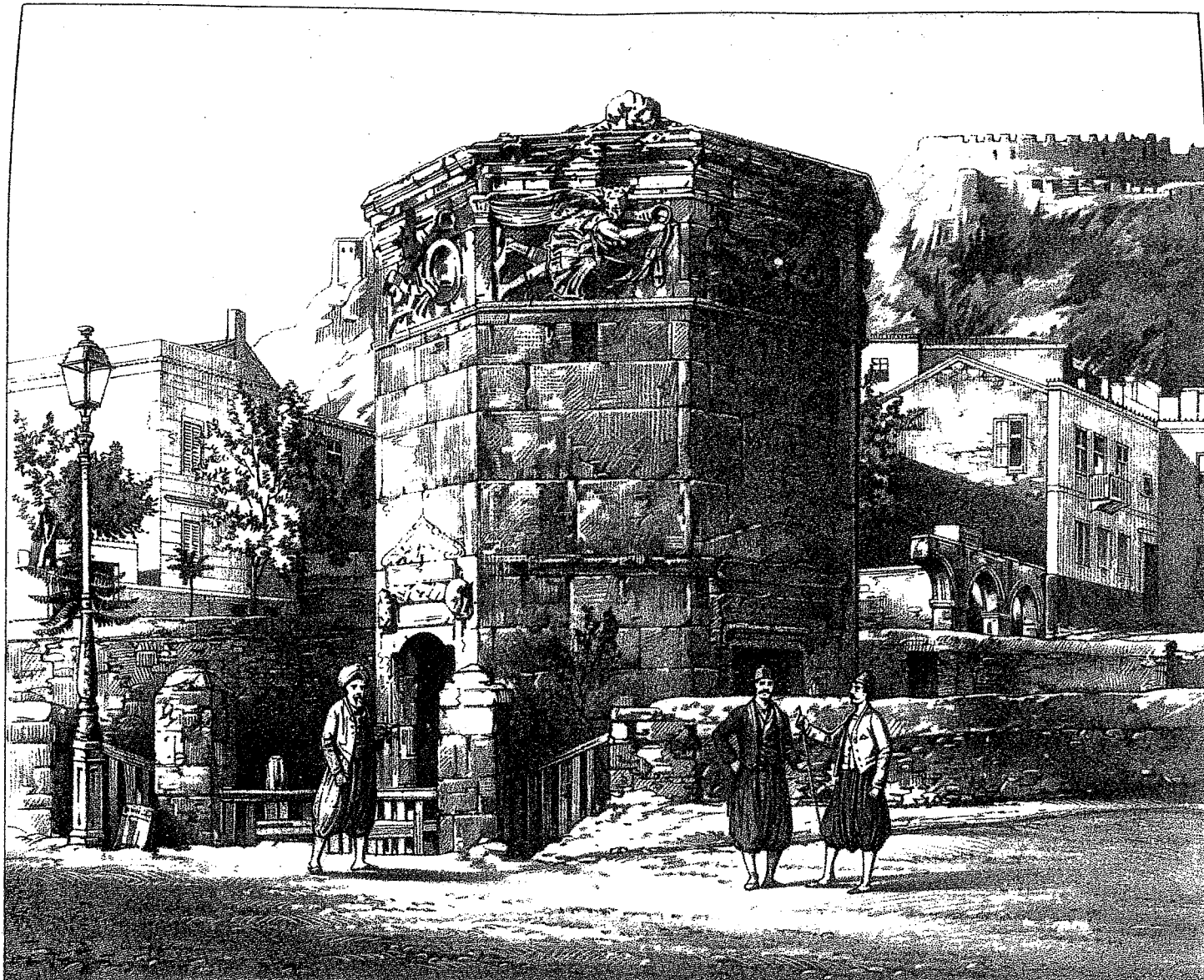


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No 22

Winter 2004



TOWER OF THE WINDS.

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ASTENE EVENTS

WOMEN TRAVELLERS STUDY DAY, National Portrait Gallery

The Study Day, in conjunction with ASTENE, was so well subscribed that hopeful attendees arriving in the morning had to be turned away.

The morning was devoted to three talks on women who travelled to or from Britain from widely differing regions of the world. Dea Birkett's energetic overview, touching upon women travellers as far apart as Egeria in 381AD, through Aphra Benn in c. 1663 to Gertrude Bell in the early 20th century, picked out some common threads that drew together their disparate characters and experiences. Their social conservatism was illustrated by the image that Mary Kingsley presented of herself as a stiff, buttoned-up Victorian lady and Bell's support of the Anti-Suffrage League, but this was contradicted by the outlandish 'fetish' figure that Kingsley kept in her London home and by Bell's desire to be treated seriously. 'like a man'. Illness was often a reason that sent them abroad: suffering from a spinal complaint at home, the fragile and small Isabella Bird nevertheless travelled to distant parts of the globe – including Sinai. A few women from faraway countries had the opportunity to come to Britain. The subject of Caroline Bressy was Sarah Davies, a young black orphan from West Africa, who became the god-daughter of Queen Victoria. Susanna Hoe related the adventures of three 'globetrotteresses' in Ceylon (Sri Lanka):

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The next Bulletin will appear in April 2005. The deadline for articles is 15 March, but if you send your material earlier it greatly helps the Editor.

Constance Gordon Cumming and Marianne North (who both travelled in our region) and Julia Margaret Cameron who settled there in the 1870s, continuing her photography of indigenous people.

Travel and travellers of any kind are likely to interest most ASTENE members, but their special concerns were directly addressed in the afternoon session. Charles Plouviez followed the peregrinations of two feisty aristocratic ladies in the late 18th-early 19th century: first, Elizabeth, Lady Craven, who caused a scandal when she abandoned her English husband and sought adventure in Europe, where she became the Margravine of Anspach; then, Caroline of Brunswick, the unhappy wife of the Prince Regent. Lady Craven travelled through eastern Europe to Russia and the Crimea, and then across the Black Sea to Constantinople. Few Western women had ventured to the Ottoman Empire at that date – the 1780s – other than as wives of diplomats (notably the well-known letter-writer, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu), although the protection of the French ambassador, the Comte de Choiseul-Gouffier ensured Lady Craven's safety and provided a ship by which she travelled. Despite her increasing girth and notoriously low-cut dresses, Princess Caroline, shunned by her royal husband, travelled extensively in the eastern Mediterranean, in 1815, visiting Athens, Constantinople and eventually Jerusalem – which she is said to have entered on a donkey.

