

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

No 20

Summer 2004



145 Yanni's house on Sheikh abd el Qurna, built by Henry Salt c.1820. Lithograph from a photo taken in 1855. Rhind 1862, Plate II opp. p.38.

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ASTENE Charity number: 1067157 ISSN: 1461-4316
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**Deadline for articles 15 September, but if you
can send articles earlier it is a very great help.**



ASTENE EVENTS

ASTENE DAY IN LONDON, 5 APRIL

The day encompassed a visit to the Houses of Parliament, arranged by Josy Eldred, including a meeting with the parliamentary sniffer dogs, a visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum and two talks and supper in the evening. We were very pleased to welcome ASTENE members from Austria and Malta.

The Florence Nightingale Museum

After a tour of the Palace of Westminster, a small group of ASTENE members assembled at the Museum in the St Thomas's Hospital complex on the opposite side of the Thames. There we were welcomed by a knowledgeable volunteer guide – herself a former nurse – who showed us an audio-visual presentation on Florence Nightingale's life and gave us an explanatory tour of the exhibits.

This is a fascinating museum, well worth several hours of anyone's time. Much of it is concerned with FN's background and studious childhood, and with her later role as a pioneer of the nursing profession, as a national icon, and as a campaigner for military, medical and social reform. This occupied most of her long life – she died at the age of 90 in 1910. But there are a number of display cases of more interest to ASTENE members.

In 1849-50 she visited Greece and Egypt in the company of her friends Charles and Selina Bracebridge, and several objects bear witness to this tour. They include a wooden 'sheikh's pillow' (head-rest) and a very solid-looking fly whisk from upper Egypt, as well as the book of accomplished pen-and-ink sketches done by Selina Bracebridge in Athens.

FN recorded her impressions in a volume of *Letters from Egypt* privately printed in 1854, which is also on display. A selection of these has been edited and published by Anthony Sattin (London, 1987 and reprinted more recently). She also kept a diary, which, we were told, has only quite recently been recovered and returned to Claydon House in Buckinghamshire (National Trust) where FN spent much of her time with the Verney family. This was edited and published in 1997 by Michael Calabria (*Florence Nightingale in Egypt and Greece: her*

diary and visions, Albany, USA: State University of New York Press).

More space is naturally given in the Museum to FN's famous venture overseas: her time in the military hospital in Scutari on the Bosphorus during the Crimea War, 1854-6. The horror and heroism of that episode are well conveyed in a series of exhibits, including contemporary letters, paintings, drawings, lithographed views, and maps and other publications. A Turkish camp lantern of the period is said to be "undoubtedly the type of lantern that FN carried in the corridors of Scutari". Her brief visit to the Crimea itself is covered, and her nursing colleagues are not forgotten: a special display is devoted to Mary Seacole, the Jamaican nurse who distinguished herself caring for British troops at Sebastopol.

The Museum is strongly recommended to any ASTENE members with time to spare in London. Details at <http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk> or telephone 020 7620 0374.

Travellers and Politicians at the Houses of Parliament

In the evening most of the group re-assembled, not actually in the Houses of Parliament, but in one of its annexes on Millbank. There we heard two well-researched and ground-breaking papers concerning three 19th century Middle East travellers who subsequently became Members of Parliament.

The first, by the ASTENE stalwart Peta Ree, was entitled "Buckingham v. Bankes", and covered the extended literary and legal dispute between two famous travellers, James Silk Buckingham (1786-1855), MP for Sheffield, 1832-7, and William John Bankes (1786-1855), successively MP for Truro, Cambridge University, Marlborough and Dorset.

Originally friends and travelling companions in Palestine, Jordan and Syria, they quarrelled vigorously over the publication of travel notes and descriptions of which each claimed authorship. Bankes emerged from the affair with much less credit, making scurrilous allegations against Buckingham which eventually led to a protracted libel case. This vindicated the latter, but left him most unfairly out of pocket. This distressing but fascinating story also involved other contemporary figures familiar to ASTENE enthusiasts, such as the traveller John Louis Burckhardt, the dragoman Giovanni Finati, the consul John Barker and the publisher John Murray. The considerable intricacies of the affair were skilfully and lucidly delineated by the speaker, in classic ASTENE style.

Another colourful traveller and politician was the Irishman, Arthur Macmorrough Kavanagh (1831-89), MP for Wexford and later Carlow, 1866-80. His exploits were graphically recounted to us by his compatriot the geographical historian Edwin Aiken. Despite his congenital disabilities, involving malformed limbs, Kavanagh enthusiastically rode,

navigated, hunted and shot – skills used on his way up and down the Nile as a teenager in 1846-8. Then he embarked on a much more adventurous journey, but conducted in a similar spirit – with drink added – down the Volga to the Caspian Sea and on through Iran, Iraq and the Gulf in 1849-51. He also recorded impressions of his travels in vivid if somewhat naïve paintings, and in notes and diaries which survive in his Irish country seat. These were the principal sources for the vivid and entertaining presentation which completed another enjoyable ASTENE day.

Our thanks are due to our Events Organiser, Elizabeth Woodthorpe, and to our host at the Houses of Parliament and Millbank, Josy Eldred.

Geoffrey Roper

ASTENE CYPRUS TOUR

If you are still considering joining this tour in September, (see last Bulletin for details), please contact Elizabeth Woodthorpe *urgently* on 0207 622 3694 or by fax 0207 627 4151.

Papers offered for the conference include:

Dido in Cyprus; John Sibthorpe and the *Flora Graecae*; Entering a Forbidden Place; Leake between Alanya and Constantinople, 1800, and several more from Cypriot contributors.

POSSIBLE TOUR TO SINAI, 2006

We are considering a Sinai tour in January or February 2006. We need 15 people to make it possible. Such a tour might be made up of: Flight to Sharm el Sheikh and overnight stay; two nights in the monastery guest house at St Catherine's; Climbing Mount Sinai; four nights in nearby comfortable local hotel; travel in the Sinai Peninsula including Wadi Firan and Mount Serabit, a short presentation of papers; return to Red Sea and flight home. The cost (all inclusive) for 8 days (including travel) would be about £1100.

