

Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No. 14

Autumn 2002

ISSN 1461-4316

Charity Number 1067157



ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES IN GREECE: OUR ARTIST SKETCHING THE ENTRANCE GATE OF THE ACROPOLIS AT MYCENAE.

CONTENTS

Editorial 3; Chairman's Report 5; ASTENE Events & Reports 6; An Ambitious Plan 9; Melton Prior & William Simpson 10; Two Much-Travelled Gunboats & their Personnel 12; In Defence of Graffiti 18; Books & Reviews 19; Research Resources 24; Visitors to Mycenae 27; News 28; Queries 29; Brigands 31; Literary vignettes 8, 29, 32

The Aims of the Association

The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East, established in 1997, encourages and promotes education and learning with particular reference to the history of travel and travellers in Egypt and the Near East. It brings together anyone interested in the subject, whether professional academics or not, across a wide spectrum of nations and subject areas. Essentially, the Association acts as a focus for the collection of materials and information and contacts related to its object.

ASTENE Office

26 Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HP
Fax: 00 44 1223 462 749
email: LISACAMB@AOL.COM

ASTENE Website

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/astene.association/>

Here you will find information about the Association, some extracts from the *Bulletin*, membership and standing order forms, a calendar of events, etc.

Any material for the website should be directed to the ASTENE Office.

The designer of our website is Peter McConochie.

ASTENE BULLETIN

The ASTENE *Bulletin*, published twice a year, aims to keep members informed of research interests in the field of travellers and travel in Egypt and the Near East. Members are encouraged to submit queries, information and articles (2000 words or less) and material relating to ongoing research, relevant exhibitions, conferences and seminars, publications, etc.

All back issues of the *Bulletin* are available and may be ordered from the ASTENE Office for £5 each, including postage.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members A: those from the EU, USA & Canada, £20 per annum

Members B: those from elsewhere and all students, £12 per annum

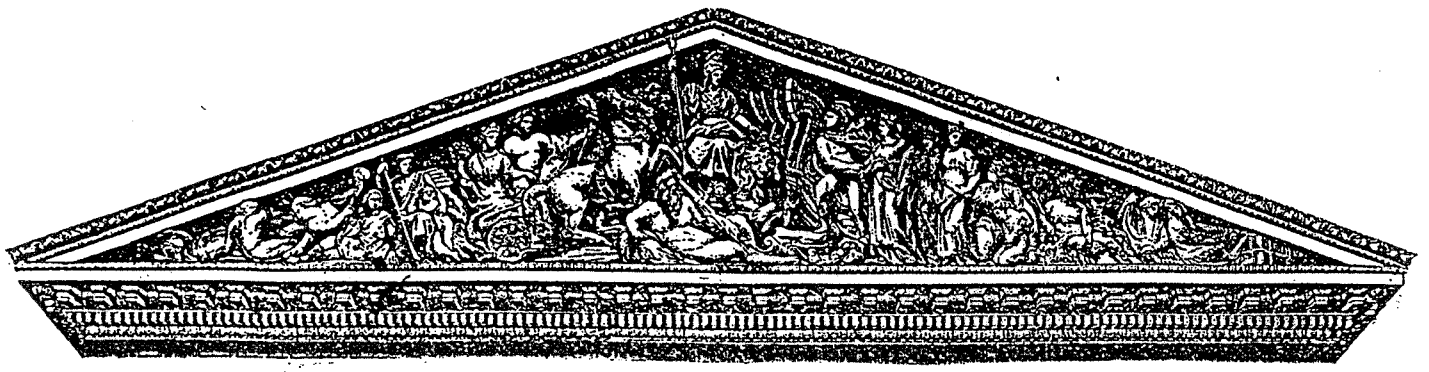
Libraries who wish to receive the *Bulletin* may subscribe for £12 per annum (two issues)

The subscription covers two issues of the ASTENE *Bulletin* and access to the database of members' interests (The Yellow Pages). Any queries about membership should be directed to the ASTENE Office.

Subscriptions for 2003 are due at the beginning of the year. Before then the Treasurer will send payment information to all those who do not pay by Standing Order. The subscription, £20/12 (Euro30/20), may be paid up to three years in advance.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Honorary President:	T.G.H. James
Honorary Vice President:	Jaromir Malek
Chairman:	Malcolm Wagstaff
Secretary:	Patricia Usick
Treasurer:	Lisa French
Events Organiser:	Deborah Manley
Bulletin Editor:	Peta Rée
Other members:	Morris Bierbrier, Neil Cooke, Okasha El-Daly, Ashley Jones, Barnaby Rogerson, Jennifer Scarce



Dear Readers,

The background theme for this *Bulletin* is Greece, always a focus of attention for the educated European, who had usually been obliged to strive with the ancient version of its tongue in his schooldays. Even for girls, generally denied (spared?) this, the myths and legends of the Grecian gods and heroes were as much a part of their cultural heritage as stories from the Bible. Once wars and revolutions in Western Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries made the traditional Grand Tour itinerary difficult to impossible, travellers turned their eyes to Greece. Her sad situation as a once proud nation now under the domination of the Ottoman Empire excited an indignant sympathy in more than one bosom, the most famous being that of Lord Byron.

To architects and artists, the monuments were a revelation. The following extract from a letter published in the *Scots Magazine* in February 1820 sums up the effect upon these men, and through them, even on their stay-at-home countrymen.

'It has often been asked, *if* such be really the advantages of the Grecian architecture above that which is the growth of this country, why have we not imported it before now? The answer is, that we were, until very lately, almost entirely ignorant of the existence of the fine buildings of Greece, or to speak more correctly, we were ignorant of their extraordinary beauty, and of their effect in forming the taste and chastising the judgment in all matters connected with the science of architecture. The descriptions of a few old travellers failed altogether to strike our imagination; but, in process of time, as the facilities of travelling increased, these splendid monuments of ancient art became the objects of more frequent and careful examination, and numerous travellers returned to spread in this country, by their writings and drawings, as far as such means could do, the enlightened spirit which they

Please send articles, queries and news items to the Editor:

Mrs Peta Rée
45 Field View
York YO30 6ES
Tel: 01904 639795

Please send book reviews, books for review, and news of your publications to the Book Editor:

Dr Albertine Gaur
4 Kingswood Close
Surbiton KT6 6DZ
Fax: 0181-399-5479

DEADLINE
for submission of copy for Bulletin 15

MARCH 1, 2003

had but just acquired themselves. The first effect of this was, to send abroad eminent artists and men of science of all descriptions. The next was, to induce many enterprising and public-spirited individuals to send to this country such detached fragments of those glorious edifices as were capable of transportation. The effect on the public taste which arose out of these causes has been prodigious...

There is no man of sense and education who has examined a temple of the pure Doric style without being strongly affected, or without being conscious of having thereby acquired an unexpected accession of correct taste, and sound judgment on architectural subjects. The impression left is never erased, and it has, moreover, the power of giving birth to and cherishing a new class of perceptions, which are of use in improving the understanding, not only when it is employed upon works of art, but when the objects of its consideration are in any way connected with the elegancies and refinements of society.'

It is impossible, with Greece as the background theme for this *Bulletin*, not to mention the Elgin Marbles, but we do not intend to enter into discussion upon the propriety of their presence in the British Museum. We offer the following anecdote, however, to illustrate that Elgin's minions were neither the only, nor the roughest, of the despoilers of the Parthenon.

The architect Charles Robert Cockerell (1788-1863) travelled in the Eastern Mediterranean between 1810 and 1817. In Athens he spent a great deal of time studying and drawing the buildings on the Acropolis. As he was about to leave Athens, the commandant of the Acropolis, who had come to like him, knowing him to be fond of old sculptured stones, said he wished to make him a present. If Cockerell would bring a cart to the base of the Acropolis at a certain hour of the night ('it could not be done in the daytime for fear of giving offence to the Greeks,' said the commandant cagily), he would receive something. As Cockerell drew near with the cart there was a shout from above to look out, and without further warning 'the block which forms the right-hand portion of Slab I of the South Frieze' was bowled down the cliff. Such treatment of it had not been anticipated, but it was too late for regrets. The block was loaded onto the cart, taken down to the Piraeus, and

4

shipped at once. Cockerell presented it to the British Museum, 'and its mutilated appearance bears eloquent testimony to its rough passage down the precipices of the Acropolis'. *1

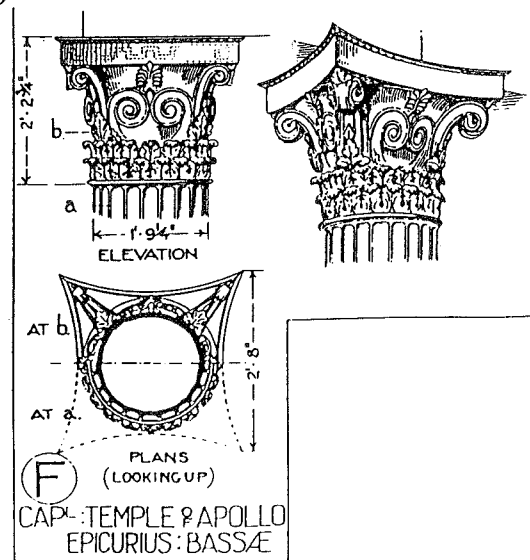
John Cam Hobhouse (1786-1869) was in Athens when the last of the statues on the south side of the Parthenon had just been taken down. 'Such of the statues as had before fallen, had been ground to powder by the Turks. It is but fair to mention this fact, at the same time the other is recorded'. Later he remarks, with regard to the controversy then raging in Athens about Elgin's actions, chiefly between the English and French, 'Lord Elgin's agents are not accused on account of their excavations or carrying off the numerous articles they discovered; their rifling of ancient tombs, and pulling down modern houses to get at buried remains, was on all hands allowed to be a fair and laudable proceeding. as was also the modelling of reliefs and other sculptures. The part of the conduct objected to, was the not being content with the casts (which was all the French wanted and obtained when in power), without the possession of the originals, and by that means hastening the decay, and defacing the ancient monuments, so as forever to diminish considerably the gratification of future travellers and artists.'

A later sentence strikes a prophetic note. 'Yet I cannot forbear mentioning a singular speech of a learned Greek in Ioannina who said to me, "You English are carrying off the works of *the Greeks* our forefathers - preserve them well - we Greeks will come and re-demand them."' *2

Peta Rée

*1 CR Cockerell, *Travels in Southern Europe and the Levant, 1810-1817*

*2 JC Hobhouse, *A Journey through Albania and other Provinces of Turkey in Europe and Asia, 1809-1810*



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For those able to go, the high spot of the year since the Edinburgh Conference was the March visit to Cairo and associated conference. A report was published in *Bulletin 13*. A great deal of effort, as well as boundless enthusiasm, went into making it happen and we are grateful not only to Deborah Manley for coordinating everything but also to members and friends in Cairo who took over the detailed arrangements on the ground. It would be invidious to try to list everyone concerned, but I should like to make special mention of the British Ambassador, John Sawers, who kindly hosted a splendid reception at the Residency, John Grote of the British Council and Angela Clark of the Diocese of Egypt, who helped with the venue. Frequent were the emails we exchanged! Building on this success, Rita and Costas Severis are planning our next conference abroad - Cyprus, 2004.

The other event to recall was the joint meeting in January with the Friends of the British Museum. We heard a fascinating talk by the distinguished biographer, Victor Winston, about a trio of women travellers around Agatha Christie, linked by their visits to Iraq and their interest in archaeology. Afterwards, we were able to visit the interesting exhibition about the celebrated novelist's involvement in archaeology through her second husband, Max Mallowan.

On a more mundane level, the Committee met three times during the year. While our Fifth Biennial Conference at Worcester College, Oxford, has been a major item on the agenda, we have given considerable attention to publishing the proceedings of the previous one. It has proved more difficult and time-consuming than might have been imagined. However, a contract has now been signed with Stacey International to publish a small selection of the papers delivered in Edinburgh. Charles Foster has kindly agreed to the editor and he is in touch with potential contributors to the planned volume. Following suggestions made at the 2001 AGM and discussion by a working party consisting of the Chairman, Ashley Jones and Barnaby Rogerson, the Committee has decided to pilot the idea of 'working papers' using the pool of papers given in Edinburgh as the source. Once in production, these

will give members relatively quick access to new research and improve the final paper by taking account of comments received. Publication elsewhere will still be possible. The pilot will test the potential market by offering members two or three of what are likely to be the saleable papers in a standard format and at a price designed to cover costs. An announcement will appear in the *Bulletin* when we are ready to proceed. Some refereeing may be necessary to ensure academic merit but the amount of editing will be minimal.

I am also delighted to report that the last of the trilogy of volumes resulting from our Cambridge Conference (that on Egypt) is finally on its way. Our thanks to Paul Starkey and Nadia El Kholy. All our publications are available from the Museum Bookshop, courtesy of Ashley Jones. The address is: Museum Bookshop, Great Russell Street, London WC1 Tel: 0207 7580 4086 email: mbooks@btconnect.com

I am also happy to report that, after much deliberation and copious exchange of emails, the projected research resources data base is at the design and build stage, thanks to the persistence of Trisha Usick and her working party, as well as the professional advice of Peter McConochie. This should prove an enormous benefit to members, and you will be the only ones allowed access. We are also grateful to Peter for his work on improving and updating the website, under the supervision of Lisa French, to whom our thanks are due as well. The website is important to us, not only for keeping members up to date but also for the publicity which it brings to ASTENE. Numerous organisations now have links with it.

Other vital resources for members are the 'Yellow Pages', registering members' interests, and the *Bulletin*. Neil Cooke has completed a first draught of the new edition of the former, while Peta Rée has overcome her own diffidence to produce three editions of the latter, including this one. We are grateful to both of them for their hard work.

Finally, I should like to thank all my colleagues on the Committee for their advice, help and support in developing the work of ASTENE over the past year.

Malcolm Wagstaff

ASTENE EVENTS

Day School on Travel in Greece & Crete

Rewley House, Oxford,
Saturday 22 February 2003

The speakers at this day school will be Professor Malcolm Wagstaff, Dr Elizabeth French, Professor Peter Warren and Claude Doumet Serhal. The booking form is enclosed in your *Bulletin*. If it is not, and you wish to attend, please send a cheque (for £32 or £39 including lunch), payable to OUDCE, to the Administrator, Day & Weekend Schools, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Tel: 01865 270380, email: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

For ASTENE members, there will be two other activities this weekend.

Friday 21 February, 7pm dinner at Al Shalimar Lebanese Restaurant, Richmond Road, Jericho, Oxford. This is not the Lebanese restaurant we have previously used, but the official tasters pronounce it equally good.

Sunday 23 February Henrietta McCall has very kindly invited a small group to visit the McCalls' Egyptian house, Sphinx Hill, on the Thames near Wallingford. Can Oxford members offer transport to others?