Later in the 19th century, two other high-born ladies grasped the opportunity to observe an eastern culture from within, rather than as tourists. Jane Digby and Isabel Burton, to whom the next speaker, Mary Lovell, has devoted two full-length biographies, were both remarkable women who met in Damascus in 1869. By then, after a life of scandal and adventure, with many aristocratic husbands and lovers, Jane Digby was the devoted wife of the much younger Sheik Abdul Medjuel el Mezrah, chief of the Bedouin who controlled the deserts around Palmyra. For six months of the year she travelled with her husband's tribe, cooking, washing, cleaning and tending the animals, and winning the respect, first of men and eventually of the women, who came to regard her as their matriarch; the rest of the year was spent in her house in Damascus where, for the two-year duration of their stay, she enjoyed the company of the British Consul, Richard Burton, and his wife Isabel, relishing many long evenings of stimulating conversation. Isabel also accompanied her husband on his travels in the desert, often dressed as an Arab boy, and when, on his sudden recall to London, he imperiously instructed her to 'pay, pack and follow', she obeyed without demur.



EASTERN TRAVELLING.

Of all the intriguing stories with which the day's audience were enlightened and entertained, perhaps the most sympathetic was that of Lucie Duff Gordon, deftly related by Sarah Searight. In 1862, hoping to alleviate the symptoms of tuberculosis, she left friends and family in England to live in Egypt. Settling in an old house in the ruins of the temple of Luxor, she learnt Arabic and immersed herself in the everyday life of the local people. She listened to their grievances, tended the sick, fed the hungry, conversed on equal terms with the local great and good and was regarded by them as 'the great lady' who 'was just and had a heart that loved the Arabs'. Her letters home, carefully crafted to tug at the heart-strings, are unusually acute observations of the local people, at a time when prejudice and stereotypical opinions were the norm. First published in 1865, and re-printed many times, both in her lifetime and since, *Letters from Egypt* it is essential reading, even today, for anyone wishing to familiarise themselves with Egyptian society. Lucie Duff Gordon supremely exemplifies one of the qualities that, as speakers agreed during the discussion which followed their talks, defines the contribution of female travellers to the genre of travel literature – an ability to describe perceptively the people and culture of the distant lands to which they travelled.

Briony Llewellyn

A FOOTNOTE In his researches for the ASTENE Journal Project Laurien Pilling came across this entry in the journal of Lord Herries (1837-1908) in the Mark Sykes Collection in the Brynmor Jones Library, Hull University which is currently being catalogued. Lord Herries visited Egypt, the Holy Land and Palestine. On 21 May 1863 he recorded that he met on a Nile steamer: Mrs Digby, wife of the Sheikh, at Homs, Syria...

THE ASTENE CYPRUS CONFERENCE

The first two days of the Cyprus Tour (Bulletin 21) were devoted to a conference at the Famagusta Gate, Nicosia. The papers given were as follows: Malta and Cyprus: some historical reflections – Joseph Attard, Malta; The varying Geographical names in Cyprus recorded by Travellers – Ata Atun, Samtay Foundation, Famagusta; Othello in Cyprus – Prof. Joanna Montgomery Byles, University of Cyprus; Ugly women, handsome men and the constructing of the 'other' in 19th century travel accounts of Cyprus – Dr Ersi Demetriadou;

Elissa/Dido, Princess of Tyrus, Founder of Carthage – Christina Erck, Tunisia; Performing Sex, Race and Empire: a study of practice in Middle Eastern dance – Dr Stavrou Karayanni, Cyprus College; Three Austrian natural scientists – Dr Margit Krpata, Museum fur Volkerkunde; Lady (Jane) Franklin: "without vanity, trifling and idleness" - Dr Nora Liassis, Cyprus College; Forbidden ground: 19th century incursions in Jerusalem – Deborah Manley and Peta Ree; Turkish Baths in Cyprus – Anna Marangou; Posting the Boundaries – Anber Onar, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta; George Jeffery: Architect, Restorer and Traveller – Dr Despo Pilides, Dept of Antiquities, Cyprus; Cartography, Cultural Spaces and the Bedouin of Cyprus – Johan Pillai, Eastern Mediterranean University; Hawkins and Sibthorp in Cyprus – Prof. John Revell; Victorian Travel Writing on Cyprus – Reflections of Imperial Ideology; Victorian Travel Writing on Cyprus – Mary Roussou-Sinclair; Touring Cyprus in 18th century – Dr Rita Severis; Osman Hamdi Bey – Dr Muge Sevketoğlu, Eastern Mediterranean University; An engraved gem in the British Museum – Yannis Volari, Dept. of Archaeology, Cyprus; A lost journey: Leake between Alanya and Istanbul, 1800 – Prof. Malcolm Wagstaff; Hedwig Ludeke: collecting rhapsodies and ballads – Max Wilding, Vienna; Ezbekieh during the 19th century – Dr Alix Wilkinson; Count Luigi Palma di Cesnola – Vera Georgiadou, London

ASTENE TREASURER HONOURED

On 14th October ASTENE's first Treasurer, Dr Elizabeth French, was presented with an Honorary Degree at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in the main hall of Athens University, a handsome neo-classical building which has recently been refurbished after the construction of the Metro station. After extensive eulogies mainly in Greek on the basis of information from a colleague, Lisa writes, I was given my furry stole and scroll and asked to speak.

"On advice I had chosen to speak in English on the subject about which I spoke to ASTENE in Oxford in 2003, entitled this time 'The Impact of Mycenae on the British' so that I could quote at length from sources both serious and other. I thank my ASTENE friends for much help including the loan of books, xeroxing of letters, and replying to last minute queries. As I was quoting from Gladstone's introduction to Schliemann's *Mycenae*, I was able to refer to his statue which stands in the square fronting the building - around which a mob of students were protesting loudly. My daughters were there as were many old friends including some from my youth in Egypt and two of my former students from UK."

MANCHESTER STUDY DAY

It was a small but comfortable audience who spent Saturday, 6th November at the Manchester University Department of Continuing Education's study day with ASTENE on Travellers in Egypt. Dr Philip Sadgrove of Middle East Studies, Manchester set the historical scene from medieval to Mamlukes and on to Mehemet Ali's peaceful Egypt. Deborah Manley then followed 19th century travellers up and down the Nile, and Anne Wolff introduced us to the 13-17th century pilgrims and merchants, with lovely pictures and quotations. It was she said, "a time of fact and a lot of fable", including the hippos seen swimming out to sea from the Nile Delta. She introduced us to *mummea* – a combination of bitumen and cadaverous flesh guaranteed to cure all ailments. Brenda Moon brought us back to Manchester and Thomas Legh's home at Lyme Park and on to his travels in Egypt in 1813. He saw the Pyramids on a rainy, misty morning and thought descriptions of them "exaggerated and pompous". With his companion Mr Smelt and dragoman, the American Francis Barthow, he went further south than any known previous foreigner – meeting Burckhardt often along the way.