Might you be interested? Please let Elizabeth Woodthorpe know on 0207 622 3694.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY-STUDY DAY

There are places left for this Study Day linked to the Women Travellers exhibition (Saturday 25 September) which includes papers on Princess Caroline's notorious journey through the Near East to Jerusalem (Charles Plouviez), Damascene Days: Isabel Burton and Jane Digby (Mary Lovell), Lucie Duff Gordon in Egypt (Sarah Searight). Contact for NPG education@npg.org.uk

The Study Day will be followed by the ASTENE AGM. This is for all members, whether or not they attend the study day. Notices will be sent out soon.

SEE YOU IN MANCHESTER!

This time next year ASTENE will be meeting in Manchester. The Conference will be held at Hulme Hall, 14-18 July, 2005.

People unfamiliar with this great city might ask "Why Manchester?" There are many good reasons.

- * It has excellent transport links both within Britain and internationally by air, rail and road, and renowned internal public transport.

- * It has a very large and prestigious university with a very welcoming Middle East Studies department.

- * Historically the city has strong links with the Middle East going far back in time, and, consequently, useful research resources.

- * It is a marvellous cultural centre with a splendid University Museum, two world famous art galleries (Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth), and fine musical and theatrical traditions.

- * It has also two world famous football teams and fabulous shopping opportunities!

Essentially Manchester is a great Victorian city with a strong radical tradition which has adapted well to the 21st century. The Art Gallery displays – among much else – a fine selection of Pre-Raphaelite painting, including painting and memorabilia of Holman Hunt who travelled and worked in the Near East in the mid-1850s. (*We would welcome a paper on his travels.*)

Lyme Park nearby at Disley was the home of Thomas Legh (1795-1857) who travelled widely in the Near East in the early 19th century with, amongst others, Captains Irby and Mangles, W.J. Bankes, James Curtin, Sarah Belzoni... There will be an opportunity to visit Lyme Park (National Trust) where, on the Grand Staircase, hangs a vast full length portrait of Thomas Legh in oriental dress with a horse and servitor. He had, according to the 1952 Guide to the house, "a taste for Archaeology and returned from his travels with some interesting Greek Marbles which are now at Lyme."

OTHER EVENTS

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ALEXANDRIA

Earlier this year a beautiful new museum opened in Alexandria. It is housed in the palatial 1928-built house of the family of Al-Saad Bassily, which later became the US Consulate. The house is itself a treat, and the displays are imaginatively inserted into its splendid rooms.

Drawing on holdings from several museums, it is a truly 'national' museum of time and place. It represents Egypt in terms of art, culture and technology from the Pharaonic period to the Islamic and to mid-19th century Egypt. The displays from the Greco-Roman period are striking in their beauty; the weapons and artefacts of the Mamluks

impress. Sets of 19th century glassware, silverware, chinaware and precious jewels give a sense of the richness of the court of Mehemet Ali and his descendants. We would welcome further information to report in the Bulletin.

M. and Madame Mahmoud Khalil Gallery, Cairo

There is little of travel in Egypt in this gallery, but a few paintings excuse this article – the oil by Prosper Marilhat of *Le Caire* (c.1850) and Gabriel Biessy's *Rues du Cairo* of 1919.

Other than these one would visit to admire the Oriental ceramics, tapestries, early 20th century sculpture and the Khalil's beautiful palace by the Nile which houses them. But the main attraction will be the 7 Delacroixs, 6 Milletts; 2 Boudins, 11 Corots, 6 Pissaros, including his *Cricket Match in Bedford Park*, Gauguin's *Life and Death*, 5 Monets, ... and the Ingres, Cassatt, Berthe Morissot, Rodin, Toulouse-Lautrec, 4 Sisleys, 5 Renoirs, and two beautiful Fantin Latours (1878 *Roses* and 1886 *Lilac*). And there is more. Sadly, there appears to be no catalogue. Happily, the gallery was full of Egyptian art students at work when we were there.
Deborah Manley

TUTANKHAMUN COMES TO BASEL

The first exhibition of Tutankhamun's treasures in Europe for 23 years runs at the Antikenmuseum (St Alben-Graban 5, Basel) until 3 October. For more information please see www.tutankhamun.ch

BOOK OF CURIOSITIES AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD

A major exhibition on the cartographic tradition for the heavens and the earth for both medieval Europe and the Islamic World - 1 June to 30 October 2004 - includes the newly conserved folios of the *Book of Curiosities of the Science of Marvels*, originally put together in the Nile Delta region before AD1050, and other Bodleian western and oriental manuscripts and books, and items loaned from other Oxford collections. The *Book* gives "an unrivalled picture of the relationship between east and west at that period."

HEAVEN ON EARTH – ART FROM ISLAMIC LANDS

At the Hermitage Rooms, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2 Works from the collection of the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg and the Nasser D. Khalil Collection of Islamic Art, London. Calligraphy, paintings, textiles, jewels, metalworks, ceramics. Open daily 10 – 18.00 until 22nd August.. Adults £5, concessions £4.



KINGDOMS OF THE ANCIENT NILE

Treasures from the National Museum of Khartoum will be on exhibition at the British Museum from 9 September to 9 January, 2005

THE SILK ROAD – TRADE, TRAVEL, WAR AND FAITH

British Library, 96 Euston Rd, London NW1.
Once-in-a-lifetime chance to see Silk Road treasures excavated by Aurel Stein.
Open weekdays 9:30-1800; Tuesday until 20:00, Sat 930-1700, Sun, 9:30-1700, Free.

PETRA: LOST CITY OF STONE

This is a travelling exhibition, so watch out for its future openings. Art and artefacts from 'the rose-red city': sculptures, reliefs, ceramics, metalwork and inscriptions – and 19th century artworks that document the rediscovery of Petra by the west. Cincinnati Art Museum, 14 Sept.–30 Jan, 2005.