Please let Deborah Manley know as soon as possible about the Sunday, because of the limited availability; she will also need to know numbers for the restaurant well before the day.

57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE
Tel and fax: 01865 310244

FIFTH BIENNIAL ASTENE CONFERENCE

Worcester College, Oxford
Friday July 11 - Monday July 14 2003

The Call for Papers and the registration form for the Conference are both enclosed in this *Bulletin*, and on our website.

Please register as soon as possible, as college accommodation is somewhat limited. The

6

majority of rooms are en suite doubles (with a sitting area shared with a few other rooms). They can be occupied by two people, or used as a single room.

Note: Those who wish to arrive in Oxford on the Thursday, and/or stay over the Monday night, may do so on a bed and breakfast basis only.

Outline Programme for the Conference

Friday 11 July

Registration and lunch

2 - 5pm First session

7pm Dinner

8.30pm Keynote speaker: Martin Biddle, Professor of Medieval Archaeology at Oxford University - *Travellers to the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem*

Saturday 12 July

9am-5.30pm Two sessions in the morning, and two in the afternoon

7.30pm Conference Dinner, followed by a Nile Evening Fantasia

Sunday 13 July

9am-5.30pm Conference sessions, including ASTENE Annual General Meeting

Dinner will be preceded by an organ recital in the College Chapel

Monday 14 July

Two sessions in the morning

Departure

Please, if you can, arrange to have the Call for Papers put up on your college/library/department notice board, to let non-members know about ASTENE.



Front elevation of Sphinx Hill

Day Conference, July 13, 2002

At the conference held in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Kew Gardens, three papers were presented prior to the AGM. After lunch, our members Nigel Hepper (formerly of Kew Herbarium) and Alix Wilkinson (who is a Kew guide) each led a tour of the gardens, with an emphasis on plants of the Middle East.

Sarah Searight: The European Discovery of Arabia Felix.

Yemen, the Greco-Roman Arabia Felix, was an important source of incense for the west until in the 1st century AD the Romans diverted the trade route via the sea and whilst the port of Aden retained its status, the interior regions of the country fell into obscurity.

The western rediscovery of Yemen is owed to epigraphers studying the ancient texts gradually gathered by travellers in the 19th century. This paper focused on three men, Thomas Arnaud, Joseph Halévy and Eduard Glaser. Local suspicion of foreigners caused all three to assume some form of disguise, and Arnaud and Halévy were obliged to copy inscriptions covertly.

The introduction of steam boats on the route between the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean necessitated detailed coastal surveys; one such, in 1834-5 by the *HMS Palinurus* led to the discovery of ancient inscriptions at Husn al Ghurub. The decipherment of 20 out of the 29 characters by Heinrich Gesenius in 1841, inspired the British Consul in Jeddah, Fulgence Fresnel, to send his physician Thomas Arnaud to Sana'a. He also visited the ruins of Marib, destroyed by a flood in the 6th century AD, of which he produced a plan and description, and the Awamm and Ba'ran temples, where he discovered several inscriptions dating to the first millennium BC, which Fresnel later published in the *Journal Asiatique*. His most important discovery was at Sirwah, of an inscription recording the establishment by King Karabalnata of the Sabeen empire in the 7th century BC.

In 1869, Joseph Halévy visited numerous sites, including Marib. He recorded inscriptions but does not seem to have made plans or illustrations of the antiquities he saw. Disguised as a rabbi, he had the support of the local Jews, who told him of

Barakash, the walls of which, built in the 1st millennium BC, were still intact, having been inhabited throughout the Middle Ages. He subsequently published the 185 inscriptions he found in the *Journal Asiatique*.

The third traveller, Eduard Glaser, was an Austrian polymath - a skilled mathematician, physician and astronomer, who made numerous trips to Yemen between 1882 and 1894. He produced the best copy of the Sirwah inscription and went on to the Ba'ran temple which throughout history had been periodically hidden by sand, then cleared, before disappearing once more into the sands. Glaser brought back a wide range of Arabian antiquities which were lodged in the museums of Europe. He was also extraordinarily thorough in his observations, recording tribal relations, place names, forms of agriculture, local politics, for which anthropologists remain grateful to him to this day.

Henrietta McCall: Agatha Christie, Max Mallowan and Archaeology

Agatha Christie needs no introduction - after the Bible and Shakespeare, her work has been translated into more languages than any other book.

She married her first husband during World War I. She had also begun to write her thrillers, but success did not come until 1926, with the appearance of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. The following year, the famous episode of her disappearance occurred, brought on by her unhappy marriage and the death of her mother.

Self esteem at rock bottom, while planning a holiday in the West Indies, she met a couple just returned from Baghdad. Instantly inspired, she changed her ticket for a seat on the Orient Express. In Baghdad, she read in the *Illustrated London News* about Leonard Woolley's excavations at Ur, and soon made her way there, where Woolley showed her round with an enthusiasm that brought the place to life for her. The next year, 1930, Woolley invited her to return to Ur, and his wife, Katherine, summoned the Austrian archaeologist Max Mallowan to join them to stave off Agatha's potential boredom and show her round the sites.

Six months after their first meeting, despite Katherine Woolley's disapproval, and a huge difference in their ages (he was 26, she 40), and religion, they were married. Katherine made it clear she wanted Max to return to Ur on his own, but determined to

be with his wife, he decided to move to the north of Mesopotamia, to the site of Nineveh. (It was at this point that Agatha wrote *Murder in Mesopotamia* about the death of the wife of the leading archaeologist.) At Nineveh Agatha worked alongside Max – writing in the mornings, she spent her afternoons sticking pottery sherds together in the site hut. In 1933, Max found funding for another expedition to the site; the discovery of 150 items made it his most successful yet.

However, with the passing of new antiquities laws entitling the host country to keep all finds, Max could no longer find sponsorship for Nineveh and moved on to Tell Brak in Syria, where he was to stay for the next five seasons until the outbreak of World War II.

Their house in Devon requisitioned by the Admiralty, the Mallowans moved to London for the duration of the war. There, Agatha wrote *Come, tell me how you live*, a light-hearted account of their time in Syria. She recounts how she never allowed her standards to slip, keeping up the tradition of serving proper food at set times of the day. She became an authority as the local medical advisor, and an expert photographer, both of still and moving pictures (though not always to Max's specifications).

By 1948, archaeology was rearing its head again. Max obtained the newly-created Chair of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London. Digging in Iraq was possible again and with so many months every year for work in the field, Max decided to excavate at the military capital of Assyria, Nimrud.

With money forthcoming from the Metropolitan Museum in New York, as well as the Gertrude Bell School of Archaeology in Iraq, the Ashmolean in Oxford and Fitzwilliam in Cambridge, Max began work on a project which was to last ten years – the last expedition being when Agatha was in her 60s. Once again the results were astonishing and were published in the *Illustrated London News*, with the beautiful figure of 'Mona Lisa', which had been extracted from a well where it had lain undisturbed for 2600 years, as the front cover.

In 1956, Agatha was taken seriously ill, and Max was worried for her health. Yet, she lived on until 1976, only two years before Max himself died. One wonders what would have happened if she had not made

that fateful journey in 1928? She would still have been the Queen of Crime, but how differently would her life have turned out?

Dr Carl Thompson: Bruce and Byron: Ironic Orientalists

Whilst it is never easy to prove a connection between these two British travellers, there are certain moments in Byron's career which identify a similarity of attitude, which together with a commonality of background and temperament, go some way to proving the influence of James Bruce on Lord Byron. Indeed it seems that the latter's choice to emulate Bruce was a conscious decision. Moreover, both seem to abhor the exploration establishment in the form of the presiding genius, Sir Joseph Banks and Mungo Park. In contrast, Bruce and Byron were aristocratic amateurs, and did not suffer from the prim sexual repressiveness of their peers.

In 1769 Bruce set off to Abyssinia to discover the source of the Nile. On his return to London, his accounts were disbelieved and ridiculed by the establishment and it was 1790 before he published his *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile*. This was criticised as being maverick, sloppy and too long. In 1804 a second edition was published posthumously by Alexander Murray. This amended edition came to the attention of Byron when he was still at school at Harrow.

Like Bruce, Byron went against the grain of orthodox writings. And like Bruce, his works show a certain irony in his rebuke of civilising attitudes, which both clearly intended to ridicule. Yet the popular response to Byron's *Turkish Tales*, in which he set out to undermine cultural perspectives, to play games and to subvert expectations, was due largely to its sexual indulgences, which disgusted Byron and became for him an unintended irony.

Classical Reflections – Lady

Henrietta Liston found little to please her in Corinth – 'a most miserable dull place it is', made worse by having to wait for a boat for four days. Even then, contrary winds, occasional squalls and the strong current delayed them. 'I don't know,' she remarked, 'whether, had we been drowned, the fame of being lost on classic ground would have entirely consoled our friends.'

AN AMBITIOUS PLAN

On Calton Hill in Edinburgh there stands a row of Grecian columns, commemorating the triumphs of Scottish warriors in the Napoleonic Wars. Handsome as this structure is (designed by Charles Robert Cockerell, with William Henry Playfair as resident, Scottish, architect), it is but a pale shadow of the original dream for a Scottish National Monument. Many of the great and the learned in the early 19th century were certain that the 'Athens of the North' deserved the best possible building on this Scottish Acropolis. Requiring, it was true, a little judicious restoration, there was an obvious candidate for the position.

On the 24th January, 1820, the following remarks upon the subject appeared above the signatures of Lord Elgin, Charles Cockerell, HW Williams, and several other worthy men.

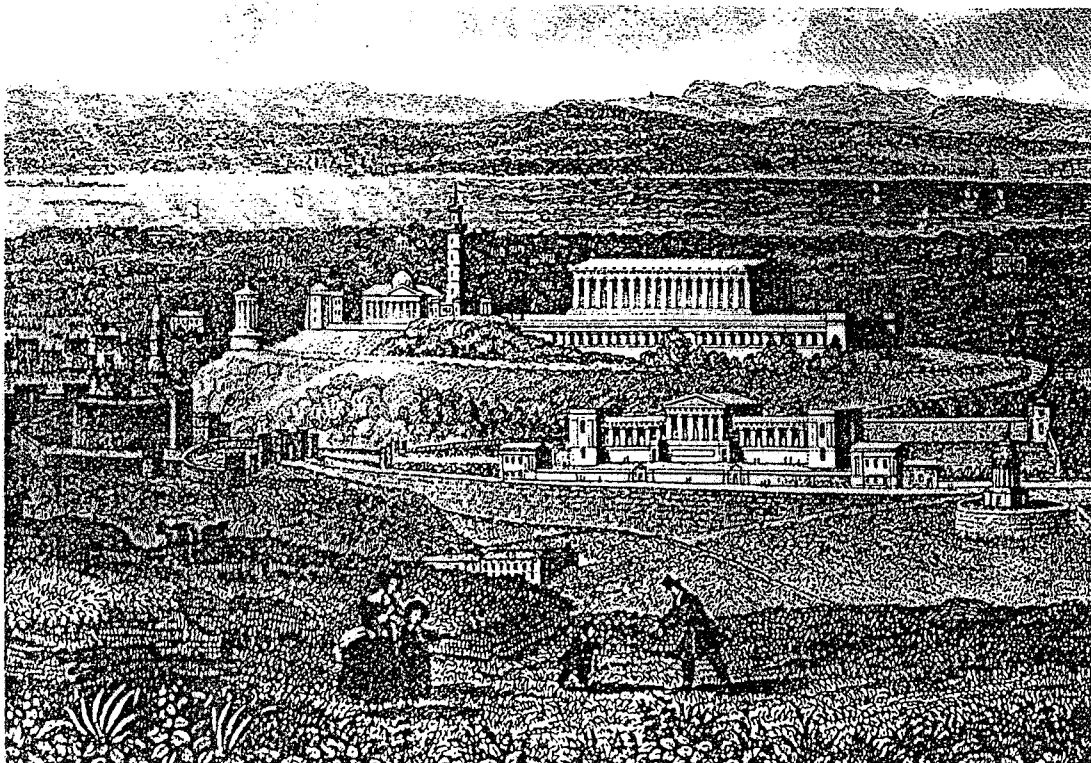
It is a matter..of very serious regret to the lovers of the arts in every part of the world, that this structure, the most perfect which human genius ever conceived, is not only already in a very dilapidated state, but is placed in a situation where its existence is liable to the utmost danger, in consequence of the political conflicts by which it is surrounded. Not only is it at the mercy of ignorant barbarians, totally incapable of appreciating its value, but its situation on the Citadel of Athens, and on a military station of much importance, renders it liable to the still greater danger of being destroyed in the course of the conflicts of which that city is already the theatre. From this cause it has already suffered many serious injuries, and there is every reason to fear that the first struggles of Grecian freedom may be followed by the entire destruction of the monuments of that which is past.

The restoration of the Parthenon, therefore, in a situation capable of displaying its beauties, and among a people qualified to appreciate its excellence, is an object of importance, not merely to the citizens of the Metropolis, but to the lovers of the arts in every part of the world.

National Library of Scotland, MS 638, f9

It was optimistically calculated that £42,000 would meet the costs of transport, restoration, and re-erection where it could be properly appreciated by lovers of the arts. Sadly (?) only £29,000 could be raised - enough only to build the National Monument visitors to Edinburgh may see today. At least this will have pleased the commentator who remarked in 1822 that the original plan would result in 'a perpetual and painful solecism'. The Greeks might have a stronger word for it.

Calton Hill as it might have been



MELTON PRIOR & WILLIAM SIMPSON

The illustration on the front cover, which appeared on the front cover of *The Illustrated London News* of 3 February 1877, is by Melton Prior, one of the artists employed by that journal to report on stories in foreign parts. Prior will be met with again in this *Bulletin* (see p14, and particularly the notes, p17)

The following is an extract from the report published by the *ILN* on February 3.

MYCENAE

'We present this week several views of the ruins of this ancient and famous Greek city, to which attention has lately been called by the excavations there carried on by Dr Schliemann, with the permission of the King of Greece. Our Special Artist attending the Conference at Constantinople, Mr Melton Prior, went to Athens and thence to Mycenae, for the express purpose of making these sketches, which will no doubt be interesting to many of our readers.'

On March 24, the journal noted 'Our readers are fully aware of the direct efforts made by the proprietors of this Journal, in the employment successively of two Special Artists [the second appears to have been Marwood Tucker] on the spot, as well as at Athens, to provide complete and accurate Illustrations of Dr Schliemann's remarkable discoveries...An exact topographical view of the subject was yet desired. This is now supplied by our well-known artist, Mr W Simpson, from whose pencil we have obtained many effective Illustrations, and whose pen, guided by considerable archaeological and ethnological experience, has contributed some notes upon the significance of the recently unearthed memorials of a remote past age.'

