

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

No 18

Winter 2003

## ASTENE EVENTS

### AN EVENING AT THE TRAVELLERS' CLUB: "Your Charles Barry and Ours"

On October 26, there was a reception followed by two papers and dinner at the Travellers' Club, 106 Pall Mall. Appropriately, Dr Patricia Usick and Neil Cooke, conservation architect, took as their subject Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860) the architect of the Club.

In June 1817 Charles Barry left England for an architectural tour of France, Italy, Turkey, Greece and the Near East. Dr Usick related that Barry wrote his travel journal, in a neat hand, in 17 leather bound volumes, and made use of the newly discovered camera lucida for his drawings to clarify proportions and perspectives.

Barry arrived at Alexandria on 25 October 1818, and sailed up the Nile as far as Abousir, making detailed drawings of the ancient monuments and inscriptions along the way. He was struck particularly by the vast majestic temple of Dendera, the temple of Esna and the treasure house of ruins at Philae. In spite of the gloom and intense sticky heat, he managed a few sketches of the interior of the rock-cut temples of Rameses II at Abu Simbel. But above all, he admired the glories of Thebes, where he saw a long row of seated figures ready for transport, acquired by Henry Salt, the British Consul General in Egypt. Salt's collection of antiquities were later purchased by the British Museum and the Louvre.

Following his four months in Egypt, Barry's party toured the Holy Land and Syria, reaching Rome in January 1820, and returning to England in September. There is no doubt that his study of Italian architecture provided source material for his subsequent work.

Although the following years were financially difficult, Barry soon found recognition and at last the artist-traveller became Barry the architect.  
*Anne Wolff*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ASTENE Events Organiser:  
Elisabeth Woodthorpe, 88 Overstrand  
Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London  
SW11 4EU.

### INTO NUBIA AND BEYOND: EGYPT ABOVE THE CATARACT

A reminder about the ASTENE-Oxford University Department of Continuing Education Day School on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February in Oxford.

There have been slight changes to the original programme, but not to the content. Our Vice President, Dr Jaromir Malek of the Griffiths Institute, is leading the day. Dr Aidan Dodson is working with Dr Jacke Phillips on "The Impact of the Aswan High Dam on Nubia" and on "Travel beyond the Second Cataract" and is presenting the papers as Dr Phillips will be in Nubia itself! Dr John Alexander is speaking on 'Qusr Ibrim: the frontier fortress and the results of excavation'. Dr Trisha Usick on 'The Nubian Discoverer' John William Bankes and Dr Malek on 'Early Photographers in Nubia'.  
To register, contact OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Tel: (01865) 270368)



## ASTENE Oxford programme on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

As usual we will be holding events for ASTENE members before the study day.

3 pm-3:45 or 4 pm- 4:45: "Nineteenth century records of Egypt in the archive of the Griffith Institute" with Dr Jaromir Malek and staff.

5 p.m. Introduction to the resources of the Sackler Library by Diane Bergman.

About 7 p.m. Dinner at Jamal's Indian Restaurant in Walton Street for all ASTENE members who would like to come whether or not they are attending other events.

There is a booking form in this Bulletin, and you can take part in all or any of these events. To join the Friday events, you do not need to be coming on Saturday. **But please note:** Places for the Griffith Institute visit are limited to 12 people for the earlier visit, and 8 for the later visit - and booking has to be 'first come - first served'.

You may wish to visit the renewed Egyptian Gallery at the Ashmolean too.

## "TRAVELLERS AND POLITICIANS" at the Houses of Parliament, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

ASTENE member Josie Eldred works in the Houses of Parliament and offered to book a room there for an ASTENE event.

Then David Dixon drew our attention to the Florence Nightingale Museum at St Thomas's Hospital, across the Thames. Events Organiser, Elizabeth Woodthorpe has put together a programme combining both sites. You can join the whole programme or parts of it.

12 noon - 1:15 A free guided tour of the Houses of Parliament.

1:30 Break for lunch at local cafes or pubs.

3:30 p.m. Meet at the Nightingale Museum (see page 6 of this Bulletin): video of her life and guided tour concentrating on her travels in Egypt, Greece and the Crimea. Group entrance fee £5.00. Tea at St Thomas' Hospital overlooking the Thames.

6 p.m. The ASTENE meeting will start in the Committee Room in Portcullis House booked by Josie Eldred.

There will be two papers covering different periods in the Near East.

*James Silk Buckingham: A Court Case Peta Ree* This paper is an account of a few days which James Silk Buckingham and John William Bankes spent travelling in the Holy Lands in 1816, and the libels and law suits that were to ensue.

*Anglo-Irish Exploits: Arthur Kavanagh, Sportsman and Traveller Visits "Another Place" Edwin Aiken* This paper follows Arthur Kavanagh on his travels as a teenager and a young adult - elucidating the more interesting points of reference and the more informative discoveries, and the more amusing anecdotes.

Followed by informal 'snack' and drinks..

The papers will concentrate on the travels of these two Members of Parliament. Notes on the political careers of Buckingham, Bankes and Kavanagh will be available. For more details, you may wish to consult the Dictionary of National Biography.

Please let Elizabeth Woodthorpe know if you wish to come, by completing the booking form. You may join the group at any stage of the day.

