Umm Taytī are not to be disturbed.  
2 Muḥarram 1316/23 May 1898.

DF57.7/30  LIST  
Livestock owned by ʾAlī Najm al-Dīn and others: listed by Muḥammad al-Fadl.  
1319/1901-2.

DF58.7/31  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER  
Sultan ʾAlī Dīnār,  
ʿAlī Najm al-Dīn,  
order to give 4 ardabbs and water [?] to Mūsā’s party.  
Shaʿbān 1317/May-June 1899.

DF59.7/32  ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER  
Sultan ʾAlī Dīnār,  

24 An official responsible for the management of the court household; he held the titles, malik al-warabāya, “master of the narrow gate”, and amīn al-takkiyya, “master of the cloth [tax]”; see O’Fahey (1980), 27.
Ali Najm al-Din, order to give 3 ardabs to al-Haqq. 22 Shaban 1317/27 December 1899.

DF60.7/33   ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan 'Ali Dinár, 'Ali Najm al-Din, order to send 100 wooden poles needed for the weapons (see DF49.7/22) 2 Rajab 1316/16 November 1898.

DF61.7/34   ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan 'Ali Dinár, 'Ali Najm al-Din, order to give 5 ardabs to Ādam Rijāl.25 18 Shaban 1317/22 December 1899.

DF62.7/39   ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Mahmūd Ahmad, 'Alī Najm al-Dīn and the people of Jadid al-Sayl, because of various misfortunes and in response to a petition, the recipients are granted a complete remission of taxes. 17 Rajab 1309/16 February 1892. Text and transl. in J.O. Hunwick, ”A Mahdist letter from Dār Für”, Fontes Historiae Africanae: Bulletin of information, 11/12, 1986-87, 21-25; repr. in SAJHS, 13, 2002, 21-25.

ARCHIVE 8: eleven documents in the possession (1974) of 'Abd al-Majīd Mukhtār al-Sanūsī of al-Fāshir. They concern the affairs of a Fulani family living just north of al-Fāshir. 'Abd al-Majīd was a member of the Fallāta 'Īsā; his pedigree is,

  - 'Īsā
    - al-Barnāwī
    - Jalāl al-Dīn
      - Jimayl
      - Dushash
    - Muḥammad
      - al-Sanūsī
      - Mukhtār
      - 'Abd al-Majīd

DF63.8/1   SIJILL

25 'Ali Dinár’s leading general (d. 1911) and ancestor of the present maqdūms of Nyala; see Hill (1967), 26, which is not entirely accurate.
Hearing before qādī Uthmān of a dispute between faqīh Jalāla and walad al-sultān26 Muhammad Ḥūd: defendant sued for trespass by his slaves (see also DF64.8/2). 25 Rajab 1267/7 June 1851.

DF64.8/2 SJILL
Hearing before Saʿīd ʿAbd al-Jabbār of a dispute between faqīh Jalāl al-Dīn and faqīh Ḥūt, defendant sued for trespass by his slaves (see DF63.8/1). 6 Shaʿbān 1268/6 June 1852.

DF65.8/3 SJILL
Hearing before the maqdūm Khalīl37 of a dispute between his brothers and faqīh al-ḥājj Jalāl al-Dīn over their community’s land. 1279/1862-63.

DF66.8/4 SULH
Settlement before the maqdūm Khalīl of the dispute heard in DF65.8/3. Undated.

DF67.8/5 LETTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn, Yahyā and his brothers, recipients are not to interfere with the faqīh Ḥasab’s farm. Undated.

DF68.8/6 SJILL
Hearing before qādī al-ḥājj Izz al-Dīn38 of a dispute between faqīh Ahmad al-Bukhārī and the Awlād Abū Qurūn over the ownership of twelve fields. 4 Shafī 1227/13 August 1812.

DF69.8/7 SJILL
Hearing before the malik … of a dispute between Aḥmad al-Bukhārī and walad al-sulṭān ʿAqrāb over land. 5 Jumāda I 1230/15 April 1815.

DF70.8/8 SJILL
Hearing before malik Rahm39 of a dispute between Hasab and Jalāl al-Dīn with Abbakr Dardīr over land and a well. 1281/1864-65.

DF71.8/9 TADHKIRA
Record of an agreement among the descendants of Ismāʿīl over rights to land. 28 Jumāda II 1278/22 January 1860.

DF72.8/10 SJILL

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26 “Son of the sultan”, a formal title.
27 Probably Khalīl b. ʿAbd al-Sīd, who also held the title, malik korkwa “king of the spearmen”; see O’Fahey (1980), 91.
28 On whom, see O’Fahey (1977a), passim.
29 On whom, see O’Fahey (1980), 112.
Hearing before Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn of a dispute between faqīḥ Jalāl al-Dīn and faqīḥ Madanī b. Ṣāliḥ over land: the dispute involved forged charters.
126[0-69]/1844-54.


DF74.9/1 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, maqdūm Ahmad b. al-maqdūm Muṣṭafā, the sultan has ordered ʿAbd al-Rahmān Makkī [and his people] to resettle their former lands. 30
17 Dhu’l-ḥijja 1317/16 April 1900.

DF75.9/2 ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, ʿAbd al-Rahmān Makkī, recipient has resettled some deserted land: sultan confirms their rights there.
23 Jumāda II 1320/27 September 1902.


DF76.10/1 LETTER
Confirmation by malik Tibn Saʿd al-Nūr 31 of the sale of a slave woman [description given] at a public auction.
21 Ramaḍān 1332/13 August 1914.

DF77.10/2 LETTER
Confirmation issued by Ibrāhīm Maḥmūd Bakhīt for Muḥammad ʿUthmān for the sale of a slave woman [description given].
25 Rabiʿ II 1328/6 May 1910.

DF78.10.3 LETTER
Concerning al-Fāshir market.
Undated: Condominium.

DF79.10/4 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, al-Bidayn Śāliḥ, Ḥāmid Muhammad and ʿAḥmad Dūd, giving them permission to travel to Kordofān to trade: trade goods and animals listed.
22 Ṣafar 1324/17 April 1906.

DF80.10/5 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,

30 From my fieldnotes, “linguistic peculiarity in this document: al-qunfūd = in ordinary Sudanese Arabic, al-nukhāla: when one threshes the grain, the husks left still have some grains adhering in them. These husks — al-qunfūd — can be stored and used in the difficult period just before the next harvest.”
31 Maqdūm of the South; also held the titles, soming dogala [guardian of the children of the court school] and malik al-naḥās [master of the royal drums]; see O’Fahey (1980), 91 and Hill (1967), 359.
Bakhît Tâj al-Dîn and Shaykh al-Ghâli Tâj al-Dîn, ordering them to withdraw their troops from Kalaka and send them home. 13 Rabî‘ 1334/19 January 1916.

DF81.10/6  LETTER
Sultan ʿAlî Dînâr,
Muḥammad ʿUhmân Abû [Takkiyya], giving recipient permission to undertake a trading journey and listing his animals. 2 Rabî‘ 1 1319/19 July 1901.

DF82.10/7  LETTER
Sultan ʿAlî Dînâr,
Sulaymân b. ʿal-bâjj Ṣâliḥ al-Majbârî, acknowledging letter and presents: Majbâr merchants will be well received: presents following. Muḥarram 1323/April-May 1905.

DF83.10/8  LETTER
Sultan ʿAlî Dînâr,
Bakhît [Tâj al-Dîn? See DF80.10/5], the sultan has sent Muḥammad Kebkebe with two companies (bulûk) of jihâdîyya troops. 18 Ṣafar 1334/5 January 1916.

DF84.10/9  LETTER
Sultan ʿAlî Dînâr,
ʿAbd al-Raḥmân Hâmmûdâ, granting pardon to the recipient’s people at Kafût (Kofod): they are to return to their homes before the “coming of our horsemen”. 21 Jumâda I 1317/27 October 1899.

DF85.10/10  LETTER

DF86.10/11  LETTER

32 The latter was nāẓir of the Habbâniyya; see Hill (1967), 134-35.
33 From Libya; the Majbâra are a Cyrenaican tribe well-known as traders in the Saharan region. They were early supporters of the Sanûsiyya ʿtarîqa, see E.E. Evans-Pritchard, The Sanusi of Cyrenaica, Oxford 1949, 16.
34 Maqdûm of the South and sultan of the Beigo; see O’Fahey (1980), 91.
35 Sultan of Wadai, 1901-9, known as Dûd Murra.
36 Sultan of Wadai, 1901.

DF87.11/1 SIJILL
Hearing before [qādī] al-ḥājj Muḥammad Ḥārith of a dispute between bāši Kiriyū and Bukr b. Muḥammad Tür over land.
1261/1845-46.

DF88.11/2 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Fadl,
ʿAbd al-Qāsim b. Muḥammad Tür b. Ḥāfīz [b. Sultan Ahmad Bukr],
confirming an estate [ḥākūra] at Biliyü (J. Bilio: northeast of Mellit).
1225/1810-11.
The second in a sequence of four charters, viz. DF92.11/6; DF88.11/2; DF89.11/3 & DF91.11/5.

DF89.11/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,
Bukr b. Muḥammad Tür,
confirming an estate at Biliyü.
26 Ramaḍān 1257/11 November 1841.
The third in a sequence of four charters, viz. DF92.11/6; DF88.11/2; DF89.11/3 & DF91.11/5.

DF90.11/4 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Fadl,
the maternal relatives of Muḥammad Tür,
confirming privileged status [jāḥ].
1220/1805-6.

DF91.11/5 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
ʿAlī w. ʿUmar, ʿUmar Bukr and others,
confirming the rights, estate [Biliyü], and privileges granted in the previous three charters.
5 Shaʿbān 1316/19 December 1898.
The fourth in a sequence of four charters, viz. DF92.11/6; DF88.11/2; DF89.11/3 & DF91.11/5.

DF92.11/6 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān,
Muḥammad Tür b. Ḥāfīz b. al-sulṭān Ahmad Bukr,
confirming rights over the estate of Biliyü originally granted by Sultan Bukr and granting rights to the service (khidma) of three men who had quarrelled with the recipient.
Rajab 1200/April-May 1786.
The first in a sequence of four charters, viz. DF92.11/6; DF88.11/2; DF89.11/3 & DF91.11/5.

Ädam Rijál b. ʿAlī b. Muhammadayn b. Madanī, a Tunjurāwī from Tamra Kere, just north of Jafeina. One of his ancestors, al-faqīh ʿAbd Allāh Maṭlūq, a Tunjurāwī from Jabal Ḥurayz, was a wazīr to Sultan Muhammad Tayrāb.
Ädam Rijál and Muhammad Ädam brought a handwritten book of fiqh and from its pages produced the following documents. Beyond allowing us to photograph the documents, they were not communicative.

DF93.12/1 LETTER
Qaḍī al-faqīh Ḥabīb, al-Tayyib, ordering the recipient to provide maintenance for his wife.
Undated.

DF94.12/2 SIJILL
Hearing before maqdūm ʿAḥmad Bukr and shartay Muḥammad Ḥummāru of a dispute over land concerning al-Ḍaw Abūʾl-Taymān w. Tit [or Taytī].
15 Dhu’l-qāda 1316/27 March 1899.