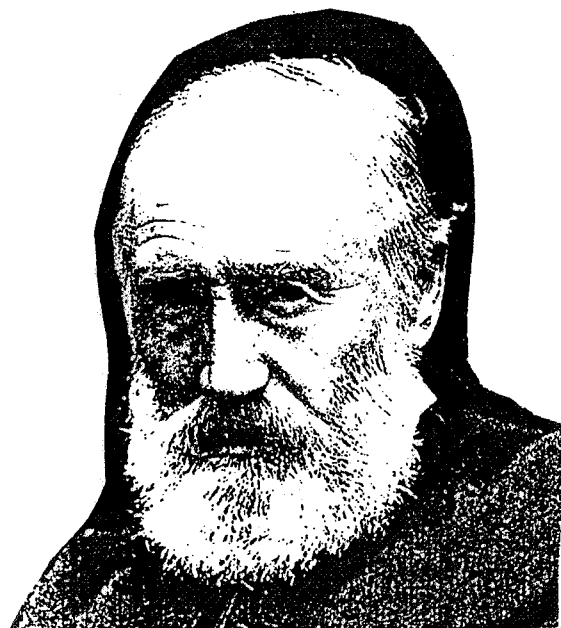
Both artists spent much of their careers covering events in our areas of interest.

William Simpson was the elder, born in Glasgow in 1823. In 1854 he went out to the Crimea to take views of the battles for Colnaghi & Son, and was there until the fall of Sevastopol, as a 'pioneer war artist'. *Illustrations of War in the East* was published in two volumes in 1855-6, being regarded as a 'brilliant example of lithographic work'. He then went to Circassia with the Duke of Newcastle. He started to

work for the *ILN* in 1866, going to Russia, then Jerusalem to see Charles Warren's work with the Palestine Exploration Fund; 40 sketches appeared in *Underground Jerusalem*. In 1868 he was with Napier in Abyssinia, returning to see the Suez Canal opened in 1869. Between 1872-5, he travelled to China, Japan, America, and India, and, as we have seen, in early 1877 was in Greece. Besides his drawings for the *ILN*, he showed over 60 pictures of Mycenae, Troy and Ephesus in London.

In 1885, he retired from his travels, but not from artistic and literary work, to Willesden, where he died on 17 August 1899. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, on the executive of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and founder, with Samuel Birch, of the Society of Biblical Archaeology.

According to the old Dictionary of National Biography (DNB), 'His reputation as an artist in black-and-white overshadowed his fame as a colourist, though his pictures were always characterised by accurate draughtsmanship and quiet natural colour.' A portrait of him appears in his posthumously published *Glasgow in the Forties*, 1899. The National Library of Scotland holds a manuscript album by him, an account of his life written for his daughter Penelope Anne, and also an album containing photographs, mainly of Simpson himself, and some portrait sketches by him.



William Simpson in old age

Melton Prior was born in London in 1845 and began working for the *ILN* in 1868. He first acted as a war correspondent in 1873, in Ashanti. In 1876, he campaigned with the Austrians in Bosnia, and went through the Turco-Russian war - this was how he came to be in Constantinople. Later in 1877, he went to South Africa, following the Kaffir, Basuto and Zulu wars. In 1882, he entered Cairo with the British army, was at El Teb with Baker Pasha's army in 1884, accompanied Lord Wolseley's relief expedition up the Nile in 1884-5, and was with Sir Gerald Graham in the Sudan in 1885.

He continued to follow wars all over the world, including the Greco-Turkish war, and eventually died in London in 1910. The DNB says, 'Prior's art, if not of the highest order, was eminently graphic, and he had a keen eye for a dramatic situation. He worked almost entirely in black-and-white, with the pen or the pencil, and with extraordinary rapidity.' There is (or was in 1910) a portrait of him in the Savage Club.



Melton Prior, c1884

It goes without saying that many artists and architects worked in Greece. The list below is but a selection, and contains, alas, only one non-British artist. We would like to hear of the other European artists who were undoubtedly there.

Charles Barry (1795-1860), architect, visited Greece on a sketching tour with Charles Eastlake (1793-1865), painter, in 1817. Best

known as the architect of the new Houses of Parliament (1840); was also architect of The Travellers' Club and of alterations to Kingston Lacy, the family seat of William John Banks.

Edward Thomas Daniell (1804-43), voyaged in the *Beacon*, with Edward Forbes and Lieutenant Thomas Spratt, to fetch the Xanthan antiquities from Lycia. There is a large collection of his watercolours made 1840-2 in Greece, Egypt, Nubia, Syria, Palestine and Asia Minor, in the Colman Collection at the Castle Museum, Norwich, and many of Asia Minor in the British Museum. His style is said to be somewhat like that of Edward Lear.

Edward Lear (1812-88), travelled widely in the Near East. Published *Journal of a Landscape Painter in Greece and Albania*, 1851; *Journal of a Landscape Painter in Southern Albania* 1852.

Giovanni Battista Lusieri, 'Don Tita', (c1775-1821), once court painter to the King of Naples; supervisor of the artists employed by Lord Elgin in Athens.

Willey Reveley (d 1799), an architect, pupil of William Chambers, accompanied Sir Richard Worsley in 1784-9, as architect and draughtsman, to Italy, Greece and Egypt. The journal of his tour is in the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects, his drawings of the Pyramids at New College, Oxford, and other designs are in the Soane Museum, London. As an example of how things connect, he was the architect of a house in Sussex, Windmill Hill, which was the family home of Anne Katherine Elwood, whom we met in *Bulletin 12*, halfway up the Great Pyramid with Osman the Scottish Mussulman.

William Pars (1742-82), accompanied Dr Richard Chandler and Nicholas Revett to Greece, 1764-66. Chandler's *Ionian Antiquities*, 2 volumes, 1769, 1797, was illustrated by Pars, who sent several Greek views to the first exhibition of the Royal Academy in 1769. There are Greek works by him in the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Whitworth, Manchester.

Hugh William 'Grecian' Williams (1773-1829), gathered materials in Greece for an exhibition, c1817. Published *Travels in Italy, Greece and the Ionian Islands*, 1820, and a series of *Select Views in Greece* between 1827-9. His exhibition of watercolours in Edinburgh in 1822 was a great artistic sensation.

TWO MUCH-TRAVELLED NILE GUNBOATS AND THEIR PERSONNEL

PART II THE 'BORDEIN'

The long active service career of the *Bordein* (1) falls into three periods: (1a & 1b) service under the Turco-Egyptian (Khedivial) administration (1869-85); (ii) in Mahdist service (1885-98); (iii) service under the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium (1898-1906). A fourth period in her history began in 1906 when she was taken out of service; this 'retirement' lasted from that year until about the early 1980s.

(ib) The Turco-Egyptian Period

Early on the morning of 15 December 1884 the *Bordein* steamed from Khartoum carrying Gordon's Journal and post. He was never again to set eyes on her. The scene and the atmosphere on that occasion has been brilliantly captured in Terence Cuneo's painting *The Last Despatch*: the foreshore sloping down to the river in front of the Governor-General's palace; a crowd of soldiers and ordinary folk, men, women and small children (and animals) has gathered to watch Gordon, in dark blue uniform and red tarbush, handing his Journal to the captain, a burly figure clad in a rather grubby white uniform. A little way from the bank lies the *Bordein*, smoke belching from her single tall funnel, ready for departure. Beyond, on the eastern side of the Nile, 'rosy-fingered dawn' has turned the sky a delicate pink. (1)

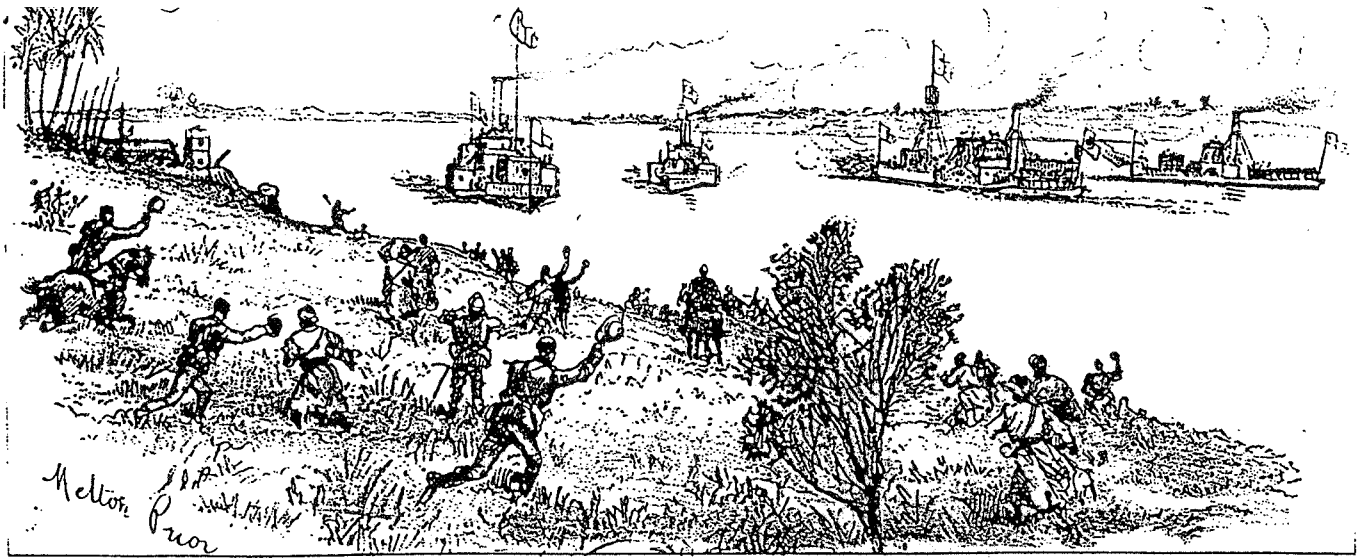
The *Bordein* did not reach her destination without incident. While navigating the Sixth Cataract she struck a rock and her captain was only just in time to run her aground at Wad Hassoureh island. There she lay stranded and full of water. On 17 December she was fortunately sighted by the other steamers - *Tel el-Howein*, *Safia* and *Tewfikieh* (the *Mansura* had been sunk by enemy action) - which had travelled upstream from Shendy to forage and seek news (2)

The crews of all the vessels began to remove the *Bordein's* cargo and pump out the water. Soon afterwards the Mahdists began to fire from the bank in an attempt to disrupt the work, but on the following day (19 December) Khashm el-Mus and his Sudanese irregulars in the *Tewfikieh* drove them off. A watertight caisson or box was constructed to cover up the shell and bullet holes and keep out the water until repairs

were completed. By 25 December this had been done and the next day the *Bordein's* cargo and ammunition were put back on board. On 29 December the four steamers began their passage downstream again, led by the *Tewfikieh* with Khashm el-Mus on board. Since the Sixth Cataract is not passable at this time of year, in order to lighten the steamers' loads the soldiers followed in boats as far as Wadi Bishara where they were taken on board again. All the steamers passed through the Cataract without sustaining any damage - in marked contrast to the fate that was later to befall Sir Charles Wilson and his men.

As the little fleet neared Metemneh, a messenger arrived on 18 January 1885 with news that Sir Herbert Stewart's Desert Column had defeated the Mahdists at Abu Klea. On the 21st, the look-outs in the steamers at Metemneh sighted the English cavalry approaching. All flags on the vessels were hoisted and the band on board struck up (3). The long wait was over. But time was slipping by.

Lord Wolseley's orders (4) had been that on arrival at Metemneh, Lord Charles Beresford (5), the commander of the expedition's naval brigade and naval ADC to Wolseley, was to take one or two of the steamers and convey Sir Charles Wilson (6), Head of the Intelligence Department, to Khartoum, along with three other English officers and twenty redcoats of the Royal Sussex Regiment. At Khartoum, Wilson was, if he thought it expedient, to march his twenty men round the town in a morale-boosting 'show of strength', and confer with General Gordon. He was then to return downstream with his men and report to Wolseley. The three officers were to be left to 'assist' Gordon.



(Illustrated London News)

Gordon's boats reach the British forces near Metemmeh

In the light of what was later learnt of Gordon's situation in Khartoum, it would have been a futile exercise. The sight of Wilson and his redcoats returning downstream through a hail of Mahdist fire, beating a hasty retreat as the enemy would have seen it, would surely have confirmed in the Mahdi's mind that the time had come to assault Khartoum (7)

In the event, Wolseley's instructions had to be modified. When the Desert Column reached Metemmeh, after its march across the Bayuda Desert from Korti, it was in a sorry state. It had fought two fierce engagements, at Abu Klea (17 January) and Abu Kru (19 January) in which, though victorious, it had sustained heavy fatal casualties; it had many wounded and sick; its commander, Sir Herbert Stewart, though still alive, was mortally wounded; Colonel Burnaby, the officer who was to have taken over from him if need arose had himself been killed at Abu Klea; large numbers of the Column's camels had perished; and the troops' clothing and footwear were largely in tatters.

The command devolved upon Sir Charles Wilson, the third most senior officer, who had no previous experience of commanding troops in action. Leaving Beresford at Metemmeh, at 8 am on 24 January, Wilson set out for Khartoum in the *Bordein* with the *Tel el-Howein* following. This is not the place to consider in detail the reasons for the delay in departure, or Wilson's alleged dilatoriness. There certainly were matters that had to be attended to before he could set off upriver (8)

Gordon had made the boats as good fighting vessels as possible (9), and Wilson further strengthened them. 'On the top of the saloon a place had been prepared for

infantry, by making walls of boiler-plate iron, except at the entrance...Round the sides of the ship the bulwarks and deck-house were protected by sheets of boiler-plate iron fixed to wooden stanchions, except where the cabins and paddle-boxes came. The plates were just high enough to allow a man to fire over them, and along the top of the stanchions ran a wooden beam sufficiently raised above the plates to leave a long loophole. This gave excellent cover, and was bullet-proof except at ranges under 150 yards. To shot and shell it offered no protection, and unfortunately it was broken in several places, especially at the stern, where some sheets had disappeared; it also left about a foot of the upper portion of the deck-house quite exposed.' (10)

In letters he had sent downriver with the steamers, Gordon had expressed his dissatisfaction with the Egyptian soldiers and sailors - 'hens' he called them - and insisted that none of them should accompany the boats back to Khartoum (11) Some time was therefore spent, amid much noise and confusion, sorting out who was to be on the steamers. The company that did eventually set forth in the *Bordein* (and *Tel el-Howein*) consisted of as motley a collection of humanity as could be imagined.