## THE ASTENE CYPRUS TOUR

Those who told Events Organiser, Elisabeth Woodthorpe they wanted to join the ASTENE tour of Cyprus, organised by Dr Rita Severis in September 2004, have received an application form. Some places remain. If you are interested in the Tour and Conference (10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September) (see Bulletin 17) contact Miss Woodthorpe. The cost is roughly £1000 including travel to and within Cyprus, hotels, meals, guided tours and entertainment. There are arrangements for non-UK members to join the whole tour or just the Conference.

### Cyprus Conference: Call for Papers

ASTENE is seeking papers for the conference in Nicosia 11-12<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Such papers need not relate to travellers to Cyprus. Among subjects that would be welcomed are: Crusaders as travellers - Pilgrim travellers - Naval officers - Merchant travellers - Agnes Lewis: 'A Lady's Impressions of Cyprus' - The impact of steam on travellers... Papers already offered include Dido, Queen of Carthage - 19<sup>th</sup> century Intruders in the Harem Shereef in Jerusalem, etc



*Come and travel: soon thy friends will be replaced.  
Come work – and life's true sweetness thou shalt  
know.*

*Success and fame are never found in rest,  
But cares are. Leave thy native land and go!*

Epigraph to *Through Cyprus* by Agnes Smith,  
her own translation from the Arabic, 1887.

Those planning to go on the Cyprus tour – and others – will be interested in C.D. Cobham's *Excerpta Cypria: Materials for a History of Cyprus*, Cambridge, 1908. It is a unique compilation of extracts from books and travel diaries on Cyprus AD 23 to 1849.

#### **ASTENE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM 2004 will be on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September** (not July as indicated in the last Bulletin) at the National Portrait Gallery, London and will follow the NPG Day School on Women Travellers accompanying their exhibition on this subject.

There will be a booking form in the Spring Bulletin with the detailed programme of the Day School which includes four ASTENE members. AGM notices will go out with the Summer Bulletin.

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#### **ASTENE'S WEBSITE**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 ASTENE's website through Durham University closes.

Only our new website: **WWW.ASTENE.ORG.UK** will be in use.

Members are being sent the Password for the Resources section in the letter accompanying this issue of the Bulletin.

This Password will remain valid until the end of March. The new one for 2004 will be sent with the Spring Bulletin to those members whose membership renewal has been received.

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#### **NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASTENE BOOKS**

In December 2003 Oxbow Books took over the distribution of ASTENE's existing books, previously available through the Museum Bookshop. These are now in stock at Oxbow's showroom in Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN. From January 2004 they will also be available in North America from Oxbow's US branch office, The David Brown Book Company in Connecticut.

Oxbow books is a specialist mail order bookseller and distributor so it will be easy to

order by phone, mail, e-mail or through the internet.

Books can be sent speedily and economically to any part of the world and payment is accepted by credit card, cheque and wire transfer. Please order from your nearest Oxbow office – contact details listed below. Oxbow Books stocks a large number of titles on the cultures of Egypt and the Near East, and about their re-discovery by later travellers. Free catalogues are sent on request. ASTENE members receive 15% discount on the lowest advertised price of the three ASTENE books. Please remember to identify yourself as an ASTENE member and claim your discount with your order. The Oxbow price is £19.95 and the price to ASTENE members is £14.95 and \$19.95 in North America.

The titles are:

**Travellers in the Levant: Voyagers and Visionaries** edited by Sarah Searight and Malcolm Wagstaff, and containing papers on William Martin Leake, William Gell, Lady Hester Stanhope, J.J. Bjornstahl, J.F. Lewis, Edward Lear and Gerard de Nerval and on pilgrims through the centuries.

**Desert Travellers: from Herodotus to T.E. Lawrence** edited by Janet Starkey and Okasha El Daly contains papers on early Arab and European travellers, James Bruce, William Eaton, G.B. Brocchi, Linant de Bellefonds, Ameen Rihani – and, of course, Herodotus and Lawrence.

**Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers**, edited by Paul Starkey and Nadia El Kholi contains papers on Lord Valentia, Henry William Beechey, Florence Nightingale, Amelia Edwards, Ramses III, Belzoni and Rev. Browne, The Gayer Anderson Museum, Lord Morton's Mummy, Mummy Travellers, and Maxime du Camp.

North American customers:

The David Brown Book Company, PO Box 511 (28 Main Street), Oakville, CT 06779, USA. Toll free Tel: 800 791 9354, Tel. 860 945 9329; Fax 860 945 9468; E-mail: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net  
Outside North America  
Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN, UK. Tel. (0)1865 241249; Fax: 44 (0)1865 794449;  
E-mail [oxbow@oxbowbooks.com](mailto:oxbow@oxbowbooks.com)

Internet secure on-line ordering available at <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>

## OTHER EVENTS

**Non-ASTENE Events:** Eileen Marshall, Janette Booth and Lorraine Page have kindly agreed to collect Other Events – from around the world - for the Bulletin. Eileen's e-mail is [Eileen@emarshall61.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Eileen@emarshall61.fsnet.co.uk) should you wish to report forthcoming events in your area. All three are in 'Yellow Pages'.

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### 'TRAVEL BROADENS THE MIND' RESEARCH SEMINARS

A series of research seminars open to all is being held at the Department of Classics and Ancient History of the University of Warwick is being held at 5 p.m. on occasional Mondays. 'Pioneering the Mediterranean Cruise' by Katherine Clark of St Hilda's College, Oxford we have unfortunately missed in November.