DF95.12/3 LETTER
Ibrāhīm ʿAbd al-Ḍāfī, ʿAlī Muḥammadayn, demanding taxes of 5 dollars.
1318/1900-1.

DF96.12/4 LETTER
faqīh al-ḥājj Wādī, basī Abū Hasan, recipient as commissioner (muwajjah)37 formerly demarcated the estate of Badawī b. ʿAbd Allāh Maṭlūq at Ḧirībān: he is to come and confirm the boundaries.
Undated (seal-date 1217/1802-3)
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 64.

DF97.12/5 LETTER
amin ʿHasan b. al-maqdūm Muḥammad Saʿd al-Nūr, faqīh Muḥammadayn, ʿAbd Allāh has complained of the theft of his donkey: recipient is to come and explain immediately.
Undated.

DF98.12/6 LETTER
āb shaykh dālī ʿRhām,38 malik s.n.f.t., recipient, who is the head of a slave settlement (ʿabidiyya) is stay away from the estate of Shaykh Madanī.
Undated (seal-date 1263/1846-47)

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37 The term used of an official sent by the sultan or senior title-holder to demarcate the boundaries of land to be given as an estate.
38 The āb shaykh dālī was the head of the slave hierarchy who would thus be the appropriate official to write such a letter.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 68-69.

DF99.12/7  SIJILL
Hearing before maqdâm Hasan Sİqirî56 of a dispute between faqîh Kabbâsh and faqîh Muḥammad b. Madanî over land.

DF100.12/8  SIJILL
Hearing before qâdî al-hâjj ‘İzz al-Dîn of a dispute between faqîh Ahmad and Muḥammad Nartaq over land.
Undated (seal-date 1187/1773-74). The first in a sequence of sijill s, viz. DF100.12/8; DF103.12/11 & DF105.12/13.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983) 54-56.

DF101.12/9  LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad Shâlâbî b. al-sulṭân ‘Umar b. m.î, takanâwî Yahyâ b. âb takanâwî Muḥammad, informing the recipient that the sultan has granted him authority over several Tunjur clans in northern Darfur.
Undated (seal-date 1241/1825-26). Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 49.

DF102.12/10  SIJILL
Hearing before qâdî Hammâd of a dispute between Ādam and Muḥammadayn b. Madanî over land.
1280/1863-64. Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 70-73.

DF103.12/11  SIJILL
Hearing before qâdî Muḥammad al-Hârîth of a dispute between Muḥammad and Madanî over land.
1249/1833-34. The second in a sequence of sijill s, viz. DF100.12/8; DF103.12/11 & DF105.12/13.

DF104.12/12  SIJILL
1220/1805-6. The first in a sequence of two sijill s, viz. DF104.12/12 & DF113.12/21.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 61-63.

DF105.12/13  SIJILL

56 Hasan Segere, maqdâm of the North (dâr ar-rîh) and holder of the Fur title, abbo irînga; he died in about 1856; O’Fahey (1980) 89. See also Jörg Adelberger, Vom Sultanat zur Republik: Veränderungen in der Sozialorganisation der Fur (Sudan), Stuttgart 1990, 154-55.
Undated (seal-date 1255/1839-40).
The third in a sequence of *sijill*, vīz. DF100.12/8; DF103.12/11 & *DF105.12/13.*

**DF106.12/14 SIJILL**

Hearing before *malik* Rahm of a dispute between Muḥammadayn b. Madanī and *walad al-sultān* Muhammad Hüd: defendant is sued for trespass.
1289/1872-73.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 74-75.

**DF107.12/15 CHARTER**

Sultan Muhammad al-Faḍl, Badawī b. ʿAbbās al-Māṭlūq al-Tunjurāwī, confirming privileged status (*jāḥ*).
1221/1806-7.

**DF108.12/16**

Sultan ʿAbbās al-Rahmān, Badawī b. ʿAbbās al-Māṭlūq, confirming privileged status (*jāḥ*), originally granted to his father by Sultan Muhammad Tayrāb.
Undated (seal-date 1214/1799-1800)
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 47.

**DF109.12/17 CHARTER**

Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn, Madanī b. ʿAbbās al-Māṭlūq al-Tunjurāwī, confirming privileged status (*jāḥ*), originally granted by Sultan Muḥammad Tayrāb.
24 Ramaḍān 1257/8 November 1841.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 49-50.

**DF110.12/18 LETTER**

Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn, *takanāwī* Muhammad, *faqīḥ* Muhammad claims that *faqīḥ* Kabbāsh and others have stolen four donkeys and six waterskins: find out who are the culprits and send them to us.
Undated.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 64-65.

**DF111.12/19 CHARTER**

Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn, *faqīḥ* Muḥammad b. Madanī b. ʿAbbās al-Māṭlūq,

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40 Son thus of a famous figure in early nineteenth century Darfur; see O’Fahey (1980), 12, 36, 41, 47 & 82.
granting recipient an estate (hākūra) at Kamala Kīrī\(^{41}\) (Khīribān).
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 50-51.

DF112.12/20  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
Muḥammad b. Muḥammadayn b. Maḍanī,
confirming rights over an estate at Kamala Kīrī (Khīribān) and referring to earlier charters
from Sultans Ṭḥān Buḵr, Muḥammad Tayrāb, Ṭabd al-Raḥmān al-Raḥīd, Muḥammad al-
Fadl and Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn.
2 Ṣafar 1318/12 June 1899.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 52-53.

DF113.12/21  LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl,
_al-hāj_ Wādī, ordering the recipient to demarcate the land between Badawī and _walad al-sulṭān_ ʿAqrāb.
Undated.
Cf. DF96.12/4 & DF104.12/12.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 63.

DF114.12/22  SIJILL
Hearing before deputy [judge] of Kayla, Bayra, Māla and Wanna [districts],\(^{42}\) acting on behalf of
the deputy [judge] of Kutum [district] of a dispute between Yūsuf Muḥammad and Ṣādiq
over the ownership of some grain.
16 Dhu’l-hijja 1316/27 April 1899.

DF115.12/23  TADHKIRA
Record of an agreement over the allocation of fields.
1344/1925-25: Condominium.

ARCHIVE 13: ten documents in the possession (1974) of Muḥammad al-Ḥāj Ādam of al-
Fāshir. I have published most of the important documents from this archive in a two-part
article, “The Archives of Shoba”, _Sudanic Africa. Journal of Historical Sources (SAJHS)_ , 1,
1990, 71-83 (part one) and 2, 1991, 79-112 (part two). A few smaller items remain
unpublished.

DF116.13/1  LETTER
Maqdūm, ʿāb shaykh dālī ʿAbd al-Qafā,
Shaykh Ṣāliḥ, informing recipient that _al-hāj_ Ādam is the ʿāb shaykh dālī’s servant: ”his dwelling is my
dwelling”: no one is to interfere with him.
Undated (seal-date 1275/1858-59).

DF117.13/2  LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,

\(^{41}\) Fur, _kamala keirei_, “the camels can go no further”.

\(^{42}\) The area to the south of Kutum.
malik Hanafi, recipient is to give the merchant (al-jallābī) Kayr thirty head of cattle from those belonging to the palace (bayt al-jibāʾi).\footnote{Literally, “the house of tribute”.} Undated.

DF118.13/3 PROMISSARY NOTE

DF119.13/4 CONTRACT OF SALE
faqiḥ ʿUmar and al-ḥājj Ādam have bought two cows from . . . . Undated.

DF120.13/5 LETTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn al-Mahdī, "the descendants of Zaydān, the people of Shoba", following a court hearing (i.e. DF125.13/10), the sultan confirms the authenticity of their charters. 1271/1854-55. Text and transl. in SAJHS, 2, 1991, 79-87 [the document’s catalogue number is given there incorrectly as 125.13/10].

DF121.13/6 CHARTER

DF122.13/7 SIJILL
Hearing before ʿādī Bilāl, acting for the shaykh al-Islām Muḥammad Ishāq,\footnote{On whom, see O’Fahey (1977), 121-22.} of a dispute between malik Tūtim (Tawtir) and Saʿīd b. al-ḥājj Ādam over the ownership of a runaway unnamed slave woman. Undated. Text and transl. in O’Fahey (1991), 93-101. One of two such documents, the other being DF175.18/35.

DF123.13/8 CHARTER

DF124.13/9 SIJILL
Hearing before amin, maqdüm Khalil of a dispute between ʿAbd al-Muqim and Bilayl: plaintiff sues for the return of three fields he had bought from a third party.\textsuperscript{45}
1272/1855-56.
Text and transl. in O’Fahey (1991), 88-93.

DF125.13/10 SIJILL
Hearing before Sultan Muḥammadal-Ḥusayn of a dispute between the Awlād Ûmā and Awlād Zaydān over land: the case involved the question of the authenticity of earlier sultanic charters.\textsuperscript{46}
1271/1854-55.
Tex and transl. in O’Fahey (1991), 82-87.

I include here the notes I took, 20 March 1974, from al-ḥājj Abū Bakr.
"Al-ḥājj Abū Bakr belongs to the Jawāmiʿa clan of Jadīd al-Sayl. He explained that the Jawāmiʿa of Jadīd al-Sayl are divided into five sections, viz. :—
Awlād Jāmī\textsuperscript{47}
Awlād Mūrūj
Awlād Sulaymān
Jaʿāfīrī (sic)
Ghanamīyya.\textsuperscript{47}
"He further explained that ‘Izz al-Dīn, the qādī al-qudār of al-Ṭūnisī, was from the Awlād Jāmī: a brief pedigree
?

\begin{verbatim}
| Jalāl al-Dīn                  | Muslim               |
|                             |                      |
| ʿIzz al-Dīn                 |                      |

"Al-ḥājj Abu Bakr’s pedigree.”
Khalīfa
|
Hādī
came from Kordofan and settled at Jadīd al-Sayl.
|
Ismāʿīl
|
Najm al-Dīn
|
ʿAlī\textsuperscript{48}
|

\textsuperscript{45} A rare reference to the purchase of land.
\textsuperscript{46} Compare DF72.8/10, also a hearing before the sultan on a question of the authenticity of charters. Perhaps, the expertise of the sultan’s secretaries was needed.
\textsuperscript{47} On the various divisions of the Jawāmiʿa, see MacMichael (1922), i, 225-26.
\textsuperscript{48} The subject of most of the documents in ARCHIVE 7.
Maḥmūd

Abū Bakr

DF126.14/1 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, the Awlād faqīḥ Muḥammad ʿIzz al-Ḍīn, confirming an endowment (waqf) at Qiraywūd al-Zaraf (Jadīd al-Sayl District) first granted to faqīḥ Muḥammad ʿIzz al-Ḍīn by Sultan Muḥammad Dawrā (r. c. 1720-30) and confirmed by subsequent sultans: the endowment was confirmed again in DF128.14/3.
Undated (seal-date 1214/1799-1800).

DF127.14/2 LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn, faqīḥ Saʿd al-Ḍīn, ordering the recipient and the fuqarā’ under him to make a thousand recitations of the Qur’ān to protect the state from its enemies.
Undated.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 42.