The Englishmen on board were, in addition to Wilson himself, Captain FR Gascoigne of the Blues, Wilson's batman, Driver Sutton RE, a Colour-Sergeant, a Lance-Corporal, and eight privates of the Royal Sussex Regiment, and a naval Artificer. There was no surgeon or even a 'dresser'. The Sussex men were placed, with their arms, ammunition, kit and food, on top of the deck-house, in a little 'citadel'

from which they commanded the whole vessel in case of mutiny or other incident. (12)

The non-Europeans consisted of Gascoigne's black servant, the Egyptian interpreter Mohamed Ibrahim and the vessel's commander Khashm el-Mus, a Sudanese of the Shaigiye tribe and a man of considerable influence. He was in his early fifties 'with greyish beard, rather short, not very beautiful, but with a certain amount of dignity'. He could neither read nor write, and gave his orders sitting on a sofa, smoking and drinking coffee. (13)

There were 110 black Sudanese troops on board the *Bordein*, the Artillery officers were Egyptians, as were the engineers; and the ships' captains and reises Dongolese. There was also a miscellaneous collection of Turks, Kurds, Circassians and half-breeds. (14)

There were ample quantities of ammunition, much of it lying around 'in a way that would soon have put an end to a boat not manned by orientals' (15) 'In the forehold were the gun and some of the rifle ammunition, with an enormous quantity of dura and loot, besides wood for the steamer. In the main-hold were rifle ammunition, firewood, sacks of dura, bedding, loot of all kinds, women, a baby or two, and a herd of goats for milk'.

'In fact every hole and corner below deck was filled with dura, Indian corn, fuel, and loot, and on the deck we had as much dura as we could carry piled up in sacks for the Khartoum garrison. What with these sacks and the large number of men on board, it was no easy matter getting about'. (16) The job of the women, slave-girls, on board was to pound dura and bake it into cakes, and of course milk the goats.

Like Gordon earlier, Wilson was appalled at 'the state into which the Sudanese had brought the steamers during the months they had lived on them.' As noted earlier, 'the only parts of the boats that had been well looked after were the engines.' 'The filth was something indescribable - the stench which rose up from the holds overpowering; and the rats legion and ubiquitous - no place or person was too sacred for them' (17) Wilson gives an amusing account of his unsuccessful attempts at getting a decent night's sleep: 'When I did get to sleep it was only for a short time, for the rats held high carnival, races round the cabin, and my slightly

thatched skull was evidently the landing-place after a jump. In self-defence I had to muffle myself up, leaving only a small blow-hole to escape suffocation' (18)

With such a motley crew, getting them to work together, or to work at all, was quite a business, 'and as to the noise, it was sometimes deafening. They were, however, a cheery, good-humoured lot, much like spoiled children, and quite amenable to King Kurbash' (19)

And so the *Bordein* and *Tel el-Howein* finally got away. But 'of course, when we got fairly under way, we found lots of men who ought not to have come - stowaways.' One unsuccessful stowaway was the ubiquitous correspondent of the *Illustrated London News*, Melton Prior. Having been refused permission to accompany the *Bordein*, he waited his chance and sneaked aboard and hid himself in the forecabin. He would have done better to have braved the dura sacks and ordure below, but Prior was ever one for his creature comforts if at all possible. To his dismay and disgust he was discovered and 'requested' to leave. (20)

Arrangements on board the *Tel el-Howein* were very similar to those on the *Bordein*. In command of the Sussex men was Captain LJ Trafford, with Lieutenant (later Major-General) Edward Stuart-Wortley of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and his batman, one naval Artificer and a signalman. There was no interpreter and all orders were given by Stuart-Wortley, the only Englishman on the boats who knew any Arabic. These were delivered 'in forcible Arabic, helped out by strong English, and much vigour of action.' The *Tel el-Howein* had 80 black soldiers on board, and 'the same curious medley of crew'. There was also a Greek who had brought down Gordon's last Journal and who was anxious to rejoin his family in Khartoum - poor man! The *Tel el-Howein* had in tow a dismayed ruggar (native boat) with another 40-50 black soldiers and quantities of dura. (21)

The two steamers' progress upstream was slow owing to the heavy loads they were carrying and the low state of the Nile, which made navigation difficult amongst rocks and sandbanks. Their passage was, however, relatively uneventful until they came to the Sixth Cataract, which they approached shortly before sunset. The steamer captains wanted to tie up for the night, but Wilson insisted on continuing.

At the head of the rapid, just before open water was reached, the *Bordein* struck a rock. Six hours of strenuous effort failed to get her off and it was not until the following morning that the steamer was freed. Although she was undamaged, several hours had been lost, and soon afterwards she struck a sandbank a little further up the Cataract. Several hours later she was refloated. After clearing the Sixth Cataract, the steamers entered a narrow, rocky gorge, but they were not fired upon. (22)

On the morning of 28 January the *Bordein* and *Tel el-Howein* set out expecting to arrive at Khartoum the same day. By mid-day Wilson could see the town in the distance. Ignoring a native on the bank who shouted that Khartoum had fallen, the two vessels steamed on. As they got nearer, however, heavy rifle fire was directed at them and a number of large boats lying near the bank at Halfiyeh opened fire with guns and rifles. Both steamers passed through this barrage unharmed, but when they came within sight of the Palace, no Egyptian flag was to be seen flying from the roof. (23)

On reaching Tuti Island, they came within range of the guns of Omdurman, which Wilson had known was in the Mahdi's hands, but continued until they came under fire from both Omdurman and Khartoum itself. On a sandspit close to the town large numbers of Mahdists were assembled with their banners. No red Egyptian flag was flying and it was clear that Khartoum had indeed fallen. (24)

Wilson ordered the steamers to turn about and head downstream at full speed. The *Tel el-Howein* ran aground but was rapidly got off and by four that afternoon both vessels had passed Halfiyeh again and were out of range of the Mahdists' guns. Although the *Tel el-Howein* had been hit by a shell, the *Bordein* was undamaged.

The Sudanese soldiers and crews of the steamers, however, were in a state of shock and complete collapse; they had lost their wives and children, their families and possessions. What purpose was there in struggling on? That night they could or would not eat.

The one non-European, however, who did not lose heart was Mohammed Ibrahim, the Egyptian interpreter on the *Bordein*. With his linguistic skills and imperturbability, he proved invaluable in

helping to restore morale and in keeping the Sudanese up to the mark. Under fire too he remained calm, 'a good proof,' comments Wilson, rather patronisingly, 'that every Egyptian is not a coward'. (25)

On the return journey, the *Tel el-Howein* struck a rock and rapidly sank, though the arms, some ammunition, and food were got off. Two days later, the *Bordein* hit a sunken rock as she was running past Mahdist batteries at Wad Habashi. Although she came off the rock immediately, she was so severely holed below the water-line that she had to be abandoned. Most of her stores were taken off onto a small islet and from thence to the island of Mernat which lay in mid-stream. (26)

Despite suspicions at the time, the wreck of the two steamers was probably due to the demoralisation of the captains and crews rather than deliberate sabotage. Wilson decided to make a forced march to Gubat, but had to abandon this plan when the Sudanese officers and soldiers flatly refused to move. He then sent Lieut. Stuart-Wortley with four of the Sussex men and eight natives in a small boat to summon help. As dawn was breaking on 1 February, Stuart-Wortley arrived at Metemmeh with the news of the fall of Khartoum, Gordon's death, and the plight of Wilson and his men. (27)

Early on the afternoon of the same day, Beresford set off upstream in the *Safia* with sailors from the Naval Brigade and twenty marksmen from the Mounted Infantry. The story of this gallant dash through a barrage of enemy gunfire to rescue Wilson and his men properly belongs to the history of the *Safia* and may be very briefly summarised here. (28)

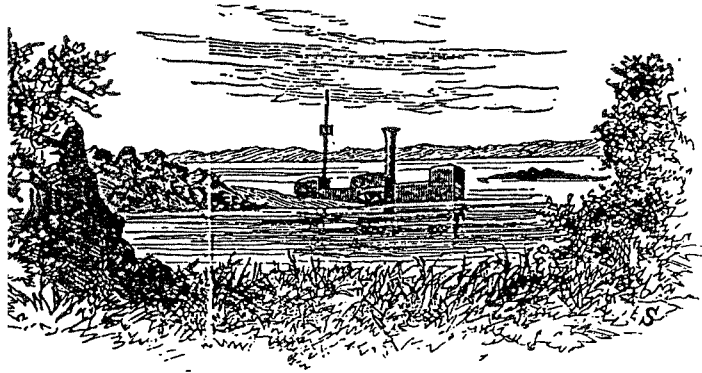
When within sight of Wilson on Mernat Island, the *Safia* received a direct hit from a shell on her boiler which disabled her for some ten hours, but once repairs had been effected through the valiant efforts of Chief Engineer Henry Benbow, she continued her voyage and picked up Wilson's party which had made its way downstream along the bank from Mernat to a pre-arranged point.

The wrecked *Bordein* was abandoned; the first period in her long career had ended.

For their bravery during Wilson's operations two of the Royal Sussex men on the *Bordein* - Lance-Corporal Othen and Private Dale (as well as two of their

comrades on the *Tel el-Howein* were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (29)

David Dixon
(To be concluded)



Notes and References

For unexpanded titles of books and monographs and periodical abbreviations, see the Notes to my earlier paper on the *Melik* in *Bulletin 10* (October 2000)

1. The painting, in oils, measuring 24 inches by 30 inches, is signed and dated January 1981. It was commissioned by the Gordon Foundation Committee with the object of raising money for their Centenary Appeal on behalf of Gordon Boys' School, Woking, by selling artist's prints. Terence Cuneo (1907-96) completed the painting in a matter of weeks, utilizing contemporary photographs of the *Bordein*, and modern colour photographs of her location at Khartoum. He was also lent Gordon's actual Journal to work from. The painting was purchased from the Gordon Boys' School by the Royal Engineers and now hangs in the Gordon Barracks, Germany.

The completed original version of the painting depicted Gordon in the red uniform of an English general, attended by three English redcoats. No one had informed the artist that Gordon was in the service of the Ottoman Empire, which still nominally controlled Egypt, and that as late as 25 December 1884 the nearest English troops were still at Korti, about 322 miles from Khartoum - 192 miles across the Bayuda Desert to Metemneh and then a further 130 miles upriver. (*Sudan Almanac 1938*, War Office (HMSO), London 1938, 59-61) Moreover, although red tunics were taken on the Expedition, they were not routinely worn.

Following some discussion, Gordon was repainted in a dark blue uniform with a red tarbush; two of the redcoats vanished, and the third was transformed into a *kavass* (palace servant) clad in red livery, the painter emphasizing that this colour was artistically necessary.

Somewhere in the picture, for the viewer to find,

is the artist's 'trademark' - a mouse, which appears in all his paintings. It seems singularly appropriate in this context, since the whole town and all the steamers were infested by rats (which zoologically differ from mice only in size; they do not interbreed).

Following the departure from Khartoum of his ill-fated colleague Colonel Stewart, Gordon (whose sense of humour seems not to have deserted him) records in his Journal for 12 October 1884 that Stewart's place at table had been taken by a mouse: 'She comes up and eats out of my plate without fear'. (*Journals*, 188)

The Last Despatch is illustrated, in colour, in Brigadier G Landy, *The Military Paintings of Terence Cuneo*, (New Cavendish Books), London 1993, 45 [some of the detail on the bottom right-hand side has been 'shaved' off]. In June 2001 prints 22 inches by 29 inches, just a little smaller than the original painting, were still available for purchase direct from Gordon's School (as it is now called), West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9PT. Prices: signed by the artist, £40.00, unsigned £10. (Information from the artist's daughter, Carole Cuneo, and Gordon's School.)

2. *SNR* 12, 138
3. *SNR* 12, 141
4. Colonel H E Colville, *History of the Sudan Campaign*, compiled in the Intelligence Division of the War Office, London 1889 (reprinted by the Battery Press, Inc, Nashville, Tennessee 1996), Part II, 8-9
5. On whom see G Bennett, *Charlie B. A Biography of Admiral Lord Beresford of Metemneh and Curraghmore*, London 1968
6. See Colonel Sir Charles M Watson, *The Life of Major-General Sir Charles William Wilson*, John Murray 1909, especially Chapters XV and XVI
7. Cf *SNR* 34, 39 (Stuart-Wortley)
8. On Wilson's voyage, in addition to his own account - *Korti*, - Captain RFT Gascoigne, who also travelled in the *Bordein*, published an article 'To within a Mile of Khartoum', *The Nineteenth Century*, July 1885, 88-100. Lieutenant (later Major-General Stuart-Wortley wrote an account many years later, which was published after his death: Major-General the Honourable EJ Montague-Stuart-Wortley (he had acquired an additional hyphen by then), *My Reminiscences of Egypt and the Sudan* (from 1882 to 1899), *SNR* 34 1953, 17-46, 172-87 (pp 38-46). There is also an unpublished journal by Captain LJ Trafford of the Royal Sussex Regiment (H Keown-Boyd, *A Good Dusting*, Appendix D)

For depictions of Wilson's voyage, see (eg) *ILN* 14 March 1885, 270-71, drawing, partly reproduced on the decorative front (upper) cover of Wilson's *Korti*; *The Graphic* 1885, reproduced in J Symons, *England's Pride. The Story of the Gordon Relief*

Expedition, (Hamish Hamilton), London 1965, plate (lower) facing p 213.

9. Another contemporary description (1885) of the *Bordein* and *Tal el-Howein*, in the handwriting of Brigadier-General Sir HW Jackson, was found at Merowe among his papers after his death in 1931.. It is substantially the same as that given by Sir Charles Wilson (SNR 15, 1932, 269-71)

10. *Korti*, 134-35

11. However, not all the Egyptians were unsatisfactory: Nushi Pasha (raised to this rank by Gordon himself) seems to have acquitted himself reasonably well; the interpreter Mohamed Ibrahim certainly did; and Wilson took with him Egyptian engineers and artillery officers.

12. *Korti*, 141

13. *Korti*, 140, 141

14. *Korti*, 138

15. *Korti*, 134

16. *Korti*, 136

17. *Ibid*

18. *Korti*, 152

19. *Korti*, 138. The *kurbash* was a whip, usually of rhino or hippo hide.

20. Melton Prior, *Campaigns of a War Correspondent*, edited by S L Bensusan, (Edward Arnold), London 1912, 224-25. On account of his bald head and shrill voice, Prior was dubbed by colleagues 'the screeching billiard-ball'. (Peter Johnson, *Front Line Artists* (Cassell), London 1978, 115) He was well-known for his love of comfortable travelling, whenever possible, and his expensive telegrams from abroad. It was not without reason that his Proprietor, Sir William Ingram, used to call him 'the Illustrated Luxury'. A matter of constant concern to Prior was the security of his whisky supplies which he often used, sometimes quite unscrupulously, to 'oil the wheels', with generals and privates alike (op.cit. vi, 98, 109-110).