The remainder of the programme is:

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2004: 'Travel and Cultural Tourism in Greco-Roman Egypt' by Colin Adams, University of Leicester.

1<sup>st</sup> March: 'A Tale of two Empires: the British and Achaemenid Persia' by Tom Harrison, University of St Andrews

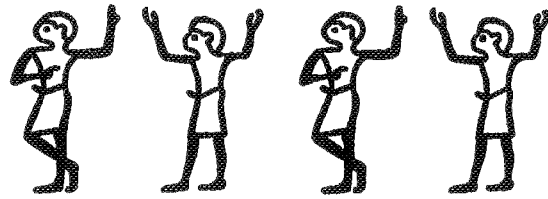
10<sup>th</sup> May: 'Roman Cities and the Tourist Gaze' by Ray Laurence, University of Reading.

Each paper will be followed by discussion and drinks with the speaker.

### THE SACKLER GALLERY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES AT THE ASHMOLEAN, OXFORD

The Ashmolean Egyptian Galleries highlight the miniature rather than the magnificent. I greatly enjoy the gathering of Shawabitis. Over the last three years the staff have redisplayed some 9000 objects for the galleries, re-opened on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The collection ranges from c.3000 BC, through 30 dynasties of Pharaonic Egypt, the Ptolemies and Romans to the Arab conquest, AD641. Arranged chronologically and thematically, it presents recent research.

Mr and Mrs Mortimer Sackler were stuck at Hanger Lane in a traffic jam and sadly absent from this important gathering. Two travellers to Egypt were acknowledged in Christopher Brown's opening address. Flinders Petrie as *traveller* deserves our attention; Greville Chester is unfamiliar, yet merits a whole page in Dr Morris Bierbrier's *Who was Who in Egyptology* (1995).



Reverend Greville Chester (1830-92) served in a number of parishes but ill health caused him to retire in 1865 – and to winter abroad. He visited Egypt 38 times by 1881, travelled in Syria and Palestine and was involved with the Palestine Exploration Fund as unofficial curator and journal contributor.

In Egypt, he settled into the Luxor Hotel and was available at tea time to local dealers – who greatly respected him. His collections of artefacts, manuscripts and papyri (some presented, some sold) enrich the British Museum, V & A, Fitzwilliam, Cambridge, Bodleian Library and Ashmolean, Oxford.

He published *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities in the Ashmolean Museum* in 1881, and died – after nearly 30 years 'retirement' - to be buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

The Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St, Oxford OX1 2PH. Enquiries: 01865 278000. Admission free. Closed Mon. Open Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun 2-5

### ORIENTALISCHE REISE: Malerei und Exotik im Späten 19 Jahrhundert ORIENTAL JOURNEY: Painting and Exotic in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The exhibition presents 50 paintings of Austrian and Hungarian artists who travelled to Egypt and Palestine, contemporary photographs of the same period, with 'orientalized' furniture and other fashionable products of the period.

The Wien Hermesvilla Museum, once the hunting lodge of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I, Dr Gottfried Hamernik tells us, is in a park-like forest – the 'Lainzer Tiergarten'. It is not a real zoo, but is surrounded by a wall several miles long to keep the 'game' inside – especially boars – even today.

Wien Museum Hermesvilla, Lainzer Tiergarten, A-1130 Vienna. Web site: [WWW.wienmuseum.at](http://WWW.wienmuseum.at). Exhibition open until 12<sup>th</sup> April 2004. Entry 4EU. Tues-Sun and holidays 9-4:30; from 1 April, 10-6

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

### THE BIG 'A' – THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A capital A – with a flourish – is the 'trade mark' of The National Archives – a coming together of the Public Record Office (PRO) and the Historical Manuscripts Commission (HMC).

What are they? The PRO looks after the state and central court documents from the Domesday Book to the present, making them available at its reading rooms at Kew and at the Family Record Centre in central London. For ASTENE researchers, the papers of especial interest are the Foreign Office papers on 'Turkey' (the Ottoman Empire) and other countries. The HMC is the central advisory body on archives and manuscripts relating to British history. Established in 1869, it is the principal source of information for researchers on the nature and location of particular records. It maintains the National Register of Archives; the ARCHON directory and portal, giving direct links to record repositories are archival projects in progress. HMC also offers advice to owners, custodians and users of non-Public records, central and local government and grant-making bodies.

Eventually both organisations will be based at Kew. The National Archives (PRO), Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU: Tel: 020 8392 5200; email: [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk); [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
Visiting times: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-5; Tues, 10 – 7 p.m.; Thurs. 9 – 7pm; Sat. 9:30-5. Ordering times are slightly shorter. The PRO is closed Sundays, bank holidays and for the first week in December for stocktaking.

The National Archives (HMC), Quality House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HP: Tel: 020 7242 1198; [nra@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:nra@nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
Open: Mon – Fri 9:30 – 5pm.