DF128.14/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn al-Mahdi, faqīḥ Ibrāḥīm b. Saʿd al-Ḍīn, confirming an endowment (waqf) in support of the mosque at Jadīd al-Sayl: see DF126.14/1. 1260/1844-45.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 40-41.

DF129.14/4 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn al-Mahdi, faqīḥ ʿIzz al-Ḍīn, recipient has asked for and has been granted the estate (ḥākūra) called “Bayd”, formerly owned by habbūba ʾīya Umm Būṣa, the mother of Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl. 1263/1846-47.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 42-44.

DF130.14/5 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, faqīḥ Jīddaw b. Bukhārī, confirming an estate granted by Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn to the recipient’s grandfather. 4 Shaʿbān 1316/18 December 1898.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 44-45.

DF131/14/6 PEDIGREE

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49 The walls of a mosque built of fired red brick said to have been built by Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān were still standing in the 1970s. The term, waqf, appears only rarely.
ARCHIVE 15 = ARCHIVE 29


DF138.16/1  
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, Abbakr Khamīs,  
confirming an estate in the shartīya of Khāṭir Ibrāhīm (al-Ṭawīla District).  
14 Dhu‘l-qa‘da 1316/4 April 1899.

DF139.16/2  
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, Abbakr Khamīs,  
confirming an estate at Umm Shidayra (al-Ṭawīla District) formerly belonging to the recipient’s grandfather.  
18 Dhu‘l-qa‘da 1317/20 March 1900.

ARCHIVE 17: one document in the possession (1974) of ‘undā Ādam Ḥusayn of Miliṭ (Mellīt), Northern Darfur District.

DF140.17/1  
HISTORY  
A brief history of the tribes and pre-Islamic sultans of Darfur: concludes with a magical formula. 2ff.

ARCHIVE 18: fifty-eight documents in the possession (1974) of al-ḥājj Muḥammad Sulaymān of Miliṭ (Mellīt), Northern Darfur District. This is the largest single family archive found in Darfur. They concern the affairs of the Awlād Jābir, a section of the Zayyādiyya, over a period of some 200 years. The owner’s pedigree was as follows,

Muḥammad Abū Khurayyz  
| ʿAbdullāhi  
| Ibrāhīm  
| Sulaymān  
| Muḥammad

DF141.18/1  
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn, faqīḥ Ibrāhīm,  
confirming the privileged status (jāh) of the descendants of ʿAbd al-Hamīd al-Jābirī.

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1279/1862-63. The last in a sequence of charters, viz. DF142.18/2; DF173.18/33; DF145.18/5; DF149.18/9 & DF141.18/1.

DF142.18/2 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad, the Awlād Jābir; faqīḥ ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd, faqīḥ al-Zayn . . . granting privileged status (jāḥ).
Undated. The first in a sequence of charters, viz. DF142.18/2; DF173.18/33; DF145.18/5; DF149.18/9 & DF141.18/1.

DF143.18/3 CHARTER
Al-āb al-takanāwī Muḥammad Sulaymān Ādam Umm Dayn, faqīḥ Ibrāhīm, confirming the privileged status of the descendants of ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd al-Jābirī. 1279/1862-63. The last in a sequence of charters, viz. DF180.18/40; DF148.18/8; DF163.18/23; DF158.18/18 & DF143.18/3.

DF144.18/4 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār, the shaykhān of the Zayyādiyya, confirming that faqīḥ Abū Umm Dūrayn, of the Maḥāmīd people, is “master of the mosque” and possesses ancient charters of privileged status. 1316/1898-99.

DF145.18/5 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān, faqīḥ Fāris b. ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd al-Jābirī, confirming privileged status. Undated (seal-date 1214/1799-1800): incomplete. The third in a sequence of charters, viz. DF142.18/2; DF173.18/33; DF145.18/5; DF149.18/9 & DF141.18/1.

DF146.18/6 SJILL
Hearing before malik Yahyā of a dispute between Shaykh ʿAffūn and Sālim Kabnaqar: plaintiff sues for the payment of local taxes. Undated.

DF147.18/7 CHARTER

51 Sultan Muḥammad Dawra (r. c. 1720-30): the charter bears the seal of his father, Sultan Aḥmad Bukr (c. 1700-20), and was probably issued in the latter’s reign.
52 The Fur title, Iringa.
DF148.18/8  CHARTER
Takanawi malik Ahmad Zill al-Sayf,
faqih ʿAbd al-Faraj,
confirming privileged status.
10 Muḥarram 1264/18 December 1847.
The second in a sequence of charts, viz., DF180.18/40; DF148.18/8; DF163.18/23; DF158.18/18 & DF143.18/3.

DF149.18/9  CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl, 
faqih Sulaymān,
confirming the privileged status of the descendants of ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd al-Jābirī.
1222/1807-8.
The fourth in a sequence of charters, viz. DF142.18/2; DF173.18/33; DF145.18/5; DF149.18/9 & DF141.18/1.

DF150.18/10  LETTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, 
takanawi Ḥamad al-Badawi, 
recipient is to investigate a dispute over some land between two groups of fuqarāʾ.
Undated.

DF151.18/11  LETTER
al-ʿāb al-takanawi malik Muḥammad Nūr al-Dīn, 
faqih Yaʿqūb, 
recipient is to stay away from the land of the faqihs Ḥammūd and Bakhīt.
Undated.

DF152.18/12  CHARTER
amin malik Muḥammad al-Faḍl b. al-wazīr ʿAbd al-Bārī, 
faqih Sulaymān Abū Khurayṣ, 
confirming the recipient’s privileged status.
Undated
Compare DF179.18/39 issued by Muḥammad al-Faḍl’s father.

DF153.18/13  SJILL
Hearing before faqih Ahmad Zarrūq, acting for the amin malik Muḥammad w. al-malik Ādam Būsh,53 of a dispute between faqih Sulaymān and dimliy Ādam Jakhkhānayn: defendant is accused of illegally taxing the plaintiff’s community.
1244/1828-29.

DF154.18/14  CHARTER
al-sulṭān al-khalīfa al-ḥājj Ishaq.54

53 On Ādam Būsh, see O’Fahey (1980), 89, 99 et passim.
54 Son of Sultan Muḥammad Tayrāb, who was appointed as his father’s chosen successor (khalīfa) when the latter invaded Kordofan. When Tayrāb died in Kordofan in 1785-86, the army there chose ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Rashīd b. Ahmad Bukr as the next sultan. There ensued a three-year long civil between Ishaq, supported by his Zaghawa maternal kin, and ʿAbd al-Raḥmān. Ishaq was killed in
faqīh Hammadūt and his brothers, the Awlād Yahyā, confirming their privileged status and their land at al-Karas and al-Tamr. Undated (seal-date 1193/1779-80).

DF155.18/15 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn, faqīh Āḥmad, his brother faqīh ʿUbayd and faqīh Bakhīt, the descendants of Yahyā, confirming their privileged status and their land at al-Tamr. Undated (seal-date 1256/1840-41). The last in a sequence of charters, viz., DF160.18/20; DF166.18/26 & DF155.18/15.

DF156.18/16 LETTER
Sultan Ibrāhīm, the faqīhs Yahyā and Ibrāhīm, ordering the recipients to make a thousand recitations of the Qurʾān, ”For victory over the enemy, security for the country and to make the rains fall”. Undated.55

DF157.18/19 SIJILL
Hearing before ʿAlī Muḥammad al-Ḥarūt b. al-Ḥājj Izz al-Dīn of a dispute between Muṣṭafā b. al-faqīh Ṭāhā b. āb al-takanāwī and faqīh Bakhīt over ownership rights (shirkīa or sharika) in land at al-Tamra. 14 Dhu’l-qa’dā 1256/7 January 1841.

DF158.18/18 CHARTER
Al-Ḥīrīf biʿAbd al-Farāj, the sons of faqīh ʿAbd al-Farāj, confirming their privileged status. Undated. The fourth in a sequence of charters, viz., DF180.18/40; DF148.18/8; DF163.18/23; DF158.18/18 & DF143.18/3.

DF159.18/19 SIJILL
Hearing before qādī Muhammad b. al-qādī Khalīl, from the entourage (ṭaraq) of the iy(a) bāṣī al-mayrūm Zamzam,56 acting for the qādī Muhammad Abuʾl-Qāsim, of a dispute between Shaykh Rājīl and faqīh Bakhīt over land. 1260/1844-45.

160.18/20 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad Harūṭ,57 Al-Ḥāfīz ʿAbd al-Ṣāzīz and his brothers, granting them an estate at al-Tamrū. Undated.

 battle; see further, O’Fahey (1980), 17-8 et passim. The present document is the only one extant known to have been issued by him.
56 Probably to be dated to the time of al-Zubayr’s invasion, 1873-74.
55 Sister of Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn; on whom, see O’Fahey (1980), 33-35 et passim.


161.18/21 LETTER
Al-abū al-takanāwī Muḥammad Arbāb, al-malik al-sharī‘ya d.k.mi [Dokumi], informing recipient that he is not to interfere in the affairs of the faqīh Bakhīt and Sulaymān. Undated.

DF162.18/22 LETTER
The maqdūm Hasan Siqirī, iriqā, malik Muḥammad f.l.w.ā and malik d.k.mi [Dokumi], the dispute between faqīh Bakhīt and sharīf ʿAbd al-Manān has been settled in the former’s favour: recipients are to keep away from his land.
Undated.

DF163.18/23 CHARTER
Al-āb al-takanāwī Abū Bakr Muḥammad Naṣr al-Dīn, faqīh Ibrāhīm, Confirming privileged status.
Undated.
The third in a sequence of charters, viz. DF180.18/40; DF148.18/8; *DF163.18/23 & DF143.18/3.*

DF164.18/24 LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn al-Mahdī, malik Ahmad Zīl al-Sayf, ordering the recipient to come to court if he has a complaint against faqīh ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz.
Undated.

DF165.18/25 LETTER
Qādi ʿĀdam Ḥadīd, acting for his father shaykh al-Īslām, qādi Muḥammad Ishāq, al-sharīf ʿAbd al-Manān, concerning the marriage of the recipient’s niece.
Undated.

DF166.18/26 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad Tayrāb, faqīh Ahmad and his brother, faqīh ʿAbd Allāh, confirming their privileged status and land at al-Tamr.
Undated (seal-date 1172/1758-59).
The second in a sequence of charters, viz. DF160.18/20; *DF166.18/26 & DF155.18/15.*

DF167.18.27 LETTER
Shaykh quḍāt al-Īslām, qādi al-hājj ʿĪzz al-Dīn, faqīh Bakhīt, in answer to the recipient’s letter: he is to come with his complaint.
Undated.

DF168.18/28 LETTER
Qādî Muhammad al-Hārith,
faqiḥ Bakhît w. ʿAbd al-Rasūl,
with reference to a complaint by Shaykh Khālid, the recipient is stay away from him. Undated.

DF169.18/29 LETTER
Shaykh al-quṭ, qādî Muhammad al-Hārith,
Awlād t.q.l. and h.w.i,
faqiḥ Bakhît has complained that recipients have trespassed on his land: recipients are to stay away or bring their complaint to court. Undated.