Some of us also had the pleasure of visiting the Manchester Museum's Egyptology Department – where we will enjoy a guided tour during the Conference in July. It is one of the most important Egyptological collections outside London. Formally opened in 1912 by its chief donor, Jesse Haworth, it contains many exhibits from the formal annual division of finds by Flinders Petrie on Egyptian Exploration Society expeditions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RGS AND RIBA AT THE V & A

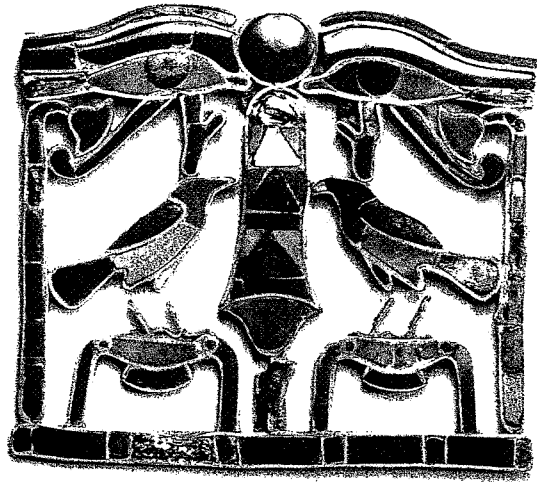
ASTENE's Events Organiser is planning a visit to the Royal Geographical Society archives combined with a visit to the Royal Institute of British Architects' archive which is in the process of being moved into the Victoria & Albert Museum. The date (likely to be mid-May) will be announced in the next Bulletin.

MURDOCH SMITH LECTURES, APRIL

A reminder of Jennifer Scarce's lectures on the travels of Major General Sir Robert Murdoch Smith in Turkey in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, 11/12 April for the Society of Antiquaries. See Bulletin 21.

STUDY DAY IN OXFORD, OCTOBER

Details of this study day, Beyond the Grand Tour, on Saturday, 15 October, at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education will be given in the next Bulletin.



A prized item of the Egyptology Department of the Manchester Museum is the Riqqeh Pectoral (c. 1900 BC) - a fine example of cloisonné work, of gold inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli and turquoise.

ASTENE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER, 14-18 JULY 2005

Some interesting papers are already coming in including Karsten Neibuhr's 1761 Danish expedition, John Hyde of Manchester, Wordsworth's nephew Christopher in Greece, Two Engineers in Egypt, among others.

With this Bulletin you will find the Registration form for the Conference. There will be a visit to Thomas Legh's home at Lyme Park and to the Egyptology Department of the Manchester Museum with the curator, Dr Christina Riggs.

CONFERENCE BURSARIES

As announced in Bulletin 20 and on the ASTENE web page the Association has decided to award bursaries to enable individuals, not able to obtain outside support, to attend its biennial conference to give a paper. The bursaries will be in kind and equivalent to the cost for the successful applicant of the conference fee, and/or meals and/or accommodation. Travel and other expenses are not covered. Those awarded bursaries will be asked to help at the Conference with various administrative tasks. Applicants should write to or e-mail the Conference Secretary enclosing an abstract of not more than 200 words of the paper which they intend to present, giving a brief outline of their reasons for seeking a bursary.

The closing date has been extended to 1st March.

SINAI TOUR, FEBRUARY 2006

There was a good response to the idea of this tour in Bulletin 20. We need 15 people in order to confirm and plan this tour – so far we have a dozen from three countries. The tour will include a stay in the Monastery of St Katherine, days out in the area, and a day's conference either in Sinai or at Sharm el Sheikh. If you are interested in joining us, please tell ASTENE Events Organiser Elizabeth Woodthorpe (Tel: 0207 622 3494 or fax 0207 627 4151) or write to her c/o the ASTENE office.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS IN SINAI

Alexandre Dumas travelled in the Sinai Peninsula in the late 1830s. He suffered from dehydration and heat exhaustion on the journey and his relief at reaching Sinai was at first very great.

Bechara then explained to us a matter of which we were completely ignorant; there are no gates to the convent of Sinai. The monks have deemed it necessary to use this precaution in order to avert the danger of surprise. We were then to take the same road as our trunks; it was that which the fathers used themselves, and which we would adopt unless the monks made a breach for us in their walls, as the Trojans did for the wooden horse, a matter by no means probable. (*Their Arab guides 'who might not enter watched through interest or curiosity' while one of the party, Mayer, a naval officer, showed the way.*) He mounted the stick, like the house-painters of Paris, who balance themselves over the heads of passengers, and then gave the signal for the ceremony to begin. He rose majestically in the air, and when he reached the window, a vigorous monk drew him in as he had drawn in the trunks, and deposited him in a place of safety. (*Travelling Sketches in Egypt and Sinai, 1839, p. 240*)

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

BURTON: THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST

Sir Richard Burton (1821-90) says many things to many people. Enlightened explorer or blinkered bigot? Great travel writer or inspired self-publicist? Talented translator or perverted pornographer? These and other questions are posed by this thought-provoking exhibition. By looking again at what Burton did and what he believed visitors can test the labels and judgements and peel away the layers of speculation and mythology surrounding this controversial figure. Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham, London TW1 3DJ, 22 January-23 April, Tuesday-Saturday 1 – 4:30; Sunday and Bank Holidays: 2 – 4:30.

TURKS: A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND YEARS, 600-1600

Royal Academy of Arts, London, 22 January – 16 April

This spectacular exhibition is devoted to the 'journey of a thousand years' of Turkic-speaking people with over 350 works drawn from the celebrated collections of the Topkapi Saray Museum and the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art of Istanbul. The RA tells us that "the visitor will be exposed to worlds of staggering artistic diversity ... and a comprehensive presentation of Turkic culture, culminating with the emergence of the Ottoman empire after the fall of Constantinople

in 1453." Turkish food in the café, and music on Friday nights. www.royalacademy.com.uk

ART OF THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

Works spanning Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome showing the complicated and interactive manner of change in the region and the era, showing how the civilisations influenced each other through trade and travel. Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo, Utah, until 4 June, 2005.

DIGGING UP A STORY

Innovative, interdisciplinary exhibition combining archaeology and translated papyri from a single house in Kiranis in Roman Egypt, including letters home from a son on active duty with the Roman army in Egypt. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Ann Arbor, Michigan until early May.

PHARAOHS

200 important pieces from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, shown for the first time in France. Institut de Monde Arabe, Paris until April.

ASIAN GAMES

Paraphernalia of games, prints and decorative arts exploring the role of games as social and cultural activities and the importance Asia as the source of many games now played in the West: chess, backgammon, polo and field hockey, to name a few. Sackler Gallery, Washington DC until May.

