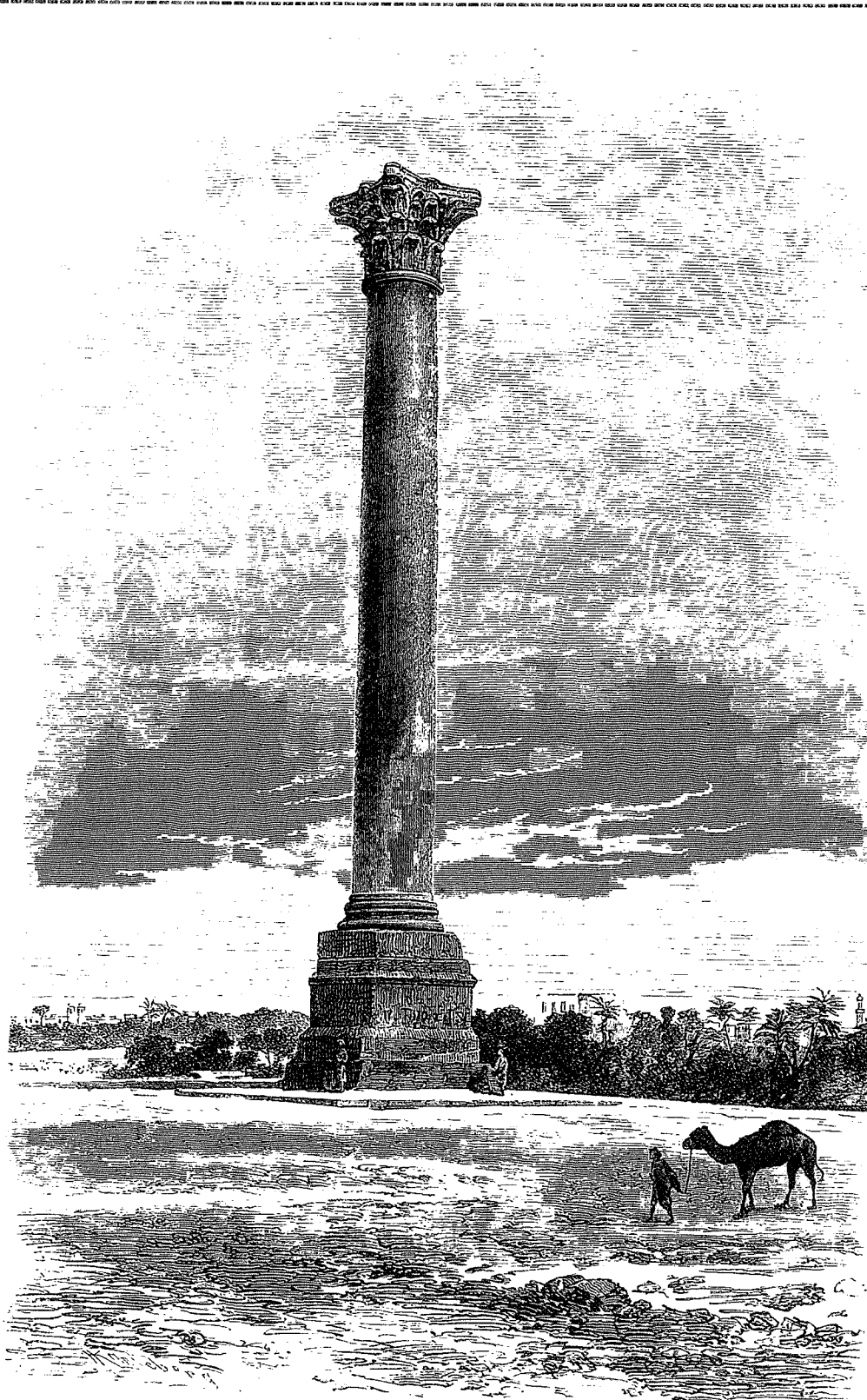


**Bulletin of the Association for the Study
of Travel in Egypt and the Near East:
Notes and Queries**

Number 19

Spring 2004



POMPEY'S PILLAR

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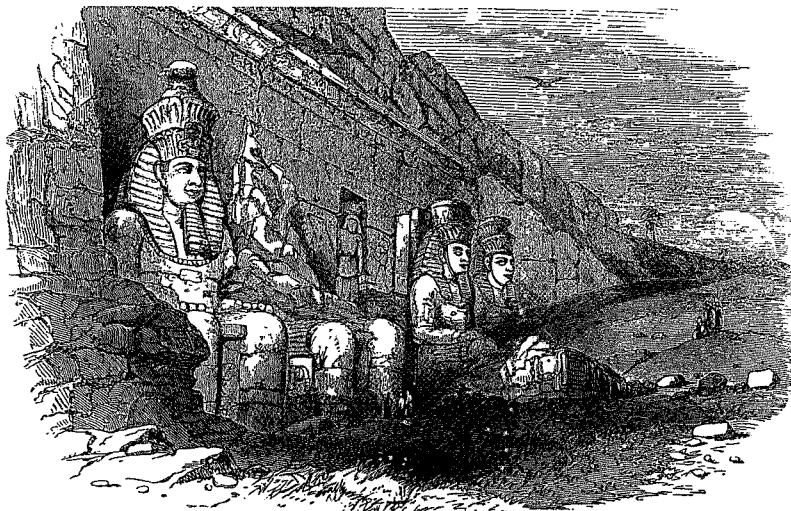
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The next Bulletin will appear in July 2004. The deadline for articles and reports is 1 June, but if you can send your material earlier it greatly helps the Editor.

ASTENE EVENTS

This spring and early autumn ASTENE has three new ventures – introducing our activities into new settings – and to wider audiences: a day at the Florence Nightingale Museum and the Houses of Parliament; an ASTENE tour and conference in Cyprus; participation in a study day and holding our AGM at the National Portrait Gallery.



INTO NUBIA AND BEYOND: EGYPT ABOVE THE CATARACT

The contributors to the study day at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education on 21st February were: Dr Jacke Phillips, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge; Dr Patricia Usick, Archivist at the British Museum; Dr John Alexander, St John's College, Cambridge; Dr Jaromir Malek, The Griffiths Institute, University of Oxford.

The opening remarks from Dr Malek, Keeper of the Griffith Institute at the new Sackler Library in Oxford and Vice-President of ASTENE, told us something of the history of Nubia – always a separate geographical entity – and set out the economic and social need for the first Aswan Dam, and thereafter our attention was placed firmly on the heroine of the day – the Nile.

Dr Phillips - with a broken wrist which allowed her to be with us rather than excavating the sites she was to describe – set out some clear facts. That the flow of the Nile was a paradox: it flowed from South to North with Nubia in the South; that there were seven cataracts rather than the often accepted figure of six, and then, taking the date of 1898 with the first moves towards the building of the first Aswan Dam, she demonstrated how the construction of the Dam changed everything for ever.

She showed photographs of the work to unearth and record artefacts which could not be saved and would soon be lost in the floods. The excavations were as remarkable as the quality of the photographs which underpinned her presentation. But above all it was the skills and endeavour which were needed to move some of the massive temples from the site away from the flooding area and their reconstruction in a place of safety which caught the imagination of the audience. The

work on the third dam in the 1960s was the more impressive because it represented a huge international team backed by UNESCO and saw the uprooting and re-siting of whole communities to new and unfamiliar areas. She also presented us with a vignette of the logistics of archaeology. When the work started it took 30 hours to drive across the desert to the work zone, and the difficult journey was broken by the occasional stop with refreshments and a rest area set up by enterprising Bedouin families. Once a road was constructed, the journey only took six hours so only the derelict kiosks remained.

Those of us who heard Patricia Usick's talk at the Travellers' Club last October expected an elegant, scholarly and witty talk and she exceeded our hopes. She told of William Bankes (1786-1855), a man of immense wealth and talent, described by his contemporaries as brilliant, proud and arrogant but highly skilled in Latin and Greek. Dr Usick showed that he was also a skilled artist with an acute eye and the ability to take his observations to their logical conclusion. He provided posterity with paintings, drawings, records and worked plans which are unique as evidence of what the world has lost. His cooperation with Henry Salt and Alessandro Ricci, perhaps most of all, was particularly fruitful.

Again we had an excellent selection of illustrations, including some of his elegant house at Kingston Lacey with the obelisk brought back after his travels – and were shown an illustration of the problems of retrieving it.

Dr Malek revealed to us the value of the archive being formed at the Griffith Institute. We saw a number of early photographs with modern comparisons and learned much about the early photographers. They had seen the market potential for their work and we saw a typical catalogue from which tourists could

build up a collection. But, just as the Bedouins had lost their kiosks to progressive road building, so Eastman's development of a small camera made it possible for the visitors to take their own photographs and destroyed the demand for the high quality and quite stunning images provided by the professionals. To see two photographs a hundred years apart was interesting not only for the content but also for what often seemed the superior quality of the older photographs.

It seems strange to recall Dr Alexander's talk by mentioning his slide of camel dung – but what he showed us was an image of the earliest recorded camel dung (and, therefore, proof of the presence of camels) which I believe he said was 8th century BC. He showed us how so much of our knowledge of Nubia has been derived. There were detailed pictures of the water wheel from which matter had been retrieved providing invaluable information about the crops then in production. We saw places deserted in 1812 and never occupied since and some fragments of manuscripts.

The final talk brought back Dr Phillips looking at travel beyond the second cataract. In this talk we saw more of the artefacts and temples but were also taken through quotations, ancient and modern, ranging from 2280BC to 1904AD. In the first we had a description of 300 donkeys laden with incense, ebony, leopard skins, elephant tusks, throwsticks, and such. (Harkuf, auto-biography). Reverend Waddington, in 1821, describes a boat journey straight out of Virgil and Butler (1884) describes “a night of perfect temperature and beauty and a vast expanse of yellow sand glistening like a sea of amber. Men often speak of the beautiful moonlight on the Nile....”

At the end of the afternoon Dr Malek brought us back to the reality of recording. The photographic record of the Griffith Institute is available to all through the Ashmolean website. But he urged all of us to let him know of any records or photographs of Nubia – many of which are found in unexpected places. The importance of the region has been recognised by the British Museum by changing the title of the Department of Egyptian Antiquities to the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan – an exhibition will take place in the autumn to mark this advance. (We plan to give details in the July Bulletin).

Judith Loades

THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

The excavation which was necessary in order to lay the foundation of the embankment wall before the new houses of Parliament has been the means of bringing to light numerous relics of antiquity; among them is a great number of daggers and swords, especially the former, of all shapes, sizes and sorts of workmanship.... Keys of various sizes, and some very curious workmanship; a variety of old coins... together with two or three earthen pots, some fossils of an ordinary class, one or two cannon balls, and several human skulls, make up the collection, which is the property of Mr Barry, the architect, who previously to the excavation, made an agreement that all curiosities, &c. found were to be given up to him, but the labourers no doubt have privately disposed of many.

Gentlemen's Magazine, July, 1839

(Mr Barry may have learnt the art of collecting while he toured Egypt and the Near East in 1818-1819 as described by Dr Usick at the meeting in the Travellers' Club in November... Ed.)

TRAVELLERS AND POLITICIANS

ASTENE Events Organiser, Elizabeth Woodthorpe, worked with Josy Eldred to organise this somewhat complex day, Monday 5th April, 2004. It started with a visit to the Houses of Parliament, continued in the afternoon to the Florence Nightingale Museum on the other side of the Thames and ended in the evening with two papers on Members of Parliament who travelled in the Near East.

The report of this day will appear in the next Bulletin.



Water Carriers.

FORTHCOMING ASTENE EVENTS

ASTENE CYPRUS TOUR AND CONFERENCE

There are still some places remaining for the ASTENE conference and tour organised by Dr Rita Severis in Cyprus 11th - 19th September. If you are interested, please contact Events Organiser Elizabeth Woodthorpe on 0207 622 3694. for full details and a booking form.

Papers are beginning to be offered for the Conference, including Dido's Travels; 19th century Intruders into the Haram Shereef; Leake's Lost Journey, 1800; John Sibthorp and the *Flora Graecae*.

The cost of the tour is £885 (double rooms) or £995 (single) and covers flights, the conference, hotels, all meals but one, transport, guided tours and entrance fees.

We are staying in three star hotels in Nicosia, Paphos and Larnaca. For members not coming from UK and flying independently but staying for the whole tour the cost is £210 less.

The programme includes the conference at the Famagusta Gate, Nicosia, visits to Kakopetria and Paphos, excursions in and near Paphos, and visits en route to Larnaca.

George Sandys wrote of Cyprus in his *A Relation of a Journey begun in 1610* (3rd edition 1627, p. 281):
*I sing of Venus crowned with gold; renowned
For faire: that Cyprus guards, by Neptune bound
Her in soft some mild-breathing zephyr bore
On murmuring waves unto that fruitful shore.*

Alexander Kinglake of *Eothen* fame was in Cyprus briefly. "My intended journey was to the site of the Paphian temple. I take no antiquarian interest in ruins, and care little about them, unless they are either striking in themselves, or else serve to mark some spot on which my fancy loves to dwell. I knew that the ruins of Paphos were scarcely, if at all, discernible, but there was a will and a longing more imperious than mere curiosity that drove me thither."