21. *Korti*, 142-43

22. *Korti*, 163-64

23. *Korti*, 171-72

24. *Korti*, 174, 182

25. *Korti*, 177 Cf pp 214-15

26. *Korti*, 203ff

27. *Korti*, 207; SNR 34, 44

28. Beresford's own account is given in *The Memoirs of Admiral Lord Charles Beresford*, written by himself, 2 vols, (Little, Brown & Co, Boston 1914, Vol II, Chapter XXXI) pp 295-308. Stuart-Wortley also provides a brief account, SNR 34, 44-46. The telegraphic-style diary of Lieutenant van Koughnet, RN, who accompanied Beresford was published by his widow, Lady Jane van Koughnet, in an enigmatically entitled volume, *The Von Gochnats*, privately printed, 1910. No one seeing the book on a library or bookseller's shelf would guess it contained substantial material relating to the Nile

Expedition of 1884-5!

Some lively depictions exist of Beresford's voyage. The Dickinson Brothers (fl 1850-90) produced a large oil on canvas, 119.4 by 200.6 cms (47 by 79 inches), entitled *Running the Gauntlet: Lord Charles Beresford on the 'Safia'*. It is the property of the Marquis of Waterford. In 1886 the painting was photogravured. The sketches for the painting were made on board the *Safia* by the *Illustrated London News* correspondent Walter Ingram (temporary-Lieutenant RN!), the youngest son of the paper's proprietor. A similar painting, also from a sketch by Ingram, was produced by W H Overend and published as a double-page spread in the *ILN* for 21 March 1885, pp 314-5. See also P Harrington, *British Artists and War: the Face of Battle in Paintings and Prints, 1700-1914*, Greenhill Books, London 1993, 223. Lord Waterford's painting is reproduced in Beresford, op cit II, plate facing p306 (it was at the time his property), in black and white. Colour reproduction in Harrington, op cit Plate 16.

Melton Prior was allowed to accompany Beresford on the *Safia*, but uncharacteristically, his account is laconic, to say the least. Perhaps he found the presence of Temporary-Lieutenant Ingram a little inhibiting. After a diplomatic complimentary word about Ingram, his account reads: 'under a severe fire [I] witnessed the rescue of Sir Charles and his brave little crew. Then I returned to England' (Prior, op cit, 225)

29. P E Abbott (compiler), *Recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1855-1909*, 2nd ed, J B Hayward & Sons, Polstead, Suffolk, 1987, 34: No. 688 Private Edward Dale; 37: No. 318, Lance-Sergeant William Othen. There is an interesting report in *The Times* for 26 November 1885, p12, of the Investiture held at Windsor Castle the previous day: 'Yesterday afternoon...the Queen...decorated a number of soldiers who had served in the expedition sent to the relief of General Gordon, and who had highly distinguished themselves by their bravery and gallant conduct during the campaign in the Soudan. Those selected to receive honour at the hands of the Sovereign arrived at Windsor shortly before 2 o'clock from London, Portsmouth and other garrisons, the corps represented including...the Royal Sussex... Having visited Victoria Barracks, the party, consisting of 23 non-commissioned officers and men, all of whom were in full uniform, marched, under the command of Lieutenant Lonsdale, to the Castle, and was paraded in the corridor at 3 o'clock for the Queen's inspection.

'Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and their children, and attended by General Sir Henry Ponsonby, General Sir JC M'Neill, and Colonel Sir H P Ewart, entered the apartment shortly afterwards and proceeded to

decorate the soldiers, attaching to the breasts of their uniforms with her own hands the distinguished conduct medals which they had gained...Among the instances of bravery brought under the attention of the Queen were the following:- Lance-Sergeant Othen [Bordein] and Privates Cowstick [Tel el-Howein], Dale [Bordein], and Paine [Tel el-Howein], of the Royal Sussex Regiment, who, under Major Trafford, accompanied Sir Charles Wilson up the Nile to Omdurman for the purpose of reconnoitring Khartoum, received the decoration for saving General Gordon's wounded and guns from the wrecked steamers of the expedition...The soldiers who appeared much pleased with the kind and gracious reception accorded them by Her Majesty, were subsequently entertained in the hall before quitting the palace for their respective quarters.'

By 'corridor' in the above context, one is not, of course, to understand the often narrow, dark and draughtly structural feature with which most ordinary mortals are familiar. It was a rather grand, high-ceilinged affair, as indeed it had to be to accommodate HM herself, her entourage, and two dozen soldiers.

IN DEFENCE OF GRAFFITI

[On top of the great pyramid] I looked in vain for two sets of initials coupled in brackets, which I cut in the old stone 36 years ago. They are lost among masses of others. It is well. She is fat, and nearly 60; I am fat, and over 60. One flame burned out another's burning. She did not even wait to learn from me if I fulfilled my promise to grave our names upon the pyramid's highest stone. I wonder if, in these 36 years, she has ever thought of that promise made under the softest of skies, and which one of us thought thought could never be forgotten? What a boon it is to man that his heart is made of malleable material rather than of adamant and brittle steel! By the way, sensible men justly inveigh the habit of "vanity" in carving its name upon monuments and thereby defacing them. But there is sense in cutting one's name upon imperishable rock without defacing it. Some may come

afterward, and seeing it, feel as if meeting an old friend. My heart was warmed up here in Egypt when seeing the names of some old acquaintance now dead. I felt we were living over again a half forgotten past. I saw 'Jenny Lind's' name upon the pyramid. Did she have it cut, or did some of her lovers do it? I do not know. But for a moment there came from the west, over the dead desert, a trill of perfected harmony which I never heard but once, and will never hear again until an angel song shall come to my ear from white robed ones hovering around the throne of the eternal. I can almost fancy that Bayard Taylor had the name cut. I have a vague recollection of his telling me of it. He almost worshipped the Swedish Nightingale.

Carter Henry Harrison, A Race with the Sun (New York 1889), p 295

(Originally published as a series of letters to the *Chicago Tribune*.)

Harrison is mentioned in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol IV, p335-6

He was accompanied on his tour by his son William Preston Harrison and by the son of one of his friends, John W Amberg. Our three travellers visited the Ramesseum on April 9, 1888, where each of them left their graffito on a column of the hypostyle hall.

Roger O De Keersmaecker

RDK 508:

C·H·HARRISON
1888 CHICAGO USA

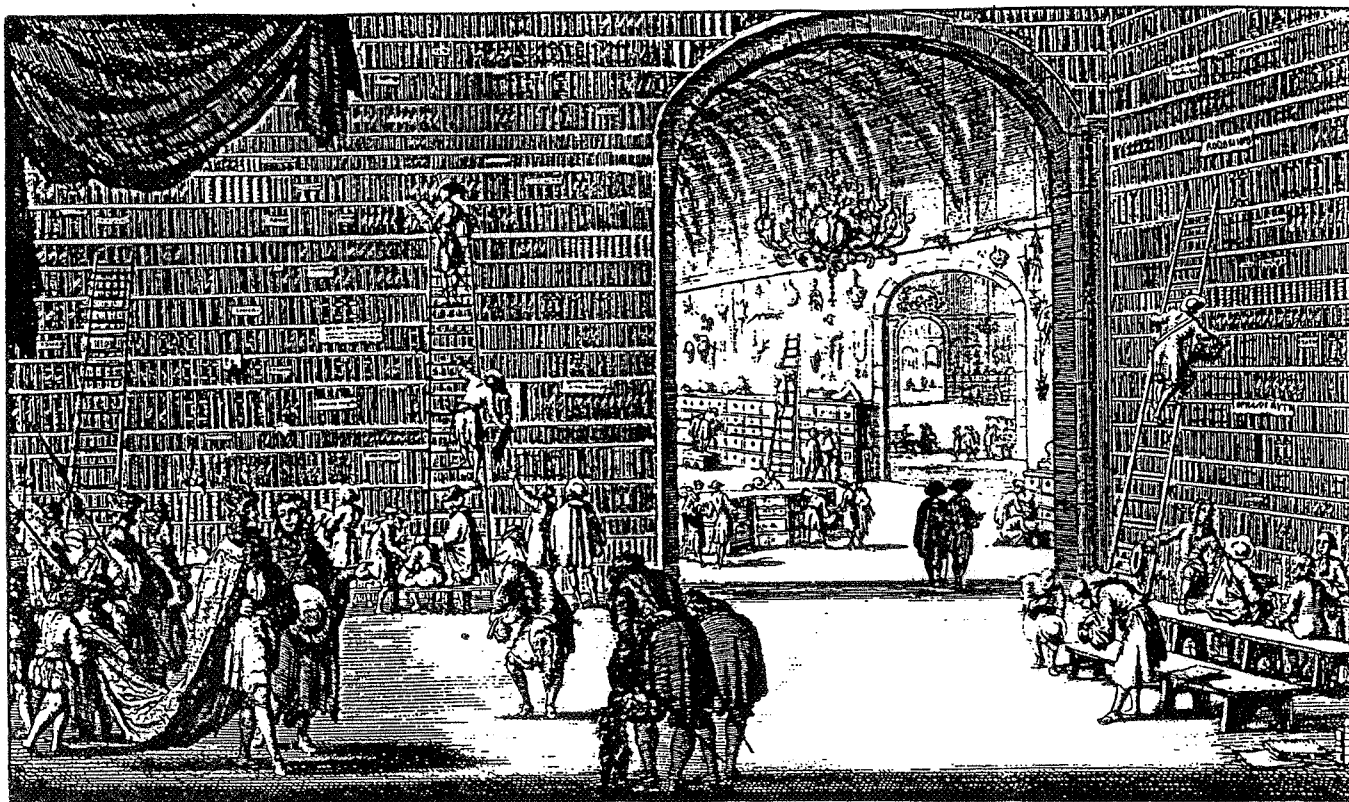
RDK 943:

WPHARRISON
CHICAGO USA '88

RDK 160:

J.W.AMBERG
CHICAGO 1888

BOOKS & BOOK REVIEWS



Please send book reviews, books for review, news of your books or articles, to the Book Editor:

Dr Albertine Gaur, 4 Kingswood Close,
Surbiton KT6 6DZ
Fax: 0181-399-5479

Champollion, Jean-Francois, *Egyptian Diaries: The Treacherous Story of the Mysteries of the Nile* (Gibson Square Books Ltd, 2001) 284pp, illustrations in part by Champollion £10.99 ISBN 1-903933-02-1
This is the first English edition of the letters and diaries Champollion wrote during his travels in Egypt in 1828-30. Just six years after his decipherment of the Rosetta Stone, he was still an obsessive man in a hurry. Probably one of the most passionate texts ever written on Egypt.

I E S Edwards, *From the Pyramids to Tutankhamun: Memoirs of an Egyptologist* (Oxford, Oxbow Books, 2000), 352pp, 8pls Hardback ISBN 1842170082

Dr Eidonn Edwards is best known as the long-time Keeper of Egyptian antiquities at

the British Museum, who wrote a best-selling book on the pyramids and organised the Tutankhamun exhibition in London in 1972. Much of his posthumously-published memoirs is devoted to these important themes in his life. He describes his early life and education in London and Cambridge and his accidental diversion into Egyptology. In those more leisured and less specialized days, one could first obtain a British Museum post and then study the subject one was appointed to curate.

Of more particular interest to travellers, Dr Edwards outlines his trip to Egypt and the Sudan in the late 1930s and his adventures en route and in the field as well as his journey afterwards to Baghdad. The world which he describes has long vanished, only preserved in the novels of Agatha Christie. He was back in Egypt during World War II when, in his free time, he collected the material for his work on the pyramids. It is unfortunate that he could not be more candid about the individuals he met and the situations in which he found himself, but such bluntness would have been wholly out of character. Still he tells us quite a few

good stories about the formative years of twentieth-century Egyptology.

Morris Bierbrier

French, Elizabeth, *Mycenae, Agamemnon's Capital: The Site in its Setting*, (Tempus, 2000) 160pp, 23 col pl, 74b/w illus, Pb £16.99 ISBN 07524 185 1 X

Mycenae is one of the most evocative places on earth, the point in Greece where sharp scholarship and misty legend intersect, perhaps the most haunting archaeological site in Europe. I have known the site for forty years, and it thrills me still, so I was eagerly looking forward to Dr French's book. For Lisa French is better qualified than anyone alive to write about Mycenae; her own acquaintance with it dates back to 1939 when she first accompanied her father, Alan Wace, on a dig there, and she herself has worked there in most archaeological capacities from trench supervisor to Director of the British School at Athens.

And now she has attempted the most difficult kind of book. There are plenty of site guides to Mycenae, mostly accurate enough if you can decode the translations, and there is a whole library of learned works, beginning with Schliemann's 1878 blockbuster, and including excavation records, learned articles on a single sherd, and massive accounts of the entire Mycenaean world. What has not been available, and what Dr French has achieved, is a comprehensive, up-to-the-minute account for anyone whose understanding goes beyond the Ooh-Aah reaction but who has neither the time nor the technical equipment to keep up to date with the latest scholarship. The result is a superbly illustrated book packed with information about the citadel and the surrounding area, Mycenaean culture and the history of its rediscovery. And it *is* up to the minute, even reporting the Linear B tablet (the oldest so far found on the mainland) excavated only last season.

Any reservations? Yes, of course, a few. The plan of the book, presenting the physical remains in a chronological history, is sensible and practical for reader and tourist, but sometimes leads to repetition. The maps are occasionally difficult to relate to one another. One or two illustrations are faultily captioned. And to say that the Tomb of Clytemnestra was 'raided by Veli Pasha and excavated first by Mrs Schliemann' raises cross-cultural questions and is hardly PC. But these are small things. It is the ideal

companion to read before visiting Mycenae, and to carry round the site. I did both this spring, with much profit and enjoyment.

Charles Pluviez

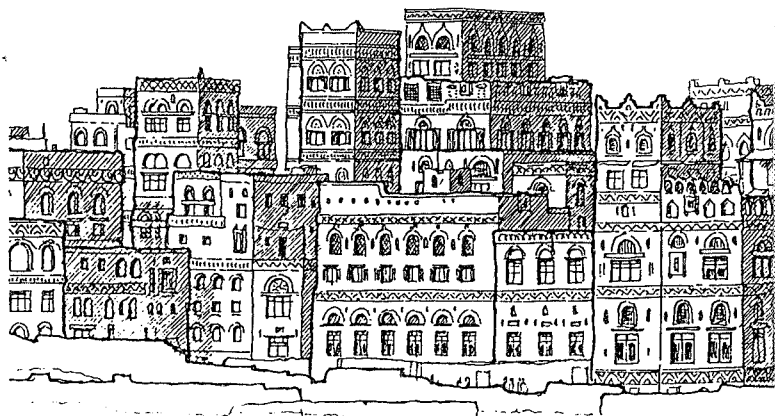
Sarah Searight (text), Jane Taylor (photographs), with Miranda Morris, *Yemen*

- *Land and People* (Pallas Athene Publishers Ltd, 2002) 160pp, over 100 colour pictures, £19.99 ISBN 1 873429 82 7

This is a book, elegantly written and carefully illustrated by well-chosen photographs, of a country about which all too little is known in the West. It has however fascinated travellers for thousands of years. Chapters going back to the formation of the Great Rift Valley which split Asia from Africa and formed the mountains of Ethiopia and Yemen, smoothly build up the country's history and geography. Early explorers came across a civilization apparently fully developed in the 1st millennium BC, with remains of remarkably abstract-looking temples using otherwise unexplained square pillars. There are also still remains of the great dam of Marib that diverted water over some 10,000 square kilometres on either side. And everywhere the multi-storied houses that seem to be a characteristic of Yemen.