MADINGLEY HALL, CAMBRIDGE

Residential courses of interest to members include: Saharan Rock Art and the People that Painted and Engraved on Stone, 14-16 January 2005; Unwrapping a Mummy, 28-30 January 2005; Art and Architecture of the Christian Orient: Syria, Coptic Egypt, Ethiopia, 2-4 December 2005; Fifth Crusade 29-31 October 2004. *Full details: Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB3 8AQ.*

MUMMY – THE INSIDE STORY

The 'virtual unwrapping' and exploration of the untouched body of the priest Nesperennub. State-of-the-art 3D technology reveals the mysteries of the mummy in a spectacular 20-minute virtual reality tour. We would welcome reports.
Room 35, British Museum, 1 July-March 2005. £6 and £3 concessions.

*******OFF THE BEATEN TRACK***** WOMEN TRAVELLERS**

This exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2, runs from 7 July to 31 October. It combines women's portraits and souvenirs, ranging from natural history specimens through archaeological finds to stunning ceremonial artefacts from Africa and the Pacific. Open 10 – 1800 and until 2100 on Thursday and Friday. Free. Linked to this exhibition is the NPG/ASTENE Study Day. (See above and www.npg.org.uk)

Please send information about exhibitions, study days, conferences likely to interest ASTENE members to Eileen Marshall – marked Subject ASTENE so she can identify source:
Eileen@emarshall61.fsnet.co.uk
or mail or fax to the Editor.

QURNA HISTORY PROJECT NEWS

ASTENE members will recall the project fired by the enthusiasm of Caroline Simpson to encourage the understanding of and to restore the heritage of the village of Qurna on the west bank of the Nile at Luxor, so well known by travellers through the centuries. The Project's fascinating Newsletter arrived just too late to report in the last Bulletin. Here we give some of its highlights.

The urgency of the problem is summed up by the Newsletter's editorial comment:

Mud-brick buildings can have a life of hundreds, and indeed thousands, of years, but may need maintenance and repair. For some years the authorities in Qurna have prevented and discouraged people from repairing the structures. At the same time they have undertaken or insisted upon the demolition of hundreds of houses. As a result Qurna is – a mess. It urgently needs the management plan talked about for decades.

QURNA AND THE TRAVELLERS

Many of those interested in travel to Egypt in the early 19th century will be familiar with the name of Giovanni d'Athanasi who worked alongside many of the travellers in excavations and discoveries. His house still exists... The Project News tells us:

The house of Giovanni d'Athanasi was built around 1815 – probably the first house on the hillside for over a thousand years. Yanni was Britain's man on the ground, excavating and collecting in the bonanza days. The house played a major role in the growth of both Egyptology and tourism, and is an historic building in its own right. A drawing of 1855, taken from a photograph, shows it among its tomb-dwelling neighbours. The tower now hangs perilously, and the whole structure is in very urgent need of repair.

How to help

* *Caroline is looking for early photographs and drawings, and writing about the area.*

* *Many ASTENE members contribute to the fund that supports this splendid project. Supporters receive Newsletters and the funding is used for the upkeep of the exhibition of the Robert Hay Panoramas of Qurna and illustrations of the village as it was. This includes exhibition advertising, building restoration, and the display of one of the few remaining saqihs.*

* Visit Project web-site www.sepcom.demon.co.uk/hay/main.html - soon to be replaced by www.qurna.org Please send donations to Caroline Simpson at 9 Whittington Road, Bounds Green, London N22 8YS. Cheques payable to Hay's Theban Panorama.

VISITING D'ATHANASI IN 1826

Anne Katherine Elwood, bride of an East India Company officer, travelled through Egypt to India. In Qurna after a long day ("We had been up for several hours and the sun was becoming intensely hot."), she visited d'Athanasi's house.

...the party kindly proposed adjourning to the house of a Greek, *ci-devant* agent of Mr Salt's, where we might have both shade and shelter from the sun, and where we might obtain some repose and refreshment. Here we were treated with some modern coffee and cakes to eat and drink, and with some ancient bread to look at, which had just been discovered in the King's Tombs, and which was supposed to be not less than three thousand years old... We likewise saw a curious and low old-fashioned European-looking chair, such as may still frequently be seen in nurseries in England. ... Grinning ghastly and horridly around, 'revisiting the glimpses of the moon' in their fleshly forms, were ranged several mummies, their countenances uncovered and their features disclosed to view. They were erect, and standing against the wall. I passed next to them, and ere I had perceived in what neighbourhood I was, I had almost touched them. ...

BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Review Editors: Edwin Aiken can be contacted at the Geography Department, Queen's University, Belfast; Kathryn Ferry (art) at 20 Castle Street, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8EZ. .

Murray's Handbook to Syria and Palestine, 1875, by J.L. Porter gave some advice which many travellers fortunately followed.

Every traveller should have his note-book to record incidents and describe scenes to which memory will look back with pleasure in after years. Descriptions written on the spot will fix scenes and events in the mind. As to the propriety of publishing I say nothing. But a 'journal' has a real interest, apart from all thought of Albemarle Street (John Murray) or Paternoster Row (several other contemporary publishers). (p.30)

Travellers in the Near East edited by Charles Foster, Stacey International, 305 pp., illus., soft bound, £18.50, ISBN 1900988 712,2004 The latest ASTENE publication of papers from our conferences. The introduction describes it thus: "This eclectic work carries the reader from the political travels of the Cicero brothers, amid the further reaches of the Roman empire, to the missionary exploits of a Chaldean Christian in Iraq eighteen centuries later; from the adventures of a French dragoman in Ottoman Egypt to the

researches of a Scottish Enlightenment naturalist in Aleppo. There are examples in this volume of a wonderful variety of Near Eastern travel, by a catholic collection of travellers." The papers are those given by Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell from the Isle of Lewis, Dr Elizabeth French, William M. Frick, Jen Kimpton of John Hopkins University, Norman Lewis, Pascale Lina nt de Bellefonds of CRNS, Nanterre University, Dr Richard Long, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Marsha McCoy , Dr Brenda Moon of the University of Edinburgh, Dr Geoffrey Roper of Cambridge University Library, Jennifer Scarce formerly of the National Museums of Scotland, Janet Starkey of Durham University and Professor Malcolm Wagstaff of Southampton University.

A full review will appear in the next Bulletin.

Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan: the Kiosk of Trajan by Roger O. De Keersmaecker,

Graffito-Graffiti, III Mortsel (Antwerp) Belgium, 64 pp. illus. soft bound, 2004. Available from the author: E15.00 excl. p&p.