THE ART OF MEDICINE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Objects that consider the causes of illness including the little-seen Edwin Smith Papyrus, one of the world's oldest scientific documents. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until mid-July,

TUTANKHAMEN – THE GOLDEN BEYOND

Treasures from the Valley of the Kings from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, previously in Basel are now at the Ausstellungshalle, Bonn until 1 May.

CARVED FOR IMMORTALITY

Carved and painted figures of the dead person at different stages of his or her life from Egyptian tombs. Walters Art Museum, Baltimore to 26 June.

ARABIC AMERICANS IN ARIZONA

Exploring Arabic speakers who travelled to live in America from the 19th century onwards and the contribution their culture has made to Arizona. Southwest Museum, Mesa, Arizona until 6th March.

MUMMY: THE INSIDE STORY

This astonishing exhibition allows visitors to view "virtual unwrapping" of a 2800-year-old mummy priest. British Museum until end of March. The

accompanying book is by ASTENE Committee member Dr John Taylor.

CRIMEAN WAR DISPLAY, BRISTOL

A commemoration of the 150th anniversary. City Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road. (0117-922-3571) Mon-Sun 10-5, until 30 April. Free.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM, EXETER (II)

Continuation of the article 'Belzoni strays in Devon...' in Bulletin 21.

One of the largest and most significant benefactors of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (RAMM) was Lt.Col. Leopold A.D. Montague (1861-1940) of Penton, Crediton. Montague collected extensively, and his Egyptian antiquities, mostly of Ptolemaic and Roman date, form one of the largest groups in the collection. However, he does not appear to have travelled in Egypt, and his collection was assembled by purchases from dealers and auction houses, or from other collectors. As Sheila Middleton details in *Seals, Finger Rings, Engraved Gems and Amulets in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter* (Exeter City Museums, 1998) many of the objects came from well known 18th and 19th century collections.

Of particular historical interest is the collection given by J.C. Bowring (1821-93). It is one of the earliest acquisitions that has a good provenance. J.C. Bowring accompanied his father (Sir) John Bowring (1792-1872, see DNB entry) on his governmental fact-finding mission to Egypt in 1837-8. This resulted in the detailed economic *Report on Egypt 1823-38*. (reprinted by Triade Exploration, 1998). During his stay in Cairo, Bowring worked closely with the British Consul General, Col. Patrick Campbell. Together, they made representations to Muhamed Ali on the abolition of the slave trade, using Arthur Todd Holroyd's 'Report on Nubia, Soodan, Kordofan &c' as supporting evidence (Holroyd's report is attached, as one of its Appendices, to Bowring's).

The Bowrings' association with Campbell also produced objects now in the RAMM, including a small collection from 'Campbell's tomb' at Giza, mainly pottery, with a couple of small bronzes. Together with Col. Howard Vyse and Giovanni Caviglia, Campbell collaborated on excavations in the vicinity of the pyramids at Giza in 1837. Amongst their discoveries was a shaft tomb of the 26th Dynasty (650-525 BC) now known as 'Campbell's tomb'. Being 'late' this tomb has attracted relatively little interest from Egyptologists. Bowring's collection also includes a rather nice marble Jupiter-Serapis, along with a box

labelled "hair from the bottom of the pyramids". The Vyse-Campbell 'excavations' did involve further work inside the Great Pyramid, but it remains to be determined whether the Bowrings were actively involved in the exploration, or whether the objects were a gift from Campbell.

Two of the most interesting pieces in the Ramm come, perhaps surprisingly, from Giovanni Belzoni's activities and are the result of purchases at sales. E. Vidal of Barnstable donated a large rectangular bronze plate carrying an *udjat*-eye. This is reported to have come from "the breast of a mummy in the Tombs in the Western Valley" or the Valley of the Kings, and was purchased as Lot 10 in the sale of Belzoni's antiquities.

Another Belzoni connection comes in the form of two joining pieces of a very large and fine 'alabaster' plate donated by Mrs F.M. Rogers of Exmouth. According to the associated papers they were "discovered in the tomb of Psammuthis at Thebes... in 1818" "with the celebrated sarcophagus of Belzoni" – meaning the sarcophagus of Sety I in the Soane Museum in London. Fortunately, the additional note tells us that they were given by Belzoni to the "Rev. G. A. Browne late Senior Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge". Penny Wilson has written a fascinating paper on the Rev. George Browne (1774-1843) and his dealings with Belzoni ("Rameses III, Giovanni Belzoni and the Mysterious Reverend Browne" in *Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers*, edited by Paul Starkey and Nadia El Kholy, ASTENE 2002, pp. 45-6). Penny ends her article with the lament that the antiquities "given by Belzoni to Browne were sold and slipped from view." It is quite satisfying to find that although they may have slipped from view, they are not perhaps totally lost, and more of them may be lying in the vaults of our less well-known museums.

Another intriguing piece was the gift of Ralph Sanders. It is a gold ring set with an Athenian coin in an octagonal swing bezel. The coin has on one side an owl, and on the other the head of Athena. The accompanying note states that the ring is "Said to have been taken from an Egyptian mummy by Mr Salt who gave it to Lord Canterbury one-time Speaker of the House of Commons." Canterbury was Charles Manners-Sutton (1780-1845), Speaker 1814-1845. If this claim is correct, it certainly is an interesting piece, not only as it is a Salt acquisition, but also as a Greek coin used as jewellery in Egypt. Perhaps the Salt experts in ASTENE can shed some light on this? Robert Morkot

THE HOPE PORTRAIT COLLECTION, ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, OXFORD

There is nothing like finding something very special on your own doorstep. A dank afternoon was considerably brightened for me by a visit to Drawings and Prints at the Ashmolean Museum in

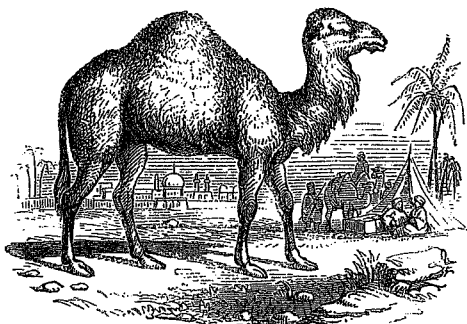
Oxford to look into the Hope Collection of portrait and topographical prints. Frederick William Hope (1797-1862) and his wife Ellen created this fine collection which she donated to Oxford University in 1865. Since then the collection has been added to by donation and purchase.