Each chapter treats a geographical part of the country, its history and people separately, but the end effect is a seamless unity. For the scholar there are footnotes and a chronology. This is a book that will equally delight the expert and the lay traveller. Personally, I cannot think of anybody, reading Sarah Searight's book, and looking at the haunting photographs, who would not want to visit Yemen straightaway.

Albertine Gaur



St John Simpson (ed), *Queen of Sheba, Treasures from ancient Yemen* (British Museum Press, 2002) pp224, £14.99
ISBN 0 7141 1151 1

The first reference to the Queen of Sheba is in the Bible (1 Kings 10:1-13). It describes her visit to King Solomon 'to test him with hard riddles' and how she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue and with camels bearing spices, a great quantity of gold, and precious stones. The Queen of Sheba has had considerable impact. Yemenis and Ethiopians claim her; Jews, Christians and Muslims (who at times name her Bilqis) have adopted her into their theological debates and religious traditions and she has also gained a place in their art and literature. Her impact on Europe was just as strong. Since medieval times she has stimulated Western art: painting, music, opera and poetry - even Hollywood - depict her as a sexually alluring figure. Nevertheless, in most traditions she remains anonymous and there exists no documentary evidence to support her existence as a real historical person.

Much more than a catalogue, the book boasts a group of international contributors, the cooperation of the Yemeni Government, and accompanies a rich travelling exhibition, until recently at the British Museum. The kingdom of Sheba is more or less firmly placed in ancient Saba, a powerful incense trading state in present day Yemen. Archaeological discoveries are gradually shedding light on the pre-Islamic civilizations of South Arabia. The first monumental inscriptions so far discovered, in the elegant, consonant-based South Arabian script, date back to the 8th century BC, and it is documented, subject to some minor alterations, until about a century before the Islamic period. There are further well researched, and well considered, articles about trade, incense and perfume (Herodotus wrote, 'Arabia is the only place that produces frankincense, myrrh, cassia, cinnamon...the whole country exhales a more than earthly fragrance'), but also about early agriculture, the arts, crafts and industries, architecture (wealth created by trade allowed South Arabian rulers to carry out major building projects), religion, death and ancient burial customs. Overall we are in the end presented with evidence for a place rather than a person, but new discoveries may yet provide further clues.

Albertine Gaur

Mark Sykes, *The Caliph's Last Heritage: a short History of the Turkish Empire* (Garnet Publications, 2002) pp644, £12.95
ISBN 1 85964 168 7

First published in 1915, this book allows a look into a forgotten area. It discusses the history (as seen by Sykes) from Roman and Persian influence to the introduction of Islam and Sulaiman triumph in Baghdad. Added to this are the author's own diaries and experiences.

Jason Thompson, editor, *Egyptian Encounters*, Cairo Papers in Social Science, vol. 23, Fall 2000 (American University Press in Cairo, 2002) 200pp, 19 b/w illus. Paperback, \$16.95 ISBN 977 424 629 2

This is an intriguing group of seven essays by various authors, with a perceptive Introduction by the editor, Jason Thompson. The contents' span is very wide, almost 'something for everyone'. A good beginning is made with Sarah Searight's memoir on her grandmother (who appears on the book's cover) and the foundation of the Brooke Hospital for Old War Horses in Cairo. With its origins in the sadly abandoned horses of the Near Eastern Theatre in the First World War it is good to note that an English couple's concern not only ameliorated horrendous conditions for them but later extended to cover horses and donkeys, and is still going strong with a particularly welcome response financially after a recent TV documentary. John Ragan's contribution is a riveting detective story as he, through sheer persistence, unravels and reveals the character of the forgotten French woman writer and traveller Jehan D'Ivray - truly a remarkable lady.

Tony Mills, a long-time excavator at the Dakhleh Oasis, settles once and for all the truth about the Scottish claim of Sir Archibald Edmonstone to be the first European to visit the oasis in 1819, despite Drovetti's insistence that it was he who was first - a difficult claim to substantiate, as Mills points out, since Edmonstone met Drovetti as the Scot returned to the Nile. Sophia Poole's *The Englishwoman in Egypt* and the tensions exhibited in the text as Sophia endeavours to balance describing life in the harem and maintaining her own perceived 'cultural superiority', all the while in relation to her brother Edward Lane's *Manners and Customs*, is minutely examined by Lisa Bernasek. John Ruffle has long

studied Lord Prudhoe in Egypt. The brief resume of his and Major Felix's sojourn that got them both 'hooked', leading to Prudhoe's collecting, not least the Prudhoe lions from Gebel Barkal (now in the British Museum) and financial support of Edward Lane's magisterial *Arabic-English Lexicon*, is a heartening story.

After the monuments of ancient Egypt themselves the greatest monument is surely the magnificent volumes of plates and text of the *Description de l'Egypte*. John Rodenbeck reconsiders this 'Orientalist Monument', its printing history, antecedents and contemporaries in great detail - so much so that his text is at times overwhelmed by the footnotes in their 19th-century style quantity (2 lines of text and 44 lines of footnotes on a single page!).

The often huge canvasses of the Victorian artist John Frederick Lewis are quite well known but, curiously enough, little is known about his life and activities in Egypt in the ten years that he lived there in the style of the Turkish elite. Bryony Llewellyn notes the Victorian prejudiced and patronising view of the Orient, often misreading the subject in light of this. Here, by a more considered reading and view of Lewis's work, light is thrown on his personal response to the east, notably in intriguingly suggesting that his famous painting of a grizzled Arab, the subject of *In the Bezestein*, is but one of possibly three self portraits that have been hidden under broad titles.

The last contribution, by Nicholas Warner, appropriately examines perceptions of Egypt in the 19th century press, essentially via the *Illustrated London News* (begun in 1842), giving rise to the first 'foreign correspondents' - the 'Travelling Artists', who had the advantage over the early photographers in their on-the-spot, alive, impressions of events, particularly in the Egyptian campaigns from 1882 to 1898.

As Florence Nightingale wrote: 'One wonders that people come back from Egypt and live lives as they did before'. Those of us who know the country can well agree with her, but we do, and this fine selection of essays goes a long way towards an explanation of the 'magic of Egypt' for so many in so many different ways.

Peter A Clayton

Semra Germaner & Zeynep Inankur, *Constantinople and the Orientalists*, Art Series 79 (Isbank, Istanbul, 2002) pp330,

279 illustrations ISBN 975-45326-9

The focus of the book is mainly Constantinople in the 19th century. It can be ordered from the magazine *Cornucopia: Turkey for Connoisseurs*, whose website is: www.cornucopia.net; London tel: +44(0)1450 37993; fax: +44(0)1450 379988.

The authors are now working on a book about the cultural relations between Cairo and Constantinople in the second half of the 19th century, especially with regard to art and architecture.

Robert Morell, "Budgie...": *The life of Sir E. A. T. Wallis Budge, Egyptologist, Assyriologist and Keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum, 1892-1924* (privately published, 2002), pp75, £5.66 inc postage from RW Morell, 43 Eugene Gardens, Nottingham, NG2 3LF.

Budge has had many detractors; using previously unpublished material, this essay aims to present a reasoned assessment of a larger-than-life character.

John Wilkinson has brought out three books, all relating to Jerusalem, all richly documented and illustrated, all equally valuable and interesting. They are:

Egeria's Travels (Aris & Phillips, revised edition, 1999), pp240, 10 maps, 21 plans, £16.50 ISBN 08555668 7103. Egeria, a nun from Galicia, visited Jerusalem fifty years after the reign of Constantine. This is probably one of the earliest accounts of a Christian pilgrimage. Egeria, apart from her personal observations, gives a fascinating account of the geography, archaeology and liturgy of the Holy Land.

Jerusalem Pilgrims before the Crusade (Aris & Phillips, 2001) pp432, 70 illustrations, £28 ISBN 805668 7464. Between 385 and 1099 AD, hundreds of pilgrims set out for Jerusalem, but only eighteen tales have survived. They provide a background for the history of Christianity and also interesting reading for archaeologists and geographers of the Byzantine and Early Arab period. The author has made a meticulous study of the texts and we gain a good impression of the physical conditions such as a pilgrimage entailed as well as of the development of Christian prayers in Jerusalem.

From Synagogue to Church: The traditional design, its beginning, definition and end (Routledge Curzon, 2002) pp264
ISBN 0 7007 1320 4 264 The design of a synagogue and a church followed a joint tradition among Jews and Christians. Both relied on numbers, they were easy to design but the work was carried out secretly and accurately and it has always been extremely difficult to unravel. For the first time, John Wilkinson does just that.

ASTENE PUBLICATIONS

Two of the three books developed from papers given at the 1999 ASTENE Conference in Cambridge came out in 2001.

I *Desert Travellers from Herodotus to TE Lawrence*, edited by Janet Starkey and Okasha El Daly, illustrated
ISBN 0-9539700-0-0

II *Travellers in the Levant: Voyagers and Visionaries*, edited by Sarah Searight and Malcolm Wagstaff, illustrated
ISBN 0-9539700-1-9

The third book is expected shortly

III *Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers*, edited by Nadia El Kholy and Paul Starkey, illustrated
ISBN 0-9539700-2-7

All the volumes cost £19.95 (£17.50 for ASTENE members) and are obtainable from The Museum Bookshop, 36 Great Russell Street, London WC1 3QB
Tel: 0207 580 4086; fax: 0207 436 4364
email: mbooks@btconnect.com

The volumes based on papers from the 1995 Durham Conference (I) and the 1997 Oxford Conference (II) & III) are also available.

I *Travellers in Egypt*, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey (London, IB Tauris, 1998), £25 hardback, ISBN 1 86064 324 8
£14.95 paperback ISBN 1 8604 674 3

II *Unfolding the Orient*, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey, (Reading, Ithaca, 2001), illustrated, £35 ISBN 0-86372-257-1

III *Interpreting the Orient*, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey, (Reading, Ithaca, 2001),

illustrated, £35 ISBN 0-86372-258-X

Ithaca Press: orders@garnet-ithaca.co.uk
or from The Museum Bookshop

A Rebuke to an over-prolix reviewer from Francis Jeffery, editor of the *Edinburgh Review* to Rev Francis Lee, who had submitted a book review of Edward Dodwell's *A Classical and Topographical Tour through Greece*

28th January 1820

I am extremely concerned that you should have suffered any vexation or inconvenience on account of my indecision and delay about the article you did me the honour of sending on Mr Dodwell's book on Greece.

The packet arrived when I was from home and it was some time before I had an opportunity of examining it. When I did I was alarmed at its length - and you will forgive me for saying it did appear to me rather heavy and tedious - and at all events a good deal more instructive than entertaining. I thought however that by some retrenchment it might be made suitable for our purpose...I have been led perhaps to be less on the alert with regard to it from having supposed that it was merely the speculation of a dilettanti author who wished to see himself in print, and wrote without any view to pecuniary reimbursement. Had I been aware that you set a market value on it and wished to offer it in another quarter if it could not find a place in our Journal, I would certainly have returned it immediately. As it is I shall certainly think it my duty, if you require it, to repay you any actual expense it may have occasioned you - while I cannot consent to pay for it as if I had either bespoken or used it.

NLS Acc 11831

The Editor and Book Editor of the *Bulletin*, would, we hope, be kinder than Mr Jefferys to a wordy reviewer - we would welcome you sending us reviews, but would prefer them to be no more than 200-500 words.

The Getty Research Centre in Los Angeles had acquired le comte de Forbin's *Voyage dans le Levant*, 1819, an illustrated elephant folio describing the 1816-17 journey of Forbin, director of the French museums, to find and purchase antiquities for the French government.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

TRAVEL LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES IN ATHENS, GREECE

The following invaluable information has been provided by the kindness of Mrs Penelope Wilson-Zarganis ALAA, Librarian of the British School at Athens.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS

Library and Archive

52 Odos Souedias, GR 106 76 Athens, Tel:

210 724 6134 Fax: 210 723 6560

email: library@bsa.ac.uk www.bsa.ac.uk

24 hour access for Members

Readers: Mon-Fri: 9.00am-6.00pm

(Closed 20 Sept-6 Oct.)

Supervised photocopying of travel volumes allowed

The Penrose Library, BSA, by Heaton Comyn, opened by Prince Constantine in April 1904



The British School at Athens was established in 1886 'to give British Students of Greek Archaeology and Art the opportunity of pursuing their researches in Greece itself.(1) A program of study proposed by Robert Carr Bosanquet, Director of the School from 1900-06, recommended that Students divide their time between travels and on site research in the Spring and Summer months and research in the library and attending lectures in the winter months.(2) Research and travels covered areas where there was a Greek presence, and included Greece, Asia Minor, Cyprus, Egypt and the Near East.

The Committee of the School identified that one of the two main requirements of the Student when working in Athens was 'the command of an adequate library'.(3) This was secured by the acquisition in 1899 of the impressive library of George Finlay, philhellene traveller, historian and antiquarian. This collection is the core of the

British School library. The collection acquired from Finlay's estate included maps, personal papers, antiquities and even the bookcases that had held his library. Of these the most important to members of ASTENE are the travel books, approximately 4000 titles; his travel journals and itineraries; his letters to William Leake; and his map collection.

The Finlay book collection was arranged and catalogued by Frederick William Hasluck (Librarian 1906-15). He intended to create an analytical index to the sites mentioned in the collection. He was never to complete this project but his initial work formed the beginning of the library's topographical subject card index. The archive of the School also holds an early handwritten list by Hasluck of sites in Asia Minor and the Greek islands and the works consulted.(4) Finlay's Papers have been studied by a number of well-respected scholars who found them invaluable in their own research, including AJB Wace(5), W Miller(6) and J Hussey. Professor Hussey completed the systematic rearrangement of the collection that includes papers from Finlay's father, John Finlay, and fellow philhellenes, George Jarvis and Frank Abney Hastings, and made it accessible through the publication of her catalogue of this collection.(7) She subsequently published two of the more significant groups - GF's journals and representative items from his personal letters including the whole of his extensive correspondence with WM Leake(8)

Finlay's travel collection is housed in closed shelving in the School's rare book room and the Finlay common room. They are listed in the main catalogue of the library, soon to be accessible through the School's website, and are available on request. They are of particular interest because of the marginalia and travel notes added by Finlay.(9)

Finlay's collection has been added to by the acquisition of other early travellers' books and papers, such as the sketchbooks and final publication of JR Steuart, *Monuments of Lydia and Phrygia* (1836), donated by FW Hasluck. In 1924 Dr Ashby donated a collection of seven sketchbooks by William Gell from a journey to Greece in 1807. The library continues to add accounts of early and recent travels.