DF170.18/30 SIJILL
Hearing before qādî Hasan, acting for his brother qādî Muḥammad Ishāq, of a dispute between faqiḥ ʿIbrāhīm and Abūn, representing his four aunts: plaintiff brings an action for injury caused by the defendant’s slave. 1279/1862-63.


DF171.18/31 PETITION
Ishāq Ahmad,
Ambadā al-Raqḍî, wakil markaz al-Fāshir wa-ʿumūm al-ghurūb,
the petitioner’s people have been unjustly treated. 1314/1896-97. Mahdiyya.

DF172.18/32 LETTER
Ambaddā al-Raqḍî,
Muhammad . . . ,
the bearer of the letter is to have his complaint investigated: in response to DF171.18/31. 22 Dhu’l-qa’da 1314/23 April 1897.
Written on the same recto as DF171.18/33.

DF173.18/33 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad Tayrāb, 
malik Sulaymān,
confirming the privileged status of the sons of faqiḥ ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd al-Jābīrī. Undated.
The second in a sequence of charters, vis. DF142.8/2; DF173.18/33; DF145.18/5; DF149.18/9 & DF141.18/1.

DF174.18/34 CHARTER
Al-amīn malik al-hājj ʿAbd Allāh b. al-amīn al-malik Ibrāhīm Ramād, 
the sons of faqiḥ ʿAbdall (sic),
confirming their privileged status and land at Tamra. 30 (?) Shawwāl 1258/c. 6 October 1842.

DF175.18/35 SIJILL
Hearing before qāḍī Muḥammad Ishāq of a dispute between malik Abū Bakr and ʿAbd Allāh and Ādam: plaintiff sues for the return of his slave-girl, Saʿda. 1290/1873-74.

DF176.18/36 LETTER
Al-āb al-takanāwī Ādam Tinbuki, Baraq and Hassūb, faqīh ʿAbd Allāh has complained that recipients have over-taxed him: they are to return what they have taken.
Undated: seal in the form of a camel-brand.

DF177.18/37 LETTER
Al-amīn al-maqdūm ʿAbd al-Sid, al-āb al-takanāwī, faqīh Muḥammad Šābūn Sulaymān, faqīh Muḥammad Bakīḥ has complained that recipient has trespassed on his land: he is to stay away.
Undated.

DF178.18/38 LETTER
Al-amīn al-malik ʿAbd Allāh, faqīḥ Dayyīf, warning recipient to keep away from the faqīhs Naṣr and Sirāj, Undated.

DF179.18/39 CHARTER

DF180.18/40 CHARTER
Takanāwī Ādam b. al-takanāwī Tinbuki, the sons of faqīh Muḥammad Abū Khurayṣ al-Jābirī, confirming their privileged status.
Undated. The first in a sequence of charters, vūz., DF180.18/40; DF148.18/8; DF163.18/23 & DF 143.18/3.

DF181.18/41 CHARTER
Malik al-Ḥājj, deputy (nāʿib) of malik Musallam, faqīh Fāris b. al-faqīh Muḥammad Abū Khurayṣ, confirming the privileged status of the descendants of faqīh ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd al-Jābirī, Undated.

DF182.18/42 LETTER
Qāḍi ʿumūm Dār Für Idrīs ʿAbd Allāh, Ādam Tamīm Bishāra, 59

58 On whom, otherwise Musallim, see O’Fahey (1980), 82-83 & 98-99.
faqīh Muḥammad Ishāq and others have sultanic charters: they are not to be disturbed.
25 Rabī’ I 1329/26 March 1911.

DF183.18/43 LETTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn,
*malik* Ahmad Zīl al-Ṣayf,
recipient’s brothers have trespassed on the land of the people of the faqīhs Bakhīt and Hammūd: they are to be kept away.
Undated.

DF184.18/44 LETTER
*Al-ṭab al-takanāwī* Muḥammad Arbāb,
*Malik* Muḥammad d.k.mī [Dokumī] and *malik* Muhammad f.l.w.a.,
informing the recipients that faqīh Bakhīt and *ʃarīf* ʾAbd al-Manān have had their dispute heard before qādī Muḥammad al-Ḥārith, who has awarded judgment to Bakhīt.
Undated.

DF185.18/45 LETTER
Qādī Muḥammad al-Ḥārith,
Muṣṭafā b. Tāhā,
d.q.ū [Dugu] and faqīh Bakhīt have complained that recipient has trespassed on their land: he is to stay away or else bring his complaint to court.
Undated (seal-date 1248/1832-33).

DF186.18/46 LETTER
*Al-shartay al-malik* Muḥammad d.k.mī [Dokumī], *malik* Ahmad Arbāb and *malik* f.l.w.a.,
ʿind shāsh sayyidā ... ṭāhitakā,60
reporting on a meeting to settle their dispute with faqīh Bakhīt.
Undated: seal in the form of a camel brand.

DF187.18/47 GENEALOGY
Of the ḥabīb61 Yahyā.
Undated.

DF188.18/48 LETTER
Shaykh al-Islām, qādī al-ḥājī ʾĪzz al-Ḍīn,
wakīl Ahmad d.q.ū [Duggu],62
informing recipient that Muḥammad sh.q.r. is coming to investigate the dispute between *ʃarīf* ʾAbd al-Manān and faqīh Bakhīt.
Undated.

DF189.18/49 LETTER
ʾAbd Allāh,
Ahmad w. Abū Khayr,

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50 Shartay or *malik* of the Berti; see Hill (1967), 26; sixteenth ruler of the Berti, see Holy (1974), 118.
51 An official of the sultan, since *sayyidā* invariably refers to the sultan, while ṭāḥa is usually used only of the ʿāb *ṣayyikh* ʿalī.
52 A large-scale merchant.
53 Possibly the sixth Berti ruler, Ahmad Duggu (early nineteenth century); see Holy (1974), 118.
recipient is to bring his complaint to ʻAbd Allāh.
1327/1910-11.

DF190.18/50 SIJILL
Hearing before al-abū warandaladh63 faqīh Baraka, acting for sittunā Umm al-Nāsir ʻiya bāsī al-mayram Zamzam64 of a dispute between Shaykh Rājil and Abū Zayd over land.
21 Ramaḍān 1289/22 November 1872.

DF191.18/51 SIJILL
Hearing before faqīh Hurays of a dispute between wife and husband, Ḥalīma and q.ī.l: the wife sues for maintenance (nafaqa).
Undated.

DF192.18/52 RECORD OF SETTLEMENT
Settlement before the maqdūm Khalīl of a dispute between faqīh Bakhīt and sharīf ʻAbd al-Manān over land.
Undated.

DF193.18/53 RECORD
Record, made before witnesses, of the land of the sons of faqīh ʻAbd Allāh (b.) al-faqīh Muḥammad Bakhīt by Muḥammad Sh.q.r.ā for qādī al-ḥāji ʻIzz al-Dīn.
Undated.
See DF188.18/48.

DF194.18/54 SIJILL
Hearing before faqīr Allāh Ya‘qūb Jabal of a dispute between sharīf Nūr al-Shām and Ādam and Nūrayn over a bull.
Undated.

DF195.18/55 LETTER
Faqīh, ibn amīr al-mu’minīn Nūrayn Ja‘far al-Nūr,65 “our followers”, Hammūda and his brothers, they are to meet him at Abū Sunayṭ in four or five days.
Undated.

DF196.18/56 SIJILL
Hearing before faqīh Baraq, acting for ʻiya bāsī al-mayram Zamzam Umm al-Nāsir, of a dispute between Abū Zayd and Saykh Rājil over shares in some land.
20 Ramaḍān 1270/16 June 1854.

DF197.18/57 SIJILL

63 The Fur title, orrengdulung, major-domo of the palace; ruled parts of Dār Birged.; see O’Fahey (1980) passim.
64 Sister of Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn. After her brother went blind in 1856, she became effective ruler of the sultanate; see O’Fahey (1980), 33-35 et passim.
65 A son of Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl, who fathered Maqbūla, who married the Mahdi and was the mother of ʻAbd al-Raḥmān al-Mahdī.
Hearing before qāḍī Nūr al-Dīn, acting for qāḍī Muḥammad al-Ḩarīth, of a dispute between Ādam b. Ramādān and šāʾīb Ādam over land.
1264/1847-48.

DF198.18/58 PEDIGREE
Pedigree of the Awlād Jābīr.
Undated: 8ff.


DF199.19/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ẓuḥaylī, Shaykh Ḥammād b. Hābīb Allāh, confirming privileged status and land.
Undated.

DF200.19/2 SIJILL
Shawwāl 1253/December 1837-January 1838.

DF201.19/3 CHARTER
*Mālik Ḥamad Duqūq b. Ṭālāb Allāh*67 the sons of Hābīb Allāh and others, confirming privileged status.
Undated.

DF202.19/4 LETTER
Concerning the administration of Jugo Jugo District.
26 March 1917: Condominium.


DF203.20/1 PEDIGREE
Pedigree of shartay Ahmaday Ādam Tamīm.69

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67 Almost certainly the sixth Berti ruler; see Holy (1974), 118, where his name is given as Aḥmad Duggu.
68 Succeeded as eighteenth ruler of Dār Berti in 1964; Holy (1975), 118.
69 Seventeenth ruler (1934-64) of Dār Berti; Holy (1975), 118.
Undated: 4 ff.


DF204.21/1 LETTER
H.A. MacMichael,70
the chiefs of Jabal Marra,
summoning them to surrender with their weapons.
17 July 1916.


DF205.22/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn,
the khabīr Muḥammad Kannūna,
confirming recipient’s estate in the district of Lubaykh (Kobbei).
20 Jumāda I 1256/20 July 1840.

DF206.22/2 SJILL
Hearing before the wazīr Ādām Bōshī71 of a dispute between the khabīr Muḥammad Kannūna and ʿAbd Allāh w. Dānī over the boundaries of the former’s estate.
18 Rabī’ II 1262/15 April 1846.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 109-12.

DF207.22/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn,
the sons of the khabīr Muḥammad Kannūna,
confirming recipients’ possession of their father’s estate.
1267/1850-51.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 113-14.

DF208.22/4 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn al-Mahdī,
The khabīr ʿAlī Ibrāhīm,72
confirming the grant by the same sultan [see DF209.22/5] of the village of n.q.r.ī (Ungorei) as an estate.
1284/1867-68.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 118.

DF209.22/5 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn al-Mahdī,
"our servant" (khaddāminā), the khabīr ʿAlī Ibrāhīm,
granting him the village of n.q.r.ī (Ungorei) as an estate.
Date missing [the document is incomplete].

70 Served in Darfur 1916-8; see Sudan Political Service, 15.
71 On whom see O’Fahey (1980), passim.
72 On whom, see O’Fahey (1980), 141-42.

DF210.22/6  REPORT
Report by the amīn ʿAbd Allāh of the demarcation, before witnesses, of the boundaries of the village of n.q.r. (Ungorei), “with its fields, both fallow and cultivated”.
8 Dhu’l-Ḥijja 1268/24 September 1852.
Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 115-7.

DF211.22/7  CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Husayn al-Mahdī, the mayram Fāṭima Umm Dirays,
granting the recipient an estate in the district of al-Dīr.
13 Shawwāl 1273/6 June 1857.