If you are making a special journey to the Museum, it is wise to make an appointment. Then ask at the Front Desk and you will be directed upstairs and downstairs to the Drawings and Prints Room and its very helpful staff. Bring your list of subjects. There is a computer catalogue from which the staff locate portraits. Boxes of prints are brought to your table to look through (once you have washed your hands). The boxes are divided into broad subjects. Travellers tend to be in 'English Literary' and 'Scientific'. The boxes' contents are in alphabetical order so I found 'George Sandys (1578-1644) in the box of a multiplicity of Sir Walter Scotts. I was most interested to make the acquaintance of Paul Rycaut, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and author of three books on the region. Attached was a cutting from a journal telling that Ricaut (sic) was secretary to the Earl of Winchelsea, ambassador from King Charles II to Sultan Mahomet IV (1660), before becoming Consul at Smyrna (1667-1678), and writing *The Present State of the Ottoman Empire* (1666) and the very influential *The History of the Turkish Empire* (1678). His portrait shares a box with that of W.H. Russell, 'Our Special Correspondent', seated on a camp stool in Crimea gear.

There are also topographical prints. I asked for 'Egypt' and it came in the 'Africa' box. There were pictures I had not seen before such as "Bay of Aboukir after the engagement of the British and French fleets", and "Granite quarries near Syene", a lovely "Tombs of the Caliphs at Cairo" and a most imaginative "Pyramids of Egypt" with a Sphinx-like female statue and some rather small pyramids. The cataracts at Philae was more realistic. There is also a file on Egyptian antiquities.

It is pot luck whether you will find what you want, but the staff can check the catalogue before you visit.

Drawing and Prints is open Tuesday-Saturday 10-1, 2-4; closed Sunday and Monday and over Bank Holiday periods. Tel: 01865 278049; Fax 01865 278056; e-mail waprintroom@ashmus.ox.ac.uk You can order prints and slides.



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

A reminder of the **Heinz Archive and Library**: a resource for those wishing to conduct research in the field of portraiture. Visits by appointment only: 020 7306 0055 ext. 257. A curator gives opinions on British portraits on Wednesdays, 2-5 pm. No appointment necessary. Valuations not given.

GRAFFITI ON THE INTERNET

The indefatigable Roger de Keersmaecker has created his own website: www.egypt-sudan-graffiti.be. He also draws our attention to the Egyptologists' Electronic Forum which includes much useful information on various topics: Lectures and Symposiums, Exhibitions, Books and Journals, Jobs, Grants, Courses, and other websites.

Some examples of its contents are: Books which are obtainable in various libraries (e.g. John Lewis Burckhardt's five books in the University of Adelaide Library, and seminar papers 1997-2003 on Travelling to Jerusalem at Colorado State University Pueblo: <http://chass.colostate-pueblo.edu/history/seminar/seminar97.html>

This includes several unfamiliar travellers, such as George Jones (USA, 1833), Orson Hyde (USA, 1840-2), Matilda Plumley (England, 1845), J. Ross Browne (USA, 1851), and Eli and Sybil Jones (USA, 1867) and several later American travellers.

RIBA AND THE V & A

The new Architecture Gallery at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London opened in November, bringing together in exhibition models Christopher Wren and Norman Foster, a capital from the Parthenon and a 20th century pavilion, mosques and churches. The V & A, as the museum of the history of design, has also brought together with its own Prints and Drawings collection, the prints and drawings and plans of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), including, for example, Charles Barry's previously seldom seen drawings of Egypt and Greece. Next Bulletin will bring more detail of this new resource, but in the meantime you can get information on 0207-942-2000 or www.vam.ac.uk.

ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT UP-DATE

Lorien Pilling has been doing some splendid work with the manuscript journals in the North East of England. At Hull University he has reviewed the 400 or so pages of journals and letters of Sir Mark Sykes (1879-1919). There are some very non-politically correct comments – as we thought there would be in such unpublished material... One of the more polite things he said of Gertrude Bell in 1906, and relevant to the review of her biography below, was: "She is just a damned mischief making woman, let loose out of a London Drawing room into the Syrian desert."

We hope soon to begin to get this material onto the ASTENE Research Resources web-site.

A NEW WEBSITE: www.info@travellersinegypt.org

This new website is devoted to the lives and discoveries of travellers to Egypt from ancient times to the 19th century. It has been introduced to us by an ASTENE member, Marco Maraccolo, who is one of its founders. They intend to publish articles and studies on the life, travels and discoveries of travellers, and related subjects such as the Napoleonic expedition to Egypt, the birth of Egyptology, and business initiatives of the era – including Thomas Cook's tours.

Articles, essays, images, book reviews, reports of exhibitions and conferences on these subjects are all welcome. The aim is to provide an interesting and enjoyable tool for academics and others. The group who started this site have no outside backing and rely on their enthusiasm to take the project forward. However, they plan to pay for contributions (which they will not edit or change) if they have the means or the authors so wish.

We hope to discuss this new website in the Research Resources session at the Manchester Conference, scheduled for Sunday 17th July.

THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL 1810-29

Contemporary journals can be a useful source of information about the travellers. I had expected this Journal, edited by one Abraham Volpy in London, to focus on the Grecian part of our region and was surprised to find how far it covered the whole ASTENE region. The Bodleian copies can be difficult to read – not having had their pages cut in getting on for two centuries.

There are indeed many articles on classical literature, grammar and interpretation and articles titled "Remarks on Obscure Passages in the Ancient Classical writers" (1824). But there is also much about Arabic – ancient and modern: for example, a critical commentary on Burckhardt's Appendices to his *Nubia* (1822) and, in 1824, an article celebrating a "Rare Arabic Manuscript" then on its way to England. And some Arab travel accounts. There is much about Egypt: discussions on the hieroglyphs, a long serial about the Zodiacs of Denderah and Esna, articles on the Pyramids, including in 1822 commentary on the Arabic inscription found in Cephren's by Belzoni.

There are book reviews too: William Martin Leake's books (which Abraham Volpy published) appear often; Edward Dodwell's *Greece* and William Turner's *Tour* were both well received in 1822 and there is, surprisingly, a review of 16th century traveller George Sandys, in 1823.

If readers have found other 19th century journals useful in their researches, perhaps they could provide a brief outline to introduce them to others.



GRAVESTONES AND MEMORIALS

In Bulletin 21 we asked readers to draw our attention to memorials of the travellers. Joan Rees added to the list:

Amelia Blandford Edwards, died 1892, buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, Henbury, Bristol, in the same grave as Mrs Ellen Braysher with whom she had shared a house since 1864. An *ankh* symbol within the grave enclosure is presumably the idea of Flinders Petrie and Kate Bradbury (later Mrs F.L.Griffith) who supervised the arrangements. *Professor Rees added:* As a matter of interest, though it is not really relevant to ASTENE, also in the same churchyard is the grave of a black boy given the resonant name of Scipio Africanus. He died in 1720, aged eighteen.