Other Travellers to Cyprus

Sir Samuel Baker, *Cyprus as I saw It in 1879*, 1879; L.P. Cesnola, *Cyprus: its Ancient Cities, Tombs and Temples*, 1877 (reprinted 1991); Arno Fellman, *Voyage en Orient du Roi Erik Ejegod et sa mort a Paphos in 1103*, 1938; Rider Haggard, *A Winter Pilgrimage*, 1901; W.H. Mallock, *In an Enchanted Island*, 1889; Richard Pococke was there in 1738 and Edward Daniel Clarke in 1801.....

STUDY DAY AT THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY 10:30 – 4:30 Saturday 25th September

To accompany their exhibition *Off the Beaten Track: Three Centuries of Women Travellers* the National Portrait Gallery is holding a Study Day in conjunction with ASTENE. The morning will consist of three talks about women travelling to all regions of the world, including women from abroad who visited Britain. The afternoon will focus on women travellers to Egypt and the Near East with speakers from ASTENE.

A booking form is included in this Bulletin for UK and EU members. Other interested members, please use the booking form on the ASTENE website. The Study Day is open to everyone. Space is limited and, to avoid disappointment, please book early. The ASTENE AGM which follows the Study Day will, of course, be open to all ASTENE members whether or not they attend the day.

STUDY DAY PROGRAMME

- 10:30 Welcome and introduction by Clare Gittings, Curator of the exhibition
- 10:40 Dea Birkett: *Off the Beaten Track: Three centuries of women travellers*
- 11:15 Caroline Bressey: *Women travellers to Britain*
- 11:50 Susanna Hoe: *Some globetrotters in Ceylon*
- 12:25 Lunch
- 2 pm Charles Plouviez: *Two feisty ladies in the Levant: Princess Caroline and Lady Craven*
- 2:35 Mary S. Lovell: *Syrian Lives: Isabel Burton and Jane Digby*
- 3:10 Sarah Searight: *A woman's perception: Lucie Duff Gordon in 19th century Egypt*
- 3:45 Discussion 4-4:30 Tea and disperse
- 4:30-5:30 ASTENE Annual General Meeting (members only). Please note that the Lecture Theatre closes at 5:45.

A Maxim for Travellers

Mrs (Sophia) Poole entered the country (Egypt) with the wise and amiable conviction that if you have any wish to be pleased among a new people, you should begin by endeavouring to please them. *Quarterly Review*, December 1844, p. 109

MANCHESTER STUDY DAY

Travellers in Egypt and on the Nile

On Saturday 6th November ASTENE plans to will hold a Study Day in association with Manchester University's Department of Continuing Education. Further details will appear in the next Bulletin. The proposed programme is:

Dr Philip Sadgrove of Middle East Studies, Manchester University: *The political background of early travel in Egypt*

Deborah Manley, author of a biography of Henry Salt: *How people travelled in Egypt*

Anne Wolff (author of *How Many Miles to Babylon?*) *Early foreign travellers: merchants and pilgrims*

Brenda Moon, formerly Librarian, Edinburgh University: *Thomas Legh of Lyme Park*

Further details and booking arrangements will appear in the July Bulletin.

ORDERING ASTENE BOOKS

As explained in the last Bulletin, ASTENE's books – including *Travellers in the Near East*, – are now distributed by Oxbow Books at special discount prices to members. You can order by phone, mail or e-mail from Britain or from USA. You can also ask for a free catalogue of other titles carried by Oxbow on the cultures of Egypt and the Near East.

Outside North America

Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN,

Tel: 44 (0) 1865 241249; Fax: 44 (0) 1865 794449

E-mail: oxbow@oxbowbooks.com

Within North America

The David Brown Book Company, PO Box 511

(28 Main Street) Oakville, CT 06779, USA.

Toll free tel: 800 791 9354; Tel: 860 945 0329;

Fax: 860 945 9468;

E-mail: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net

TRAVELLERS IN THE NEAR EAST

We have long awaited this collection of papers from the Edinburgh conference and are happy to be able to pass on the Chairman's report.:

Regular readers of the Bulletin, as well as early subscribers to the book, will have gathered that our hopes for an early publication date for the latest ASTENE volume were not realised. I must apologise for that on behalf of the Executive Committee. In fact, various problems, - 'beyond our control' – beset the

publication programme. At the time of writing, I am informed by the publishers, Stacey International, that progress is 'good', and the book will be ready at a date, which I calculate to be late March, from the length of various production stages mentioned to me. *Malcolm Wagstaff, Chair ASTENE Executive Committee*

Notes on Cleaning and Conservation, R.G.S.

Hints to Travellers, II, p158, London, 1906

Papyrus. – Papyrus needs dampening and flattening out as far as possible without breaking its fibre. Lay it between two damp towels, and after flattening, pack it between sheets of paper in close tin boxes, fitting each box up tightly. But the traveller will be wise not to try too much. As soon as the edges of his roll or fragment cease to be brittle to the touch he had best leave them as they are without further unrolling, and pack very carefully away.

(Advice on conservation supplied by D. G. Hogarth).

OTHER EVENTS

Please send information about events likely to interest ASTENE members around the world to Eileen Marshall's e-mail:

Eileen@emarshall61.fsnet.co.uk

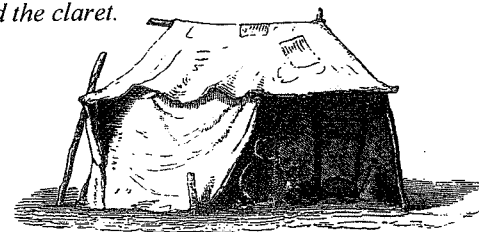
or post or fax to the Bulletin Editor.

Benjamin Disraeli: Scenes from an Extraordinary Life

at the Bodleian Library
This exhibition opened just as the last Bulletin went to press and closes on 1st May. For those who missed it here is a relevant highlight.

A letter to his father dated 4th August 1825 about an evening at Albemarle Street hosted by John Murray for former and current African expeditions. Disraeli met there Major Denham, Captains Clapperton, Pearce, King and Smith, 'Chinese' Ellis, a brother of Mungo Park, and Roger Wilbraham-White ('sleek and smiling').

Murray did his duty as the host and a gentleman equally well, although one time in the evening he took off a coarse mourning ring and swore it was Belzoni's hair! I never heard tell of it till that day. However, it caused an effect – the company sympathised and passed the claret.



Ahabdeh Tent.

“A NOBLE SPACE”: THE BRITISH MUSEUM ENLIGHTENMENT GALLERY

The Gentleman's Magazine, April, 1828:

This splendid pile of building, for the reception of the library given to the public by his Majesty, is now completely finished, and the books removed thither.

The article continues with a detailed description of the building, its structure and the decoration that enriched it. (p.349)

On a sun-filled January day in 2004, the startling stark beauty of the Great Court of the British Museum ensured that walking into the restored King's Library was walking into another era where, an enthusiastic American told me, I would see “a great show”. The *Guardian* (7 December 2003) described it as “state of the art circa 1827” and lauded the continuity of Smirke's “largest neoclassical interior in London” now restored by the international architectural firm HOK which, in Britain, “has acquired some serious cultural design expertise.”

This setting, for decades dimmed by the necessities of manuscript display, is now arranged to illustrate aspects of discovery and learning – from Isaac Newton to George IV – centring on the founding of the Museum in 1753. Somehow Claudius Rich, Henry Salt and Giovanni Belzoni have been embraced.

The Enlightenment Gallery is open free daily 10 to 5, and until 8:30 Thursday and Friday. Free gallery tours daily from 12:30. Audio tour (£3.50). More information on the Museum's website: www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/enlightenment

The book ‘Enlightenment: Discovering the World in the Eighteenth Century’ provides an impressively illustrated background. ISBN 0-7141-2765-5 at £29.95

GREEK GOLD: from the treasure chambers of the Hermitage

Hermitage Amsterdam, Neerlandia Building, Noenwe Herrengracht 14, Amsterdam (www.hermitage.nl). Until 29th August 2004. The first phases of the Hermitage Amsterdam opened in late February. This inaugural exhibition brings from the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg a selection of Greek gold dating from 6th-2nd century BC, found in the Black Sea.

COLOURS OF MEDIEVAL CYPRUS: ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE 1191-1571

A unique exhibition of glazed pottery, maps and other objects from the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia. 4th-30th May at the Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington St, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS. Mon.-Fri. 10 – 6; Tues open until 9:30 pm. Sat - Sun 12-5.

THE SILK ROAD: Trade, travel, war and faith

Advertised as “fascinating artefacts from around the world” at the British Library. 7 May – 5 September. Admission free.

EXOTIC ENCOUNTER: THE MEETING OF ASIA AND EUROPE 1500-1800

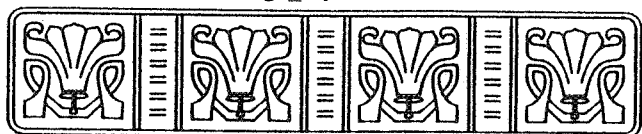
Victoria and Albert Museum, London from 23rd September – 5 December 2004. More details in the next Bulletin.

At that time we will also have details of a British Museum exhibition entitled “Treasures from Khartoum: The Kingdom of Kush”.

IMAGE AND REPRESENTATION: Wereldmuseum Rotterdam

This is a permanent exhibition consisting of Western objects from the 19th and 20th centuries that demonstrate how people of the West looked at other cultures. Most of the objects reveal the presumed Western superiority. The items on display are everyday objects: decorative items, toys, tins, books and advertising material from Europe and the United States. In addition to the vision of scholars, world travellers, and photographers, the impression of traders and artists contributed significantly to the development of fantasies of other cultures. Movements such as Chinoiserie, Japonism and Orientalism can clearly be recognised in the objects. From a colonial perspective, the West was considered to be progressive and civilized, (reports the web site) and the Middle East static, violent and magical, with ‘Thousand and one nights’ recurrent topic.

For more details, refer to http://www.wereldmuseum.rotterdam.nl/engelse_site/exhibitions/image_representation.html



HEAVEN ON EARTH – THE ART FROM ISLAMIC LANDS 25 March – 22 August Hermitage Rooms, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2.

Drawing on the Hermitage collection in St Petersburg and the Nasser D. Khalil Collection of Islamic Art, London, this important exhibition shows the fine and decorative arts of Islam: calligraphy, paintings, textiles, jewels, metalwork and ceramics – used to glorify God and human rulers. Open daily: 10-6. Admission adults £5, £4 concessions. Bookings and information: 020 7845 4630 and www.hermitagerooms.org.uk

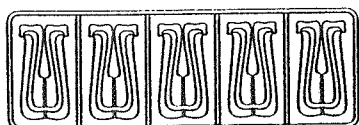
EXPLORE THE MIDDLE EAST

Until 30th April at the British Museum – a series of daily events (lunchtime gallery talks and lectures, a conference (20-21 April: The Levant in Transition – The Intermediate Early Bronze Age, 0207 323 8181) and storytelling and music on Sundays. For more information, ring 020 7323 8299.

THE PATH OF BEAUTY & HAPPINESS 19 April – 5 September 2004
A temporary exhibition offering an overview of the ideas and manner of life of Islamic mystics, as they are today and as they were in the past, including beautifully designed works of art, ritual objects, photographs, poetry and mystical music at the Wereldmuseum Rotterdam.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES MONTH
The theme for the national celebration Museums and Galleries Month in May is 'Travel and the art of travelling'. Details of events near you from www.may2004.org.uk

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 (near Kensington High Street). The artist Frederic Leighton travelled in Egypt and North Africa and built this reflection of Islamic architecture, now a museum and gallery.
Further information and special occasions, ring (020) 7602 3316 or visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhouse.museum.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK AT THE NPG

The exhibition on women travellers will open at the National Portrait Gallery in London in July. We will give detailed information in the next Bulletin.

LONDON OLYMPIA ABA BOOK FAIR
For those who are drawn to second-hand travel books, this fair, 3-6 June, will be a temptation. For complimentary tickets and their catalogue telephone The Traveller's Bookshelf 01225 722589.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

DAVID ROBERTS
On 10th May at 7:45 Shirley Addy will address the Manchester Ancient Egypt Society on *David Roberts: his life and work*. The meeting will be held in the Renold Building, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester.

EUROPE AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD: CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS, 1453-1798
Conference at the Early Modern Research Centre, University of Reading 14-16 July, 2004

The conference will look at the Mediterranean as a region which facilitated cross-currents, trade relations and diplomatic exchanges. Britain's first engagements with Eastern countries in cultural, political and economic terms provide another possible starting point. Papers will encompass official encounters as well as individual go-betweens, private histories and travel narratives. The organisers are concerned to balance Western accounts with Eastern/Islamic perspectives.