Yesterday's act of vandalism can be today's valuable research resource. Egypt has a long record of graffiti beginning with rock drawings engraved on rock surfaces in preliterate, predynastic times. Ancient Egyptian graffiti have long been recognised as an important field of study which attracted such giants of Egyptology as Wilhelm Spiegelberg and Jaroslav Cerny, but the study of modern graffiti is relatively young. The classic work is G. Goyon's *Les inscriptions et graffiti des voyageurs sur la Grande Pyramide* (Cairo: Societe Royale de Geographie, 1944), and more recently the topic has been studied by Michel Dewachter and Jochen Hallof. Roger de Keersmaecker's series is a worthy successor.

Archaeologists recognised long ago that the history of an archaeological feature does not end with the departure of the original inhabitants. But Egyptologists have been very slow to accept this and some of the major Egyptian monuments have been deprived of their post-pharaonic history by wanton destruction of later (Coptic, Islamic and modern) remains. Yet these have their role to play in the evaluation of the monument. Travellers' graffiti, for example, can indicate how much of a structure was sanded up and how much of it was accessible. The names inscribed near the capital columns of some Upper Egyptian temples are not necessarily evidence of their writers' physical prowess.

'Vandalism' is a judgemental term and graffiti writing must be seen in the contemporary context. The most recent graffiti writers who have acquired an aura of historicity are those of the 19th century. Among the 97 inscriptions recorded by De Keersmaecker the earliest is that of an otherwise unknown P. Chabuy, probably a soldier in

JOHN FULLER
1819
W Pearse
Five months from Addwa
in Abyssinia after being
in that Country 14 Years in
the service of the EARL
of Mountnorris & H. SALT Esq
MARCH XXXI MDCCLXXIX

Graffiti which led to research on a biography of Henry Salt. Napoleon's expeditionary force, of 1799. Almost all of them were made by Western travellers and about two thirds are dated. This suggests that the graffiti was primarily intended as a record of an achievement, a statement for posterity that a famous monument was visited. Among the names is Captain A.L. Corry RN, who visited Philae in January 1818. The name of this intrepid seaman is known from other monuments. Ego probably played some part in graffiti writing, perhaps never more so than in the cases of 'Smith 1836' and 'George 1883'. De Keersmaecker lists only one graffiti in Arabic, and that without a facsimile copy.

De Keersmaecker numbers the graffiti, indicates their position on a plan, presents them in facsimiles, discusses their writers, lists other examples of the same travellers and gives their bibliography. Only two are shown in photographs. Over thirty general views of Trajan's Kiosk, mostly dating from the 19th century, are included.

This is an unassuming but pleasing and well researched publication. The history of travel derives valuable information from graffiti written by travellers and tourists, and there is something attractive and satisfactory about finding a small inscription in the hand of a person whom one is researching. For this, we may forgive them their temporary lapse of standards in the treatment of monuments, behaviour which we would strongly deprecate nowadays. Roger De Keersmaecker is to be congratulated on a very useful contribution to the study of travellers to Egypt. We shall eagerly await the next volume
Jaromir Malek

Note: Volumes I (The Kiosk of Qertassi) and II (The Temples of Semna and Kumma) from the author at the same rates. Visit the regularly updated website www.egypt-sudan-graffiti.be

Traveling through Egypt by Deborah Manley and Sahar Abdel Hakim, Cairo and New York, American University in Cairo Press, 2004 ISBN 977 428 801 5, 268 pp., hardback, LE 120, £20.50 or \$27.50

At the time when there appears to be worrying and increasing distrust between the West and the Middle East at a national level, this collection of short excerpts of travellers' experiences of Egypt from 450BC onwards come as a refreshing

reminder that people from many cultural and historical backgrounds continue to appreciate and to try to understand Egypt. Deborah and Sahar are both founding members of ASTENE, who share a fascination of representation of Egypt in the different narratives of travellers from various cultures.

This book begins with a brief introduction which explains the complexities of travel in Egypt, the diversity of motives and fascinating range of travellers. The main sections include an overview of Egypt's physical features and the importance of the Nile to its prosperity as well as comments on its food, drink and papyri. Regional sections follow on Alexandria, the Nile Delta, Cairo, the Pyramids and Sphinx, the Fayoum ('an important place with fields of finest rice') Luxor, Aswan, Nubia, Suez and Sinai, and the deserts of Egypt. The absence of an index of place names is ameliorated by this regional arrangement. There are glimpses of gnats, mosques, Bedouin and *fellahin*, gardens, bath-houses, tombs and boats, the perfumes of mimosa, camels and pilgrimages, monasteries and mummy-snatchers. The glories of ancient Egypt are encountered - 'of all the countries that I ever visited myself, or ever acquired knowledge of from the researches of others, there are none that can compare with Egypt, in regard to the immense number of ancient monuments, that it contains.' ('Abd al-Latif al-Baghdadi c.1200) Many accounts contain meticulous detail and speculation on the Pyramids, ruins around Luxor, and the magnificence of Karnak that silenced Amelia Edwards in 1873.

The 116 sources range from guidebook snippets to classical travellers such as Herodotus and Strabo. Texts of well known travellers (Burckhardt and Burton) and lesser known writers (Mrs M. Carey and Isabella Bird) who explored Egypt and Nubia before the influx of tourists from the 1840s are included. Early and later 'Egyptologists' (Belzoni, Wilkinson, Maspero), novelists (Mark Twain, William Golding, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling), European aristocrats (Princess Bibescu, Lord Castlereagh, Baron Denon), doctors, naval officers, merchants and artists are all quoted. Not only is the range of sources extensive but a brief biography of each traveller is provided, as well as an index of travellers and a bibliography of sources used.

One aspect that is particularly effective is the appreciation of Arabic texts in translation in combination with European and American sources, especially as the texts are integrated under specific headings. These medieval Arabic texts were written by pilgrim-scholars and include travellers educated in Baghdad (al-Baghdadi, Ibn Haukal, al-Muqaddasi), the Maghribi Ibn Battuta, the Valencian Ibn Jubayr and Ibn Umar from Tunis. Whilst other collections of vignettes from Egypt

have been produced over the years, none has such a balanced range of sources as this volume.

