

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

**The Fourth Biennial Conference on Travel in Egypt and the Near East was held
at
Edinburgh First, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh,
from Wednesday 11 July to Sunday 15 July 2001**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 15 July 2001, Chair: Harry James

CONFERENCE REPORT

To this Fourth ASTENE Conference, participants came from 18 different countries, including for the first time Austria, Cyprus, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. No less than 21 of about 120 people had attended the very first conference in Durham in 1995.

Even by teatime on the first afternoon, there was already a cheerful hum of people greeting old acquaintances and new, and exchanging reminiscences and information over the teacups.

On the first evening, as a keynote paper, Professor Jason Thompson, of the American University in Cairo, gave - as we have come to expect of him - a fine exposition of Edward William Lane. As the second keynote speaker next day, Professor Carole Hillenbrand, of Edinburgh University, previewed for us her new book on Islamic travel writing, with a stunning array of illustrations.

We can here only highlight a few of an enormously varied range of excellent papers in the programme put together by Deborah Manley and Janet Starkey ([see the list below](#)). As we were in Edinburgh, it was very relevant to hear various views of James Bruce, Scottish traveller in Abyssinia and the Near East, while everyone came out enchanted (and in stitches of laughter) from the account of the sad adventures of the first mummy to arrive in Scotland.

In some of the papers we were introduced to some very early travellers indeed, from 'anatomically modern humans' from Egypt and the Near East colonising Europe and Africa over many thousands of years, to ancient Greek and Roman views of the seafarers they encountered. Among the papers about writers, we met the authors of Quo Vadis and Ben Hur. Among the artist travellers were, for the first time, those who recorded Cyprus. Late one afternoon, we made strange spectacles of ourselves by donning strange spectacles to watch an early stereographic picture show. We met a great number of earnest, learned and/or eccentric travellers from many countries.

Away from the lecture rooms, the Librarian, Ian Mowat, cordially welcomed us to the Conference Reception at the Edinburgh University Library, where a showcase of Islamic and 19th century European books had been arranged for our aesthetic pleasure. Later in the evening, one was almost stunned by aesthetic pleasure on entering the Playfair Library Hall for the Conference Dinner, for this, with its wonderful barrel-vaulted ceiling is one of the finest Neo-classical interiors in Britain. After a delicious repast, the 'ASTENE Players', in some curiously eclectic costumes, offered us a recital of poetry by travellers to Egypt, while Heather McCracken brought a tear to many an eye with a selection of songs which might have been given at a Victorian soirée. We would particularly like to thank Brenda Moon for arranging this memorable occasion.

By a happy coincidence, two papers were offered on 'The dancer of Esna' and 'The Almeh', which led most appositely to the evening's entertainment by the Almeh, Lorna. With the graceful, sinuous gestures of Egyptian dance, and the face of a Scottish rose, she could not have better epitomised ASTENE-in-Edinburgh.

Other special exhibitions had been kindly arranged for ASTENE. At the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Nicola Kalinsky had not only highlighted various pictures of interest to us, but had produced a catalogue with biographical data. Her list, ranging as it did from the first Earl of Balfour to David

Wilkie, from William Aikman in the early 18th century to Sir Steven Runciman in the 20th, abundantly illustrated that Scots are well-travelled and enterprising people.

At the National Library of Scotland, Iain Gordon Brown had mounted a display of relevant manuscripts. Included in the 13 diverse exhibits were Alexander Gordon's volume of Egyptian engravings, two volumes of David Roberts's Eastern journal; a letter from John G Kinnear, ridiculing a mummy-unwrapping conducted by Thomas Pettigrew, and speculating what an examination of the mummy of his old friend David Roberts might reveal; a sketch map of the Nile in Upper Egypt, Nubia and the Sudan by Major Orlando Felix, who was travelling with Lord Prudhoe, later fourth Duke of Northumberland; a letter from Edward William Lane to Robert Hay.

Besides these, there happened to be an exhibition of the work of Sir William Allan at the City Art Centre, while Jennifer Scarce led a small detachment to visit the Scottish War Museum inside the walls of Edinburgh Castle.

James Thin, the Edinburgh booksellers, held a bookstall at the Conference, where also Katie Starkey, ably assisted by Jan Dobrowolski, ran an ASTENE bookstall. Jan and Richard Long mounted their interesting Gertrude Bell exhibition created for the British Council.

At Pollock Halls, Edinburgh First provided a comfortable venue for the Conference, with good food and helpful staff -though even they had not been able to arrange the good weather ASTENE has come to expect. But spirits at least remained undamped and many participants departed looking forward to meeting again at Worcester College, Oxford, in 2003.

All in all, a triumph again for the Conference Organisers, Deborah Manley, Brenda Moon, Janet Starkey and Jennifer Scarce.