To be kept up to date with website services you can register for free e-mail updates at the National Archives home page [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT NOTE

Writers, researchers and publishers: If using PRO or HMC sources – either documents or images – for publication of any kind, including dissertations, you need to credit the PRO or HMC in footnotes or as sources. The official accreditation is:

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The National Archives (TNA): HMC NRA 17243 *to refer to any National Register of Archives list.*  
*For further information, please visit the online catalogue at [www.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/Riindex.asp](http://www.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/Riindex.asp)*

### THE SEARIGHT COLLECTION AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT

*Brian Taylor writes of the background and content of this important collection of drawings, paintings and prints visited by ASTENE earlier this year.*

To understand the collection one needs a short biography of Rodney Searight himself, which Charles Newton gave during the ASTENE visit.

Rodney Searight (1909-91) was a director of the Shell International Petroleum Company, whose career led him to reside in the Middle East for many years during which he became an inspired connoisseur, gifted amateur artist and, from the 1960s onwards, an enthusiastic collector of works of art at a time when only a mere handful of academics and collectors recognised that a rich resource of material, produced before the widespread use of photography, lay in waiting. He became an expert on a number of relatively obscure artists; his judgement was sound; and he was very generous in exchanging information, giving his time to help others and lending many of his most precious watercolours and drawings to exhibitions, occasionally for months at a time. In the early 1960-70s the Searight Collection grew apace, portraying a range of scenes, events and personalities of the Islamic world through the eyes of over 700 artists, writers and travellers. It became both unrivalled in its extent and variety and unique as a pictorial record of the cultural interaction between the West and the Middle East. Within the collection there are some 4000 watercolours, drawings and sketchbooks and between 1500-2000 prints. More significantly, perhaps, the watercolours are unique, while some of the maps are the only representatives of their kind.

There is space here for only some of the examples ASTENE members were shown on

their visit this year. There is a *Study of a Camel's Head* (1864) by Elijah Walton, who developed a particular interest in this ubiquitous animal (this one familiar through ASTENE's website). The works of another camel enthusiast are those of Frederick Goodall (1822-1904), famous as a prolific and successful painter of the Oriental.

SORRY - computer glitch.  
Please look at the Website for the picture of  
Walton's Camel

No collection of the Middle and Near East would be complete without John Frederick Lewis (1805-1876) and David Roberts (1796-1864), and Rodney Searight evidently had a particular liking for the works of both artists. The collection includes one of Lewis' four studies of the Mosque of Aya Sofia in Constantinople before it was damaged by an earthquake and repaired by the Fossati brothers in the 1840s. Roberts' watercolour of *Grand Cairo*, based on several preliminary sketches, is on darkened paper, although it still represents one of the artist's most important paintings. There are few paintings by Edward Lear but those included complement what the V & A already had. William Pars (1742-1782) is represented (with a view of *The Theatre at Miletus*), as is Luigi Mayer (c.1750-1803), Frederick Catherwood (1799-1854), and Carl Haag (1820-1915) – the last named one of Queen Victoria's favourite artists, perhaps because he achieved the "brilliancy of oil paintings, combined with the tender-sweetness of watercolours". The watercolorist from Bristol, William Edward Dighton is represented by his *Temple of Bacchus, Baalbek* (1852-3) in which, as Briony Llewellyn has said, the temple's architectural details are "almost obliterated by the brightness of the pervading moonlight."

I recall several of us pausing to admire the detail in Robert Moresby's (active 1829-52) ink and watercolour painting *View of the Town and Harbour of Qusayr on the Red Sea* (1829-34), and of others transfixed by the gaze of Abdul Samut Khan in a portrait by Godfrey Thomas Vigne (1801-1863). There were other portraits too: *A Sultana* after Philippe Jacques de Louthembourg (1740-1812) and several preliminary sketches of Mohammed Ali Pasha by Sir David Wilkie (1785-1841), who compiled a very important pictorial record of

Egypt and Turkey in the 1830s. We also saw Owen Jones' (1809-1874) watercolour (dated 1833) of *Philae – landing place*, and a pen, ink and sepia wash (1803) by Sir Robert Ker Porter (1772-1842) of *Buonoparte ordering five hundred and eighty of his wounded soldiers to be poisoned at Jaffa*.

However, if I had to choose one original painting that I wanted to see above all others, it would be by the Maltese artist Amadeo Preziosi (1816-1882) – and I was not disappointed for there, within touching distance was, among several others, his *A Turkish Coffee House, Constantinople* 1854 – a good example of the artist's keen and sensitive observation of contemporary Turkish life based on his 40 years residency in the Sublime Porte.

I hope this selection gives some idea of the remarkable range of a unique collection that became part of the V & A in 1985 and hence augmented "one of the world's most extensive archives of Middle and Near Eastern images".

Brian Taylor

*The Searight Collection can be viewed by arrangement in the Prints and Drawings Collection of the V & A. You can make an appointment by ringing the V & A on 0207 942 2563 (Tues-Sat after 10 am) and asking for the National Art Library. It is necessary to order material 48 hours before visiting. If you are not sure what you need, Charles Newton has very kindly offered members advice on his number (1207 942 2570).*

*It is regretted that certain parts of the collection may from time to time be unavailable.*

## THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

*Those coming to the ASTENE day on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> April can join the group for a special visit to this Museum. 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW (on the site of St Thomas' Hospital)*

**Transport:** Tube: Waterloo and Westminster; Buses 12, 53, 77, 159, 211, 507

**Open:** Mon-Fri 10 to 5; Sat, Sund and Bank holidays: 11:30 – 4:30 (last admission one hour before closing). Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, 24 December – 2 January

**Admission:** Adult £5; Child, student, senior £3.

Florence Nightingale's travels in the Crimea are renowned. Her journeys in Egypt and Greece, less known. Anthony Sattin's *Letters from Egypt* (£12.99) and Michael Calabria's *Florence Nightingale in Egypt and Greece* (State University of New York, 1997, £11.75) are available at the Museum and bookshops.