Anyone planning to travel to locations in Egypt should be encouraged to take this book with them for it not only contains wonderful descriptions but constantly reminds us of our inheritance of experiences of so many travellers over the centuries. The drawings of the topographical artist W.H. Bartlett (1809-54) have been used effectively throughout to illustrate the texts. There are useful preambles to each chapter and many snippets that enhance the cohesion of the volume which has been beautifully designed by AUC Press. However the book is more than a bedside or site companion, for anyone researching specific sites, historical periods or travellers from a particular genre, the book provides a window into a range of comparative literature. When can we see companion volumes for other parts of the Middle East and North Africa?

Janet Starkey

The Rise of Oriental Travel: English Visitors to the Ottoman Empire, 1580-1720, by

Gerald Maclean, Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN 0-333-97364-X, 296 pp, 15 colour 21 and b/w plates
Gerald Maclean is Professor of English at Wayne State University, Detroit, and Visiting Professor at Bosphorus University, Istanbul and at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter – and an ASTENE member. His book considers four journeys made by English-men, with different purposes, to different parts of the Ottoman Empire between 1599 and 1670. A short epilogue compensates for this male bias by asking 'what about the women, then?'

Lancashire-born Thomas Dallam was commissioned by Elizabeth I to build an organ, which was to be sent as a gift to the Sultan Mehmed III in 1599. It was partly to acknowledge Mehmed's accession (although a little late) and partly to help aid the ambitions of English traders of the Levant Company. Dallam's, and the organ's, success was enormous, and for a period of a few weeks, before deciding to return to England, he supplanted the new English Ambassador, Henry Lello, in importance at the court in Constantinople. The narrative is enlarged from Dallam's own manuscript account, and deals with the route and practicalities of the journey, the nature of the organ, which was later smashed to pieces by Mehmed's successor, Ahmed I; and the diplomatic intrigues at the court between the Levant Company and a range of foreign powers who were vying for influence.

The strained relations between the new Ambassador and the merchants of the Levant Company continue as the background to the second narrative. William Biddulph may have travelled to Constantinople on the same ship as Dallam and his organ, but is not specifically named in his journal.

Biddulph soon moved on to his appointment as Protestant chaplain in Aleppo, where he served from 1600 to 1612. During that time he travelled widely around the region as far as Jerusalem and Damascus. His letters constantly criticise and ridicule Catholicism, Islam, and Judaism compared with Protestantism, and are obsessed with any form of sexual misconduct or immoral practices. It is with some pleasure therefore, that the section closes with the report of John Kitely revealing that Biddulph had been seen on his return journey on the island of Zante, 'every day' reeling drunkenly around the streets 'to the scandal of our religion and shame of our whole nation': not the first, and by no means the last! Also that he had been caught *in flagrante* with an 'Inglishe strumpitt'. So much for his sanctimonious posturing and, as Professor Maclean points out, we have no way of knowing what he got up to in Aleppo.

Henry Blount, author of *A Voyage into the Levant*, is an altogether different figure. A lawyer, and probably a spy, Blount's account of a journey between 1634 and 1636 combines a travel narrative with clear observation, particularly noting the military and economic strengths of the Ottomans. He lacks the moralising of Biddulph, and is far more accepting of the cultural differences, including homosexual behaviour, that were usually singled out for condemnation. Blount is also unusual amongst contemporaries in distinguishing the various languages and peoples of the Ottoman Empire, rather than using the dismissive blanket term 'Turks'. Blount's journey is followed from the Danube to Cairo and Alexandria and placed within the context of his later career. The importance of the published work is also assessed.

As it deals with Algeria, the final narrative falls, strictly, outside the limits that ASTENE has, with good reason, imposed on itself. However, it raises issues that are too important for me to ignore here. Dallam's account exists only in a manuscript that was acquired by the British Museum from a collector in 1848. Maclean rightly proposes the question of authenticity, but has been assured there is no reason to suspect forgery. Unlike Dallam's, Biddulph's account was published, but in an edited form. Maclean explains why Biddulph went to the lengths of using an editorial persona, 'Theophilus Lavender', and in that persona claiming that Biddulph had objected to publication! This is a salutary warning on the nature and purpose of 'text' in travel writing, which leads directly to the issues surrounding the last narrative. Published in 1670, *The Adventures of (Mt T.S.) An English Merchant, Taken Prisoner by the Turks of Algiers*, seems to present a largely fictitious account within a context that contains real historical events, and real information on places, customs, flora, fauna, landscape and architecture. It therefore belongs to a genre that goes back to the Hellenistic novels of

the first and second centuries AD, and is found again in the travels of Sir John Mandeville and others. It is also an erotic story, and an early example of western (male) fantasies about the 'harim'. The nature of this work shows the importance of text criticism for all of us working on 'travel writing' whether in published or journal form, as indeed, does that of Biddulph.

Professor Maclean has skilfully interwoven four narratives that give different perspectives on visitors to the Ottoman Empire over the century from Elizabeth I to Charles II, a century that saw the emergence of England as a major sea and trading power. They are, as Maclean states in his preface, about being English among the Ottomans and writing about that experience: self-identity, both personal and national, contrasted with 'otherness'. These narratives also show that the relationship between the West (in this case specifically a newly Protestant England) and Islam was far more complex than we have perhaps assumed. Even Biddulph, who is overtly critical of Islam, actually had difficulty in finding much wrong with the eight maxims of Islam that he describes. Within the narratives we actually encounter other Englishmen who were employed at the courts, and had adopted Islam. Dallam met a fellow Lancastrian named Finch (from Chorley, about 15 miles from Dallam's birthplace) who was appointed as dragoman to the party. Finch has become 'in religion a perfit Turke, but he was our trusties friende.' Clearly Dallam felt at ease with Finch, but what effect did the appearance of a (presumably) familiar Lancashire accent have on Finch, one wonders? Dallam had less success with a dragoman appointed by Lello in Constantinople: 'he was a Turke but a Cornishman borne'. How and why these men came to be in the places and positions they were is not addressed by Dallam, and there is probably no other surviving evidence. One possibility is discussed in the narrative of 'T.S' and illustrated in the first colour plate, from a German book of 1588. This shows Samson Rowlie, who was the influential eunuch treasurer to the Ottoman Beylerbey of Algiers. The son of a merchant of Bristol he had been seized, along with others, in 1577, when the ship he and his father were travelling on was captured.