DF212.22/8  TESTAMENTARY DEPOSITION (waṣiyya)
of the shariʿ al-Maʿzūzī b. ʿAbd Allāh al-Shindiṭī concerning his property and the marriage of his daughters, and naming ʿAlī bayk [Ibrāhim] as executor.
1 Shaʿbān 1296/21 July 1879.


DF213.23/1  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, the fuqarāʾ, the sons of shaykh al-ṣ ..., confirming their estate at Shaqara.
17 Ṣafar 1319/5 June 1901.

DF214.23/2  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, Mahmūd w. ʿAlī,
confirming recipient’s ancestral estates.
13 Rajab 1328/21 July 1910.

The owner was from Nigia, east of al-Fāshir. A faqīh family — Jaʿaliyyin Ganibānī from al-Matamma. Pedigree thus

Abū Bakr Talab
  | Muḥammad
  | Ahmad
  | ʿAbd Allāh
  | Sulayk

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75 Or al-Shindiṭī, from Shindiṭ in Eastern Mauritania,
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn, "the falqanāwīs" of our brother, the respected Abū Bakr Ţalab", granting recipients privileged status (jāh).

25 Rabī’ II 1257/16 June 1841.


Hearing before the council (majlis) of the maqdūm Sharīf Ādam of a dispute between Hawwa bt. ʿAtiya Allāh al-Fallātiyya and Ahmad Bukr al-Fallāti over land.

18 Ṣafar 1335/15 December 1916: Condominium.

Record of the settlement of a dispute over some land owned by various Fallāta of al-Fāshir.


Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, Shaykh Ādam Muddawī, confirming an estate granted to the recipient by the takanāwī Abū Bakr.

24 Jumāda II 1316/9 November 1898.


List of the rulers of Darfur: transcribed from an original allegedly written by faqīh Sinīn of Kabkabīyya.

Undated.


Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt, as part of a general demand for money, recipient is to pay 60 riyaḥs for Simiyāt District.

Royal messengers or heralds; see O’Fahey (1980), 150.

2 Dhu’l-qa‘da 1320/31 January 1903.

DF221.28/2 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt,
the sultan has forgiven the bloodprice (*dam*) for a killing: neither the recipient nor the dead man’s relatives are to interfere ….
Incomplete: the top of this document is glued together with the bottom half of the following document.

DF222.28/3 LETTER [Sultan ʿAli Dinār]
…… …… , concerning the giving of support to a mosque?
25 Rabi’ II 1325/7 June 1907.
Incomplete.

DF223.28/4 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt,
[too damaged to read]
Ramadān 1316/January-February 1899.

DF224.28/5 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad, ordering recipient to come [to al-Fāshir] by 20 Dhu’l-qa‘da with all the soldiers, horses and weapons of his district to celebrate the feast of [? ʿīd … al-mubārak],
2 Dhu’l-qa‘da 1329/25 October 1911.

DF225.28/6 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad al-Simiyātī, a general decree to all districts ordering prayers for rain, since the rains are late.
16 Jumāda I 1321/10 August 1903.

DF226.28/7 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad, ʿumda of al-Simiyāt, demand for 100 ṛiyāls.
Date missing.

DF227.28/8 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār, al-Dōma Muhammad, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt, demand for 300 ardaghs [of grain].
1321/1903-4.

DF228.28/9 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
al-Dōma Muhammed, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt,
demand for 50 tōbs to be paid to ʿArabī Dafī Allāh’s men.
5 Rabī’ I 1320/12 June 1902.

DF229.28/10 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muhammed, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt,
recipient is to give 10 ardabbs to the people of “our sons, the sons of the sultans, Mansūr and Bukhārī”.
13 Jumāda I 1318/78 September 1900.

DF230.28/11 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muhammed, ʿumda of Dār Simiyāt,
demand for 100 tōb dammūr.77
22 Rabī’ I 1318/20 July 1900.

DF231.28/12 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muhammed,
as part of a general demand to all districts, recipient is to pay 60 riyāl to the bearer, Hārūn Ismāʿīl.
End of Ramadān 1319/mid-January 1902.

DF232.28/13 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
to chiefs and notables generally,
those who have legal suits pending from the time of Ambādā al-Raddī and Abū Kawda are to present their claims and documents al-Dōma Muḥammad, ʿumda of Dār al-Simiyāt.
5 Ramadān 1316/17 January 1899.

DF233.28/14 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muhammed,
the sultan has sent a letter to the fuqarā’ of Jadīd al-Sayl78 in response to the recipient’s complaint that they have been illegally taking taxes in his district: his district “belongs to the palace”.
Date missing.

DF234.28/15 LETTER
Sultan ʿĀli Dīnār,
al-Dōma Muhammed and all the notables of al-Simiyāt,
the sultan wishes to rebuild the land following his return [to Darfur]: all are to undertake the rebuilding of villages and the re-peopling of their district.
20 Rabi’ 1317/28 August 1899.

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76 A Mahdist commander, who joined ʿĀli Dīnār in 1902; see Hill (1967), 58.
77 Pieces of locally-spun cloth.
78 Which borders Dār Simiyāt.
DF235.28/16  LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
Al-Dōma Muhammad, ‘umda of al-Simiyāt,
[very faint: apparently a complaint that people have not been paying their taxes promptly enough],
7 Rabī‘ I 1318/5 July 1900.

DF236.28/17  LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad al-Simiyātī,
demand for camels to carry grain.
2 Sha‘bān 1318/25 November 1900.

DF237.28/18  LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, shartaya Simiyāt,
demand for camels.
28 Dhu‘l-qafidā 1331/29 October 1913.

DF238.28/19  LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad, ‘umda of al-Simiyāt,
the bearer of the letter, al-Sa‘īd ʿĀmir, is going to Omdurman on the sultan’s business: he is to be given assistance.
4 Rabī‘ II 1317/12 August 1899.

DF239.28/20 to DF241.28/22: previously catalogued as DF16.6/1 to DF18.6/3.

DF242.28/23  LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinār,
al-Dōma Muḥammad,
the sultan has written to Muḥammad al-rā‘īn., ʿUmar al-jabār79 and to his son, Ḥusayn, concerning the storage of the taxes from the recipient’s district.
5 Ǧa‘far 1317/15 June 1899.

DF243.28/24 to DF250.28/31: previously catalogued as DF20.6/5 to DF26.6/11.

DF251.28/32  Another version of DF14.4/1.


DF252.29/1  CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad Faḍl,
faqīh ʿAbd Allāh al-Tayyib,
granting an estate in the district of al-Ṭawīla.

79 Tax collector.
Dated sometime between 1218/261803-11: in poor condition.

**DF253.29/2**  
**CHARTER**  
The *ābūl-jabbayyın*[^80] Ahmad Nūr al-Dīn,  
faqīh Siddīq b. ʿAbd Allāh,  
confirming an estate.  
Undated.  
Text and transl. in O’Fahey (1990), 80-83.

**DF254.29/3**  
**LETTER**  
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,  
faqīh ʿAbd Allāh,  
confirming the settlement of a boundary dispute.  
1274/1857-58.  
Text and transl. in O’Fahey (1990), 77-80.

**DF255.29/4**  
**SIJILL**  
Hearing before qādī al-hājj ʿIzz al-Dīn of a dispute between the Awlād Awd and ʿAbd al-Hamīd over land.  
1226/1811-2.  
In very poor condition, but see DF7.29/6.  
Text and transl. in O’Fahey (1990), 74-77.

**DF256.29/5**  
**COPY**  
An early copy of DF254.29./3.

**DF257.29/6**  
**COPY**  
An early copy of DF255.29/4

**ARCHIVE 30:** one document in the possession (1976) of al-ḥājj Muṣṭafā ʿAbd Allāh Jumʿa of al-Tina, near al-Ṭawīla, al-Fāshir District.

**DF258.30/1**  
**LETTER**  
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,  
Khāṭir Ibrāhīm and the shartays of Tawīla (district),  
announcing the coming of the maqdūm Ahmad Bayda.  
1325/1907-8.

**ARCHIVE 31:** five documents in the possession (1976) of ʿumda Iṣḥāq Muḥammad Ṣābūn of Dōbō, southwest of al-Ṭawīla, al-Fāshir District. DF259.31/1 to DF261.31/3 have been deposited in the National Records Office, Khartoum.

**DF259.31/1**  
**SIJILL**  
Hearing before an unnamed official of a dispute between Bōsh Jumʿa and ʿAbd al-Rahmān Daldan (Fur, Daldang) over some animals.  
Undated.

**260.31/2**  
**LETTER**

[^80]: Chief of the tax collectors.
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,  
Ṣābūn,  
a group of thirteen persons named in the letter are to be sent to the sultan without delay.  
2 Rabīʿ I 1318/9 July 1900.

DF261.31/3  LETTER  
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,  
Khalīl ʿAmād and the muqaddam of the fuqārāʾ of Dōbō,  
ordering them to come to al-Fāshir: ‘‘… if there is tardiness by one of the fuqārāʾ, I hereby inform you that he will be killed by hanging as a warning to the others”.  
14 Rajab 1328/22 July 1910.

DF263/31.4  RELIGIOUS FORMULA (ḥijāb)  
1 ff. Modern.

DF263/31/5  RELIGIOUS FORMULA (ḥijāb)  
1 ff. Modern.

ARCHIVE 32: two documents in the possession (1976) of Muḥammad Ādam ʿAbd al-Jalīl  
[shartay of Dār Inga] of Fata Barnū, near Kutum, Northern Darfur District.

DF264.32/1  PEDIGREE  
Of the shartays of Dār Inga: written by shartay Ādam ʿAbd al-Jalīl.  
10 Jumādā II 1355/28 August 1936.  
2 ff.

DF265  HISTORY  
Of the tribes and rulers of Darfur: written by shartay Ādam ʿAbd al-Jalīl.  
7 Jumādā II 1355/25 August 1936.  
7 ff.

ARCHIVE 33: eight documents in the possession (1976) of Maḥmūd Muḥammad Sharīf of Kutum, Northern Darfur District.

DF266.33/1  LETTER  
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,  
the maqādīm malik Muḥammad Sharīf Ādam,  
appointing him maqādīm of the Kutum region.  
Jumādā II 1317/August-September 1899.

DF267.33/2  LETTER  
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,  
appointing him maqādīm of Dār al-Riḥ [i.e. Northern Darfur].  
22 Jumādā II 1317/28 September 1899.  
An English transl. found in file DP.FD: 66.K.15 El Fasher District: Azagarfa Omodia (al-Fāshir mudīriyya Archives) is given in O’Fahey & Ahmad (1973) 1, 10-11 [this was published before the Arabic original had been located].

DF268.33/3  
Another copy [in a different hand] of DF267.33/2.
47

DF269.33/4 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
the maqdūm Muḥammad Sharīf Ādam,
restoring to the recipient seven ancestral estates in Northern Darfur.
1317/1899-1900.
Text and transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmad (1973), 1, 12-7.

DF270.33/5 LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
the notables and chiefs generally,
announcing the appointment of Muḥammad Sharīf Ādam as maqdūm of Dār al-Riḥ.
22 Jumāda II 1317/28 September 1899.
Written on the same day as DF267.33/2.