The Call for Papers (which we received too late for this Bulletin – but has now been extended for ASTENE members to early May) suggests such topics as Perceptions of the Ottoman Empire; Persia, India, North Africa; Communication and intelligence networks; stereotypes in art and literature; Travel writing; Trade; Globalization in historical perspective; Diplomatic/political relations; Theatre, Music, Cross-cultural exchange.

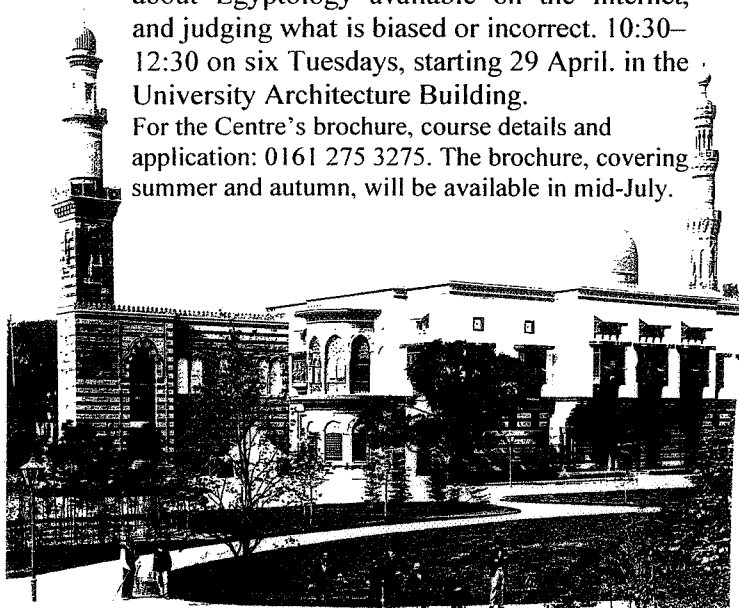
Further information from: Mark Hutchings, School of English and American Literature, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AA, UK.
m.p.v.hutchings@reading.ac.uk

COURSES AT MANCHESTER

Manchester University Centre for Continuing Education is running two courses this term which may be of interest to members: *Egyptian Hieroglyphs: Reading Royal Inscriptions* for students with a basic knowledge of hieroglyphs: 5, 6, 8, 9 July, 10 am – 4 pm in the University Humanities Building. £62.

Digital Egyptology: exploring information about Egyptology available on the Internet, and judging what is biased or incorrect. 10:30–12:30 on six Tuesdays, starting 29 April. in the University Architecture Building.

For the Centre's brochure, course details and application: 0161 275 3275. The brochure, covering summer and autumn, will be available in mid-July.



Palace of the Viceroys of Egypt, Cairo in 1873 (by Michael Frankenstein) from the exhibition of Oriental art in Vienna. (Museen der Stadt Wien)

OUTINGS WITH THE TRAVELLERS

National Trust properties in England and Northern Ireland are open for the new season. The 19th century travellers being mainly of the “landed gentry” class, there are a number of houses with links to travellers in the ASTENE region. We have previously mentioned Calke Abbey with its associations with Gardner Wilkinson and Kingston Lacey, W.J. Bankes' home. Among others are:

Claydon House, near Buckingham, was the flamboyant, rococo home of the Verney family. Florence Nightingale's sister became Lady Verney, and Florence was a regular visitor. There are mementoes of her. It is the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War. Special events this summer are an exhibition about the War and Florence's part in it, and special Supper Tours with a talk “exploring the enduring legend of Florence Nightingale. Supper and a glass of wine £23. 4th June and 11th June, 7 – 10:30.

Clouds Hill, Wareham, Dorset the retreat of T.E. Lawrence from 1925. An exhibition details his extraordinary life.

Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset was owned by the Bankes family, although Kingston Lacey (at Wimborne) is more closely linked.

Chartwell, Westerham, Kent, home of Winston Churchill from 1924, remains as it was in his lifetime. Churchill was in Egypt and the Sudan while in the army.

Hughenden Manor, near High Wycombe was the home of Benjamin Disraeli, prime minister and statesman. He travelled in the Near East. 2004 is the bicentenary of his birth and there are special events, some of them concentrating on Victorian life: gardening, bedroom secrets, and a fashion show (1804-1904) 10 and 11 July, noon and 3 pm.

St John's Jerusalem, near Dartford, Kent – the chapel was once part of the Knights Hospitaller Commandery church established in 1199.

Lyme Park, Disley, near Manchester, was the home of the traveller Thomas Legh. (We plan to include a visit to during the Manchester Conference.) It featured in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Castle Coole, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland a very fine neo-classical house (James Wyatt), still the home of the Earls of Belmore – the second and third earls both travelled to the Near East.

Florence Court, Enniskillen is one of the most important houses in Ulster. Juliana, Countess of Belmore, wife of the second earl, grew up here.

Mount Stewart House, Newtonards, Co. Down, was the home of the Londonderrys. The Marchioness wrote of their Eastern travels in the 1840s. The house and gardens are a treasure – the garden a World Heritage site; the paintings world famous.

[Jennifer Scarce very kindly trawled the list of Scottish National Trust properties for the Bulletin, but made no finds.

Do members know of relevant – possibly privately owned - properties open to the public?]

OTHER SOCIETIES

EGYPTIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION

In 1845 this Society published the first number of its proceedings for the year 1842 in Alexandria, entitled *Miscellanea Aegyptiaca*, Vol. 1, Part 1. It contained an account of the foundation of the Association; followed by several papers of interest: a tour to Bubastis, Sebennytyus and Menzaleh by Sir Gardner Wilkinson; extracts of a Journal of Travels by J.G. Bell; An Excursion to the Eastern Part of Lower Egypt by M.E. Prisse, “written in a lively and instructive manner”; Notes on the Senaar, and Observations on the Climate of Egypt by Dr Verdot. (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1845, p.401) Is any reader working on this Association?

A FORERUNNER OF ASTENE? - THE SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOCIETY

On December 3, 1845 the *Gentleman's Magazine* reported the first meeting of a Society bearing this designation in Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square. "The learned orientalist, Dr John Lee, delivered upon the occasion an introductory address, in which he particularly pointed out the advantages which might and have accrued to the progress of discovery in regard to Egypto-Syrian antiquities and history, by the labours of persons residing in the country, as well as by travellers."

Upwards of seventy members had enrolled their names, including : Professor Lepsius, Reverend Thomas Jarrett, Drs Renouard and Hincks, and Messrs Ainsworth, Floyd and Campbell, late members of the Euphrates Expedition.

It was not contemplated originally that the Society would be more than a private association of those interested in Syro-Egyptian history and remains; ...but... so great an interest had been evinced in the plans and objects of the society that "it was deemed advisable to open the doors to all who take pleasure in observing the changes which are now going on in the East – to establish lectures and conversazione, and to admit ladies as well as gentlemen. (P.73)

Has any reader followed the development of the Society?

THE ASSOCIATION OF MALTESE COMMUNITIES OF EGYPT

We remind readers of this Association which has allowed us to publish an article from their newsletter. The Association has its origins in Egypt in 1854 when a small number of Maltese workers grouped themselves around their local church in Alexandria and formed The Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Through the years it expanded its activities to mutual help, benevolent societies, clubs, philodramatic and philoharmonic groups, ladies' unions, Scouts, Guides, football teams etc. in Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez.

When in 1956 the Maltese, as British subjects, left Egypt, they transferred their welfare and social activities to England and joined into the continuing Association of Maltese Communities in Egypt.

The Association continues its work and has a regular AMCOE Newsletter.

Further inquiries to the Hon. Treasurer, Mt Herbert Magri-Overend, 34 Mills Rd, Melksham, Wilts SN 12 7DT.

With their agreement we publish later in this Bulletin an article from their 2004 Newsletter. Readers looking at the Maltese travellers who supported many other travellers in the Near East, will be interested in Charles Catania's book *Andrea de Bono: Maltese Explorer on the White Nile*, 338 pp., 2002, £9.99 which we hope to review later this year.



ON THE NILE.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

DORSET RECORD OFFICE

The Dorset Record Office – like all county records offices - holds rich and varied archive collections, dating from 965AD to the present day, including charters, maps, modern transcripts of parish registers, ancient payment rolls, etc, etc. Its special interest to us lies in its holding of the Bankes Archive. In particular, the correspondence of William John Bankes includes many letters from travellers in Egypt and the Near East, such as: Belzoni (7), Buckingham (14), Burckhardt (3), E.D. Clarke (1), Finati (3), Fuller (1), Irby (1), Leake (3), Linant (20), Richards (8), Salt (the largest group at 32).

It is advisable to make an appointment before visiting, but no references are required, and there is no charge. The staff are very helpful.

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9a.m. – 5p.m. Wednesday 10-5pm; Saturday 9:30-12:30

Address: Dorset Record Office, Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1RP **Tel:** 01305 250 550 **Fax:** 01305 257 184 **email:** archives@dorset-cc.gov.uk **website:** <http://www.dorset-cc.gov.uk/archives.htm>

While in the pleasant town of Dorchester, visit.

The Tutankhamum Exhibition

It is open every day of the year from 9:30 to 5:30 in High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset. Tel: 01305 269571; www.tutankhamum-exhibition.co.uk According to their brochure, this would be an unforgettable experience:

"Walk through Tutankhamum's tomb filled with its fabulous treasure – where sight, sound and smell combine to recreate in superb facsimile the world's greatest discovery of ancient treasure."

Unfortunately your informants were unable to make this a personal recommendation as our last visit was on a warm summer day and, after a morning's hard work in the Record Office, they noticed there was a bus to the seaside resort of Weymouth for the afternoon. Next time, we promised ourselves!

Peta Ree

RESOURCES IN MANCHESTER

In July 2005 ASTENE will be holding its biennial conference and AGM in Manchester. Manchester has always had strong business links with the Near East and this is reflected in their archives.

Dr Philip Sadgrove of Manchester University Department of Middle East Studies kindly provided information on relevant research resources in Manchester to help members to begin to plan their visit. He also referred readers to Noel Matthews and M. Doreen Wainwright's *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles relating to the Middle East and North Africa*, Oxford, 1980.

Archives of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 1794-1945 (130 vols.), Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD

Information on trade with the Middle East and North Africa, 1821-1926, M8/1-M8/7; Minutes of the Middle East and North African Section, 1916-26; Minutes of the Board of Directors, Committees and Sections 1927-45 (M8/5/1-53) including those on Middle East and North African Trade and the Egypt, Greece and Levant Section; Manuscripts of Aug. Mariette-Bey 1870 (MS. 913.32.M3)

For permission to consult these papers application should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Manchester.

Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester 3

A volume containing tables of weights, measures, and mercantile memoranda, relating to the Turkey trade: Smyrna, Constantinople, Aleppo, Tripoli, Damascus, 1705-52. (Acc. No. 33662)

The John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Manuscript Dept., Oxford Rd, Manchester, M13 9PP

The John Rylands Library is, sadly for us, closed for improvements over the next 2-3 years, but we are discussing what of relevance to ASTENE might be made available.

Among manuscripts held in the Library are: Miscellaneous paper relating to trade with Turkey. Late 18th century. 34 ff. (Eng. MS. 519) and copies of trading reports 1765-1766 from Smyrna (Eng. MS. 520)

Letters concerning J.L. Burckhardt and Dr Charles Meryon, 1815-16. Notes and papers of Dr William Hibbert on Egypt which he travelled through in 1836. (Eng. MS. 1025) Letters from Lord Lindsay from Egypt and Palestine 1836-7. Letters from Robert Lindsay V.C. from the Crimea to his parents and family. 1853-6. (Crawford Muniments) Other letters relating to the Crimean campaign (Hibbert-Ware Papers; Bromley Davenport Muniments)

Papers and diaries of the Pre-Raphaelite painter William Holman Hunt (1827-1910), some relating to his travels in Palestine and Egypt in 1854, 1855 and 1872. (Eng. MS. 1211; MS. 1215-16)

Correspondence between Beke and Purdy relating to Palgrave, Rassam and Layard, 1865-6. (Eng. MS.888)

Log-book and letters by John Francis Campbell written from Egypt and Syria in 1878. (Bromley Davenport Muniments)

Paper of W. Frederick Connor (1886-7) from Palestine. (Eng. MS. 705 and 705a)

Archives of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, 1906-65. Hand-list of contents at the Reference and Information point.

The Manchester Regiment Museum, Queen's Park Art Gallery, Manchester
Manchester-raised regiments served in Egypt, the Crimea Mesopotamia and the Sudan at different times over two centuries.

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY LIBRARY AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

We are grateful to the Smuts Librarian, Rachel M. Rowe, for this information.

From its foundation in 1868, the organisation known successively as the Colonial Society, Royal Colonial Institute, Royal Empire Society and finally the Royal Commonwealth Society, amassed a library on the British Empire, the Commonwealth and member countries – an astonishing range of books, pamphlets, periodicals, official publications, manuscripts and photographs – approximately 300,000 printed items and over 70,000 photographs. In 1993 the RCS Library moved to Cambridge. The Library now does not add new publications but occasionally acquires and accepts relevant manuscript or photographic archives.