Further gravestones and memorials are :

Edward Lear in San Remo, Italy; Reverend George Waddington in Durham Cathedral graveyard, having been Dean in Durham; Dr R.R. Madden in Donnybrook graveyard, Booterstown, Co. Dublin; Edward Lane and his wife, Nephisa, in London's Norwood Cemetery; Reverend Pliny Fisk and Eli Smith (who translated the Bible into Arabic) in the American Mission Cemetery in Lebanon..

The New Dictionary of National Biography often gives this information in their new articles.

Mary Whately - who introduced the idea of 'ragged schools' from Ireland into Egypt died in Cairo in 18xx. She was the daughter of the Anglican Bishop of Dublin. Does anyone know where she lies?

CAMELS IN CAIRO, July 1866

A camel by itself has very little comeliness, but a drove of camels is certainly a beautiful sight.

Edward W. Blyden (1832-1912) in From West Africa to Jerusalem - a journey made in 1866.

BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Gertrude Bell by H.V.F.Winstone, Barzan Publishing, 504 pp., 28 pp. b/w photographs, h/b £19.95, 2004, ISBN 0954772806

The historical perspective on current events in Iraq is sobering, not least because we are still dealing with the consequences of post-World War I imperial politics. H.V.F. Winstone does not seek to expiate the colonialist agenda of his heroine Gertrude Bell, who was instrumental in determining the borders of the new nation of Iraq and in choosing its first ruler, Prince Faisal, but he does portray a woman of strong and educated conviction who felt a real sense of loyalty to her adopted home. His biography, first published in 1978, has been revised and updated under the auspices of Barzan Publishing and the story it tells certainly has great resonance today. Born in 1868 Gertrude came from a family of wealthy industrialists. She

read history at Oxford and travelled extensively throughout her life. Her money conferred independence and guaranteed a wide sphere of influential friends but it is the remarkable use she made of these opportunities that make Gertrude Bell such a fascinating subject.

During the early years of the 20th century she was establishing a reputation as a fearless mountaineer to such an extent that she was invited to join an expedition to the Himalayas; on a visit to Syria she practised her Arabic and began learning Persian; travelling on her own she wandered among the Syrian Arabs and the Druse, at the same time developing a passionate interest in architectural history and archaeology. In 1907 she was in Anatolia surveying churches with Sir William Ramsey. He arrived two weeks late with his wife: "They appeared in donkey carts and Lady Ramsey got out and began to make a pot of tea in the open while Sir William started to discuss the problems presented by the church on which Gertrude was working as though he had been there all along." (p. 158) It is details such as these, available thanks to the survival of thousands of Gertrude's letters and papers, that help make Winstone's book so readable. Even when caught up in the diplomatic wranglings of the Arabian Bureau, as the first female officer in the history of British Military Intelligence, Gertrude continued to send letters home revealing her unique experiences, her aspirations for Arab lands and a constant desire to be well-dressed. Before her death in 1926 she returned to her love of archaeology and, as Honorary Director of Antiquities in Iraq, she established the now famous museum in Baghdad where a room was named in her honour.

The major archive of her books, papers and some 6000 photographs is housed at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and ASTENE members may be interested to know that much of this collection can be accessed online at www.gert.ncl.ac.uk.

Wilfred Thesiger, when asked to compare Gertrude with her successor Freya Stark replied: "If any woman was to be thought of as a serious traveller, it had to be Gertrude Bell." Winstone's biography pays objective respect to the life of this remarkable lady.

Kathryn Ferry

The Contribution of Early Travel Narratives to the Historical Geography of Greece by Malcolm Wagstaff; The 22nd J.L. Myers Lecture, Oxford University Press, 2004 15 pp, 0-9546647-0-1, £5.00 This lecture could have been designed to fire the enthusiasm for any member of ASTENE. Our Chair demonstrates his enviable clarity of thought and his ready grasp of the methodology, both practical and philosophical, that historical geographers employ in the analysis of travel writing.

Based on a rich fund of experience and a proven excellence of practice, Wagstaff's ideas in this

work are directly useful to ASTENE members who are conducting research on a wide variety of Near Eastern topics, as they can be exported and applied to the travel literature of a wide variety of places, not just Greece.

This work will broaden our understanding of the processes of engagement with travel writings and what we can realistically expect to glean from their perusal. This must be one of the essential guides to what we can and can't do with travel writings in our research.

Edwin Aiken



Pierre Loti: Travels with the Legendary

Romantic by Lesley Blanch, Introduction by Philip Mansel, Tauris Parke, 340 pp., p/b £12.99, ISBN 1 85043 429 8, reprint of 1983 edition.

I first met Pierre Loti through his book *Egypt (La Morte de Philae)* and by visiting his extraordinary house in Rochefort, the old garrison town near La Rochelle. It is by entering this house that Lesley Blanch (who celebrated her 100th birthday this year) enters Loti's life. Born Julien Marie Viaud in 1850, Loti provided his biographer with accounts of his early childhood and many journals, which he often developed into novels.

Loti entered the French navy in 1866 and his wanderings began. On his first cruise he lost his heart to the Mediterranean lands. But it was in the South Seas that he tested if French periodicals would be interested in articles based on his journals and sketches. They were snapped up and editors pressed for more. At this time he adopted the name 'Loti' from a Tahitian flower. He served next in Senegal where, ashore, he shared an eccentric 'African' dwelling with a friend and enjoyed there a piano from Napoleon III's yacht, and a torrid affair with a merchant's wife.

Lesley Blanch is the perfect biographer for Loti. There are sentences which admirably reflect both Blanch and Loti, such as: 'Loti ... saw each country subjectively, as it affected *himself*. In Turkey he had found a woman, a mystic faith, a land and its art, all surpassing anything he had known before. For the rest of his life he was to remain under that spell, blindly loyal.' (p. 116) Why has no one yet offered ASTENE a paper on Loti? He certainly provides much scope for the exotic and erotic, both in his journals and his novels, but his travel accounts provide much else besides.

Back in France he trained as a circus artist and acrobat and it is hardly surprising that his doting

mother wrote congratulating him on his triumphs, but adding "I must admit they are not the kind I had dreamed of for you." (p.102) In 1876 his ship was transferred to Salonika, then in the Ottoman empire. and he came "to the fountainhead of his lifelong Turkish sympathies." More forbidden fruit, more descriptions of places now long changed and his best known novel, *Aziyade*, date from this time. It is amazing that he survived a dalliance with a married Circassian beauty and lived to tell the tale – in detail – and return to Rochefort. Briefly he entered a Trappist monastery. It was not for him, and he moved on to Sarah Bernhardt, although his mother advised: "Oh my darling, do not lose your head over this woman!"