The museum exhibitions include diaries and mementoes of Miss Nightingale's childhood and her travels in Egypt, Greece and the Crimea. The ASTENE visit in April will focus on this period. In the Crimea section are souvenirs, personal mementoes, prints and paintings. Her post-Crimea impact fits well into the ASTENE day at Parliament: in later years, Miss Nightingale was statistician, writer, campaigner on health and hospitals, and hospital planner – indeed a great politician.

### SIR WILFRED'S PHOTOGRAPHS

For the past decade the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford has held Sir Wilfred Thesiger's magnificent collection of photographs: about 25,000 images made over a 50 year period. It includes photographs in the Arabian Peninsula and southern Iraq's marshes.

The Museum is about to start a major cataloguing project made possible by Thesiger's long-time friend H.H. Sheikh Zayed, President of the UAR. The result will be an on-line catalogue to open this resource to further research. All the photos were scanned some years ago to make them more readily available to researchers.

Photographic Collection, Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford



A PARTY AT DINNER OR SUPPER.

## CHRISTMASTIDE

### IN THE CRIMEA, 1855

I wonder if people of other countries are as fond of carrying with them their home habits as the English. I think not. I think there was something purely and essentially English in the determination of the camp to spend the Christmas-day of 1855 after the good old home fashion... One determination appeared to have taken possession of every mind – to spend the festive day with the mirth and jollity which the changed prospect of affairs warranted; and the recollection of a year ago, when death and misery where the camp's chief guests, only served to heighten this resolve.

For three weeks previous to Christmas-day, my time was fully occupied in making preparations for it. Pages of my books are filled with orders for plum-puddings and mince-pies, besides which I sold an immense quantity of raw material to those who were too far off to send down for the manufactured article on Christmas-day, and to such purchasers I gave a plain recipe for their guidance. Will the reader take any interest in my Crimean Christmas-pudding? It was plain, but decidedly good... One pound of flour, three quarters of a pound of raisins, three quarters of a pound of fat pork chopped fine, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, a little cinnamon or chopped lemon, half a pint of milk or water, mix these well together and boil for four hours.

(From *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands, 1857*)

### IN EGYPT, 1865

In Christmas Eve we arrived at Sioot, and found all the American and English boats illuminated with coloured lights, and decorated with palms. It was a glorious moonlight night, and most of the owners of the *dahabiehs* rowed about in the evening, enjoying the unusual scene, and thinking of glorious midnight masses in other countries... In the evening, being Christmas Day, all the boats were illuminated with Chinese lanterns and avenues of palms, while the sailors made crosses and stars of palm-leaves to hang over the cabin-doors. A beautiful moonlight night added to the effect of these decorations, as the party rowed around the different *dahabiehs*, the 'Adeste fideles' sounding softly across the water.

(Lady Herbert of Lea, *Cradle Lands* pp.24-26)

## A GIFT TO A FRIEND

*While researching the life of Henry Salt we came across a letter not included in the resulting book. Mail being what it was, Sir Sidney must have received the 'Plate' as a Christmas gift.*

From Henry Salt to Sir Sidney Smith, MS Bodl. Add E 2, Cairo, October 2, 1818

Dear Sir, It is with great delight that I forward to you by the hands of Mr Briggs, whom you will recollect as former Consul at Alexandria, a packet which I have confided to him to be delivered to you in person.

This packet contains an inscription on a Gold Plate inscribed by order of the Ptolomais to commemorate the dedication of a Temple to Osiris... found by the Basha's workmen among the ruins of Canopis.

Many efforts were made by the ci-devant French Consul (*Drovetti*) to obtain this very interesting relic of antiquity but the Basha, who happened to be at Alexandria when it was found, kept it quietly in his hands until his return to Cairo. On my visiting him on that occasion, he observed that "He too had become a Collector", and had discovered an Inscription on Gold, "but it is not for you," he added, "as I intend to send it to my friend Sir Sidney Smith as a token of my remembrance and esteem." These words, I am sure will make the Inscription doubly valuable, especially as they were delivered with that glow of countenance which evinced they came from the heart...

(The letter was accompanied by a facsimile piece of gold paper with Greek characters on, and a translation.)

## REVIEWS

**Review Editors:** Art, architecture and literature: Kathryn Ferry, Darwin College, Cambridge; Other areas: Edwin Aiken, School of Geography, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Steel in the Sand: the History of Egypt and its Railways** by Gary Goldfinch, ISBN 1-900467-15-1, 96 pp., illustrations, maps, 2003  
In 2002 Egyptian Railways celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – one of the earliest railways outside Europe and America. It carries 2.28 million travellers daily over 2200 miles of track. The impact of rail on travel within Egypt has not yet been much discussed within ASTENE and Gary Goldfinch's book is most welcome. *Steel in the Sand* he describes as "really a biography of a living organism." For

those, like me, who enjoy a good train ride, it is a real addition to the literature of travel. Available from Finial Publishing, 15 Holburne Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 2SL at £14.95

**Photography and African Studies – A Bibliography** by Massimo Zaccharia. Pavia: Department of Political and Social Studies in the University of Pavia, 2001. pp. 175. ISBN xxxxxxxxxx Soft cover

The title says it all. For the armchair traveller, this is a terrific research source, although I suspect that those using it will end up spending less time in the armchair and more on the move tracking down the references cited to see the photographs they contain. Many are rather obscure, but that is the point of collating this bibliography – to make accessible a common theme within widely scattered subject fields, from 'advertising' and 'archaeology' to 'war' and 'women', and 'tourism' but, oddly enough, not 'travel'. The list contains over 1500 bibliographical references, including websites.