The religious attitudes of the individuals are an important feature of the book, as are the (related) attitudes to sexual possibilities offered by travel and residence away from England. Here we see the emergence of ambivalence to 'the Orient' that characterised so much later literature and politics, and to an extent still does.

The narratives here are considerably enlarged by reference to other contemporary literature, and informed by the author's travels in pursuit of his subjects. The narratives are studied and filled-out from other materials, but none is a weary

reconstruction of every move. Maclean is interested in what the narratives tell us about the development of attitudes as well as the actual processes and historical circumstances. Throughout, there are references to the academic methodologies that inform Maclean's thinking, and these are supported in the extensive footnotes and bibliography. However, Maclean nowhere sacrifices readability to methodological discourse, which means that this is good, as well as interesting and informative reading. *Robert Morkot*

RESEARCH RESOURCES

British Museum Reading Room, 1876

The British Museum annual return shows that in the year 1876 the daily average of readers was 376, each of whom (on average) consulted 13 volumes in the course of the day. The average time occupied in supplying a book to a reader was 15 minutes. (From The Leisure Hour, 1877)

A TREASURE HUNT – THE ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

In earlier generations many people kept journals – especially when they travelled. As we know hundreds of these journal-keepers wrote books. Most, of course, did not – yet these unpublished journals are often still extant. We have chanced on a resource listing the recent whereabouts of a large number of travel journals from 1800 onward. They cover the spread of the ASTENE area from the Ottoman Balkans around the Mediterranean to Egypt, down the Red Sea.

Some of the diarists are famous; some are known to us; many are new names – and maybe the unexplained Mrs S. or Mr W. met at Petra or under the Pyramids by known travellers. Most are in public archives; a few are in private hands. Much of the record is subsumed into the National Record of Archives – but you need a *name* to search there.

ASTENE, with its members scattered across Britain and USA, is in a unique position to find, read and report on these journals. We are therefore asking for volunteers to help with the research. Such volunteers will be given a report form on which to enter their discoveries so that information and evaluation of what we acquire will be consistently recorded, and entered onto the ASTENE Research website.

We are looking for volunteers with access to: Angus; Bedfordshire; Berkshire; Birmingham; Buckinghamshire; Cambridge (several); Cardiff; Cornwall; Derbyshire; Devon (Exeter and Plymouth); Sussex (East and West); Edinburgh; Glasgow; Gloucestershire; Hampshire; Kent; Lincoln; London (many in different archives);

Manchester; Nottingham; Oxford (several); Northumberland; Sheffield; Shropshire; Somerset; Surrey; Lancashire (Liverpool, Warrington, Wigan); Wiltshire; Yorkshire (East and North).

If you would like to take part in this research, please let Deborah Manley know. You will be sent a list of entries for your area and, in the places with much material, chosen period (between 1800-1900) from which to choose up to three journals to start work on. You will also be sent a form to complete for the ASTENE record.

THE DORSET RECORD OFFICE

Further to the note in the last issue of the Bulletin about the Dorset Record Office, Norman Lewis reminds us that besides the rich store of correspondence noted there, the Bankes archive contains hundreds of W.J. Bankes' drawings, plans of monuments, and inscriptions from 'Syria' (i.e. Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) and Asia Minor, as well as some of his travel notes and journals, including the long account of his journey to and from Petra with Irby, Mangles, Legh and Finati. Much but no means all of the Syrian material has been published or will be published in the near future.

Whereas the Syrian material has been catalogued, the large collection of material from Asia Minor (and from some islands?) has not, so far as we know, been catalogued or studied by any specialist, although Francesca Radcliffe has done a little preliminary work. Here is a great opportunity for a researcher! [Anyone interested might first like to discuss such a project with Norman Lewis.]

MUNDUS GATEWAY TO MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS IN UK

From the early 19th century Christian missionaries joined the travellers in the eastern Mediterranean: Joseph Wolff converting Jews; William Jowett distributing Bibles along the Nile; Rev. Gobat preaching in Cairo... and others through the century spread across the region.

Between 1999-2002 ninety previously unlisted collections of papers and some 40,000 photographs were catalogued by this project. There are now on-line catalogues for the British and Foreign Bible Society (London) and the Church Missionary Society (Birmingham) were created. There are also leads to Catholic missionary societies. Material relevant to ASTENE researchers exists in Dundee, Lambeth Palace, London, St Anthony's College, Oxford, the Royal Commonwealth Society Library, Cambridge. Look at North Africa the Middle East on <http://www.mundus.ac.uk/about.html>

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

There will be a full description of the "unlocking of a new resource" at the Royal Geographical Society in the next Bulletin. The RGS holds maps, over 150,000 books, photographs, artwork, databases and manuscript documents which form one of the most important geographical collections in the world. In June the Foyle Reading Room opened to the public. Among much else is a kilometre of manuscript shelving including journals, letters and journal manuscripts.

To register as a new reader take proof of identity. The charge is £10 per day. The Reading Room is open Monday to Friday 10 am – 5 pm at 1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR (entrance on Exhibition Road, nearest tube station South Kensington.) Telephone: 0207 591 3000.

You can search the collections catalogue on-line: www.rgs.org

NOTES AND QUERIES

The State visit of the King of the Belgians

On Saturday, 7 April (Easter eve), 1855, in honour of the Duke and Duchess of Brabante, (the King and Queen of the Belgians, and she a member of the Imperial Austrian family), the Sultan ordered that Christians should be invited to visit the Noble Sanctuary, the Hharam Schereef in Jerusalem. It is a tale told by the British Consul James Finn with sensitive humour and I recommend it. Despite careful preparation, organisation broke down and eager Christian travellers defied all attempts to restrict entry to this previously carefully restricted and hidden area - "in they rushed in a flood". Shoes came off and dignitaries and travellers alike climbed to the Dome of the Rock. After that, non-Muslims were permitted to enter. (*Stirring Times: Records from the Consular Chronicles 1853-6*, London, 1878)

Did any of these travellers write of this wonderful experience?

