

GENERAL, GORDON - THE SUDAN - AND PERFINS?

From Rosemary Smith

Ever since I first became interested in perfins, in 1970, I have collected any articles which I saw in philatelic magazines which had a bearing on the subject.

One of these articles which I cut out, and only recently re-read, was in Stamp Monthly, October 1975. Stuart Rossiter, FRPSL, wrote about 'The Giegler Archive'. Carl Giegler was Chief Engineer of the Telegraphs of the Soudan and the Red Sea, then the Chief of the Posts and Telegraph at Khartoum, and later was raised to the rank of Pasha.

There was an illustration of a letter from Col.Gordon (later General) to Carl Giegler. Unfortunately it is undated but the whole Archive appears to be letters to Giegler mostly from 1874 to 1883. The text of the letter reads:-

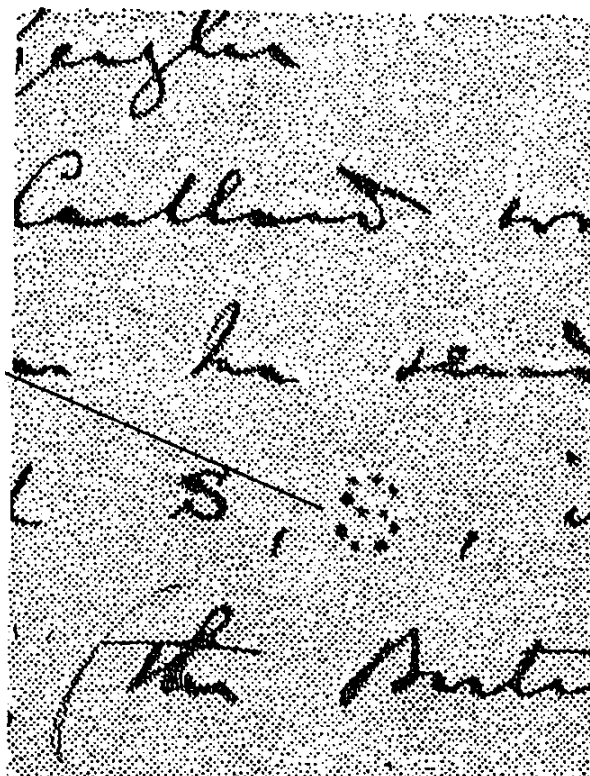
My dear Giegler,

If Cartland would perforate all the stamps he sends up here, with the initial S,- it would be the best plan, (the British P.O. does this for many great firms in London, to prevent the theft of their stamps.) No perforated stamp could be sold at Cairo, no unperforated stamp could be sold at London.

Every letter from any town, of the Sudan, must have the perforated stamp on it.

Yours sincerely,

C.E.Gordon



I would be interested to know if this rings any bells with collectors of Sudan: did these perfins ever materialise? Thanks to John Nelson who confirmed my deciphering of Gordon's letter.