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978-1-107-65862-2 - Brands Used by the Chief Camel-Owning Tribes of Kordofán: (A Supplement to the Tribes of Northern and Central Kordofán)

H. A. MacMichael

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**CAMEL BRANDS
USED IN KORDOFÁN**

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CAMEL-OWNING TRIBES OF
KORDOFÁN

(A Supplement to *The Tribes of Northern and Central Kordofán*)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

AS will at once be evident, a study of the brands used by camel-owners is very confusing owing to the innumerable varieties and exceptions that occur to almost any rule that may be formulated.

Practice alone can enable one to determine the tribe to which a camel belongs by looking at its brands, and one will probably make many mistakes however much practice one may have had. This is especially so if one only sees one or two camels at a time, since it is hard to tell which of the brands on it may mark its tribe or section, and which be merely added by the owner to distinguish it from the animals of another subsection. If one sees a whole herd of camels it is evident that the brand (or brands) which are common to them all is the important one and marks the tribe or section. Brands that are merely caused by firing a sick camel on the part affected will cause little confusion except at the first. In spite of these difficulties and reservations, it may practically be taken for granted that

1. No camel branded on the left belongs to the KABÁBÍSH (excepting the BERÁRA section).
2. That wherever the ẸILÁID UM HAGGÁN are seen, that brand was made by the HOWÁWÍR.
3. That a long broad SÁMI' with a long broad ẸILÁDA, both on the left, were made by the KAWÁHLA (DÁR HÁMID) or the MEGÁNÍN (A. FADÁLA).
4. That the KABÁBÍSH (NŪRÁB) alone use the BA'AG and two DHIRA'ÁT.
5. That a camel marked with one, two, or three KERÁBÍG (sing. KURBÁG) probably belongs to the SHENÁBLA.
6. That only the 'AṬAWÍA section of the KABÁBÍSH use the SHA'IBA on the right fore.
7. That only the GAWÁMA'A use the RUAYKIB on the cheek.

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8. That almost only the KAWÁHLA ('ABÁBDA and GIHAYMÁB) use the BÁB.

9. That only the KABÁBÍSH ('AWÁFIDA) use the SHÁBIṬ.

10. Almost only the KABÁBÍSH (SERÁGÁB and A. 'UḲBA) use the ḤADD.

11. Only the KABÁBÍSH (UM MATŪ) use the 'AṢABA.

12. Only the HOWÁWÍR ('ABBÁSÁB) use the peculiar large 'ERIK.

Certain other brands or combinations of brands will similarly become familiar in time; but the marks used by the sedentary population will always be a source of confusion since any villager is liable to use any brand haphazard.

Other animals besides camels are branded, but not to the same extent, nor with the same consistency.

Originally each section of a nomad tribe, and probably each tribe, had some distinctive brand which was properly the brand used by the family of its particular ancestor. As the family increased and intermarried, different branches of it, connected with it by direct lineage or by marriage, added different distinguishing marks ("FERAZ," Ar. *فرز*) to the original brand (WASM EL 'AṢLI or WASM EL GEDD), and in many cases the original brand itself has fallen into disuse: among the purer nomads, however, e.g. among the KABÁBÍSH, KAWÁHLA, and SHENÁBLA, the original brands of the sections have generally survived and are almost always used.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The illustrations are intended only to shew the shapes of the brands and the part of the camel on which they are commonly placed. The brands are therefore shewn in the illustrations on the right or on the left indiscriminately. Part II should be consulted for information as to the side on which the various brands are usually placed by the respective sections using them.

2. In Part I names of brands that when transliterated into English have an initial A or E will be found together as though all began with A.

3. In the illustrations the normal position and form of the brand is marked by a grey line: various alternatives in position and form of the brand that occur are, when a separate illustration is not given, shewn by dotted grey lines.

4. A few brands that are often met with in Kordofán, though not belonging to Kordofán tribes, are illustrated and named.

5. Where it happens that a single brand is known by different names to different tribes, I have, whenever mentioning it, given it the name by which it is known to the tribe to which allusion is being made at the time.

6. For the sake of consistency and accuracy several names of brands which are commonly pronounced as though beginning with a G, but which are spelt with a ق (e.g. ҚILÁDA or GILÁDA) will be found spelt with a Қ and not with a G.

7. Names of brands and of tribes, sections, and subsections, are printed in capitals.

8. Names of sections of tribes are placed in brackets after the name of the tribe. Names of subsections of sections are preceded by § and placed after the name of the section.

9. The following abbreviations are used:

B = Beni

A = Awlád

G = Gebel

§ = Subsection

Fig. = Figure

pl. = plural

sing. = singular

Ar. = Arabic