It consists of two main parts.

Part I is by continent, region and (modern) country within Africa, including the Indian and Atlantic Ocean islands, and more comprehensive categories have been sub-divided even further. 'Africa' as a continent is sub-divided by topic (e.g. 'anthropology', 'photojournalism') and colonial power. Even more general references that include Africa in their discussion also are listed.

It is not a bibliography of published photographic material, but rather a listing *about* photography, photographers and photographs (including postcards) of Africa from earliest years of the medium through September 2001, in various languages.

Part II lists references dedicated to individual and group photographic collections of Africa held in Africa and in the rest of the world, by country, city, and library or archive. If you can't travel to see the collection in person, you can at least visit some of it in your armchair. Individual articles deal with a variety of topics, including a collection's origin, history, inventory, exhibition, availability and usefulness as a research tool.

Explanatory descriptions or commentary are included when considered useful by Zaccharia, who also cites published reviews of some entries. Various resource websites that can lead you further are also listed in the preface,



and detailed indices by author and subject also are included at the end to help you thematically through the volume and the continent. It may not have 'travel' in the index, but a check through the entries will be rewarded by articles on published photographs of early travellers.

Although incredibly wide-ranging in scope, the author makes no claim to being comprehensive, and welcomes further references if known. Several printed references to the Sudan Archive in Durham are listed, but not its website (<http://aesica.dur.ac.uk/delores/asc/photos.asp>)

Whilst this clearly is a reference volume, the entries make fascinating reading of themselves. You may lose track of what you started looking for..

**An Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians**, by Edward William Lane, foreword by Dr Jason Thompson, American University in Cairo Press, ISBN 977 424 748 1, 631 pp., 131 line drawings, \$39.50. The definitive 1860 edition of Edward Lane's great work has been handsomely re-issued. Still required reading today for those interested in the life and customs of Egypt, the Bulletin will carry a full review in the spring issue.

A review by John Rodenbeck of Jason Thompson's recent Edward Lane's *Description of Egypt* is available, with other reviews, Al-Ahram Weekly On-line: <http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2000/503/books5.htm>

**Literature of Travel and Exploration: An Encyclopedia** edited by Jennifer Speake. New York and London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 3 volumes, each some 470 pages, illustrated. ISBN 1-57958-247-8 (3 volume set)

A number of ASTENE members were involved in this large project, writing many of the articles related to the region, and Jennifer Speake, the editor, is also a member. It arrived too late to be reviewed in this issue, but will be reviewed in the next.

**Lady Anne Blunt: A Biography**, by H.V.F. Winstone, Barzan Publishing with Stacey International, 366 pp., 8 pp colour photographs, 8 pp. black and white, casebound, £19.95. ISBN 1900988 577

A biography from the high noon of the Victorian age by an author of a dozen books devoted to European personalities in the

Middle East about an intrepid traveller – the first European woman known to have journeyed into Central Arabia to the Njed. She is regarded by equine authorities as the saviour of the true thoroughbred 'Arabian'. Published November 2003, - a full review will appear in the next Bulletin.

**Amelia Peabody's Egypt, a Compendium** by Elizabeth Peters and Kristen Whitbread, eds., design Dennis Forbes. New York: William Morrow, 2003. pp. 335. US\$ 29.95 hardback. ISBN 0-06-053811-2

For fans of Victorian Egyptologist-sleuth, Amelia Peabody, her husband Radcliffe Emerson and their increasingly diverse family, this is a 'must-have' addition to your library – and so modestly priced, too. Inside is a wealth of information about the characters, places, and customs of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through World War I in Egypt.

Want to know about how Victorian children, servants, women and 'natives' were viewed and treated at the time? You'll find it here, in chapters written by individual experts in their respective fields. What were the developments in technology, music, fashion and popular fiction of the period, the historical development of Egyptology, and the political machinations that put the British (and other powers) in control of Egypt. It also has a 'Who's who' of the Egyptian gods and other characters, a potted history of ancient Egypt, a gazetteer of ancient and modern Egypt, and even a dictionary of those odd and foreign phrases so often quoted in the journals.

Fiction is seamlessly and skilfully – much too skilfully - interwoven with fact, in a joyous romp for fans of all ages that contrasts the Emersons with the rest of Victorian ex-pat and tourist society of the time. All this is intermixed with a massive collection of period photographs, line drawings, engravings, postcards, cartoons, etc, to illustrate anything and everything you can think of – even many major and minor characters that jump in and out of the journals (this must have been fun to investigate: see especially Percy and Violet), both historical and fictional – and no hint of which is which. Some chapters are 'pictorial essays' that speak volumes without saying a word. Alas, 'travel' is one aspect that is covered only in this way, mostly of tourists looking like fish-out-of-water, but saying little about tourism and travelling during the period

in the generic sense. Nonetheless, as a whole, the book quietly conjures up the atmosphere of living and travelling in the Near East in the Emerson's day.