Within the collection there is material on Egypt, Sudan and the Near East. For anyone

researching travel through the Suez Canal it is most useful as the photograph in the next column indicates.

LIBRARY ACCESS

Address: Royal Commonwealth Society Library, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR

Telephone: +44(0)1223 333146 to the Librarian on Wed., Thurs, and some Fridays. At other times to Peter Meadows in the Manuscripts Department on 01123 333141. **Fax:** +44 (0)1223 333160. **Email:** rcs@lib.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9:30 – 18.50; Sat 9:30 – 12:30 Closed mid-September for annual inspection, and 24 December – 1 January inclusive and Good Friday-Easter Monday inclusive.

Booking and Credentials: Please contact the Librarian well in advance to view manuscripts and archives. Pre-booking is wise but not essential for the photographic collection.

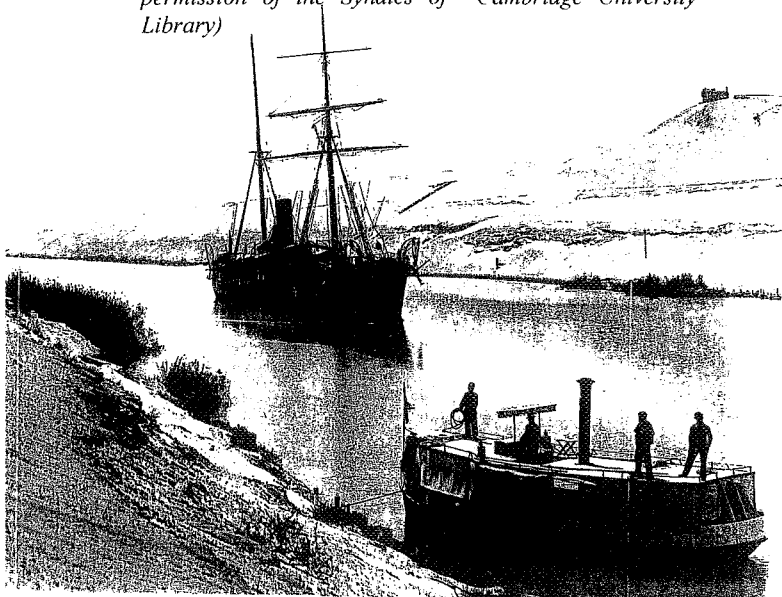
A Reader's Ticket is required. See homepage: <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk>. In addition readers who are not RCS members need a letter of introduction. See also Cambridge University Library Reader's Handbook <http://www.cam.ac.uk/readershandbook/readershandbook.htm> :

Section D2 gives information about accessing the published collections within the RCS Library, including use of the extensive subject card catalogue.

Section D3 contains information on accessing manuscripts, archives and photographic collections, including the catalogues available, regulations regarding reproductions and procedures for donations.

RCS Photograph Project: http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/rcs_photo_project/homepage.html gives details of the project to produce a web-searchable catalogue to the photograph collection and links to a gallery of digital images held in the collection.

A steamer proceeding along the Suez Canal with a small steam launch moored in the foreground. 1880-9 (by permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library)



THOMAS COOK ARCHIVE

Long-time readers of the *Bulletin* may remember that a short description of the important Thomas Cook Archive was given in Issue 4, p.17. Some changes have been made recently which potential users need to be aware of. The Archive has moved out of London and is now located at the Thomas Cook Archives, The Thomas Cook Business Park, Coningsby Road, Peterborough PE3 8SB. The archivist is Paul Smith. He can be contacted at: Telephone +44 (0) 1733 417350; Fax +44 (0) 1733 416255; e-mail paul.smith@thomascook.com There is also a website: <http://www.thomascook.info> which contains details of the main collections. These are fuller than in *Bulletin 4*. Access remains by appointment only, except for public holidays. The Archives are open 10 am – 4 pm, Monday to Friday. Appointments need to be made at least one week in advance and researchers must provide a written reference.

An interesting article about the potential of the Archive was published in the *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* vol. 36, Winter 2003, pp. 157-64, by F. Robert Hunter under the title 'The Thomas Cook Archive for the Study of Tourism in North Africa and the Middle East'.
Malcolm Wagstaff

TRAVELERS ON THE INTERNET

I was overjoyed when I returned to the US after years in Egypt and was able to take advantage of the Inter-Library Loan system in America. Then, teaching research and writing at a local college, I was pleased as each year electronic resources came of age. First, we were freed of the old, cumbersome index system for magazines and journals. Then we had resources like dictionaries, encyclopedias and, eventually, indexes and full magazine articles at our fingertips on the computer. We were slowly creeping into the information age and I was all for it.

Despite my enthusiasm I was unprepared for what I have now found. Thanks to a library system abbreviated OCLC (part of the Inter-Library Loan system in the States), I can research a name and find the persons' personal papers in library and museum archives in the US and elsewhere. Through this tool I have found the unpublished journals of dozens of

Americans who travelled to Egypt in the 19th century. For example, William Cowper Prime wrote a book of his travels to Egypt in 1855-6 – *Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia* (New York, 1857). Through the OCLC archives I have discovered his wife, Mary, and his brother-in-law, James Trumbull, who travelled with him, and wrote journals of that journey too. With an e-mail to the designated library, I was able to request and receive photocopies of the journals. They are a bonanza of heretofore unpublished information. Mary, for instance, recorded all the names of the people they met on the Nile...

There is more. Independent companies are now scanning old magazines and newspapers and making them available to universities, historical societies, and other organisations (for a fee).

I was able to use such an archive, called ProQuest, for a month. They have a variety of resources, dating back to the early 1800s: books, magazines, journals, newspapers, etc. I cannot begin to tell you the information I have uncovered on Americans in Egypt (my current and perhaps lifetime topic) in the past months, that would have been impossible to find before unless I knew the exact dates and travelled all over the United States to newspaper morgues and university libraries. For example, one writer went looking through Cairo for missing evidence. He mentioned his search in his book in two or three sentences. However, for the *New York Times* he wrote an entire article about this quest, giving great details otherwise lost.

The key to these sources, which makes them different from microfilm, is that the magazines and newspaper articles can be searched by keywords – cutting away days and weeks of drudgery. For example, I searched the phrase in the *New York Times* and found ads for an exhibition that was being held in New York. I then searched the same phrase in the *London Times* and discovered that the exact same exhibition was taking place in England at the same time. It was a revelation that proved duplicate exhibitions had been created by the artists. This is amazing stuff!

Electronic publishing is changing our world. What would have taken us years to do, we will soon be able to accomplish in months. The only down-side to this research is that it is expensive and it requires institutions to

subscribe to it. Despite its cost, electronic research is a welcome revolution.

Cassandra Vivian

AUCTION CATALOGUES IN LIBRARIES

Geoffrey Roper of the Islamic Bibliography Unit, Cambridge University Library tells us that there is nothing comparable to the Bodleian's card catalogue of auctions, but they do have a typescript of the late A.N.L. Munby giving alphabetical lists of owners of books and libraries sold at Hodgson's auction rooms before 1900, indexed by date; together with a similar list for Puttick and Simpson sales. The latter possibly a photocopy of a list at the British Library.

Do readers know of other examples of such useful catalogues?

NAVAL BIOGRAPHIES

Roger de Keersmaecker has introduced me to a series of useful sources for those working on travellers with a naval background.

Royal Naval Biography or Memoirs of the Services, John Marshall, Supplements Parts II and IV, London, 1830, 1833

Information on "all the Flag-Officers, superannuated Rear-Admirals, Retired-Captains, Post-Captains, and Commanders" whose names appear in the Admiralty List at various dates. The books include, for example, Lord Prudhoe, James Mangles, Armar Lowry Corry, Charles Irby.

A Naval Biographical Dictionary comprising the life and services of every living Officer in Her Majesty's Navy, William O'Byrne, John Murray, London, 1849 and 1861

It took O'Byrne "six years of unremitting toil, mental and physical ... to the entire exclusion of every other pursuit" to prepare this work – and one can only be impressed by his speed for it was a mammoth task. He too includes Armar Lowry Corry and Irby and Mangles.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE OR DEATH?

A new website (www.1837online.com) indexes every birth, marriage or death in England and Wales since records were centralised in 1837, using the official records of the Family Records Centre (website www.familyrecords.gov.uk).

The new site has been used by family historians for some time, but will now be more widely advertised. The cost is 10p a time.

The Mormon Family Search website has 35 million names and includes the 1881 British census.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW FOR DECEMBER 1844 – MARCH 1845 AND WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Those focusing on women travellers could usefully look at these issues of the Quarterly Review. In March 1845 there was a 40 page article on 'lady travellers' with several reviews. In December reviews of R.M. Milnes' *Palm Leaves* - in which he "lends to the Harem all support that which is derivable from the effect of his writings" - having, the acid reviewer suggests, "at once converted to Islam by the simple process of (being set) ashore at Alexandria." By contrast Sophia Lane Poole's *An Englishwoman in Egypt* "is an excellent little book ... giving us more information on the grand mystery of Oriental homesan we have ever been able to draw from other sources." *

The same volume also reviewed Kinglake's *Eothen* and another classic of travel in the East, Eliot Warburton's *The Crescent and the Cross* - the reviewer using it to inveigh against Buonaparte's expedition in the East - and the whole question of 'the French lake' and Britain's transit to Suez.

In March 1845 the travel accounts of Mrs Poole (again), Lady Frances Egerton, Countess Grosvenor, Mrs Dawson Damer, the Marchioness of Londonderry and Countess Hahn-Hahn were scrutinised. Naturally, many modern hackles will rise at many comments, but the reviewer concluded that, though the gentleman "knows more of ancient history and ancient languages, the lady knows more of human nature and modern languages." The same *Review* carried a 29 page article on Charles Meryon's *Memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope* (3 vols, pp.1150, London, 1845) starting with a debate about those who publish private correspondence after the writer's death, and, in this case, "a medical gentleman" publishing letters of "a lady - of high rank" - disapproval continues throughout the review.



Non-British readers may bridle at the conclusion that "the Englishwoman excels all others in the art of travelling." (p. 102)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Reaching the National Archives: Tube: Kew Gardens; Rail: Kew Bridge and Kew Gardens; Bus: 391, 65, R68. Free parking available.

Open: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-5; Tues, Thurs: 10-7; Sat: 9:30-5. Closed all public and bank holidays.

Becoming a Reader: Produce formal, clear identification to register (passport, driving licence, bank card). Registration takes about five minutes.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. there is a behind the scenes tour, giving insight into the National Archives. Places are limited so booking is essential, on 020 8876 34444.

GRIFFITH INSTITUTE WEBSITE

Judith Loades advises that it is well worth a visit to the website mentioned by Dr Jaromir Malek at the Nubia study day. It is www.ashmole.ox.ac.uk/Griffith.html (It is vital to make the G for Griffith as a capital.)

Judith wrote: "I looked at the site when I got home. It is very easy to navigate. There are illustrations complete with their descriptions and specifications and the opportunity to enlarge. The visitor can, with ease, use the archive, visit the library, access the bibliography. There is a section for young people." Address: Griffith Institute, Sackler Library, 1 St. John Street, Oxford OX1 2LG; e-mail: griffoff@herlad.oc.ac.uk.

THE ENGINEERS AND BRIDGES THAT TRAVELLED

Robert Stephenson (1803 -1859), son of George, was commissioned to construct the railway from Cairo to Alexandria - the first in Africa. During the years his company was working in Egypt he employed a number of engineering staff who might be considered as 'travellers' in Egypt, but are not familiar through their writings. In his biography, *Life of Robert Stephenson* by Jeffreson (1870) these men are listed with their jobs.

The engineer's staff in Egypt was an able one. Divided at about mid-way by the Nile, at Kaffr Zeyat, the Alexandria and Cairo Railway had two separate corps of engineers, - one for the north district, the other for the district south of the Nile. Acting as resident engineer, and

supervisor of both divisions, was Mr M.A. Borthwick. Under Mr Borthwick were Mr Henry J. Rouse (northern half) and Mr Swinbourne (southern half). At the headquarters in Alexandria, Henry J. Rouse was assisted by Mr Pringle; and at Cairo, where Mr Swinbourne had his headquarters, the principal sub-assistant engineer was Mr Duff. Belonging to Mr Rouse's corps were also the engineers – Mr Anger and Mr Bidder, Jun. (stationed between Kengis Osman and Damanhour), Mr J.H.Stanton and Mr Joseph Harrison (between Damanhour and the Nile). Belonging to Mr Swinbourne's division were – Mr Fowler and Mr Vaughan stationed at Benha; Mr Rushton and Mr Hardcastle employed on the line between Cairo and the Nile. Besides these engineers, were the surveyors, Mr Graham and Mr Preston (with Mr Cheffins, Jun. as assistant), and the architect of the station, Mr Edward Baines.