Other recent additions include the growing number of publications concerning the study of, and research based on, travel literature, such as the *Bulletin* of ASTENE.(10)

In addition to its collection of travel literature the library and archive of the BSA holds an important collection of books and papers recording the research of its students on the archaeological sites and monuments of Greece, Cyprus and Asia Minor. During what has been termed by Richard Clogg 'the golden age of the BSA' (11), students of the School expanded their interests to include the study of the language (12), history and customs (13) of the communities in which their archaeological researches were based. The archive includes in its collection of excavation records many photographs and notes of ethnographic interest. They represent an additional historical record of this region before the changes wrought by war, earthquake or economic development.

The BSA library also has a rich map collection, which covers the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean. It includes Admiralty charts for the Mediterranean from 1857; Austrian Army maps from 1884; British Army maps from World War I and II and Greek Army maps from 1909 to the present day. The earlier maps are invaluable as a source for place names during the Ottoman period, which changed with independence. The collection also includes some personal maps, of archival interest as they include marked routes of travel. The Finlay collection includes his copies of Peloponnesus ancient and modern, by W Leake and W Gell, 1830 and Carte de la Morée, 1852, with the routes of his travels marked in red. There are also the personal travel maps of past students of the School. This collection needs to be fully catalogued.

OTHER LIBRARY RESOURCES IN ATHENS

Athens is a rich source of travel literature for Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean. Most of the libraries with relevant collections are based in or near the centre of the city and are easily accessible, more so with the new metro service. Unfortunately none of the libraries have lending facilities. Two have catalogues accessible through the Internet. In alphabetical order the most important libraries for the study of travellers to Greece are:

1. THE EJ FINOPOULOS COLLECTION BENAKI MUSEUM

Hours: by appointment
Tel: 210 364 2216
Librarian: Mrs Pitsa Tsakouni

This is a private collection under the auspices of the Benaki Museum. It holds more than 15,000 volumes devoted to travel in the Ottoman Empire from mid 15th Century to late 19th Century. The collection is being catalogued and is available on request.

2. ELIA - The Hellenic Library and Historic Archives

5 Aghiou Andreou St, Plaka, Athens 105 56
Tel: 210 321 1149 Fax: 210 321 2667
email: elia@ath.forthnet.gr www.elia.org.gr
ELIA is essential for information relating to the Modern Greek state from the 19th to 20th century. Their catalogue is available on the Internet. In collaboration with the Ethniki Chartotki (National Map and Cartographic Heritage Centre), ELIA has embarked on a pilot scheme to digitise, document and classify its map collection. This collection is to include that of Mrs K Samoucha.

3. THE GENNADIUS LIBRARY

Souedias 61, Athens 106 76
Tel: 210 721 0536 Fax: 210 723 7767
email: gennadius@ascsa.edu.gr
www.ascsa.edu.gr/gennadius
Catalogue:
<http://jasmin.ekt.gr/opac/zConnectENU.html>
Librarian: Mrs Sophia Papageorghiou
A large collection of travellers' books and papers including many rare items. Three volumes were published 50 years ago listing the collection by date of publication.(14) The entire catalogue is available on the Internet. The collection is on closed shelving, with limited photocopying.

4. THE INSTITUTE OF NEOHELLENIC RESEARCH. THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Vas. Konstantinou 48, Athens 116 35
Tel: 210 727 3554 Fax: 210 724 6212
www.eie.gr/institutes/kne
Catalogue:
<http://jasmin.ekt.gr/opac/zConnectENU.html>
Director: Dr P Kitromilides
Of importance not so much for their collection but for the research tools they have developed. They initiated a programme that recognised 'that travel literature - itineraries, narratives of journals and travellers' aids of all kinds - needs to be methodically catalogued, bibliographed and systemized as a historical source'.(15) A start was made with the programme 'Foreign-language travellers' writings on

south-eastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean, 15th-19th centuries'(16) and published in L Droulia, ed, *On travel literature and related subjects, references and approaches* (Athens 1993).

5. THE S LOVERDOS LIBRARY

Othonos and Kifissias, Kifissia 145 61

Tel/Fax: 210 801 3861

Director: Mr Koutarelis

A private library of more than 15,000 volumes, specialising in the Ionian islands and early Greek imprints, it includes a section on travellers.

Open one day a week.

OTHER SOURCES OF EARLY TRAVEL LITERATURE IN ATHENS

The following is a list of libraries and archives that each holds a small collection of travel literature and/or archives. There is also a local publishing house that specialises in the reproduction of early travellers' publications, that may be of interest.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

Odos Souedias 54, Athens 106 76

Tel: 210 723 6314 Fax: 210 725 0584

email: Blegen@ascsa.edu.gr

www.ascsa.edu.gr

Catalogue:

<http://jasmin.ekt.gr/opac/zConnectENU.html>

Librarian: Dr Camilla MacKay

DEUTSCHES ARCHAEOLOG. INSTITUT

Pheidou 1, Athens 106 78

Tel: 210 330 7426 Fax: 210 330 7400

email: walter@athen.dainst.org

website: dainst.deu

Director of Library: Dr G Joehrens

ECOLE FRANCAISE D'ARCHEOLOGIE

Didotou 6, Athens 106 80

Tel: 210 361 2518 Fax: 210 363 2101

email: Evelyne.Rocchetto@efa.gr

www.efa.gr

Librarian: Evelyne Rocchetto

GREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Panepistimiou 22, Athens 106 72

Tel: 210 362 6042 Fax: 210 364 4996

Librarian: Christina Pidoula

OSTERREICHES ARCHAOL. INSTITUT

Leoforos Alexandras 26, Athens 106 83

Tel: 210 821 3708 Fax: 210 822 0798

email: csoeai@hol.gr

Librarian: Christa Schauer

SCUOLA ARCHEOLOGICA ITALIANA DE ATENE

Parthenonos 14-16, Makriyianni, Athens 117 42

Tel: 210 923 9163 Fax: 210 922 0908

email: biblioteca@scuoladatena.it

www.scuoladatena.it

Librarian: Dr A Benvenuti

PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

Parliament Building, Syntagma, Athens 100 21

Tel: 210 370 722 Fax: 210 370 7210

email: library@parliament.gr

NOTI KARABIAS - (PUBLISHERS)

Asklepiou 35, Athens 106 80

Tel/Fax: 210 362 0465

Series: Bibliotheke Istorikon Meleton
265 titles

References:

1. BSA, Report of the Executive Committee 1887-8, p17
2. Annual of the BSA VII (1900-01), p164
3. BSA, Report of the Executive Committee 1887-8, p17
4. BSA Archives, Asia Minor 3
5. AJB Wace, *Hastings and Finlay* BSA XXII (1916-18), p110-132
6. W Miller, *The Finlay Papers* English Historical Review 39, (1924), p386-98
7. J Hussey, *The Finlay Papers a catalogue* (BSA Supplementary volume 9) London 1973
8. JM Hussey, ed, *The journals and letters of George Finlay* (Camberley 1995) pxiv
9. Travels notes by Finlay, *Peloponnese 1828* bound into the back of his copy of W Gell *Itinerary of the Morea* (1817)
10. A good example is a recent exhibition held at the Gennadius Library with a catalogue edited by D Koster, *To Hellen's noble land. Dutch accounts of travellers, geographers and historians on Philhellenica*, Athens 1995
11. R Clogg, *The British School at Athens and the Modern History of Greece* (Journal of Modern Hellenism no.10, 1993) p93
12. R McG Dawkins, *Modern Greek in ASia Minor* (Cambridge 1916)
13. AJB Wace, MS Thompson, *Nomads of the Balkans* (London 1914)

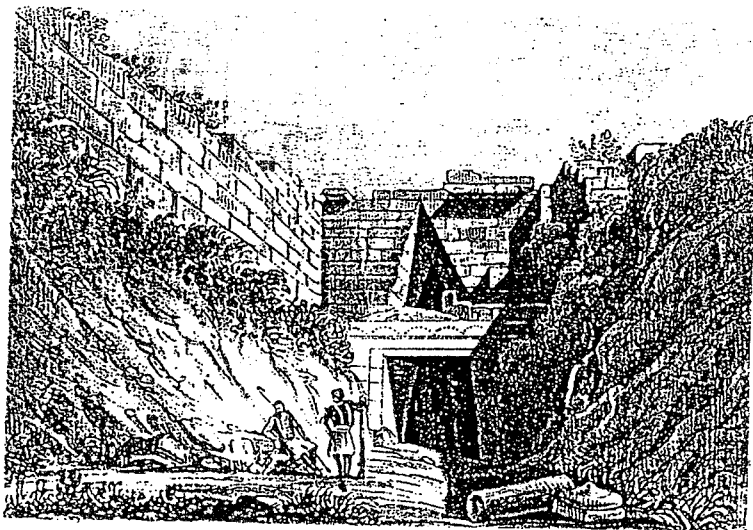
14. JM Paton, *Chapters on Mediaeval and Renaissance visitors to Greek lands* (Princeton 1951). SH Weber, *Voyages and travels in the Near East made during the XIX Century* (Princeton, 1952). SH Weber, *Voyages and Travels in Greece, the Near East and adjacent regions made previous to the year 1801* (Princeton, 1953)

15. L Droulia, p8

16. L Droulia, p11

Penelope Wilson-Zaganis adds, 'We have just received a book [at the Library of the British School of Archaeology in Athens], which ASTENE would appreciate.' It does indeed sound as if it could be a useful resource. It is called:

Travellers' Greece: Memories of an Enchanted Land, compiled by John L Tomkins. Published 2002 in Athens by Anagnosis, it draws upon the travellers' books in the BSA and Gennadius libraries, and its 608 pages include a 3-page bibliography of English language travellers' publications and an alphabetical listing of select biographical notes. The selections are arranged topographically in chronological order and there are a number of black and white illustrations. The publishers' website is www.anagnosis.gr



Engraved by Lemaitre.

Visitors to Mycenae

Tourists did not only visit Mycenae after the momentous discoveries by Schliemann in 1877. By no means the earliest was Mary

(Nisbet), Lady Elgin, in 1802, who, 'on entering the great plain of Argos...made about half an hour's deviation to the left, to see the ruins of the city of Mycenae; great masses of walls of the ancient city still remain, they are said to be the work of the Cyclops. At a short distance from these ruins is a stupendous vault, which is supposed to be the tomb of Agamemnon, and by others, the Treasury of the Kings of Mycenae. Two long walls of massive masonry lead to the doorway of this subterranean building; but so much soil has been washed into it by the mountain torrents that it required no common courage to crawl through the hole by which alone it could be entered. I went in after some hesitation, on all fours and was fully gratified by the scene.' They lit a fire in the main vault and crept on into 'another dome of much cruder work'. The young son of the British Consul in Athens, 'who had strict charge to take care of himself (tho' his Mama did allow him to go wherever I went) refused to follow me into the second vault - I saw the bristles on his skull were erect at crawling into the first vault.'

Lady Elgin, by the way, was at the time about four and a half months pregnant with her third child.

The Letters of Mary Nisbet of Dirleton, Countess of Elgin, arranged by Lt Col Nisbet (Hamilton Grant 1926)

Other early visitors included:

F Vandyck, 1700; Abbe M Fourmont, 1728-30; MA Choiseul-Gouffier, 1776; L Fauvel, 1780-2; R Chandler, 1785; X Scrofani, 1794-£; F Pouqueville, 1798-1800; T Hope, 1800; ED Clarke, 1801; P Hunt, 1801; GB Lusieri, 1801-10; S Itter, 1802; WM Leake, 1802, 1810; J Bartholdy, 1803; W Gell, 1804-5; S Pomardi, 1804-6; E Dodwell, 1805; J Pyrlas 1805; FR de Chateaubriand, 1806; T Burgon, 1808
Lord North, 1810; CR Cockerell, 1810-17; W Turner, 1813; H Holland, 1812-3; HW Williams, 1817; PE Laurent, 1818-9;
A Prokesch von Osten, 1825; A Blouet, 1829; TA Trant, 1830
L Von Klenze, 1833; Rev R Burgess, 1834; W Mure, 1838; J Skene, 1838; Third Earl of Carnarvon, 1838; JA Buchon, 1840; F Aldenhoven, 1841; T du Moncel, 1843-5; E Lear, 1848; JJ Bachofen, 1850
H Hettner, 1852; W Vischer, 1853; WG Clark, 1856; C Schaub, 1862

NEWS

Dr Dionisius Agius from the Department of Arabic & Middle Eastern Studies, University of Leeds, has been awarded a 3-year major AHRB Research Grant for an interdisciplinary project entitled 'Reconstructing the Quseiri Arabic Documents (RQAD)', to start in October 2002.

Arabic documents of the 13th to 15th century (Ayyubid and Mamluk periods) have been unearthed by the University of Southampton archaeological team (1999 to date) at Quseir al-Qadim on the Egyptian Red Sea coast. The site was once Myos Hormos, a Roman harbour mentioned in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*. Among the many Classical and Islamic finds were the Arabic documents, written variously on paper, ostraca (pieces of pottery or stone), wood, leather and, intriguingly, on ostrich eggshells.

It will be the aim of the project to reconstruct the Arabic and interpret the texts in the context of the excavated site and its artefacts. The findings of this linguistic and historic inquiry will lead to a better understanding of the Red Sea region, in particular the function of the town of Quseir as an entrepot of the long-distance trade and pilgrim traffic.

University of Leeds School of Computing will be providing academic and technical expertise in conjunction with the University of Southampton (Archaeology Data service). A database of texts will be deposited with the University of Oxford (Oxford Text Archive) who will also be closely involved in the project.

Dr Agius' publications include:

Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean, Agius, DA (ed) (2001), Volume 13, Turnhout, Brepols, pp 166; (2002) Volume 14 (i), Abingdon, Taylor & Francis, pp 76

A historical and linguistic inquiry into dhow types of the Arabian Gulf and Oman, Agius DA (2001) Monika Fatima Mühlböck and Walter Beltz (eds) *Golf-Spiel im 20. Jahrhundert*, Halle (Saale): Martin-Luther-Universität, pp 179-224

The Arab Shalandi, Agius DA (2001); Vermeulen, Urbain and Van Steenberghe, Jo (eds) *Egypt and Syria in the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk Eras - III*. Leuven: Peeters, pp49-60

The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum opened its permanent exhibition in Bristol in September.