As yet we are only half way through the book! With the publication of *Aziyade* in 1879 he became a celebrity. Goodness knows what his fond mother thought. "If only he would settle down!" they said.

But the Navy sent him to Algiers in 1881 and again he moved into a double life: the Navy by day, the Kasbah by night, with the "gold-hung, tawny beauties" and another novel on its way. Returned to France, his next passions were a brazen, ardent lady from Bordeaux, a young Breton fisher-girl and an American lady of letters ... I leave these for the reader to experience. Loti was ordered to the Far East in 1883, – and yet another novel (one so popular that Japan raised a memorial statue to him in Nagasaki). He returned home to look for a bride – to please his mother and get an heir. For romance he still had the Bordeaux siren ... and later *le beau Leo...* and the Queen of Romania ... and a return to Constantinople to seek his lost Circassian love ...

From each tour he brought back momentoes large and small to the Rochefort house. He created a Japanese room where he could wish himself back to Japan, and his wife's money enabled him to finance rooms "conjured out of others" – leaving a strictly Louis XVI salon to satisfy her conventional (one might say normal) tastes. For himself, he had a private mosque smuggled in from Damascus – which required the purchase of the terraced houses next door. (When you have read the book, you will long to go to Rochefort. Don't be put off by the trim, grey façade.)

At last in 1889 a son was born, but soon Loti was off to Morocco, a visit that led to his book, *Au Maroc* (1890). In 1896 he went in splendid comfort – including a whole caravan of camels – from Cairo across the desert to Jerusalem and on to Syria with his scriptural knowledge carefully polished up. This journey led to three separate books. It was not until 1907 that he wrote about Egypt in *La Morte de Philae*. It is a book full of discomfort at the British presence and dislike of the tourists ("Cookies and Cookesses") "whom he allowed to poison his every hour", - that is when he was not recognising himself in the mummified

Rameses II through a strange spiritual link. (I wish I could find my postcard of Loti as Pharaoh!)

It seems almost too much to add to all this a Breton mistress and children installed in Rochefort, his appointment as France's Naval attaché to the Porte, being trapped into a pretence affair by the daughters of a Turkish noble and their descent upon Rochefort and his long suffering wife ...

It is a book not to be missed and we should be grateful to Tauris Parke and Philip Mansel for bringing it again into print. *Deborah Manley*

Shumaisi by Turki al-Hamad (translated by Paul Starkey), 246 pp., Saqi, £9.99

Turki al-Hamad is famous across the Arab world for his trilogy, *Phantoms of the Desert Alleys*, and now Paul Starkey's translation of the second book in the trilogy about a young man's growth to maturity in Saudi Arabia, brings him to the English speaking world. Not strictly 'travel', but the tale of a young man's travel through life ...

Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond: 2000 years of Exploring the East by Kenneth Nebenzahl, Phaidon Press, 176 pp., 80 colour plates, 5 b/w., h/b £29.95, 2004, ISBN 0714844098

In this beautifully presented book Kenneth Nebenzahl charts the progress of mapmaking and exploration by reference to eighty rare maps, half of which have never been published before. The chronological depiction of Asia and the Middle East begins in 334BC and extends to the 19th century with sections on 'Ancient and Medieval European Concepts of Asia', 'The impulse to Explore the East', 'East Indian Empires' and the Far East and Pacific regions. These maps convey important information about how the geographical 'other' was represented and include references to historical events and enduring myths. Many provide compelling instances of cartography as a descriptive art form. For example, the Catalan atlas produced by Cresques Abraham in Majorca c.1375 features Three Wise Men journeying on horseback from central Asia: Alexander the Great; the queen of Sheba in Arabia and the sultan of Delhi. The appearance of Asia, as seen in this map, reflects the travels of Marco Polo and other 13th century travels. Indeed the advances in knowledge which inform these maps are evidence of the needs and observations of travellers through time.

As far as the ASTENE region is concerned the illuminated Crusader plan of Jerusalem (c.1240) features the evolving schematic renderings of biblical sites and an equestrian vignette showing Christian knights dressed in chain mail chasing the Turks from this most disputed of cities. A bird's eye view of Constantinople, dated some two centuries later, shows decay in the previously glorious capital of the Byzantine Empire; its author, Cristoforo Buondelmonte had visited the city twice

in the early 15th century on behalf of his Venetian patron. Maps such as these provided the foundation upon which later travellers would build. Brought together in this book they provide a visual treat for the reader.

Kathryn Ferry

ALCHEMY AND HIEROGLYPHS

Those of us lucky enough to have been introduced to the Arabic scholar-travellers by Dr Okasha El Daly at ASTENE conferences will be greatly interested by his conclusion that a 9th century Baghdadi alchemist, Ibn Wahshiyah, had cracked the secret of the hieroglyphs. Comparing his work with the list of signs in Sir Alan Gardiner's *Egyptian Grammar* (1927), Okasha realised "Ibn Wahshiyah understood perfectly well the nature of Egyptian hieroglyphs". For a decade he has been questioning whether Moslems/Arabs were seriously interested in the study of ancient Egypt. "The result," he writes, "was beyond my expectations." His book *The Missing Millennium: Ancient Egypt in Medieval Arabic Writings* is due to be published by UCL Press. A chapter by Okasha appeared in *The Wisdom of Egypt: changing visions through the ages* in the series 'Encounters with Ancient Egypt', UCL Press, 2003.

NEW DNB

The new Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford University Press, September, 2004) is a good source for graves and memorials – and of course a most amazing new research resource. Most British central libraries have invested in it.

About a dozen of the contributors are ASTENE members and have up-dated or created articles on many travellers, from William Bedwell to Osman, from Anne Katherine Elwood to Valentine Baker, from Thomas Shaw to Nathaniel Pearce; from Edward Lane to W.G. Palgrave.

JOURNAL ENTRY, JUNE 1819 WHY DO YOU TRAVEL HERE?

Reverend Robert Master, travelling with Sir Archibald Edmonstone in the Near East in 1818-19, met the Greek Archbishop of Smyrna at the home of Mr Wilkinson, the Levant Company chaplain. He was surprised that one so young as Master was an English clergyman, and asked his reasons for travelling in those countries. Master's reply might have been made by many an Eastern traveller.