The task of designing the Benha and Birket-el-Saba bridges, and of supervising their manufacture in England, were placed by Robert Stephenson in the hands of his cousin Mr George Robert Stephenson, who, aided by his managing assistant, Mr George Barling, completed them most successfully. Every portion was manufactured in England, and tested before being sent from the country. The immense machinery for opening and closing the swing-bridge, was put together and tried, previous to its transmission to Egypt. (p. 179)

THE JOHN MURRAY ARCHIVE

Readers may know that the John Murray collection of more than 150,000 letters and documents from the 19th century geniuses who were Murray acquaintances is up for sale. It includes letters from Byron, Belzoni, Disraeli, Trollope, Thackeray, Isabella Bird and other travellers to our region. Many of us have been able to consult the archive in our researches. The National Library of Scotland is offered first refusal for the total archive – for £33m. If the NLS cannot raise this, the archive goes to public auction.

Details of the public appeal to retain the collection intact in the next Bulletin.

ARTICLES FROM READERS

THE MAHMOUDIEYEH CANAL – PAST AND PRESENT

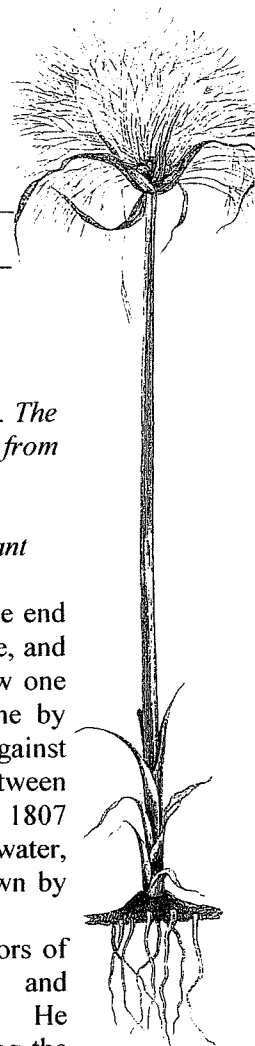
What charms surround thee, O Canal of Alexandria, thine aspect ravishes the soul. The beauteous groves which overshadow thee from verdant arcades... The noble palm gently bending its graceful crown like a bashful maiden, is adorned with a crown of pendant fruit. (1)

This old canal fell into disuse, and, at the end of the 18th century, when the dykes broke, and sea water flooded in, the need for a new one became pressing. Further damage was done by the English expeditionary force against Napoleon in 1801, who cut the dyke between Lake Mareotis and the sea. By 1807 Alexandria was almost surrounded by water, with only the desert route out of the town by Agami open. (2)

Mohammed Ali assembled the governors of seven provinces of Lower Egypt and demanded that they get a canal built. He wanted to have a navigable route to bring the produce of Egypt to the port of Alexandria, avoiding the hazardous mouths of the Rosetta branch of the Nile at Bogaz, where ships could be wrecked. Each province provided workers, varying in numbers from 15,000 to 120,000. The Turkish engineer, Shakir-Effendi, traced the route of the proposed canal which curved, to avoid marshy ground from Atfih to Alexandria. When he reached the point where the lakes Abukir and Mareotis were divided by a narrow isthmus, he did not know how to proceed and work stopped.

Mohammed Ali then sent for Pascal Coste (1787-1879), a French engineer already in Egypt, and asked him to finish the canal. In 1819 Coste began work at both ends of the canal, seeking to rectify the depth of the canal, by fixing posts every 365m., with the height to be maintained written on each. He rode back and forth, supervising his teams of assistants. On the isthmus between the two lakes, Mareotis and Abukir, Coste built up masonry walls 2500m. long.

The toll in human lives of building the canal was horrific. According to the French traveller J.J. Ampere (1800-64) who visited Egypt in 1845, it was constructed with the bare hands of the labourers. (3) This was not quite true: they



had picks and baskets. Coste described the workers as "This collection of undernourished, and badly clothed fellahs, who suffered especially in cold winters and from plague which killed large numbers of them."

Punishment for non-cooperation was severe:

Some workers from Gharbieh province escaped during the night and went back to their village. Ismael Pasha (Mohammed Ali's third son), who managed the workers on the canal, gave orders for them to be punished. A troop of cavalry went off to the village, found out who the escapees were, arrested and garrotted some, and cut off the noses of others. Coste commented that this was a barbarous punishment, but necessary to warn the rest of the workers on the canal! (4)

The Nile water flowed to Alexandria in February 1821. The locks at Atfih, in the new and old ports of Alexandria and the bridges were constructed in the following years. The canal underwent various changes as the needs of the users, and the management of the Nile, changed. The creation of the Barrage in 1860 made a considerable difference to the flow of water.

The first telegraph station was on the Mahmoudiyeh Canal. (5) The towers were designed by Pascal Coste. (6) The canal was named in honour of the Ottoman Sultan, Mahmoud.

The journey along the canal for early travellers was not a pleasure. Sophia Poole, sister of Edward William Lane, and her two sons, went by iron track-boat in 1842. It had two cabins and was drawn by four horses, and so they moved rapidly.

We were positively covered by fleas, and swarmed by black beetles. – she thought because they did not fix their mosquito nets. (7) But many other travellers described the assaults of mosquitoes, fleas, ants, cockroaches, and rats which pulled their bedding about. (8)

By 1846 Harriet Martineau was conveyed to the start of the canal in an omnibus and a steamer towed her boat. She described the villages on the banks as "Wretched looking beyond description, the mud huts square or in beehive form." (9)

But the wealthy on the opposite bank enjoyed palaces and Italianised villas with fine gardens. (10) Ismael Pasha's palace, Nimre Telate (three) (nos. 1 and 2 being Ras el-Tin and Gabbari) lay on the Mahmoudieh Canal.

(11) An English clergyman, Alexander Boddy, who lived in Alexandria in the 1900s, bicycled along much of the canal, using his Kodak along the way. (12)

In October 2003, when two ASTENE members (myself and Yvonne Neville Rolfe) set out to explore the canal, it was being cleared of water hyacinth and other vegetation; some stretches of the banks were being repaired with stone. The basin at the port end was full of reeds, and surrounded by the disused warehouses of the cotton merchants. Further along, the canal passes the residential areas of the poor. Only one old building survives, near the Muharram Bey Bridge. At intervals there are bridges for vehicles, interspersed with pedestrian crossing points, which are old boats, lying on the canal bottom. Further east, there is more water in the canal and boats are able to move between the bridges, but not under them – they are too low. Small fields of maize are growing on the south side of the canal, and some sugar canes, plastic greenhouses for forcing plants stand in the fields of cabbage. The thick black mud being dredged from the canal would be a useful addition to the soil.

A few homesteads stand in their own fields. Some of the old trees, from the avenue which shaded the roadway, survive near the Nouzha and Antoniades gardens, and a few stallholders are beginning to create the cafes of old.

Alix Wilkinson

1 Duford el-Hadad, quoted by Hermann Puckler Muskau, *Egypt under Mehemet Ali*, translated H. Evans Lloyd, London, 1845

2 Ghislaine Allaupe, *Pascal Coste et le canal Mahmudiyya* in Daniel Armogathe and Sylviane Leprun *Pascal Coste ou l'architecture cosmopolite*, L'Harmattan, 1990, p. 37

3 J.J. Ampere, *Voyage en Egypte et en Nubie*, Paris, 1868, p. 119

4 Duford el-Hadad

5 Guiseppe Mutti, *An Itinerary of the Route from Suez to Alexandria, Cairo etc. designed for travellers proceeding from India to England by the Red Sea*, Bombay Imperial Printing Press, 1838, p. 4

6 Pascal Coste, *Toutes le Egypte*, Bibliotheque Municipale de Marseille, Editions Parentheses, 1998, p. 83

7 Sophia Lane Poole, *The Englishwoman in Egypt: Letters from Egypt*, London, 1844. (This account has recently been reissued by the American University in Cairo Press.)

8 W.F. Cumming, *Notes of a Wanderer in search of health through Italy, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, up the Danube, and down the Rhine*, Edinburgh, 1839, p. 213. (Cumming was in Egypt during the winter of 1836-7)

9 Harriet Martineau. *Eastern Life Past and Present*, London, 1848, p.19

10 Ghislaine Alloume, p. 50

11 K. Baedeker, *Unter-Aegyptian Handbuch für Reisende*, Leipzig, 1877

12 Alexander A. Boddy, *From the Egyptian Ramleh: sketches of Delta life and scenes in Lower Egypt*, London, 1900, p. 8, 298



THE FLAVOUR OF TRAVEL

Mrs Vivian E. Borg told her memories of her early years in Egypt to the Newsletter of the Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt, who kindly allowed us to include them here – giving a very personal taste of the experiences available to the traveller – or tourist – in Egypt a century ago, and, by chance, a vision of the ‘cafes of old’, to which Alix Wilkinson refers..

Giacomo Groppi (1863-1947) was a native of Lugano, Switzerland, where he was apprenticed to an uncle and in France before taking up employment in Maison Gianola in the 1880s in Cairo. In 1890, he bought out Gianola's interest in its Alexandrian Rue de France branch and opened his own pastry and dairy shop. By 1890 Groppi was running a successful enterprise and exporting 100,000 cartons of eggs to the UK annually.

Groppi was quite the innovator. At his second Alexandrine branch, on Cherif Street, Maison Groppi introduced crème chantilly to Egypt – which he acquired at the Exposition Universelle in Paris. He was the first chocolatier in Egypt to employ female staff.

In 1906 he sold his company to a Frenchman, Auguste Baudrot, and retired. For the next 60 years, Baudrot was regarded first among equals amongst Alexandria's other famous tearooms: Pastroudis, Trianon and Athineos – all run by Greeks.

Groppi lost all his savings in the economic depression of 1907 and was forced to return to what he knew best: making chocolates, pastries and dairy products. This time, out of deference to Baudrot, he started his activities in Cairo at al-Maghrabi Street (later Ali Pasha Street). The formal opening was on 23 December 1909, and he flourished despite the Cairene competition: La Marquise de Savigne and Maison Mathieu.

Groppi's Tea Garden became a favourite with the British Army when World War I broke out, and when he introduced a delicatessen, it enhanced his image as a purveyor of quality foods. In 1922, Maison Groppi inaugurated its own cold storage company, employing 120 workers and producing 2400 blocks of ice daily.

In 1928, Achille, Giacomo's son, launched his famous icecreams – among them our more senior members may remember his Stogliatella, the Morocco, the Mau Mau, the Peche Melba, Maruska, Comtesse Marie, and the Surprise Neapolitan. Achille also opened up the tea room at Midan Soliman Pasha (now Talaat Harb). Groppi of Cairo also opened a terrace café overlooking the Avenue des Pyramides in Heliopolis, and the Heliopolis Palace Hotel (now Uruba Presidential Palace). He also accommodated the less privileged when he launched a chain of pastry and coffee shops “*A l'Americaine*”).

PUBLISH YOUR RESEARCH

If you have given a paper at an ASTENE conference or given a lecture on travel in general or more specifically worked on the transmission of the classics into the period beyond the Renaissance, then there is an opportunity to publish your work in two new journals launched this year: *Travel History* and *Antiquity in Modernity*. Perhaps you have studied an element of the Grand Tour in which case the journal *Eighteenth Century World* might be more appropriate/

The Davenant Press (Oxford) published these journals among others, and would be glad to hear from you.

If you would like further details, please contact Judith Loades at The Davenant Press (Oxford), PO Box 323, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4XN or e-mail Judith@history.u-net.com or website www.davenantpress.co.uk.



A well-known Character in Cairo.

BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Review Editors for the Bulletin are Edwin Aiken (Union College, 108 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JT) (general topics) and Kathryn Ferry (arts and literature) c/o the ASTENE Administrative Office.

Author's disclaimer: My work is, therefore, only a faithful, unornamented record of what we saw and heard; the scholar will learn nothing by it save a few facts that I have recorded in hopes of his drawing those deductions from them of which I am myself incapable. I have, in fact, written chiefly for those who, compelled to stay home, like to draw their chairs to the cheerful coal-fire, to shut out the grey sky and dripping rain of England, and to follow in fancy the footsteps of those who have enjoyed the realities of travel.

(Emily Beaufort, Viscountess Strangford, Egyptian Sepulchres and Syrian Shrines, p. vii, 1861)

Palestine and Egypt under the Ottomans: Paintings, Books, Photographs, Maps and Manuscripts by Hisham Khatib, ISBN 1-86064-888-6, 272 pp., illustrated, 2003. £59.50
The problem with my fragmentary knowledge of the topography of Palestine and Egypt, was that, though I had heard and read of many famous places and buildings there, I had little idea of quite how they all linked together and what many of them actually looked like. Hisham Khatib's book, which illustrates his magnificent collection, goes a long way towards remedying this defect. Not only does the book contain many unfamiliar views; it also features a range of lesser-known artists, as well as the well-known names of the 19th century. This, in many ways, is a great asset, as the less grandiose artists tended to try to represent what was actually there, rather than the product of their imaginations. A good example is the watercolour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem, 1865, by the Swedish artist, Georg von Rosen, reproduced on pages 74-5. It shows the buildings from what is, to me, an unfamiliar viewpoint, and also realistically shows the dilapidated state of the dome of the Church, before it was repaired in the late 1860s.