DF271.33/6 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,
shartay Ṭaḥā Ahmad b. ʿAlī,
confirming an estate.
Undated.
Apparently, but not certainly, a forgery: at bottom "Seen G. Sarsfield Hall, 6/2/21".

DF272.33/7 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,
shartay ʿAlī b. Muḥammad,
confirming an estate.
1281/1864-65.
At top, "This is a forged document, see NDD file 91.C 6/1-2". This is probably true [O’Fahey].

DF273.33/8 IJĀZA
Granting the Tijāniyya wirḍ to Mḥmūd Muḥammad Sharīf.

ARCHIVE 34: two documents, transcribed from originals, located (1976) in file NDD/66 B
4/2/5, Kutum majlis, Northern Darfur District.

DF274.34/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,
the dimliḥ Muḥammad and others,
granting them an estate.
9 Ṣafar 1271/31 October 1854.

DF275.34/2 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,
faqīḥ Muḥammad Tūṭū b. ʿUmar,
confirming privileged status (jāḥ), originally granted by Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān.
1257/1841-42.

82 Sub-district chief subordinate to a shartay.

DF276.35/1 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dinār, Badawī Zayn al-ʿAbidīn, confirming an estate at Kafūt (Kofod), originally granted by Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl in 1233/1817-8, 1328/1910-11.


DF277.36/1 DESCRIPTION
Of the boundaries of Dār Surayf (Sereif) Undated.

ARCHIVE 37: three documents transcribed (1975) by Ibrāhīm Mūsā Muhammad from the originals, which are in the possession of Sharīf Hāmid of Kattāl, al-Fāshir District.

DF278.37/1 SIJILL
Hearing before faqīh Salāma Mālik of a dispute between Ādam al-Iriqāwī and Sharīf Hāmid over land. 1279/1862-63.

DF279.37/2 Another contemporary copy of DF278.37/1.

DF280.37/3 CHARTER
Transcription not available.

ARCHIVE 38: seven documents in the possession of the late Śāliḥ Marjān of Nyala, Nyala District: photographed by Dr. Muḥammad Ahmad Bidayn.84

DF281.38/1 CHARTER

DF282.38/2 CHARTER
The amīn Zāʾid Harīkū,

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84 Who subsequently published a valuable account of the Fulani of Darfur, namely *al-Fallāta al-Fulānīyyīn fī'l-Sūdān*, Cairo: the Sudanese Study Centre, n.d. [1995].

85 Title of the hereditary ruler of the Zalingei District; in Fur, *aba diimang*. The present *dimangawi*, Fāḍil Sissee Atim, is the eighteenth of his line.
faqih Yūnis b. al-faqih Dahmān,
confirming privileged status.
Undated.

DF283.38/3  CHARTER
The maqdūm Ḍaḥmān, \(^{86}\)
faqih Yūnis b. al-faqih Dahmān,
confirming privileged status.
Undated (seal-date 1271/1854-55).

DF284.38/4  CHARTER
The maqdūm Muṣṭafā al-Imām Ṭāhir,
faqih ʿAlī Sharif Ahmad al-Fallāṭi,
confirming privileged status and referring to a charter issued by Sultan Muḥammad Abūʾl-
Khayrāt\(^{87}\) b. al-suṭṭān Ibrāhīm.
Undated.

DF285.38/5  LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad Abūʾl-Khayrāt,
the shaykhs of the nomads of Dār al-
Ṣafīd [i.e. Southern Darfur],
acknowledging their letters and announcing his coming.
Date illegible.

DF286.38/6  CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,
faqih Yūnis b. al-faqih Ḍaḥmān,
confirming privileged status.
Date illegible.

DF287.38/7  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
faqih ʿAlī al-Sharif Ahmad "from the Fallāṭa tribe",
confirming privileged status.
…1317/ …1899-1900.

ARCHIVE 39: four documents photographed by Dr. Sherif Mahmoud el Hakim in Dār
Zayyādiyya, Northern Darfur District.

DF288.39/1  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān,
faqih Ṣāliḥ [b. ʿAlī],
confirming privileged status originally granted to the recipient’s father.
Incomplete.

DF289.39/2  CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl,
faqih Ṣāliḥ ʿAlī [or ʿUlaylī],

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\(^{86}\) Almost certainly Ahmad Shatṭa b. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz; see O’Fahey (1980), 91 et passim.

\(^{87}\) “Shadow sultan”, active 1888-90.
confirming an estate at Kōma (Dār Zayyādiyya): the recipient has produced charters from Sultan Ahmad Bukr (r. c 1700-20) and his successors.
Undated (seal-date 1218/1803-4).

DF290.39/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn, faqīḥ Muḥammad b. al-faqīḥ Ḥabīb, confirming the privileged status granted by Sultan ʿAbd al-Raḥmān to recipient’s grandfather.
Incomplete: seal-date 1256/1840-41.

DF291.39.4 CHARTER
The iyā bāṣī al-mayram Zamzam Umm al-Naṣr, faqīḥ Abū Bakr b. al-faqīḥ Muḥammad of the Awlād Jundī,confirming the privileged status granted by Sultans Muḥammad Tayrāb and ʿAbd al-Raḥmān to the recipient’s grandfather, faqīḥ ʿAlī.
Undated.

ARCHIVE 40: one document, in an English transl only, located (1976) in file NDD/66 B 4/2/5 (Dar Anka-Beri), Kutum majlis, Northern Darfur District.

DF292.40/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn, shartay Ādam Dōbō b. Ahmad Abū, confirming a charter of Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl issued for the recipient’s father, which promulgated the boundaries of Dār Beiri after their demarcation by the takanāwī Muḥammad Arbāb.
Date not given.
To be compared with DF304.44/3. It would appear that we thus have a description of the boundaries of Dār [rū] 88 Beiri [Bire] first promulgated by Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl, then confirmed by Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn and, finally by ʿAlī Dīnār in 1901.

ARCHIVE 41: three documents collected by the late Dr. Muḥammad Ibrāhīm Abū Salīm in Dār Maʿāliyya, Nyala District, in the early 1960s. The documents are deposited in the Central [National] Records Office and published in Abū Salīm (1975), 119-22. 89

DF293.41/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn, faqīḥ Khalīl, faqīḥ Muḥammad Kurra and others, confirming an estate at Jabal Müsū.
10 Rajab 1296/3 June 1879.
Since Muhammad al-Ḥusayn died in 1873, the year must be incorrect.

DF294.41/2 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Faḍl.
the Awlād Ambaddā,

88 Rū = ro, Fur. “river, farm, estate”.
89 On the circumstances of their collection, see Muḥammad Ibrāhīm Abū Salīm, Fī shakhṣiyat al-Sūdāniyya, Khartoum 1979, 73.
granting privileged status: the Awlād Ambadda are the "followers of our brother, faqīḥ Muhammad Jaʿfar al-Ṣadīq": warning ṣāḥib ʿAbd Allāh and al-malik ʿAbd Allāh sūmin duqāl\(^{80}\) not to interfere.

Undated.
Abū Salīm (1975), 121.

DF295.41/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn,
Muḥammad Tamīn al-Dār b. al-shaykh Ambādā and the Awlād Abū Qāʾūd,
confirming their privileged status.
5 Shaʾbān 1257/22 September 1841.
Abū Salīm (1975), 122.


DF296.42/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn,
faqīḥ Ahmad al-Zaqī,
confirming privileged status.
Undated.
Text and transl. in O’Fahey & Ahmad (1973), 2, 7-13.

ARCHIVE 43: five documents, the photographs of which were located by Professor J.L. Spaulding in the photographic collection of the Ministry of Information, Khartoum. The Ministry’s number is also given.

DF297.43/1 LETTER
(IND 293) Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
Maḥmūd Ādam, muqaddām of the fuqārāʾ of Dārā,
ordering the recipient to come with the fuqārāʾ of his district to al-Fāshir by 15 Shaʿbān [to celebrate Ramaḍān].
29 Rajab 1325/7 September 1907.

DF298.43/2 LETTER
(IND 295) Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
Maḥmūd Ādam, muqaddām of the fuqārāʾ of Dārā,
ordering the recipient and his fuqārāʾ to spend Ramaḍān with the sultan: they are to assemble by 15 Shaʿbān.
1324/1906-7.

DF299.43/3 LETTER
(IND 296) Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
the notables and officials,

\(^{80}\) Fur, soming dogala, master of the children [dogala] of the palace school.

the sultan is desirous of rebuilding mosques and restoring religion: Mahmūd Ādam has complained of the obstruction of his efforts to rebuild a mosque: he is not to be hindered.

17 Dhū’l-hijja 1317/18 April 1900.

**DF300.43/4**
**LETTER**
(IND 291 or 298)

Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār

Mahmūd Ādam, *imām* of the mosques of Kalambāwa (Kalamboa), ordering his officials to help the recipient to restore his mosques.

Date missing.

**DF301.43/5**
**LETTER**

Jumʿa Bakhīt, *maqdūm umūm al-ṣaʿīd*, Mahmūd Ādam, ordering his officials to assist the recipient to restore mosques.

Dhū’l-hijja 1316/April-May 1899.

**ARCHIVE**
44: four documents photographed by Professor Mūsā Ādam ʿAbd al-Jalīl at Kutum (1977), Northern Darfur District. See further **ARCHIVE** 60.

**DF302.44/1**
**LETTER**

Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, Jiddaw w. Ādam, recipient is to return a cow to Muḥammad w. Najba who has complained of being oppressed.

3 Rajab 1318/27 October 1900.

**DF303.44/2**
**LETTER**

Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār, Jiddaw w. Ādam, appointing recipient *shartay* of Mashā on rahad Kutum.

23 Ṣafar 1322/9 May 1904.

**DF304.44/3**
**DESCRIPTION**

*Kashf bayān hudūd rū Bayrī maʿaʾl-sharāʾīn,*

Of the boundaries of Dār Beirī, with a letter approving them from Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār.

17 Jumāda II 1319/1 October 1901.

Under the confirmation from Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār is a note in English, "Seen. E.G. Sarsfield-Hall. … March 1916, N.D.D. [Northern Darfur District]". 93

**DF305.44/4**
**CHARTER**


1278/1861-62.

**ARCHIVE**

92 Between Nyala and Manawāshi.

93 Sarsfield-Hall served in Northern Darfur in 1916.
intéressant l’histoire du Dār-Für”, Dossiers de la R.C.P. no. 45, CNRS Paris, 1, 1968, 35-53. It appears that this collection were subsequently deliberately destroyed, but the circumstances are unclear.

DF306.45/1 SIJILL
Hearing before the qirqīd44 Ibrāhīm Khalīl Ramaḍān of a dispute between bāṣī Nūr al-Dīn and malik Muhammad Rīl over land.
1243/1827-28.

DF307.45/2 SIJILL
Hearing before the wazīr Yūsuf b. Ṣīr of a dispute between al-ḥājj ʿUmar and bāṣī Nūr al-
Dīn, representing his uncle, malik Maydūb, over land.
Undated.

DF308.45/3 SIJILL
Shāʾbān 1245/February-March 1830.

DF309.45/4 SIJILL
1243/1827-28.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 96-97; transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salīm (1983), 92-93.