Keep it to hand the next time you are re-reading any of the journals (there is even a list of which volume belongs to which excavation season) so you can check anything you want. Or just read it cover to cover. Eminently dipable in spare moments, too.

*Jacke Phillips, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge*

**The Silent Traveller in Edinburgh** by Chiang Yee, 1948, re-issued, Edinburgh, 2003, ISBN 184183 0488

Perhaps an unlikely book for ASTENE, but of interest to those at the 2001 Conference. Chiang Yee (1903-77) came to London University from China in 1933, already with much experience and learning, to teach and manage the Chinese Collection at the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine. In 1955 he moved to Columbia University.

Chiang Yee's best remembered books are his *Silent Travellers* – the first six about Britain. Wherever he travelled he observed with insatiable curiosity and commented from his own unique angle. A century after his birth some *Silent Travellers* are re-issued. Chiang Yee moved back and forth in his mind between the present place and his faraway homeland. "The thing that most interested me during my silent travels is the common element between the legends and habits of my own country and those of other lands," he wrote. It is this that makes his travels lasting and universal.

*Deborah Manley*

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**Memoirs of Napoleon's Egyptian Expedition, 1798-1801** Captain Joseph-Marie Moiret, translated by Rosemary Brindle, 208 pp., 28 plates, Hardback, no price given, Greenhill Books, London, ISBN 1-85367-449-4

Captain Morier gives a unique insight into Napoleon's invasion of Egypt. The dangers portrayed by the captain of the 75<sup>th</sup> 'Invincibles' are interlaced with vivid descriptions of the desert, and personal views on the expeditions' leaders.

**Eyewitness to the Crimea: The Crimea War Letters of Lt.Col. G.F. Dallas**, edited by Michael Hargreave Mawson, 320 pp., 3 maps, 26 plates, Hardback, no price given, Greenhill Books, London, 2001

"We are certainly the worst clad, worst fed, worst housed Army that ever was read of," wrote Dallas to his family, though later matters improved...Mr Mawson's book offers much for the researcher of this area and period with a large bibliography and careful biographies of all the characters of the story. *Peta Ree*

**Life's Episodes: Discovering Ottoman Architecture** by Godfrey Goodwin, Bogazici University Press, Istanbul, ISBN 975-518-160-1. Available through Cornucopia, £6.75 (US\$10,80), [www.cornucopia.net](http://www.cornucopia.net)

Goodwin's *History of Ottoman Architecture* first appeared in 1971 and immediately became the key text on the subject. Bearing in mind his contribution to the architectural history of Turkey, in this and five books on related subjects, I was looking forward to finding out more about what had provoked his work in this area.

Born in England in 1921, Godwin found himself teaching at Victoria College, Alexandria after the Second World War. He witnessed the last days of the school providing an English education to the sons of the Egyptian elite aided, as he recalls they were in at least one maths exam, by the services of a helpful muezzin calling out the answers from a minaret across the road. Goodwin then travelled to Istanbul and found a job teaching at Robert College where he remained for ten years, and where in its present incarnation as Bogazici University he still teaches in a summer school in art and architecture.

Undoubtedly the result of a full and varied life, this book does not, however, live up to the

expectations created by Goodwin's significant contribution to scholarship in the field of Ottoman architecture.

*Kathryn Ferry, Darwin College, Cambridge*

**History in Quotations: Reflecting 5000 years of World History**, edited by M.J. Cohen and John Major, London: Cassell, 2004, 1035 pp., £30.00; ISBN 0-304-35387-6

This massive but very reasonably priced book is a fascinating collection of contemporary quotations through history from ancient Egypt to the present day. Each entry is accompanied by its reference and, where appropriate, a brief scholarly interpretation and explanation. A book to have by one.

**Apology:** The Editor regrets that in Peter Clayton's review of *The Wilderness of Zin in the last Bulletin* (pp.26-7) she incorrectly transcribed the bibliographical details, and also erroneously identified Lawrence's motorcycle as a 'Borough' instead of a 'Brough'.

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## NOTES AND QUERIES

When replying to a query in the *Bulletin*, please reply direct to the person who makes the query, but please also let the *Bulletin* Editor share your reply with other members.

### Where is Skinner's Journal?

Lawrence Keppie, Professor Emeritus of Roman History and Archaeology at Glasgow University, is interested in a Somerset clergyman, the Rev. John Skinner, who travelled in Scotland in 1825 and visited Roman remains along the Antonine Wall. He also travelled widely in England, and to France and Holland. He also – surprisingly – made a trip to Egypt! His journal of that visit was, apparently, sold at auction recently in the south of England to a private buyer. Professor Keppie would be very pleased to have any suggestions or thoughts on how he could find out more, and thus confirm his information. He can be contacted at the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ or on [lkeppie@museum.gla.ac.uk](mailto:lkeppie@museum.gla.ac.uk)

### Giovanni d'Athanasios's English Family

John Taylor is adding to the biography of Giovanni d'Athanasios, aka 'Yanni' (1798-1854). It is now clear that Yanni married

twice. His first wife, whose name is unknown, was recently dead in 1836, when John Madox met Yanni in mourning for her (BL Add MSS 38094, f.95-6). By 1850, when Yanni was living in London, he had married again to an Englishwoman named Harriet Cowstick or Cosstick (c.1826-58). They had two children: Elizabeth, born Chenies Street, off Tottenham Court Road, 20 January 1852; and Ann, born in the St. Pancras Workhouse, 13 February 1855, two months after Yanni's death.