Hisham Khatib (as the best collectors do) has selected those images that are intrinsically interesting, so that they carry information about his beloved Palestine, in addition to the aesthetic pleasure that the paintings or prints might bring. He expressly states in his preface

that he avoided what I would define as the dreary harem fantasies and the boring pictures of carpet sellers, which disfigure some aspects of Orientalist painting. The great range of media in the collection, which includes many forms of printmaking, is interesting and inevitable, given the central theme of depicting numerous aspects of Ottoman-dominated Palestine and Egypt. Thus, as you might expect, the famous lithographs of David Roberts are represented. Yet, a few pages away, for example, are the dramatic etchings and dry-points by James McBey, showing the advance on Jerusalem by the British Expeditionary Force in 1917.

There is a useful historical essay in Chapter 1, which sets the context of the collection. The next three chapters deal with Jerusalem's development; Travellers and Explorers; Painters. In Section 2 of the book is the catalogue, divided into chapters on paintings, various types of books, photographs, maps and manuscripts. There are useful brief biographies of the artists, sometimes very obscure ones. The maps in particular are a delight, and all the illustrations are well-reproduced in what is, frankly, a lavish publication. Hisham Khatib also offers practical advice to would-be collectors: yet rightly emphasises that a good knowledge of the subject matter is the essential ingredient. His book is thus packed with information, and necessary reading for anyone who wishes to know how European artists and travellers in the Ottoman period represented the Holy Land.

Charles Newton

Merchant Adventurers in the Levant: Two British Families of privateers, consuls and traders 1700-1950 by Tom Rees. Talbot Publishing, 211 pp., illustrated, ISBN 0-9545566-0-7 hardback and ISBN 0-9545566-1-5 softback, 2003 (See enclosed flier.)

Set against the backdrop of a turbulent European history, the author traces the lives of two related British Levantine families: one called Werry, the other Rees, joined by the marriage of Zoe Werry to Thomas Bowen Rees in 1889.

The early Werrys travelled widely through the Mediterranean – some as privateers, others as masters of vessels for the Levant Company.

Eventually, the Werry family settled in Smyrna and Aleppo, gaining prestige as consuls representing the Levant Company, and both families continued as consuls for the British and other European governments. Living as part of the Ottoman Empire, these foreign families were not subject to Turkish law, and achieved considerable influence, as well as offering hospitality to British travellers, including Byron and Hobhouse.

The Rees family prospered in business: a lucrative contract in 1877 to supply the British Navy at Besika Bay during the Russo-Turkish War was followed by numerous contracts to provision the army and navy in Egypt and the Sudan. Thomas Bowen Rees, who had ten children, built the large house in Boudjah which remained in the family for over a century. The family's prosperity (and occasional failure) depended on trade, chiefly cotton. After the relief expedition to the Sudan, the family established a trading base in Alexandria, and diversified their business interests, moving into ship-owning, property and, disastrously, newspaper ownership.

Rees gives a lively account of his family's cosmopolitan life of luxury, with lavish entertaining, horse-racing and yacht sailing.

The account of these two families draws heavily on family records and letters and is illustrated by family portraits and early photographs. This provides a fascinating glimpse of social history typical of English families who settled abroad. This way of life, which could hardly be sustained after the Second World War, ended abruptly with the nationalisation of the Suez Canal.

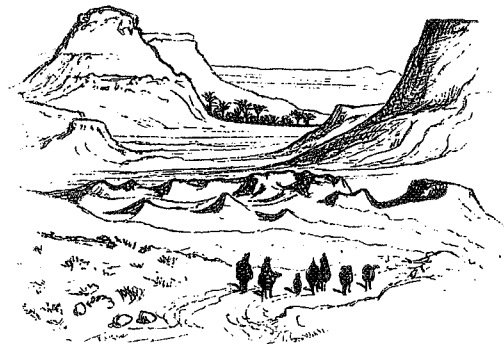
Confusion between the many Werry and Rees men is largely averted by inclusion of family trees and an index, and Rees has added a useful bibliography. *Maureen Hadfield*

Lady Anne Blunt: A Biography by H.V.F. Winstone, Barzan Publishing with Stacey International, 366 pp., 8pp. colour photographs, 8 pp. black and white, casebound, £19.95, 2003. ISBN 1900988 577

As every ASTENE Bulletin proves, there are many scholars engaged in extracting information on travellers from the footnotes of history. Given the wealth of information on Lady Anne Blunt (1837-1917) and her eminent connections, it is perhaps surprising that her biography has only recently been published, but, in the capable hands of H.V.F. Winstone,

author of many works including biographies of Gertrude Bell and Howard Carter, it has been worth the wait. As the granddaughter of Lord Byron, and niece of Lady Hester Stanhope, Lady Anne enjoyed a remarkable pedigree as a traveller, but the fame of her philandering husband, poet Wilfred Scawn Blunt, has long over-shadowed her own achievements.

In the spring of 1873, Lady Anne and her husband journeyed to Turkey already thinking about how they might carve a role for themselves as latter-day preservers of the Arab equine heritage. At the end of December 1875, in order to escape the scandal of one of Wilfred's extra-mural indiscretions, the couple made their first visit to Egypt and it was on this trip that they resolved to explore Arabia together. Lady Anne began to learn Arabic and throughout her life would continue to make important records of the horses she saw in the Near East, and all those she bought for her stud at Crabbet Park in Sussex. Three years later, Lady Anne became the first Christian woman to visit Hail in the Njed, where she was permitted to examine the legendary stables of Ibn Rashid. It is fitting, therefore, that her biography should have been published by Barzan, the company of Dr Mohammed Al Rashid, a member of the same family that ruled over Hail from 1834 to 1921.



Kâf - an illustration by Lady Anne Blunt

In her later years Lady Anne made yearly visits to Egypt and it was there that she died.

As Winstone makes clear, she suffered many disappointments in her relationship with Blunt, but clearly relished the challenges of travel. Looking back on the five-day journey into Central Arabia, Wilfred said of his wife, "There was never anybody so courageous as she was. The only thing she was afraid of was the sea." In his biography Winstone presents a highly readable and fascinating account of this courageous lady.

Kathryn Ferry

I have had the misfortune to sprain my knee, an awkward accident, and very annoying in the middle of a journey. My delul, always a fidgety animal, gave a bolt just as I was leaning over to arrange something on the off side saddle, and pitched me off. The pain is indescribable, and I fear I shall be helplessly lame for some time to come. But here we are at Kaf. 27.12. 1878, *A Pilgrimage to Njed*, 1881

Born to Rebel: the life of Harriet Boyd Hawes by M. Allsebrook, 244 pp. Index, Oxbow Books, Oxford, 2002, paperback 1-84217-041-4, £12.95

This is a charming book. It combines a thorough and meticulously researched, yet witty, account of the life of one of the 20th century's largely forgotten archaeologists.

Born in Boston, MA, in 1871, Harriet Boyd Hawes was an unconventional figure by any standard. Brought up with archaeological stories from an early age, she soon found herself in Greece, and quickly became the first woman to lead a dig in the Mediterranean – at Gournia on Crete in 1900. On her return to America she lectured to the Archaeological Institute of America – another first for a woman. In addition to archaeological work, Harriet nursed in three wars, and often considered the soldiers easier to manage than the nursing corps she organised.

A life of archaeology, including “Love among the ruins” (Ch. XIII), eventually gave way to a more settled existence, though still by no means a normal one. Throughout her life she remained busy – “She liked to be in the thick of things, and did not delegate easily, except where domestic chores were concerned.” (p.95) She fought on behalf of many topical concerns, including democracy and world order, Christian unity and artistic taste. She died in 1945.

This is an important book for several reasons. It reminds us that the history of archaeology is more complex and muddled than is traditionally believed, while demonstrating vividly the ruggedness and privation's of the archaeologist's life, as well as the excitement and spontaneity of the dig.

The example of this book will help researchers to keep their ideas of archaeology incarnate, vested in the lives of real people, guarding against the too frequent practice of the dehumanisation and sanitization of history.

The book is very immediately written by Hawes' daughter, and is not only peppered with quotations from her diaries, but also contains many doodled and delightful illustrations. A splendid addition to the shelf of anyone interested in the history of Mediterranean archaeology.

Edwin Aiken

Description of Egypt: Notes and Views in Egypt and Nubia, Made during the Years 1825, -26, -27, and -28, Edward Lane, Jason Thompson (Editor), American University in Cairo Press, 588 pp. ISBN: 9774245253. LE 120; \$29.50, £24.95

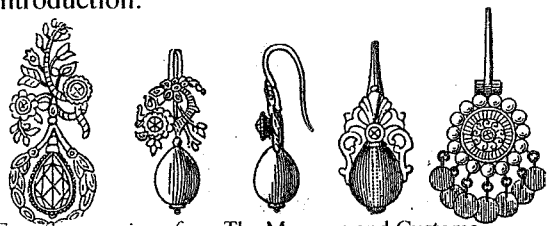
Like most people with an interest in Egypt, I came to Edward Lane through his *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians*, *Thousand and One Nights* and his *Arabic-English Lexicon*. Then, while consulting Lane's papers in the Griffith Institute in 1987, I came across a draft of his first and still unpublished work, the *Description of Egypt*. This was the book Lane set out to write when he first went to Egypt; John Murray agreed to publish it in 1831, but delayed and finally shelved the project. Lane meanwhile moved on to *Modern Egyptians* and his *Description* was consigned to the archive, where it has remained until now.

As part of a Lane project that has also seen a new edition of *Modern Egyptians*, Dr Jason Thompson has finally put the *Description* into print. As an editor he has been both diligent and sensitive. And while the book will never attract the readership Lane hoped for – and few of us who do pick it up are likely to agree with Henry Hart Milman, John Murray's reader, that it is “the best work written on the subject” – it is very good, a fascinating and extremely valuable view of Egypt in the first half of the 19th century. The title is a clear reference to the Napoleonic *Description*, but Lane's book is a more personal and less encyclopaedic work. Following the route of Lane's travels, from his first sight of Alexandria's low coastline to the dismantling of his dahabiya's mast at Wadi Halfa, it looks into the history and antiquities of the country while describing what Lane saw himself, both ancient and modern, captured in words and in some 160 of Lane's original images. The result is one of the Treasures of Egyptology.

Anthony Sattin

The Englishwoman in Egypt by Sophia Poole, edited by Azza Kararah, 304 pp. hardback, American University in Cairo Press, 2003. ISBN 977 424 799 X LE120; \$29.50; £24.95 First published in 1844, Sophia Poole as sister of Edward Lane and living amongst the people of Cairo and Egypt, was in a very special position to observe the life of the people and especially the women.

Azza Kararah, emerita professor of English literature at Alexandria University, has done a great service in bringing Mrs Poole's book to present day readers, and also brought Sophia Poole out from the shadows in her excellent introduction.



Egyptian earrings from The Manners and Customs

Explorers and Artists in the Valley of the Kings by Catherine H. Roehrig, foreword by Kent Weeks, American University in Cairo Press, Cairo and New York, 2002. pp. 96, 120 colour illustrations, ISBN 977-424-705-1. US\$ 29.50 (hardback)

The Monuments of Egypt and Nubia by Ippolito Rosellini by Franco Serino, American University in Cairo Press, 2003. pp. 128, 120 colour illustrations, ISBN 977-424-789-2. US\$ 29.50 (hardback)

Not especially relevant to ASTENE readers, but an interesting aside as the tangible result of a certain type of traveller's *raison de journee*, these two coffee-table publications present a lovely edited assortment of early artists' plates, etchings and sketches, most hand-tinted especially for presentation in these volumes, with introductory texts. Roehrig collates a variety of 18th and 19th century artists' evocative representations within a single major site (Valley of the Kings), whilst Senno presents scenes from throughout the entire country in the work of a single artist (Rosellini, published 1832-4). Many of these scenes and monuments no longer exist, or are now so badly ruined that the early publications are now our only record of their existence. Comparisons of different artists' interpretations of the same scene or monument reminds us that, nonetheless, the illustrations cannot escape being products of their time and

of their artist's fidelity to the original or his own imagination. The editors' introductory texts present short biographies of the artist(s) and describe some of his tribulations incurred towards his ultimate goal of publication, but also serve to remind us that, however we view their results today, we can only salute their efforts and determination to succeed.

Jacke Phillips

Blowing our Own Trumpet

The first book to come out of a cooperation between people who met through ASTENE is just published. It is titled *Traveling through Egypt*.