DF310.45/5 LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Fāḍl, shartīya Muḥammad Rīl, warning recipient to keep away from the estate of his uncle, bāṣī Nur al-Dīn.
Undated.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 98; transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salīm (1983), 90.

DF311.45/6 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān al-Rashīd, malik Nūr al-Dīn b. Yahyā, granting the recipient three nomads, ”whom he has brought back from dār al-ṣabāḥ [i.e. Kordofan], as herders for his camels.”
Undated.

DF312.45/7 RESCRIPT
From Sultan Muḥammad al-Fāḍl confirming the judgment given in DF307.45/2.
1223/1808-9.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 101-3; transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salīm (1983), 96-98.

44 On this title, see O’Fahey (1980), 152-53.
DF313.45/8  LETTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,
shartāya Tāhir,
warning him to keep away from the estate of his uncle, bāṣī Nūr al-Dīn.
Undated.

DF314.45/9  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Faḍl,
bāṣī Nūr al-Dīn,
granting him the estate of Qumqūm [c. 40 klm. NNE of Dōr].
1238/1822-23.

DF315.45/10  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,
Sultan Ādam,
granting recipient authority over his people, the Marārīt.95
Undated.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 107-8.

DF316.45/11  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān al-Rashīd,
Nūr al-Dīn,
granting the recipient his maternal kin.
1216/1801-2.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 109-10; transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 81-82.

DF317.45/12  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
amīn Muhammad b. al-amīn ʿAlī,
granting the recipient fifty-one Arab nomads [whose names are listed] whom he has brought from dār al-ṣabāḥ [i.e. Kordofan].
Date missing (seal-date 1799-1800).
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 111-2; transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 77.

DF318.45/13  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,
bāṣī Nūr al-Dīn,
confirming the estate of Qumqūm.
12 Ramaḍān …

DF319.45/14  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Faḍl,
wazīr amīn faqīḥ Ḥamīd, ibn al-sulṭan,

granting recipient forty-seven Arab nomads who had previously been granted to the amīn Muhammad b. al-amīn ʿAli [see DF317.45/12].

1221/1806-7.

DF320.45/15  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Faḍl, Nūr al-Dīn b. al-maʿlik Yahyā, confirming the grant of his maternal relatives [see DF316.45/11].
1225/1810-11.
Text in Abū Salīm (1975), 117-8; transl. in O'Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 82-84 with facsimile.


DF321.46/1  CHARTER
[details to come].

DF322.46/2  CHARTER
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn, the Barriyāb fiqārī, confirming their privileged status which had been granted to the recipients by Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān. The recipients had shown the latter a charter from Shaykh ʿAjīb of the ʿAbdallāb. The charter includes a detailed genealogy.
7 Rabī ʿI ... [Location details to come].

ARCHIVE 47: five documents in the possession of Tāj al-Dīn Badawī of Kutum, Northern Darfur District: photographed by O’Fahey in Khartoum, 1977. See also ARCHIVE 35.

DF323.47/1  CHARTER
Sultan ʿAlī Dinār, Badawī Zayn al-ʿAbidīn, confirming an estate at Kafūt [Kofod]: see DF276.35/1.
1328/1910-11.

DF324.47/2  LETTER
Fakīr Sāliḥ ʿAlī, nufattīsh markāz al-Fāshir, concerning a dispute between Iṣḥāq Abū and al-ḥājj Badawī Zayn al-ʿAbidīn over some land at Kafūt (Kofod).
22 March 1920.

97 ʿAjīb was ruler of the northern provinces of the Funj Sultanate. This is one of the few examples we have of a holy family “transferring” their privileged status from one state to another.
Shaykh `Umar and his associates, 
concerning the land of Badawi Zayn al-`Abidin at Kafūt. 
5 September 1929.

By a party of elders (ajāwīd) concerning the boundaries of some disputed land at Kafūt, 
adressed to muftīsh al-Fāshir. 
… 1927.

Concerning boundaries of some land at Kafūt, 
adressed to muftīsh al-Fāshir. 
28 September 1937.

ARCHIVE 48: one document deposited in the history Museum, University of Zaria, Northern 
Nigeria: transcription made available by Dr. `Umar al-Naqar.

Sultan Muhammad al-Fadl, 
faqīh al-hājj Muḥammad al-Barnāwī, 
granting recipient safe-conduct through Darfur. 
Undated (seal-date 1218/1803-4).

ARCHIVE 49: six documents of Darfur provenance in the Sudan Archive, University of 
Durham. See further, R.L. Hill, Handlist of Arabic Manuscripts, third draft, revised & 

Sultan Iṣḥāq Abū Rısh b. al-hājj Muḥammad,98 
Al-hājj ʻIsā Hasan,99 
letter of recommendation for recipient who is passing through on the pilgrimage. 
29 Rajab 1309/28 February 1892. 
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/13/2 AR: Handlist, 172. 

Sultan ʻAli Dīnār, 
Governor-General of the Sudan, 
announcing the surrender of ʻArabī Dafū Allāh and listing arms, ammunition and horses captured. 
10 Jumādā I 1320/14 August 1902. 
English transl. only. 
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/28/7: Handlist, 67.

98 Sultan of Dār Sīla, 1900-1916. 
99 For an account of his travels, see John E. Lavers, “The Adventures of a Kano pilgrim 1892-1893”, 
Kelly, Col. Philip James Vandeleur, Sultan ʿAli Dinār, [not seen],
29 May 1916.
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/28/3 AR: Handlist, 182.

Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
the sirdār,
[not seen].
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/28/1 AR: Handlist, 68.

Sultan ʿAli Dinār, qumandān quwwat al-ḥudūd al-gharbiyya [Col. P.J.V. Kelly],
offering to come to al-Fāshir to surrender.
2 Shiaʾbān 1334/4 June 1916.
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/28/2 AR: Handlist, 69.

Kelly, Col. P.J.V., Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
arrangements for his surrender,100
9 June 1916.
Location: SA, Durham, Box 101/28/4 AR; Handlist, 183.


Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
"au glorieux sultan des armées françaises",
congratulating Bonaparte on his victory over the Mamluks and requesting safe passage for a caravan led by the khabīr Yūsuf al-Jallābī.
Undated [late 1798].

Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
"au sultan des Français, maître de la ville de Siout [Général Desaix],"
requesting safe passage for the caravan bringing the letter: the sultan’s envoys are al-ḥājj Bilālī, Zāʾid and "Fekka".

100 Sultan ʿAli Dinār was killed in ambush on 6 November 1916.
Undated [early January 1799].
French transl., Auriant, 201-2.

DF337.50/3 LETTER
Général en Chef Bonaparte,
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
acknowledging receipt of the sultan’s letter (DF335.50/1): explaining that he has been absent in Syria and requesting that 2,000 male slaves be sent to him.
12 Messidor an VIII/30 June 1799.
Piecés Diverses, 216.

DF338.50/4 LETTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,
"au général français à Siout [Donzelot],”
requesting safe passage for a small caravan and stating what the customs charges should be.
C. September 1800.

DF339.50/5 LETTER
Général de Brigade Donzelot,
au Général en Chef [ʿAbd Allāh Menou],
announcing the arrival of a small caravan from Darfur with letter [DF338.50/4].
11 Vendimiaire an IX/3 October 1800.
Vincennes, B° 54, 3.10. 1800.

DF340.50/6 LETTER
Général de Brigade Donzelot,
au Général en Chef,
enclosing a transl. of DF338.50/4.
21 Vendimiaire an IX/13 October 1800.
Vincennes, B° 54, 13.10. 1800.

DF341.50/7 Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,

hadrat sultan fransis [Menou],
requesting safe passage for a caravan and introducing his envoys, al-ḥājj Bilāl, faqīh Aḥmad and Zāʾid.
Undated [1800].

ARCHIVE 51: two documents from the works of the traveller, Muḥammad b. ʿUmar al-Tūnīsī.101 Al-Tūnīsī quotes other letters, which may or may not be authentic, but which I have not listed here.

D342.51/1 CHARTER
Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān,

Umar al-Tunisi, granting the recipient an estate Abū’l-Judūl, comprising three villages, Jūltū, al-Dabba and Umm Ba‘ūda.

Undated.


DF343.51/2 LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl,

… …

granting recipient(s) authority to go south on a slave-raiding expedition.

Undated.

French version in Mohammed el Tounsy, Voyage au Ouaday, transl. N. Perron, Paris 1851, 468-69.

ARCHIVE 52: four documents transcribed in Na‘ūm Shuqayr, Ta’rīkh al-Sūdān al-qadīm wa’l-hadīth wa-jughrāfiyatuhu, Cairo n.d. [1903], ii, 139-41 & 148.

DF344.52/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,

“our son-in-law” al-hājj Ahmad b. ʿĪṣā, granting him the estate “Nī‘ama” [or “Nī‘ma’] and its fifty slaves.

1263/1846-47.


DF345.52/2 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn,

“our daughter” mayram Fāṭima Umm Dirays, confirming her husband’s gift to her of the estate ”Nī‘ama” [or “Nī‘ma’]. 7 Sha‘bān 1269/15 May 1853.

Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983), 102-3.

DF346.52/3 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn, the mayram Zahra, confirming the gift of some Māhriyya nomads by al-hājj Ahmad b. ʿĪṣā to Zahra’s baby daughter.

1268/1851-52.

Transl. in O’Fahey & Abu Salim (1983)103-4.

The above three documents are also translated in Kropácek, ”Title-deeds”, 33-50.

DF347.52/4 LETTER

102 A model letter, but there is no reason to doubt its general authenticity; see further, O’Fahey “Slavery and the slave trade in Dār Für”, Journal of African History, xiv/1, 1973, 29-43.
Sultan İbrahım,  
Mahmûd, the imâm Tâha and all the merchants of Kubayh [Kobbei].  
Announcing the death of his father, Sultan Muhasilmad al-Ḥusayn, and his own accession.  
22 Şafar 1290/22 April 1873.

ARCHIVE 53: seven letters, mainly diplomatic, found in printed sources.

DF348.53/1  LETTER  
Sultan Muhammad al-Fâḍl,  
Muhammad ʿAlî Paşa, ruler of Egypt,  
refuting the latter’s claim to Darfur and asserting his state’s independence: written by Muhammad b. ʿAmmârî al-Azharî, tutor to the sultan’s children.  
1245/1829-30.  
Text in Shuqayr, Taʾrikh, ii, 132-33: another version of the letter is given in Muhammad ʿAbd al-Raḥîm, al-Durr al-manthur fî-taʾrikh bilâd al-ʿarab waʾl-fûr, ff. 115, a manuscript history of Darfur located among the author’s papers in the National Records Office, Khartoum. Muhammad ʿAbd al-Raḥîm says that the letter was taken to Egypt by the khabîr Abbakr al-Khandâqî.  

DF349.53/2  LETTER  
Sultan Muhammad al-Fâḍl,  
faqîh Muhammad al-Sāyyîḥ Muhammad Abû Jubba,  
accompanying a donation of slaves, cattle, horses, honey, gold and saddles, "to assist the mosque and feed the poor".  
Undated.  
Facsimile in al-Shuqayr, Taʾrikh, ii, 261.  