"It was for the sake of improvement, and of taking home personal impressions of foreign lands, and all they had to teach, and of visiting and examining the localities renowned in ancient history, and venerable from their still existing temples and monuments, since these places had been the study of my youth, as I read the various authors who described them in the zenith of their celebrity and glory. (BL Add Mss. 51313, f. 264)

NOTES AND QUERIES

THE REDISCOVERY OF A JOURNAL

Jan Anckaer writes from Brussels of some most exciting material. On 19th November at a Brussels auction by the Romantic Agony (www.romanticagony.com), there were 24 items on Egyptology. Among the more important were two notebooks by the French Orientalist Jean-Baptiste Adanson (1732-1803), apparently from his brother's collection. In them, Adanson took notes on the chronology, government, laws, religion, science, astrology and diverse other subjects concerning the ancient Egyptians. He had planned to write a historical dictionary of Ancient Egypt.

Adanson collaborated in the *Encyclopaedia*, was a member of the Academy of Sciences and French Consul in Syria, Egypt and Tunisia. Some of his drawings are in the Cabinet des Estampes in Paris, but his writing has never been published.

Who was Who in Egyptology tells us that his drawings are of monuments such as the pyramids and Sphinx and many well known sites, and copies of fragments of sculptured stone and, most important of all, hieroglyphic inscriptions on monuments that have sometimes disappeared. With these illustrations were three written accounts by Adanson. This material was said to rank Adanson alongside Sonnini and Denon.

If readers know of other important works coming to light through auction, ASTENE would like to know.

A CANADIAN CLARKE DESCENDANT

In October we received an e-mail from Allan Clarke in British Columbia. He noted Peta Ree's paper on Edward Daniel Clarke and asked if other members had been researching Edward's travels.

He is my great-great-grandfather and I am a voracious collector of anything said about him (good or bad). I would be delighted to hear from anyone with an opinion or description of any part of his life. I would be particularly interested in any enlightenment regarding his role in the recovery of the Rosetta Stone from the French Military.

Dr French wrote back: "Everyone will be thrilled to hear from you – descendants are one of our specialities." To which Mr Clarke replied "Do you mind if I pass your message on to other cousins in England and New Zealand?"

If you can help Allan Clarke, his e-mail is oldguyal@dccnet.com, and please give the Bulletin Editor a copy of your response too.

WHO WAS WILLIAM WRIGHT?

J. Rady asks: A friend is researching her ancestor's travels in Syria. Have there been any sightings of him in the literature? *Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.*



RESPONSES TO QUERIES

Responses to queries are only published in the Bulletin and are not on the ASTENE website.

BAGHDAD TO NEW ZEALAND

In response to Margaret Edgcumbe's query from Auckland in Bulletin 21, Dr Geoffrey Roper wrote that he had no knowledge of Robert Tod but Anthony Norris Groves led the group of independent missionaries who were there 1830-33, three of the others being John Parnell (their patron, later Lord Congleton), a Mr Calman and Dr Edward Cronin. Since Parnell and Groves were founders of the Plymouth Brethren, it may be that Tod was also involved with them, although *Memoir of Anthony Morris Groves* (3rd ed. 1869) appears to have no mention of him. George Percy Badger's sister-in-law would, Geoffrey wrote, be the sister of Badger's first wife Maria Christiana Wilcox (1818/19-1866). We have passed Geoffrey's letter on to Mrs Edgcumbe in New Zealand.

CLAUDIUS JAMES RICH

A new ASTENE member, Kai Kaniuth of Munster, browsing through our website, found the query about Claudius Rich (1787, Dijon – 1821, Shiraz. Kai suggested that in 1806, when Rich was met in Cyprus, he must have been on his way to India – a trip begun in 1803/4 but discontinued to perfect his language skills. He undertook part of these years' travels in the Levant in the disguise of a 'Mamluk'. He finally arrived in Bombay on 1st September, 1817. From then until his death, he was active researching the ancient remains of Mesopotamia and can – with some justification – be called 'one of the spiritual fathers' of Near Eastern archaeology.

SCHLIEMAN IN EGYPT

On the evening of 8th April 1888 an anonymous lady and her husband dined at Shephard's Hotel in Cairo with their friend Prof. Rudolf Virchow of Berlin and his friends Heinrich Schliemann, "the discoverer of Troy", and Dr Schweinfurth, "the African traveller". M. Naville, another friend, was "exploring the remains of the temple of Bubastes" at the time. These three friends wrote messages in the couple's interleaved Bible, opposite appropriate chapters. Virchow wrote opposite Israel in Egypt in Exodus; Schliemann wrote in Greek two lines from the Odyssey, Schweinfurth wrote a long message in German and the date. When Schliemann died two years later, the lady recalled the evening and wrote "An Evening with Schliemann" in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, Jan-June 1891.

Does anyone know where that Bible is or who it belonged to? It would be good to hear more of Schliemann and these other travellers.

FOOTPRINTS: INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL

It is a widely held belief that Christmas Day was not a great occasion for British celebration until Queen Victoria's time. These diary entry belie that – at least when the British were abroad...

JOURNAL ENTRY: 25 December 1823, Christmas Day: *Determined to pass it with some show of festivity especially as we were in a pagan country, so invited our friends from the other canja (Parkes, Scoles) to dine with us (Westcar, Catherwood). They held a long consultation with their man, Demetrio, about the "plumb (sic) pudding for 'twould be impossible to pass the day without one. About ½ past 6 we sat down to dinner. Dem. produced a very excellent soup of lentils, followed by a couple of harricoed fowls, a pigeon pie and roast leg of mutton 7 days old, all well cooked. Then followed the plumb pudding; this was the hope and pride of the family. The cloth had been burned through by sticking to the bottom of ye pot. Our wine was dry Malaga and we drank the King's health and that of our friends in all due ceremonies, firing guns at each huzza.* Henry Westcar

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOLY LAND, 1839

The Honourable Mrs Damer was travelling with her family and others at Christmas. They reached their proposed destination about sunset, expecting to find the sheik's house "swept and garnished for our reception ... but great was our dismay when Denino (the dragoman) met us with a chicken half-plucked in his hand, and told us that the sheik's house was shut up, and that there was only one room for our whole family..."

Unluckily for us the horse loaded with our folding chairs had fallen, and so ingeniously as to render all unfit for use, so that we had to sit on our saddles round our table, which was composed of a packing case. But all these contrivances added to our amusement and appetites.

They huddled in one room, "lamenting such a benighted position on Christmas night". But soon the main party discovered them and Denino urged them to travel on to where a Christmas dinner awaited them. "I resisted," wrote Mrs Damer, "on the principle of the mountain and Mahomet, which seemed singularly appropriate."

So all the Arabs were marshalled and the dinner was transported through the desert, reheated and served. They were much astonished to find that it consisted of: ... five roast chickens (being computed to make one turkey), bread sauce, soup and vegetables, and a very good sort of pudding, meant to represent a plum, but in which dried apricots were a very improved substitute for plums.

Diary of a Tour in Greece, Turkey, Egypt and the Holy Land, 1841