The editors, Dr Sahar Abdel Hakim and Deborah Manley, first met at the 1997 ASTENE conference in Oxford. During the ASTENE tour of Islamic Cairo in 2002 they agreed to cooperate on an anthology of historic travel in Egypt for the American University in Cairo Press. At the Oxford conference in 2003 final details were settled with ASTENE member Neil Hewison, of AUC Press. All three met briefly in Cairo at an informal ASTENE gathering last November and the book appeared while we were together again in Cairo in late March this year. It will be reviewed in the next Bulletin.

PAST REVIEWS

How travel accounts were reviewed at the time of their publication is relevant to ASTENE researchers into the travels they describe. The Bulletin welcomes contributions of excerpts from past book reviews from Britain and other countries – in English and other languages.

Memoirs relating to European and Asiatic

Turkey, Edited from Manuscript Journals, by Robert Walpole, MA, London, 1817. pp. xxii, 607 The peculiar circumstances in which the Turkish empire is placed, both with regard to its geographical features, and the economy of its civil government, are such as present the most formidable obstacles to the inquisitive traveller.

Some of its most interesting portions are rugged and mountainous, intersected with few highways, and those few of the worst description; affording scarcely any accommodations, whether of hospitality on behalf of the inhabitants, or of facility in passing from one place to another. A more

serious difficulty is the unhealthiness of certain spots, and, indeed, at certain seasons, of the country in general; a scourge which, in the case of Greece, does not appear to be the natural and inevitable lot of the soil or atmosphere; but the result of that sloth and neglect, which suffer the juices of the earth to putrefy, and evaporate in pestilential exhalations. Add to these obstacles, the unsettled state of all the outlying provinces of the Ottoman empire, the animosity which subsists between the enslaved descendants of the Doric and Ionic tribes and their barbarous masters, the facilities which are offered to robbers by the natural features of the country, and the misgovernment of the Turks, and we shall be able to form some estimate of the difficulties to be encountered by him, who should undertake to give a complete account of any extensive portions of that great empire.

The fact is, that, as long as the Ottoman government subsists, we must be content to receive our information about it in dribblets, a little from one traveller and a little from another...

Under these circumstances, we are inclined to approve of the plan which Mr Walpole has adopted, of collecting from various intelligent and learned travellers, who have visited of late years that interesting portion of the globe, such extracts from their journals and port-folios as were calculated to throw any light upon its present condition and ancient grandeur, its geography, antiquities, and natural history, to be laid before the public in the words of the respective authors. It is true that we do not, by this method, get a well-digested and uniform book of travels, whether we regard the subjects or the style. But as travels are written in these days, we believe that this is no loss... (*Quarterly Review, April 1818, p. 233*)

Ramses: an Egyptian Tale, with Historical Notes of the Era of the Pharaohs, in 3 Volumes, Post 8vo. reviewed in the *Oriental Herald, July-Sept., 1825*. No author given, but possibly John Silk Buckingham, the editor.

Under the popular and attractive form of a historical novel, the author of 'Ramses' has aimed at imparting a complete body of information relative to Egypt in the zenith of her splendour. For this purpose he has evidently consulted almost every attainable source, from Herodotus and Diodorus, downwards, to the discoveries of Hamilton,

Denon, Young, and Champollion, scarcely a single publication on the subject anterior to his own, seems to have escaped his research, which is directed equally to the buildings, the manners, and the laws that existed among the Egyptians at the period of time selected for his sketch.

[The story briefly is of Ramses, a young noble who, in the reign of Amenophis, becomes the saviour of his country from invading bands of the 'Shepherd Kings' – the Philistines of Holy Writ. The reader is shown palaces, temples, pyramids, labyrinths, catacombs, agriculture, mechanical arts, and processes of embalming. This story-line, the reviewer suggests, is "of secondary consideration to the author himself", yet "even if viewed as a mere novel, its claims on general attention are by no means contemptible."]

Do any readers know who the author was? Have you read the book?

READING LIST FOR TRAVELLERS, 1842

W. Drew Stent BA of Wadham College, Oxford in his *Egypt and the Holy Land in 1842* provided among "requisites for travel in the East" advice on books to take.*

A small dictionary and grammar of French and Italian; Murray's Handbook for the East **; Childe Harold and the Giaour (if not the whole works of Byron); a few works on the history and antiquities of different countries (Wordsworth's *Greece*, Herodotus, Wilkinson and Champollion and Lane); Robinson's *Biblical Researches in Palestine* is excellent, but ponderous; Steven's being far more convenient; for Constantinople take Miss Pardoe's *City of the Sultan*; and last, though not least, on no account forget my book – this, be it remembered, courteous reader, is *my only* chance of a fee!

* Until the 1830-40s I know of no traveller who admitted having a travel guide – though they existed. (ed.)

** His suggested luggage capacity for personal effects was two moderate cases that would fit on a mule.

Up-date: Gary Goldfinch, author of *Steel in the Sand: The history of Egypt and its railways* reviewed in the last Bulletin, (and now a member of ASTENE), asks that we give a revised address for orders: P.O. Box 344, Deal, Kent, CT14 9YF. His e-mail is www.steel-in.the-sand.com

THE EXEMPLARY TRAVELLER

Captain Francis Beaufort FRS, captain of HMS Fredericksteen*, in his *Karamania or a Brief Description of the South Coast of Asia Minor and of the remains of Antiquity in 1811-12* (London, 1817) recorded the most proper behaviour at Phaselis (Tekrova). (p.65) where they had been copying inscriptions in 1811.

Before we departed, all the marbles which bore inscriptions, were replaced in the same situations in which they had been found: or rather, they were put into such positions as appeared best calculated for their preservation: a practice which we constantly adopted, for the benefit of future travellers.

* Sir Francis Beaufort is famed for establishing the wind scale still used in weather forecasting.

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. The query goes on the ASTENE website, but the replies do not.

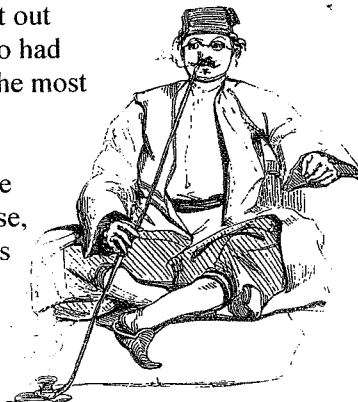
CLAUDE DELAVAL COBHAM

Dr Rita Severis asks: Does any member of ASTENE know of the whereabouts of the papers of Claude Delaval Cobham CMG, BCL, MA (Oxon) (1842-1915)? He was Commissioner of Larnaca, Cyprus (1879-1907) and then returned to the UK. I know that his library is now in Cambridge University Library, but it contains no papers, no diaries or correspondence. He was the very knowledgeable man who wrote a book on the Patriarchs of Byzantium. Some papers surely exist somewhere but I have had no luck with my search. Any help would be most appreciated. [severis@cytanet.com.cy]

WHO WAS "J"? DID HE EXIST?

When William Makepeace Thackeray was in Cairo in 1844 he sought out "our old friend J---, who had established himself in the most Oriental fashion."

In his facetious style, Thackeray described the splendid Mamluke house, the staff and his friend's new life and cuisine. Was J, a real person?



WILLIAM RICHARD HAMILTON (1777-1869)

One of the several William Hamiltons who were prominent at the turn of the 18th century, William Richard Hamilton had a distinguished public career as a diplomat and antiquarian, serving as an Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office during the latter years of the Napoleonic Wars, and subsequently as one of the founding members of the Royal Geographical Society, and one of the Trustees of the British Museum. He is all too readily confused with Sir William Hamilton, (husband of the famous Emma) who was Consul General at Naples, since not only did they share a great and knowledgeable interest in classical antiquity, but W.R. Hamilton was Minister at Naples at the court of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in the 1820s.

As one of Lord Elgin's confidential clerks during the latter's posting as Ambassador to the Sublime Porte (1798-1803), Hamilton was sent by Elgin to Egypt in 1801 as his representative with the British expeditionary force. Napoleon had by this time long since returned to France to assume the role of Consul. Hamilton played a prominent role in the negotiations for the capitulation of the French forces occupying Alexandria. Thanks to Hamilton the Rosetta Stone, which the French were intending to take with them to France, ended up in British hands. It is thanks to him too, incidentally, that many of the 'Marbles' from the Parthenon did not disappear into a watery grave the following year, since he organised their recovery from the seabed when the ship carrying them from Athens, *HMS Mentor*, went down off Cerigo (modern Kithira) in twelve fathoms of water in a storm. Hamilton, who was on board, was lucky to survive.

In Egypt Hamilton also travelled up the Nile and visited some of the monuments, publishing an account of his journey in 1809 as *Aegyptica*, in which he included his own transcription and translation of the Greek text of the Rosetta Stone. A good classical scholar – which was one of the principal reasons that Elgin had hired him – Hamilton made a tour of the classical sites in Asia Minor in 1803. Although he intended to publish his researches, he never did so, and the only record we have is in the memoirs of his young companion: the 15-year-old Francis Peter Werry, son of the Levant Company Consul at Smyrna. The journey

lasted a month, and it is clear from the memoirs, that Hamilton recorded carefully a number of Greek inscriptions at different sites, including a long one from the temple of Priene. He also described a number of important sculptures, tombs and friezes at such sites as Ephesus, Miletus, and Pergamum. At 'Bairam' (unidentified but conceivably ancient Assos) he found among other things of great interest "three long ranks of tombs, upwards of a hundred running in a straight line... all of great size and much ornamented."

Much of what Hamilton saw during his travels has now disappeared, and although Asia Minor was much visited by learned travellers of various kinds in the 19th century (including Hamilton's son, also a scholarly classical historian) it is possible that some unique observations were made on this tour which would still be of interest to modern scholars.*

It is conceivable that some record of this journey still exists in an archive, and if any reader has suggestions where one might fruitfully look for such documents, or indeed other material relating to William Richard Hamilton, they would be gratefully appreciated by Tom Rees, The Old Manor House, Staywell, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 9AE. Fax: 01278 723273; e-mail: Trees19902@aol.com

* Another William (John) Hamilton (1805-1867) Geologist, President of the Royal Geographical Society four times, Hamilton described his tour in the Levant, 1835-7, in *Researches in Asia Minor, Pontus, and Armenia*, 1842.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND REPLIES TO QUERIES

'Henery' Salt at the Walsall Local History Centre

Neil Cooke drew our attention to an entry in the Meikle Collection referring to Henry (spelled 'Henery') Salt, Consul General in Egypt 1816-27 (Accession 63/124). We followed it up.

Stuart Williams, of the Walsall Local History Centre, wrote that William Meikle (1858-1953) a draper, local historian, artist and amateur photographer, with broad interests, noted many things, some of which he hoped to include in a book, which was never completed.

The entry on Salt is in an office notebook and was dated some time after 1920. It was an account based on a combination of J.J. Halls' biography of Salt and a great enthusiasm for a son of Lichfield "and in fact the whole of this country", who should not forget "what we owe" to Henry Salt. "It was to him and him alone that we own that Wonderful Collection of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum." Meikle berated the Trustees of the Museum for being "very stingy with their money", giving him only half what it cost Salt to acquire. "His own time and trouble went for nothing. Is it any wonder that his next big find he sold to the French Nation who gave him considerably more than expected?"

Mr Meikle then turned on Belzoni – "Physically a very powerful man and a great Excavator (or navy) but he was not an Antiquarian he was a Curio dealer pure and simple, and a mercenary." "While Salt's mind was on the Valley of the Kings he never forgot his native City of Lichfield" as letters to his relations show.

Mr Meikle – who wrote from 111 Lichfield Street, Walsall, - which may partly explain his enthusiasm, ended with a quote from Salt's poem, 'Egypt'. He would undoubtedly have been a member of ASTENE had we existed in his day. Deborah Manley

A Gift to a Friend

Donald Bailey responded to the note about Salt's letter in Bulletin 18, providing a short discussion on the gold plate that Mohamed Ali desired to be sent to Sidney Smith, and a photocopy of the plate.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΟ ΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΣ ΤΕ ΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ
 ΑΡΧΙΝΟΤΕΣ ΘΕΩΝ ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΩΝ
 ΒΕΡΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΔΕΛΦΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑΥΤΟΥ
 ΤΟ ΤΕΛΕΝΟ Ο ΟΥΡΕΙ

It is interesting to see in Bulletin 18, p.8, the letter from Henry Salt to Sir Sydney Smith concerning the gold plate. There is in the Greek and Roman Department of the British Museum two printed copies of this letter which are enclosed within a box in the form of an imitation book, entitled *Voyage en Egypte*. This 'book' also contained, very probably, the gold plaque concerned, but certainly two fragmentary glass plaques, one green, the other blue; a letter, now lost, with analyses of the

glass plaques by Sir Humphrey Davy: a printed sheet in French describing the plaques and the circumstances of their finding, and with a gold-leaf facsimile of the gold plaque; a mutilated copy of the last; and an envelope which once contained the blue plaque. The printed copies of Salt's letter have also gold-leaf facsimiles of the plaque, with a transcription and translation (slightly expanded: King Ptolemy [III Euergetes], son of Ptolemy [II Philadelphos] and Arsinoe [II], the Brother [and Sister] Gods, and Queen Berenike [II], his sister and wife, [dedicate] the Sacred Enclosure to Osiris') at Canopus, at some time between 246 and 221 BC.