Travellers from India

Finn drew attention to another unfamiliar fact. There were many British subjects among the Moslem pilgrims to Jerusalem, and, indeed, some forty British subjects resident there in the 1850s. There were endowed houses for Muslim pilgrims - as there were for Christians - and one of these was allotted to Indians. Finn often escorted Indian civil and military officers to these 'Convents', and partook of their hospitality - meanwhile chatting in Persian or Hindustani while overlooking a prospect of the sacred precincts within the Haram.

Did any of these pilgrims and other Indian travellers to Jerusalem record their travels?

Who were they?

Early in April 1879 six American clergymen were travelling in some style from Sinai to Suez and probably on to Cairo. They would have been at St Catherine's Monastery on about 7th April. Does anyone know who they might have been and if there is a record of their journey? *Deborah Manley*

Reverend Greville John Chester (1830-92)

Ill health required Chester to retire from his parish in Kent in 1865, and winter abroad for many years. In 1881 Petrie met him in Egypt on his 38th visit. (*Who was Who in Egyptology*).

Trying to flesh out information about Chester's personality and collecting, specifically of gems, and with relations with institutions and organisations, I should be most grateful for any information about him which readers may come across (a) by travellers and other acquaintances, abroad and in Britain, and (b) in accounts of societies and organisations. Please send to

gertrud.seidmann@arch.ox.ac.uk

J. Keast Lord - is anything known?

Reverend Samuel Manning used the material of the naturalist, Lord, for his chapter on Sinai in *The Land of the Pharaohs*. Lord had been a member of an expedition "despatched by the Viceroy of Egypt for the exploration of Sinai, but death prevented publication of an elaborate and learned work." What is known of Mr Lord?

Dr Moss RN at Troy

Has anyone come across a Dr Moss R.N. of HMS *Atalanta* (Portsmouth) who visited Troy in 1878-9? He collected various sherds, animal bones and molluscs which now reside in the collection of the Manchester Museum. The sherds have been tested by Neutron Activation Analysis and have become important in interpreting the history of the site - particularly with all the publicity being generated at the moment. It would be nice to know more of this early collector.

I would be grateful even if you have not come across him, if anyone knows how to chase up later 19th century naval officers could let me know.

Lisa French (Lisacamb@aol.com)

RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Peta Ree responded to Tom Rees' query about the **Werry papers**. She drew attention to the On-line Catalogues of Western Manuscripts:

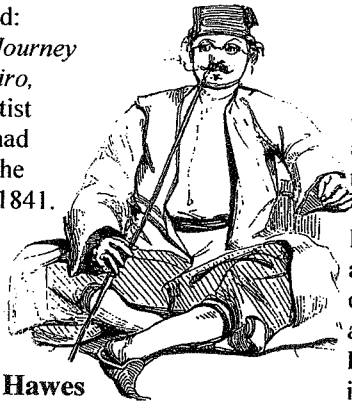
<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/online.htm>

Other papers listed here include:

Baker Papers: Colonel George and Mrs Caroline, 1809-57. Baker was British representative on the Greek Boundary Commission.
Chiswell Journals of Richard Chiswell (1673-1751) Turkey merchant and traveller.
J.G. Wilkinson (1797-1875) Sketch-books; travel papers, personal and other papers. (Horrible writing!)
T.E. Lawrence, related papers 1894-1970.

Who was J?

Dr Robert Morkot responded:
In Thackeray's *Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo*, his 'old friend J' was the artist John Frederick Lewis who had settled in a grand house in the Ezbique district of Cairo in 1841. This conclusion, by the catalogue of the *Orientalists* exhibition at the Royal Academy."



Crete and Harriet Boyd Hawes

Lisa French writes in response to the review on *Born to Rebel* in Bulletin 19.

Harriet Boyd Hawes 'largely forgotten' – I think not and hope this is not really the impression that her daughter has managed to give the reading public (I have not yet managed to get hold of the book).

Not only is Gournia much visited by tourists today, standing, as it does, overlooking the narrows by the Gulf of Maribello, but the excavation report is a primary document. As it is in English it is high on the reading list of universities in this country. Moreover the American School of Classical Studies in Athens is currently carrying out new work on the site.

For those who would like to know more about this pioneer woman archaeologist - who perhaps surprisingly was taken up by Arthur Evans - try to find her delightful little book *Crete, the Forerunner of Greece* published with her husband in 1909 as well as the volume of academic tributes to her published by Smith College in 1968 – *A Land Called Crete*.

Corrections

Dr Alix Wilkinson would like to make an alteration to her article about the Mahmoudieh Canal in Bulletin 19, page 15. The Garden No. 1 is Antoniadis according to Robert Ilbert, *Alexandrie 1830-1930*, IFAO, Bulletin d'Etude 112/1, Cairo, 1996, 181.- not as she had guessed, Ras-el-Tin.

In Dr Bailey's note about Sydney Smith's gift, pages 24-5, Bulletin 19, Humphrey Davy was wrongly transcribed as 'Humfrey' Davy and not corrected.

The following articles are "Footnotes or addenda to the talk given by Norman Lewis at the Oxford Conference on July 11, 2003 which was, in part, about Pietro Della Valle."

PIETRO DELLA VALLE IN MALTA

I am indebted to Joseph Attard for sending me a copy of a paper by Giovanni Bonello entitled 'The Nobleman who came to Malta with his wife in a box', one of the chapters in his *Histories of Malta:Figments and Fragments*, 2 vols., Malta, Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, 2001, vol. 1, 26-33. This paper summarises official documents which, "with a small degree of patience and an overwhelming bonus of luck", Bonello found in the archives of the Order of St John, in whose hands the government of Malta rested in 17th century.