The exhibition is the first in the world to be dedicated to a study of Britain's 500-year colonial history, showing how the British empire evolved into the independent nations of the Commonwealth, and the legacy, world-wide, of the interchange of peoples, languages, institutions, trade and cultures.

Part 1 examines the voyages of discovery between the 16th-18th centuries, including the establishment of trading posts in Africa and Asia; part 2 covers the century or so before World War 1, while part 3 looks at the social life of the people who served the empire abroad - civil servants, foresters, nurses, etc, and their impact on the people around them. The experiences and voices of post-World War II immigrants from Britain's colonies, and the changes that they and their descendants have wrought in modern British society, are a major feature of the final gallery.

There is a library of historical books, an archive of over 250,000 images, and an oral history archive.

Open 10.00-17.00 every day except Christmas Day. Admission charge.

British Empire & Commonwealth Museum,
Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads, Bristol
BS1 6QH Tel: 0117 925 4980 Fax: 0117
925 4983 email: staff@empiremuseum.co.uk
web: www.empiremuseum.co.uk

Zeno Booksellers

Members wishing to find publications about Greece and the Balkans will be glad to know that Zeno Booksellers have reopened. Formerly in Denmark Street off the Charing Cross Road, they were a godsend for over 50 years and the closure some two years ago was a sad blow. Now however they have reopened under the same management but in a new venue and are once again providing excellent service. The new shop is situated in an old print works with plenty of room for the outstanding collection of second-hand stock. It is said that they are even planning a series of reprints of 'Classic Balkan travel'.
Zeno Booksellers, 57a Nether Street, North Finchley, London N12 7NP

Tel: 202 8882 1910; email:
info@thegreekbookshop.com; website:
www.thegreekbookshop.com

A day school on **TE Lawrence & Archaeology** will be held on Saturday 18 January 2003 at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. The speakers will be Dr David Jacobson, Dr Rupert Chapman, Dr Jonathan Tubb, Sam Moorhead, Caroline Cartwright and Julian Bowsher. Cost £39 with lunch, £32 without. To book or for further details contact the Administrator, Day & Weekend Schools, at Rewley House, or telephone 01865 270380 or email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

Classical Pilgrimages, Consecrated Landscapes - Travellers to the Mediterranean World in the Age of Enlightenment
Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, April 4, 2003

Proposals welcomed on: representations of ancient cities in travel literature; mapping the antique and recreating classical topography; romantic visions and ruinous landscapes - the search for cultural origins.

Abstracts (c300 words for 20 minute papers), by 16 December, to:

Dr Ian Macgregor, Dept of Classics & Ancient History, Queens Building, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QH
email: i.macgregor-morris@ex.ac.uk

Researchers from outside London may like to stay at Alix Wilkinson's bed and breakfast. Twin-bedded room with bath, £56 per night, twin, £48 single. Easy reach Bayswater and Queensway tube stations and bus routes. Non-smokers only.
Mrs Wilkinson, 7 Tenniel Close, Porchester Gardens, London W2 3LE
Tel: 0207-229-9205; Fax: 0207-229-4456

Classical Reflections - William Simpson

On the 2nd February 1877, I left London for Athens on the way to visit Mycenae, Troy and Ephesus, accompanied by Dr John S Skene...

[Simpson then departed from Athens for Mycenae on the last day of February, riding on a pack horse, with a pack saddle and a bit of rope for a bridle]

I was much struck with the resemblance of these horses to those on the sculptures of the Parthenon. They were small brutes, and

had all the character of those represented in the marbles. It was something to have ridden the descendants of the horses that had been a model to Phideas. At Corinth - the old Corinth - we were quartered in the house of the local Aesculapius; whose wife, like Penelope, had a loom in the house at which she wrought - a good illustration of the permanency of custom - a permanency that has continued from Homer's time to the present day.

*National Library of Scotland,
Acc 11877(ii), p211*

A Modest Collection

My own Antiquities consist of four tortoises and four Sculls, all taken out of an ancient Sarcophagi..

Lord Byron, letter to JC Hobhouse

QUERIES

Apology In *Bulletin 13*, we inadvertently omitted to credit the drawings for Nicola Gentle's costume query to Diana Wardle. All too belatedly, we gratefully acknowledge her contribution.

There have recently come to our attention some papers of one of the British 'Turkey merchant' dynasties. The family is looking for someone who might write an account of the family. In so doing, it would be possible to trace the network of intermarriages and connections between European families in the Eastern Mediterranean between c1750 and 1950. This could be a subject for a most fascinating thesis or an interesting research and writing project for someone intrigued by the region.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Editor of the *Bulletin*.

Grant Malcolm enquires if there is any photographic record of the names carved into the pyramid by travellers, soldiers, etc. He is a photographer with an interest in a research project on Australian military history (Mena Camp, 1914-16). Email: grantmal@optusnet.com.au (grant malcolm)

We would like to hear of further sightings of **Mary Light**, wife of Colonel William Light, who must have caused tongues to wag and, surely, quills to race in 1832.

Cassandra Vivian is researching the American traveller Elizabeth Cabot Kirkland, whose letters are in the Massachusetts Historical Society Library, in the papers of Henry Cabot Lodge. The letters mention meeting a 'remarkable woman', who wore Mameluke dress, could read hieroglyphs, 'smoked with great skill', shot, and could direct the sailors of a Nile boat in the absence of the captain. 'In short, she finds all knowledge within her power...' She travelled, unchaperoned, with a handsome, dashing fellow in Turkish dress.

Of Colonel Light, the Australian Dictionary of National Biography tells that he was asked by Mehemet Ali to recruit British officers for the Egyptian Navy; he later went to Australia as surveyor-general, and was a founder of Adelaide. He married twice; his second wife was the wealthy Mary Bennet, with whom he cruised the Mediterranean in a yacht (presumably bought with her money, and perhaps explaining her proficiency on a Nile boat). In Light's absence, his wife lived with another man - the handsome and dashing Captain Jack Bowen - and she and Light separated in 1832. Mary bore Bowen three children - who took the name of Light. If anyone knows more, please respond to Cassandra Vivian, email cass@telerama.com or to Deborah Manley, 57 Plantation Road, OXFORD OX2 6JE.

For a PhD project on desert vegetation, **Gidske L. Andersen** plans to use travellers' observations as a source on long-term dynamics of desert vegetation. This is an unexploited source of information in ecological studies and there are reasons to believe that it has a great potential. Observations of interest are on the presence/density or absence of trees, the intensity of charcoal production, knowledge about deforestation - and, in particular, observations that can be geographically located. Floyer (1893) for instance reported heavy deforestation in Wadi Hulus in the south-eastern desert and it is of great interest to her PhD project to visit such sites today to study regeneration, growth and mortality of desert trees.

She is therefore seeking potential sources of information on travellers in Egypt in the Eastern Desert in general and particularly in

the area between 24th and 25th degree of latitude. In addition to observations cited in literary sources she is more than happy to receive information about: travellers in this region; references where further information about their journeys can be found; other potential sources of information (records of organisations, pictures, etc) and where these are available.

Gidske Andersen, Botanical Institute,
University of Bergen, Allégaten 41, N5007
BERGEN, NORWAY email:
Gidske.Andersen@bot.uib.no

Bouwan Khalid wrote to us from Iraq: 'I am a postgraduate student and my thesis is going to be "The Arabs in the Eyes of Western Women: The Female Response to Oriental Life with Specific Reference to Harriet Martineau, Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark.'

But due to the hard circumstances that my country goes through, I find myself unable to get the necessary information about my work, which will certainly affect its value. I ask your help in providing me with a copy of the works that would give me an opportunity to know more about these writers and their eastern travels."

Miss Bouwan Khalid, College of Education for Women, University of Baghdad, Al-Jadiyah, Baghdad, Iraq
email: family@urulink.net (bowan)

In the *Tourists' Help-Book to the East* (1870), by Thomas Cook and Jabez Burns, an English bookseller, stationer and forwarding agent in Cairo advertised various services. One of them was a *Travellers' Register*. We quote: 'A Register is kept of the English residents in, and of English and American travellers passing through Egypt, with columns for noting messages to friends, or addresses, etc, which may be left with D R & Co. All Travellers in Egypt are recommended to inscribe their names in this Register.'

It is hardly necessary to say how useful this could prove to be, if it could be found. Is there any other record of the Register?

Pascale Linant de Bellefonds wants to purchase or borrow a copy of *Egypt Itself*, the biography of Robert Hay by Selwyn Tillet. Anyone who can help, please contact Mme Linant de Bellefonds,
9 Rue Saint Roman, F-75006 Paris, France:
email, linant@mae.u-paris10.fr

In *Bulletin 13*, Deborah Manley enquired if anyone knew who the Boy Jones was, seen aboard the *Harlequin* in 1847 by John Barker. In an example of that strange serendipity which so often occurs in research, we came across another reference to this person, which in some ways only deepens the mystery. Felicia Skene remarked in *Wayfaring Sketches among the Greeks and Turks*, that Salamis 'is inseparably united in my mind to that problem, never to be solved, as to why the "boy Jones" jumped overboard from the deck of the *Warspite*, when it was lying in that bay one cold night last year [this must have been in 1844, Ed], and remained absent no one knows where during two days; since he was *not* found under a sofa, making invidious comparisons between the furniture of Queen Amelia's sitting room and that of a similar apartment in Buckingham Palace.'

Queen Amelia, the Queen of Greece at that date, is clearly being linked with Queen Victoria, who once discovered a young street urchin concealed in her apartments at Buckingham Palace - was *he* the Boy Jones? We seem to recall that many years ago there was a film about the incident, called *The Mudlark*. Does this jog anyone's memory?.

BRIGANDS

In the north chancel aisle of York Minster there is a plaque on the wall which records a story of tragedy and heroism:

'In memory of Frederick Vyner, aged 23, who was taken prisoner by Greek brigands in the neighbourhood of Athens April 11th, 1870 and murdered by them April 21st. While thus a captive ten days with the prospect of death ever before him he thought of others rather than of himself. He refused to purchase his own safety by their peril and met his fate at last in the spirit of his own latest written words, "We must trust to God, that we die bravely as Englishmen should do."'

In the spring of 1870, a band of brigands crossed from Turkey into the northern provinces of Greece. Because of this, when a party set out in two carriages on a sight-

seeing trip from Athens on the morning of 11 April, it was accompanied by two mounted policemen; and because it was bound for the desolate plains of Marathon, and doubtless also because of the exalted rank of some members of the party, a detachment of sixteen infantrymen was also provided.

All went well until, on the return journey, one of the party suggested that the carriage horses be whipped up so as to arrive the sooner in Athens. The result was that the infantrymen were left far behind. At Macro Narappos Bridge, the brigands lay in wait. They shot down the mounted police and took the party captive. However, they permitted the ladies, Lady Muncaster and Mrs and Miss Lloyd, to continue in the carriages to Athens.

From this point, the two accounts I have read differ somewhat in detail. Why did not the brigands send the ransom demand with the ladies? Instead they demanded that Frederick Vyner, the youngest of the men, should walk back to Athens with it. He refused, because he considered the life of another member of the party more valuable. If aristocratic eminence is the criterion of the value of a life, it is true that Josslyn Pennington, Earl of Muncaster (1834-1917) was the right man to choose. Edward Herbert (1837-1870) was only the son of the second son of the second Earl of Carnarvon; Edward Lloyd, who was a resident of Athens, had, as far as I know, no aristocratic connections; Count Alberto de Boyl was probably not quite in the Earl class, and though Frederick's maternal grandfather was Baron Grantham and Earl de Grey of Wrest, he was only a younger son.

So off went Muncaster, carrying a demand for a ransom of a million drachma (variously said to be worth £32,000 and £50,000), which was easily collected - but also (according to one source) a demand for an amnesty for the brigands, and this the Greek government could not grant, without a change in the law. On 21 April, Greek troops were sent to take the money, with instructions to surround the party, but not to shoot - but they opened fire. According to one account, the bandits then panicked, and murdered their captives before fleeing; according to the other, they fled, taking the captives with them, but as the men dropped on the road, exhausted by their privations, they were shot where they lay.

Frederick Grantham Vyner ('the gentlest of

them all' one of the brigands is quoted as saying) was buried in the Anglican Church, in the Plaka, Athens, but to commemorate him, (and it is said, with the ransom money) his mother, Lady Mary Vyner, built a church, dedicated to Christ the Consoler, in the grounds of her home, Newby Hall, Yorkshire. The memorial inscription to Frederick is behind the high altar, but also, below a window in the east end of the south aisle, are remembered Edward Herbert, Edward Lloyd and the Count de Boyl. There is also a memorial plaque to Frederick in Christchurch, Oxford, where he had been a student.

Most of the brigands were captured, and though the leader, Takos, escaped then, he was shot later trying once more to enter Greece.

Sources: *Burke's Peerage*, information leaflet on Christ the Consoler Church; a 20th century newspaper article (?Yorkshire Evening Press, no date), at Newby Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire

Unhappy Dr Clarke

Isle of Zia, off Cape Sunium,
October 25 1801

I will make a sketch of the luxuries we enjoy in Greece...Danger, fatigue, disease, filth, treachery, thirst, hunger, storms, rocks, assassins, these are the realities. Will you believe that even I have repented the undertaking? How can it be otherwise? I must shew things as they are. In my fourth decade, I no longer scatter roses among thorns.

I call you to witness - was I always at sea a coward? Now the very sight of it sickens me to the heart. It has handled me so roughly, that I shall never face it like a man again. Coming from Egypt, we tasted a tempest in a Turkish 64; and since were blown upon some rocks on the south of Naxos, to amuse ourselves by drying our rags, naked, upon a desert. But suppose all goes well, and you have fine weather and so on. Lice all over your body; lice on your head; fleas, bugs, cock-roaches, rats, disputing even to your teeth, for a crust of mouldy biscuit full of maggots. What's the matter now? 'Sir, we are becalmed!' Well, what of that? 'The pirates have lighted their signals, within two miles of us, if a breeze does not spring up, we are lost!' A breeze comes! it gathers force - it blows fresh - it whistles - it roars - darkness all around - away goes the fore-sheet - the sea covers us - again a calm - again the pirates - Mercy! mercy!

Euphoric Dr Clarke

Summit of Parnassus
December 15, 1801

It is necessary to forget all that has preceded - all the travels of my life - all I ever imagined - all I ever saw! Asia, Egypt - the Isles - the Alps - whatever you will! Greece surpasses all! Stupendous in its ruins! Awful in its mountains! - captivating in its vales - bewitching in its climate. Nothing ever equalled it - no pen can describe it - no pencil can portray it.

Letters from Edward Daniel Clarke to William Otter in The Life & Remains of the Rev Edward Daniel Clarke (1824)