These three plaques are part of a typical foundation deposit of the early Ptolemaic period, others being found at the Sarapieion at Alexandria, at the Temple of Harpokrates at the same site, and at the old Bourse site in Alexandria.

A note in the imitation book states that the gold plate was "presented to the University of the Ionian Islands by Sir Sidney Smith by way of the Earl of Guildford", founder of that institution. It does not seem to have reached Corfu, however, as the British Museum purchased it in 1895, together with the glass plaques (and presumably the *Voyage en Egypte*), from the Earl Of Sheffield, the son of the Earl of Guildford.

Humphrey Davy's lost analyses were rectified in 1983, by Mavis Bimson and Ian Freestone of the British Museum Research Laboratory, and are included with a rather longer version of the above material, published by the undersigned in *The Antiquaries Journal* 64, 1984, pp. 389-93.

Donald Bailey

Claudius Rich of the Age of Enlightenment

Patricia Usick recognised the 'Mr Rich' met by Ali Bey in Cyprus in 1806 as Claudius James Rich (1787-1820), the traveller who, according to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, was described as "a most extraordinary young man" who had taught himself "the languages of the East". Geoffrey Roper (formerly of Cambridge University Library, now a bibliographical and information consultant at gjr2@cam.ac.uk) also suggested that "This must surely have been the celebrated Claudius James Rich, Orientalist in the service of the East India Company."

The *DNB* reports that his first journey to the East was accompanied by and ended in mishap and adventure. He served as assistant to Colonel Missett, British Consul General in Egypt, and then travelled in Mamluke disguise to Damascus, Baghdad, Basra and on to India. He married and for six years served as the East India Company's Resident in Baghdad, "where" writes Roper, "he laid the foundation for the serious study of Mesopotamian antiquities, and collected a large number of manuscripts in Arabic and other Middle Eastern languages, which became one of the core collections of the British Library."

He visited and wrote about Babylon (1811). In 1813, travelling for his health, he stayed with Sir Robert Liston in Constantinople. Back in Baghdad, he visited Nineveh and voyaged down the Tigris ('Narrative' of this journey was published in 1836). He died of cholera in Shiraz while helping the local people, and is buried there in the royal garden.

Claudius Rich, against a background of Baghdad, by Thomas Phillips, 1786



Rich features in the "Age of Enlightenment Exhibition" in the British Museum. His portrait used to hang in the Manuscript Room of the Museum. Family papers and other correspondence exist and are listed in the National Register of Archives..

Jennifer Scarce drew our attention to Claudius Rich and his wife, Mary, in Sarah Searight's *The British in the Middle East*, which reports that in 1811 they visited the ruins of Babylon, accompanied by "my own Hussars, with a galloper gun, a Havildar and twelve sepoy, about 70 baggage mules, a mehmander from the Pasha and a man from the Shaikh of the Jurbah Arabs." (p.207)

I do hope that someone will bring more about the Riches to us at the Manchester conference. (ed.)

Eduard Glaser: a short notice on materials in Czech Archives

As a short addition to the recent discussion on Eduard Glaser, I add just a couple of sources still in Czech archives. As confirmed by Austrian specialists, colleagues and ASTENE members Dr Gottfried Hamernik and Dr Johannah Holaubek (I would like to express my thanks for their information and, in exchange, provide this information).

Most of his 'Nachlass', that is his collection and papers are in Austria. His collection is in the Art History Museum in Vienna. Nonetheless, it seems that part of his papers – not yet studied in detail – is located in the regional archive in Louny, Bohemia. This is mentioned by Marie Imbrova in REGIZ 5-6/1998 (a regional periodical) in her article entitled *Cesta Eduarda Glasera za hvezdami Arabie (the journey of E Glaser to stars of Arabia)*. Furthermore the web page of the State archive (under www.mvcr.cz, Ministry of the Interior of Czech Republic) gave after query "Glaser a response with this identification of the material :

Nazev fondu (shirky) : Glaser Eduard (fund / collection name : E. Glaser)

Uloženo v archivu: S statni okresni archiv Louny (located in : State Regional Archive Louny)

Mista vzniku fondu: Zatec (place of origin: Zatec)

Casovy rozsah : 1872- 1931 (Period: 1872-1931)

Metraz: 0,12bm (vse je zpracovano a inventarizovano) (Dimensions 0.12 metres of archive material inventoried, and organised)

(Fond je pristupny v souladu se znenim archivniho zakona a dalsich pravnich predpisu) (this fund is accessible according to the Archive Law and further regulations)

Puvodce fondu (sbirky): Eduard Glaser, Alois Glaser MUDr. Stephan Glaser (who compiled the fund – Eduard Glaser, Alois Glaser MUDr Stephan Glaser)

Archivni Pomucky : (tools)

* ROEDL B.: EDUARD GLASER, 1872- 1931. Sdruzeny a skupinovy inventar (cast), 1989,s.12, ev.c.100/5 (inventory)

* ROEDL B. : POZUSTALOST – EDUARD GLASER 1872- 1931. Sdruzeny a skupinovy inventar (cast), 1989,s.12, ev.c.2965/5 (inventory)

It could therefore be of interest in the future to combine the Austrian and the Czech material. As I came across this material only very recently I have yet to contact the archivist who has been in charge of these papers. It may be that this location of a part of the Glaser papers

is already known, but so far I have not found any notice of it. *Hana Navratilova*

We will follow this up when Dr Navratilova is able to provide further information.

SOME ADDITIONAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

Anne Wolff has collected some further research resources from the North East to add to the resources listed in Manchester. These relate especially to the Joseph Mayer Collection.

In *Joseph Mayer of Liverpool 1803-1886* edited by Margaret Gibson and Susan Weight, published by the Society of Antiquaries in 1988, the section by A.F. Shore on "The Egyptian Collection" (pp. 45-70) describes Mayer's collections in the **Liverpool Museum**, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. The Museum contains material collected by Henry Salt, Giovanni Belzoni, George Annesley (Viscount Valentia), Joseph Sams, and Henry Stobart, but all acquired by Mayer, who himself never travelled to the Near East.

Liverpool Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 8EN. The library is open Tuesday-Thursday 10:30-4:30. Mrs Wolff has located some relevant archives:

* James Eden 1813-64, Liverpool gentleman: Diary of an adventurous voyage in 'Voyager' frigate, part of a fleet from Liverpool to Egypt in 1861. The crew of 483 men, of whom 460 were Arab. Incomplete typescript of the voyage of 1873 indicates an additional account of Egypt. See 'English Ships' 1973, June-September, filed under 'Passengers' diaries', ACC. 73-664.

* Boyd Cable, *A Hundred Years History of the P & O, 1837-1937*, London, 1937, includes accounts of Lt. James Waghorn's overland journeys for travellers to India c. 1841 across Egypt to Cosseir or to Suez to pick up P & O steamers to India.

Central Library Record Office, Picton Library, William Brown Street. Liverpool L3 8EN. e-mail: RecOffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk

The Library holds George Melly's *Journal of a Tour of Egypt, 1850-1* and *Souvenir of Andre Melly; Lettre d'Egypte et de Nubie 1852*, illustrated. (Hq 920 MEL). Also Sir H. H. Johnson's *The Nile Quest: Alexandrine Tinne, 1903* (G3997)

School of Classical Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool, 14 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WZ. Archive of Winifred Blackman (1872-1950), sister of Professor Aylward Blackman (1883-1956), Brunner Professor of Egyptology, 1934-48. Miss Blackman visited Egypt many times. From 1920 she was engaged in anthropological research on modern Egyptians, with emphasis on survivals from Pharaonic times. List of archival material and records of collections available. Professor Blackman's letters from Egypt are preserved in the archives of Liverpool University. Mrs Wolff was helped by Pat Winker: 0151 794 2467.

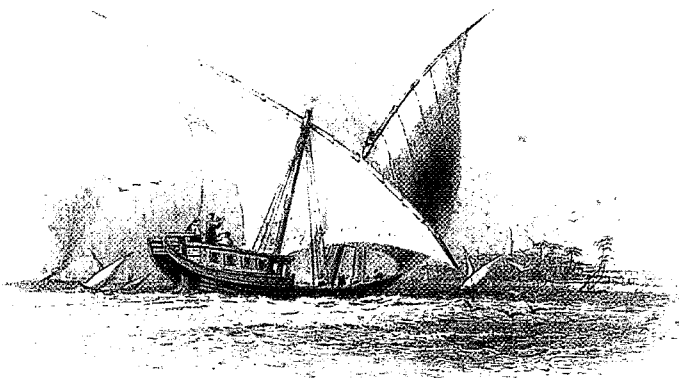


CAROB TREE.

STOP PRESS!

Those who follow Agatha Christie's and David Suchet's Hercule Poirot may like to know that a new production of *Death on the Nile* will be broadcast at 9 p.m. on Easter Monday, 12 April. Overseas members may wish to watch out for it appearing on their channels.

FOOTNOTES TO TRAVEL



IMPRESSION DE VOYAGE

The sea was sapphire coloured, and the sky
 Burned like a heated opal through the air;
 We hoisted sail; the wind was blowing fair
 For the blue lands that to the eastward lie.
 From the steep prow I marked with quickening eye
 Zakynthos, every olive grove and creek,
 Ithaca's cliff, Lycaon's snowy peak,
 And all the flower-strewn hills of Arcady.
 The flapping of the sale against the mast,
 The ripple of the water on the side,
 The ripple of girl's laughter at the stern,
 The only sounds: - when 'gan the West to burn,
 And a red sun upon the sea to ride,
 I stood upon the soil of Greece at last!

Oscar Wilde

From the sublime to the daily experience of travel in Egypt and the Near East which in the past could be a mix of sublime moments and times of near despair.

Among the most common complaints of travellers were the sleepless nights caused by fleas and - almost unmentionable - lice. The Royal Geographical Society's 9th 1906 edition, of Hints for Travellers gave heart-felt advice on the subject.

Fleas and Bugs may be kept at a respectful distance by the use of 'Keating's insect powder'. Keating's powder is slow in its effects, and therefore, if possible, should be shaken over the sleeping bag or blankets some hours before bedtime. If not, the pests will struggle through it and find renewed vigour on the sleeper. It is best in very bad quarters to rub the powder on the skin as well as to dust it over the bed. It will not kill a full grown bug under an hour, but it is extraordinarily

effective with fleas. Block up all except one small aperture, and put the powder freely about that. In a few minutes fleas will be lying stupefied all over the floor, and must be swept up and destroyed, as they will revive.

The Malta Penny Magazine – which was edited by James Richardson in the 1840s until 18xx, he fell out with the authorities and withdrew to travel in North Africa – carried excerpts from a wide variety of sources – keeping the readers up-to-date with publications which, probably, can still be read in the Malta National Library. In 1844 this description from Johnston's Travels in Abyssinia appeared.

Bedouins of Abyssinia

On our march I had an opportunity of observing a family of Bedouins moving with all their property, houses included, towards Killaloo in search of water. Seven camels were laden with mats and the bamboo frames of the native wigwams. The roof canes belonging to these rose on each side of the animals, with a long tapering curve behind, and high above them into the air. The imagination easily furnished these with a light gossamer structure, and in this manner suggested to itself a new poetical flying-machine, vying with the Pegasus of mythological fable. Besides the hut, each camel bore a considerable amount of household furniture – black earthenware pots, contained in a kind of cage protection made of

some flexible shrub; the family store of palm-leaves for the industrious housewife to weave mats or to make the native rope; a few handsome-looking baskets hung round with shells suspended from thongs; and a child or two placed amidst the whole, or perched upon the top, sometimes holding in its arms a noisy, bleating kid or lamb that was too young to walk with its dam. Some older children, boys and girls, quite naked, assisted their mothers in driving before them the flocks of sheep and goats. No men accompanied this party, but their absence was accounted for by their being engaged in attending a herd of some thousands of oxen, whose dusty track I observed, like a low red cloud some miles in extent, about a league to the west of us.

AND TODAY

Some members may have attended the talk by the travel company Wind, Sand and Stars at Cambridge. They are experts in travel in Sinai, travelling with Bedouin guides and sleeping under the stars... In April this year they held a Retreat in the desert and a pilgrim journey. In May there is a no frills adventure with both history and snorkelling... They hold slide presentations, giving an in depth view of Sinai. Ring 0297 359 7551) Their e-mail is office @windsandstars.co.uk

McCabe Travel offer hotel-based journeys in the Sinai area and even the possibility of living in the guest quarters of the monastery. They also offer travel to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and Turkey. Contact: 0208 675 6828.



THE PILGRIMS' PLACE OF MEETING.