The documents are concerned with the visits of Pietro Della Valle to Malta in 1625. One of them is a long report written by Pietro himself, at the behest of the Grand Hospitaller, recording "with great abundance of particulars" the circumstances of Pietro's wife's death in 1621, and of what followed in the next five years as he travelled with her bodily remains in a coffin. The information in this 'minuta relazioni' differs little from that given in Pietro's letters to Dr Schipano which formed the basis of the *Viaggi*. Other documents, written by government officials, are of greater interest because they show that Pietro's account of what passed while he was at Valetta was accurate; a rare instance of independent confirmation of Pietro's record of on of his experiences.

Because stringent precautions were in force in an effort to prevent infection by the plague being brought to the island by people coming off ships from the East, Pietro was obliged to stay on board his caravel for the first three weeks after his arrival. After that he was allowed ashore but his belongings were examined and the "large wooden box hidden in a bale of cotton" aroused suspicion. The Grand Hospitaller ordered the box to be opened and its contents examined. Pietro "pleaded to avert the sacrilege" and eventually the Grand Hospitaller relented on condition that Pietro would submit the report referred to above. This having been done "the Grand Master and his Venerable Council ... decreed that Pietro Della Valle be freed from restraint, on condition that the box be neither opened nor moved from where it was then kept, and that it be taken out of Malta, closed and nailed as it was then." After a brief period of freedom on the island, Pietro started on the last stages of his journey, taking the precious coffin with him. After calling at Syracuse, Messina and Naples, he reached Rome on April 6, 1626, after an absence of some twelve years.

Norman Lewis

reached Rome on April 6, 1626, after an absence of some twelve years.

Norman Lewis

PIETRO'S MUMMIES

Whilst I was preparing my talk for the ASTENE Conference in July 2003 I found myself wondering what had happened to the two mummies Pietro Della Valle had found and sent back from Cairo to Rome in December 1616. I knew that they were now in Dresden but not how or when they got there. Wilfred Blunt wrote that they "were sent to the Museo Kircheriano" and "were subsequently acquired by the Dresden Museum. (1) I had doubts about the first of these statements and decided to investigate. On consulting relevant contemporary literature – with the help of friends whose Latin was better than mine – I found no evidence that the mummies were sent to the Museo Kircheriano: on the contrary it appears that they remained in the hands of the Della Valle family until the early eighteenth century. Some details are given in the following paragraphs.

Athanasius Kircher was a renowned Jesuit scholar who came to Rome in 1634. He was a polymath with a phenomenal range of interests. He was also a collector and gradually amassed a personal 'cabinet' or 'museum' of antiquities, works of art, scientific instruments, natural history specimens and much else (and he wrote more than thirty books). He was fascinated by Egyptian hieroglyphics and was indeed the first European scholar to attempt a serious study of them. He and Pietro, who had returned from his eastern travels in 1626, became good friends. In 1644 Kircher published his *Lingua Aegyptiaca Restituta* (2), an Arabic-Coptic-Latin onomasticon based upon materials furnished by Pietro who wrote a brief foreword to the book. In 1652, the year of Pietro's death, engravings of his two mummies appeared in Kircher's *Oedipus Aegyptiacus* (3). Writing a quarter of a century later in his *Sphinx Mystagoga* (4), Kircher remembered with pleasure the long discussions Pietro and he used to have about Pietro's travels and about mummies, hieroglyphics and related matters. In the same book he quoted at length from Pietro's *Viaggi* which had been published between 1650 and 1663 (5); he also reproduced for the second time the engravings of Pietro's (and other) mummies. Neither in this book nor elsewhere have I noticed any suggestion that Pietro gave Kircher his mummies.

In 1651, Kircher's collection was taken to the Collegio Romano – the Jesuit foundation where Kircher had taught when he first came to Rome – and publicly exhibited; it remained there, still known as the Kircheriano, until 1875. The first catalogue of the museum, written by Georgius Sepibus who had been one of Kircher's assistants,

was published in 1676 (6). No mummies were illustrated in it and none appear to be mentioned in the text.

A second catalogue, by Filippo Buonanni, was published in 1709. It included a general discussion about mummies but listed no specific examples. Of greater interest in the present context is Buonanni's assertion that on several occasions he had visited the home of one of Pietro's sons, 'D. Abbatem a Valle', who showed him his father's mummies which, Buonanni said, had been kept in the house 'to this day'. (7)

It would seem, therefore, that the mummies remained in the Della Valle family until early in the eighteenth century, but soon afterwards they were sold to a member of the princely and very wealthy Chigi family. Individuals of the two families were evidently known to each other – in 1663 four of Pietro's sons who published the first edition of their father's *Viaggi* had dedicated the fourth volume to Cardinal Flavio Chigi – and it was probably not difficult to negotiate a sale and purchase agreement.

The mummies did not stay long in the Chigi family: in 1728 Frederick Augustus (August the Strong), Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, purchased some two hundred 'Roman antiquities', some of them, including Pietro's mummies, from the estate of Prince Agostino Chigi and others from the collection of Alesandro Albani. They were sent to Dresden and the mummies are today exhibited in the Sculpture Gallery of the Dresden Museum. (8)

Footnotes

1. W. Blunt, *Pietro's Pilgrimage: A Journey to India and back at the beginning of the Seventeenth Century*, London, 1953, p. 58, fn. 3
2. A. Kircher, *Lingua Aegyptiaca Restituta* ... Rome, 1652, Preface
3. A. Kircher, *Oedipus Aegyptiacus* ... 3 vols., Rome, 1652 III, 405, 433
4. A. Kircher, *Sphinx Mystagoga, sive Diatribe Hieroglyphica* ... Amsterdam, 1676, 12-19
5. Pietro Della Valle, *Viaggi di Pietro Della Valle*, Rome, 1650-63; (Vol. I appeared in the year of Pietro's death, 1650, and vols. 2 and 3, edited by four of his sons, in 1658 and 1663.)
6. G. de Sepibus, *Romani Collegii Societatis Jesu Musaeum* ... Amsterdam, 1678
7. F. Buonanni, *Musaeum Kircherianum, sive Musaeum a F. Athanasio Kirchero in Collegio Romano Societatis Jesu* ... Rome, 1709, 246.8. I am most grateful to Dr Kordelia Knoll of the Dresden Sculpture Gallery who kindly provided the information given in this paragraph.

Norman Lewis