Ann died on 29 July 1855, and Harriet, the mother, travelled to Wilmington, near Eastbourne, where she died of pulmonary consumption on 27 April 1858. The death was registered by Harriet's father, Samuel Cowstick. In the 1851 census return for Wilmington he appears as a gentleman's servant, aged 61, living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 55. In 1861, Elizabeth Cowstick was still at Wilmington, now a widow, and living with her nine-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth d'Athanasios, a 'scholar'. Neither of them were in Wilmington in 1871, but no d'Athanasios are recorded in the indexes of deaths between 1861 and 1871, indicating that the granddaughter was still alive in the latter year. Elizabeth d'Athanasios would be a key figure in the attempt to trace Yanni's papers. Does anyone know what became of her?

Please reply to John Taylor, Assistant Keeper, Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG or email: [jtaylor@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:jtaylor@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

### A diary from Constantinople

Brian Taylor submitted this query on behalf of a student in his WEA class whose query he was unable to answer.

Nigel Webb is researching aspects of the embassy of Lord Kinnoull to Constantinople, 1729-35. Does any member know of the whereabouts of unpublished diaries or letters relating to life in or a visit to Constantinople (or Pera) during the period 1725-40? Does anyone know the whereabouts of a copy of the anonymous publication 'Letters historical & critical from a gentleman in Constantinople to his friend in London, 1730'?

Please contact Nigel Webb direct at 29 Well Street, Langham, Oakham, LE15 7JS or [randewebb@aol.com](mailto:randewebb@aol.com) or by telephone on 01572 723570.



### Did Mr Rich reach Cairo?

Ali Bey Abassi (1766-1816), born Domingo Badia y Leblich in Barcelona, from 1803 to the end of his life travelled often in the Near East as a wealthy Muslim. In Cyprus early in 1806, he met in Limasol at the house of Consul Demetrio Franiondi, an Englishman, Mr Rich, who was "going to Cairo to arrange the accounts of the East India Company". He spoke Turkish and Persian very well, had "adopted the costume and manners of the Mussulmen...and spoke of Mameluke Elfi Bey with enthusiasm." Is anything further known about Mr Rich?

Please reply to Deborah Manley, 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE

### Links with Northern Ireland

*Brenda Moon visited Northern Ireland in September. Her visit raised some queries.*

In the Irish Linen Centre, Lisburn, a piece of linen from the tomb of Tutankhamun is displayed, with the note that it was donated by Mr F. Moorehead of Kilkenny, County Down, in 1994. He had been given it by his uncle, Lt. Col. Victor Unsworth, a buyer for the York Street Flax Spinning Company, who had been given it by Howard Carter.

In the Ulster Museum, Belfast, there are three other interesting items in the Egyptian Gallery. The first is identified as the mummy of Takabuti, c. 660BC, brought back from Thebes in 1834 by Thomas Greg of Ballymenoch House, Hollywood, near Belfast, and unrolled on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1835. The Rev. Edward Hincks (1792-1866), of Killyleagh was able to decipher the hieroglyphs, and identified the girl as the daughter of Nespere, a priest of Amun and Taseniref. Secondly, there is a mummy and case of Tjesmutperet, a woman, donated to Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society by Sir James Emerson Tennant, in 1845. He is said to have obtained it in Thebes on his way back from his post as Civil Secretary to the Governor of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). It was found in the entrance to the Valley of the Kings, and has been dated c. 630 BC. Her father was Remmakhenu, Prophet of Monto, her mother Tamutsherit. Another gift of Sir James, donated in the same year, is on display: a block of sculptured stone said to be the finders of the two statues, known as the Colossi of Memnon.

It would be interesting to hear whether more is known of these travellers and collectors of Egyptian antiquities.

Please reply to Brenda Moon, 4 Cobden Road, Edinburgh EH9 2BJ. Tel: 0131 667 0071. E-mail: bemoon@fish.co.uk.

### Travellers coming the other way

A research area which has not been carried far within ASTENE is that of travellers from the East to Europe. Particularly relevant when we meet in Manchester in 2005 is Mameluke Elfi Bey, slave and heir of Murat Bey, who accompanied the departing British from Egypt to Malta in 1801 and travelled to England. He treated with the British "upon matters which altogether suited his ambition, and the interest of Great Britain", according to Ali Bey (I.335) He returned to Egypt "loaded with presents and riches". Within a short time he was plundered, his goods were stolen, broken in pieces and sold, and British plans came eventually to nought.

It is a confused but fascinating tale, and perhaps, from the British end at least, worth unearthing. Both Ali Bey and Lord Valentia had at least heard gossip about him, and Samuel Briggs purchased his piano.

Please send any information on Elfi Bey to Deborah Manley, 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE, and consider offering a future paper on travel from the Near East to Europe or elsewhere.

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EGYPTIAN VINE GATHERERS.