DF350.53/3  LETTER  
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,  
Joseph Natterer [Austro-Hungarian vice-consul in Khartoum],  
denying all knowledge of the death of Edouard Vogel, the German traveller, and giving details of the death in al-Fâshîr of the French traveller, Charles Cuny.  
7 Dhuʾl-hijja 1278/5 June 1862.  

DF351.53/4  LETTER  
Sultan Muhammad al-Ḥusayn,  
John Petherick,  
giving him permission to visit Darfur if he so wishes, but insisting on certain restrictions of movement.  

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104 On whom, see Hill (1967), 292-93.  
105 Ibid. 106.  
106 Ibid. 305-6.
28 Ramaḍān 1280/26 February 1864.

DF352.53/5 LETTER
Sultan Ibrāhīm,
Gustav Nachtigal,\(^{107}\)
granting him safe-conduct to the borders of Kordofan.
Undated.

DF353.53/6 LETTER
Sultan Ibrāhīm,
The Khedive Ismā‘īl,
Facsimile in J. Deny, *Sommaire des Archives Turques du Caire*, Cairo 1930, plate LIII. Deny (p. 549) says that there other letters from the Darfur sultans in the ‘Abdīn Archives.

DF354.53/7 LETTER
Sultan Muḥammad Hārūn al-Rashīd,\(^{110}\)
shaṭṭay Tāhir,
ordering him to join the sultan.
16 Shawwāl 1296/30 October 1879.

ARCHIVE 54: seven documents of Kordofan provenence.

DF355.54/1 CHARTER
Sultan Muḥammad al-Faḍl,
Shaykh al-Dāw b. ʿAbd al-Hamīd al-Shuwayḥī,
confirming privileged status originally granted by Sultan ʿAbd al-Rahmān al-Rashīd.
19 Dhū‘l-hijja 1220/30 March 1806.

DF356.54/2 SIJILL
11 Ṣafar 1224/28 March 1809.


\(^{108}\) Where *al-khawājā*, in this context meaning “Christian”, is tactfully translated as “traveller”.

\(^{109}\) Head of the Dafur merchants; see Hill (1967), 150-51.

\(^{110}\) “Shadow Sultan”, see ibid, 256-67.

DF357.54/3       CHARTER
Malik Musallim [Musallam] al-Amīn,
Various Shanābla fiṣqarāʾ,  
granting recipients an estate.
Undated (seal-date 1200/1785-86).  

DF358.54/4       CHARTER
Al-sulṭān al-maqdūm Musallim,  
al-Habıb w. ˘amm d,  
confirming the privileged status (jāh) of a group of Kināna fiṣqarāʾ living in the Jabal Taqalī region. 
One of a sequence of seven charters of privilege photographed by Janet Ewald in Jabal Taqalī in 1978. Some of these documents are discussed, including several very poor facsimiles, in ‘Abd al-Qādir Muhammad ʿAbd al-Qādir Dawra, Ta’rīkh mamlakat Taqalī al-Islāmiyya, Khartoum 1996, 106-7.

DF359.45/5       LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,  
Sayyid Muhammad al-Makki,  
announcing the coming of his maḥmal[11] with his son, Şāliḥ, and asking for assistance.  
Rabīʿ II 1322/May-June 1905.  
From a small collection of Ismāʿiliyya documents deposited in the National Records Office, Khartoum.  

DF360.54/6       LETTER
Sultan ʿAli Dīnār,  
Sayyid Muhammad al-Makki,  
announcing the coming of his son ʿAbd al-Ṣamad,  
end of Rabīʿ II 1322/June 1905.  
Ismāʿiliyya collection, NRO.

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[11] Ewald argues in her Soldiers, Traders and Slaves: State Formation and Economic Transformation in the Greater Nile Valley, 1700-1885, Madison 1990, 113 & 214-5, n. 119 that this sequence was forged in the twentieth century. I am inclined to disagree at least in regard to the charter from Musallim (on which most of the other charters in the sequence appear to depend) because its witness list comprises Darfur notables who are identifiably contemporaneous with the maqdūm and it seems scarcely credible to me that such a list could have been created in twentieth-century Taqalī.

[112] Head of the Ismāʿiliyya ṭarīqa; on whom, see O’Fahey, Arabic Writings, 237-39. Al-Makki and the sultan undoubtedly met in Omdurman when both were in the service of the Khalifa ʿAbdullāhi.  

[113] See EI (2) vi, 44-46. The maḥmal was a richly decorated palanquin sent to Mecca by various Muslim states at the time of the pilgrimage. ʿAli Dīnār probably saw it as a symbolic assertion of Darfur’s independence.
LETTER

Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
Sayyid Muhammad al-Makkī,
announcing the coming of some of his people and describing his efforts to restore religion in Darfur.
Dhūʾl-hijja 1322/February-March 1905.
Ismāʾīliyya collection, NRO.

ARCHIVE 55: two genealogies. See also Archive 60.

PEDIGREE

Of the Awlād Mabnī, a Misrīyya clan in Jabal Mūn, Dār Masālīt.
Undated: 1 ff.

KING-LIST

Of the Furīt, Tunjur and Fur rulers of Darfur.
Written by Yūsuf Abū Shōk of Kutum, Northern Darfur District.
Undated: 3 ff.
Photographed by Professor J. & M.-J. Tubiana at Kutum in 1970.

ARCHIVE 56: one document photographed by Dr. Terence Walz in Asyūṭ from among the papers of the al-Jawhari family.

SIJILL

Hearing before qaḍī Ahmad w. Ṭāha of Kubayḥ (Kobbei) of a settlement concerning a disputed tamassuk [IOU].
11 Shawwāl 1279/22 December 1862.

ARCHIVE 57: two letters of appointment.

LETTER

Sultan ʿAli Dinār,
shartay Hārūn ʿAbd Allāh,
appointing recipient shartay of Jabal al-Ḥillā.
National Records Office, Khartoum, Miscellaneous 1/41/864.

LETTER

Sultan Muhammad Abūʿl-Khayrāt,
shartay Muhammad b. ʿĪzz al-Dīn Sulaymān,
appointing recipient shartay of Dār Wannā.
National Records Office, Khartoum, Mahdiyya (class two; presently [1981] under re-organization).

ARCHIVE 58: three documents photographed by Ibrāhīm Yīhyaʿ ʿAbd al-Rahmān and Lidwien Kapteijns in Dār Masālīt. The texts and transl. of the documents are given in Lidwien

DF367.58/1 LETTER
ʿĀmil al-Mahdī Ismāʾīl Abd al-Nābi, faqīh Makkī and his people, they are to make a recitation of the Qurʾān each Friday.
21 Jumāda II 1303/27 March 1886.

DF368.58/2 LETTER
Ismāʾīl b. ʿAbd al-Nābi, various fuqarāʾ, they are not to oppose faqīh Makki in collecting the fitra.
1303/1885-86.

DF369.58/3 LETTER
Faqīh Makki, Sultan Abbāk r b. Ismāʾīl ʿAbd al-Nabī, concerning the privileged status of certain villages belonging to faqīh Makki.
6 Dhū'l-hijja 1321/23 February 1904.

ARCHIVE 59: four literary pieces by Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār.\(^\text{114}\)

DF370.59/1 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENT
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār.
9 Ramadān 1330/23 August 1912.
Xerox copy, Library, National Records Office, Khartoum. 17fff.

DF371.59/2 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENT
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār.
1340/1921-22
11 ff.; with minor lexical differences.
An abbreviated translation of one of these versions is given in Anon., "A fragment from Ali Dinar", *Sudan Notes and Records*, xxxiv, 1953, 114-6.

DF372.59/3 DIWAN
Sultan ʿAlī Dīnār,
*Al-Dīwān al-madīḥ fi-madīḥ al-nabī al-mīlīh*.
Poetry in praise of the Prophet.
Khartoum, 1331/1913.
A printed pamphlet of 22 pages.
Copies in the Library, National Records Office, and the Sudan library, University of Khartoum.

DF373.59/4 KARĀMĀT
[The miracles of ʿAlī Dīnār]

\(^{114}\) Item DF372.59/3 is the last to appear in the 1981 version of this list.
'Ali Dinâr seems to have sent a manuscript on this theme to the editor of The Sudan Times, who in turn forwarded a translation to L.B. Jureidini, who in turn published "The miracles of Ali Dinar", The Muslim World, vi, 1917, 409-14.
I have been unable to trace the original.

ARCHIVE 60: eight documents photographed in 2005 in Dâr Zaghâwa by Dr. Jerome Tubiana. I give Dr. Tubiana’s numbering. Bire appears on the maps as Dâr Beiri, one of the divisions of Dâr Zaghâwa.

DF374.60/1 [Bire 1] CHARTER
Sultan [Muhammad] Husayn,
al-malik Ahmad Abâ,
the malik has requested privileged status [hurma]: the sultan has assigned him an estate.
1278/1861-62.
I am fairly confident that this is a forgery; the seal is crudely engraved and is quite different from the other seals of Muhammad al-Husayn and I know of no other sultanic charter that ends with intahâ. It may be an old forgery since Dr. Tubiana reports that it is written on thick paper.

DF375.60/2 [Bire 2] LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinâr,
the officials and soldiers of Dâr Mashâ,
appointing [name missing] shartay of Dâr Mashâ: "we have arranged for him to re-establish the shartâya in the established way (‘alâ ‘l-madhhab al-qadîm)"; "you are to receive him with obedience in accordance with our order".
23 Safar 1328/6 March 1910. See DF303.44/2.

DF376.60/3 [Bire 3] LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinâr,
"our son" [waladin] Abû and Muhammad Jiddaw Âdam,
concerning financial matters,
7 Jumâda II 1317/12 October 1899.

DF377.60/4 [Bire 4] = 302.44/1

DF378.60/5 [Bire 5] LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinâr,
Jiddaw Âdam,
the bearer of the letter is our son (waladinâ) Husayn Ibrâhîm and ordering recipient to send two hundred soldiers to join Âdam Rijâl ‘Abd al-Rahmân in Dâr Qimr.
5 Rajab 1320/8 October 1902.

DF379.60/6 [Bire 6] LETTER
Sultan ‘Ali Dinâr,
Jiddaw Âdam, ‘umda ? [Dâba],
[to be entered]
14 Jumâda II 1319/28 September 1901.

DF380.60/7 [Bire 7] = DF304.44/3
DF380.60/8 [Twer 1]  LETTER  
Sultan Muhammad al-Husayn,
to the officials of the state,
_al-malik_ Baḥr w. _Nufim_, has complained about his border with Dār
Suwaynī: the border is demarcated and described.
Date illegible.

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Abū Salīm, Muḥammad Ibrāhīm (1979), Fī shakhṣiyat al-Śūdānīyya, Khartoum.
Jörg Adelberger (1990), Vom Sultanat zur Republik: Veränderungen in der Sozialorganisation der Fur (Sudan), Stuttgart.
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This work (603 pp.) presents annotated texts and translations of 119 mainly diplomatic letters from the various rulers of the states of the Wadai [Eastern Chad] and Darfur region in the period referred to in the title. It thus forms a very important counterpart to the present Catalogue.
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