PUBLICATION OF THE 4TH ASTENE CONFERENCE, EDINBURGH 2001

After considerable thought and discussion the Committee decided on a fourfold system of publication of the 2001 conference bearing in mind the various problems which had arisen from the systems used for the publication of the first three conferences.

1. A single volume, entitled provisionally 'Travellers in the Near East' will be published by Stacey International. Charles Foster is editing this and he with an editorial group has chosen a selection of papers for this purpose. MSS were submitted by December 2002 and it is hoped to bring the volume out before the next conference in Oxford in July 2003.
2. Working Papers: The editorial group has also selected a further group of the papers presented which will form a pilot study for a proposed series of individual papers under this title. These will be available for single purchase through the Association. The series will develop if there is sufficient interest.
3. Papers published elsewhere either individually or as part of a larger study. Would all those whose papers have or will appear elsewhere in any form, please let the secretary know as soon as possible. Dr Patricia Usick, 32 CarItton Hill, London NW 8 OJY
4. Papers not covered by 1-3.

We hope that authors of these papers will be willing to have interested specialists put in direct touch with them through the ASTENE office.

A revised list of the 2001 conference papers will be published in the Bulletin and on the website giving the information as to which form of issue is relevant in each case.



THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE 1999 CONFERENCE PAPERS HAS APPEARED-
It may be ordered from the Museum Bookshop.

Papers Presented

Participant	Title of Paper
Dr Sahar Abdel Hakim, University of Cairo	(Inter)ruptive Communication: Elizabeth Cooper's Photo-writing of Egyptian Women
Susan Allen, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	The ephemeral tourist: Non-literary resources for the study of travel in Egypt in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
Arita Baaijens, Amsterdam	Desert Travels by camel in northern Sudan: a comparison of travels made by Browne, Nachtigal, Hassan Bey and others with travels in the Sudan today
Giovanni Boaglio, Centro Studi Drovetti, Turin	Pietro Lorenzo Pinchia, an Italian priest, and his journey to the East
James Beresford, Keble College, Oxford	Good, bad, or just plain ugly: sailors of the Ancient Near East and Egypt as portrayed by Greek and Roman travellers
Morris Bierbrier, formerly British Museum	Preparations for 'Who was Who in Egyptology' (3rd edition) - Presentation to Resources session
Iain Gordon Brown, National Library of Scotland	The affair of Lord Morton's Mummy
Iain D. Campbell, Isle of Lewis	In search of the physical: George Adam Smith's journeys to Palestine and their importance
Dr Peter Christensen, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee	Defending the Ottomans: Lew Wallace's <i>The Prince of India</i>
Felicity Cobbing, Curator, Palestine Exploration Fund	The American Palestine Exploration Society and the Survey of Eastern Palestine - The story of a lost cause
David Dixon, formerly University College, London	A young Scottish soldier in Egypt and the Sudan, 1882–1886
Jaroslaw Dobrowolski, Cairo	Not quite in the Desert; not exactly in the Wilderness
Dr Pavel Dolukhanov, University of Newcastle	Early travellers: Egypt and Prehistoric migrations
Dr David Elgavish, Bar-Ilan University, Israel	The travels of emissaries in the ancient Near East
R Elaine A. Evans, Curator, Frank H. McClung Museum, Knoxville, Tennessee	By brush and lens: Revealing the Sphinx
Charles Foster, London	Early Crusaders' impressions of the Near East
William M. Frick - delivered by Dr Elizabeth French, ASTENE Treasurer	Expedition Scientifique de Moree: Captain Peytier's contribution
Dr Jochen Hallof, Wurzburg, Germany	A Royal visit to Royal mummies: The journey of the last king of Saxonia to the Sudan and Egypt in 1911
Gottfried Hamanik, Klagenfurt, Austria	The rediscovery of A.C. Harris' notebooks
Rowena Hart and Dr Paul T. Nicholson, Cardiff University	Stereographers in Egypt: Frith and the Underwoods
Professor Mike Heffernan, Nottingham University	An Empire of Science: The politics of French military surveys in the Mediterranean Basin, 1798-1840

F. Nigel Hepper, formerly Kew Herbarium	James Bruce and Luigi Balugani's drawings of African mammals, birds and fishes
Professor Carole Hillenbrand, Edinburgh University	Keynote address: 'Even unto the walls of China' - Islamic travel literature
Roger de Keersmaecker, Graffiti Graffito, Belgium	Panel member for session on Research Resources
Aviva Klein-Franke, University of Cologne	Carsten Niebuhr and the Danish expedition
Professor Nadia Kholy, American University in Cairo	The Crusaders in children's stories between East and West
Jen Kimpton, John Hopkins University	Lost and Found? The Adanson Collection, 1762-1782 at John Hopkins University
Nigel Leask, Queen's College, Cambridge	James Bruce, the Medici Venus and the 18th century traveller as Libertine
Norman Lewis, Institute of Lebanese Studies, Oxford	Travellers, Tribesmen and Trouble: Journeys to Petra in the 19th century
Pascal Linant de Bellefonds, Paris	The expedition of Comte de Forbin to the East, 1817-18
Bryony Llewellyn, Independent Art Historian	Pictorial exchanges, I: David Wilkie and John Frederick Lewis in Constantinople, 1840
Richard Lobban, Rhode Island College	Pierre Tremaux's <i>Voyage au Sudan Oriental</i> , (1847-1854)
Dr C.W.R. Long, Newcastle	Politics and the Travels of Gertrude Bell
J.P. Luft, Durham University	Sir Robert Ker Porter's Travels in Persia
Marsha B. McCoy, Classical Studies, Fairfield University, Connecticut	A Tale of Two Ciceros: Travels in Asia Minor in the late Roman Republic
Deborah Manley, ASTENE Conference Organiser	A famous Scottish traveller's little known journey: Isabella Bird at St Catherine's
Brenda Moon, formerly University of Edinburgh Librarian	Mr and Mrs Smith in Greece, Egypt and the Levant
Yvonne Neville-Rolfe, Bonomi descendant	W.E. Jennings-Bramley, 1871-1960: Explorer and Surveyor in the Lybian Desert, Sudan and the Sinai Peninsula, authority on and friend of the Bedouin
Charles Newton, Victoria & Albert Museum	Pictorial exchanges II: A qajar case study. Who was Haluka Mirza?
William H. Peck, Curator on Ancient Arts, Detroit Institute of Arts	The Dancer of Esna
Sylvia Peuckert, Frei University, Berlin	'A threatening literary inundation' - German 20th century writers visiting Egypt
Jacke Phillips, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge	The God, the King and 'the Child': a much interrupted journey
Lyla Pinch-Brock, Cairo	The short, happy life of Ernest Harold Jones (1877-1911): Artist and Egyptologist
Jessamine Price, Middle East Studies, New York University	Tourist hotels in Cairo in the age of the package tour, 1869-1914
Megan Price, Wolfson College, Oxford	Buried Women
Peta Rée, ASTENE Bulletin	The Caledonian Mussulman: Osman Effendi

Professor John Rodenbeck, American University at Cairo	The origin of Shelley's <i>Ozamandias</i>
Professor John Rodenbeck, American University at Cairo	The Awalim
Barnaby Rogerson	Ahmad Mohamed Hassanein Bey, Explorer in Egypt and Libya and Royal Chamberlain, 1920s and 1930s
Geoffrey Roper, University Library, Cambridge	Christian Rassam (1808-72): translator, interpreter, diplomat and liar
Gabriel M. Rosenbaum, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Egypt, travel laughing: Travel and travellers through the satirical eye
Jennifer Scarce, formerly Scottish National Museum	The Mausoleum and Robert Murdoch Smith at Halicarnassus, 1856-9
Sarah Searight, London	Walter Plowden in Abyssinia
Rita Severis, Cyprus	Artists in Cyprus in the nineteenth century: the difference in their perceptions through the century
Caroline Simpson, The Omda House, Qurna	Qurna - who saw it, where, when and why?
Janet Starkey, Durham University	Bagnios, Coffee-houses and 'glistening pomegranate-thickets'
Paul Starkey, Durham University	A Lebanese Traveller in Egypt
John Taylor, Department of Egyptology, British Museum	Giovanni d'Athanasia (1798-1854): an outline biography
Marianna Taymanova, Durham University	Egypt in Russian poetry
Dr Jason Thompson, American University at Cairo	Keynote address: Edward William Lane's Bicentenary: A Biographic Perspective
Marie-Paule Vanlathem, Belgium	Egypt on the itinerary of the pilgrimages of penitence (1882-1914)
Marjorie Venit, University of Maryland	Early travellers to Alexandria: dirt, darkness and dismay
Professor Petrus Vermaak, University of South Africa	Crossing borders in the Near East and Egypt: comparative research resulting from travel to the ancient sites
Cassandra Vivian, GDI	John Antes: Dilletante Americano or What?
Malcolm Wagstaff, ASTENE Chair, Southampton University	Surveying the Morea: the French Expedition, 1828-32
Bruce Wannell	Ventur de Paradis: Reports from Tunis
Jeanne- Marie Warzeski, Columbus Museum, Georgia	American female missionaries and archaeologists, 1854-1914
Emily Weeks, Yale University	Text versus Image: Dialogues between Edward William Lane and John Frederick Lewis
Caroline Williams, William and Mary College	19th century Images of Egypt
Andrew Wilson, Leeds	Railway Engineers in Ottoman Yemen