

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

Number 23

Spring 2005

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Pictures for our Pets.

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Website: WWW.ASTENEORG.UK
ASTENE Charity number: 1067157
ISSN: 1461 – 4316

The next Bulletin will appear in late June 2005. We welcome articles and news from members. The deadline for articles is 15 May, but please send your material earlier as it greatly helps the Editor.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO ASTENE, 5 KENMARE MANSIONS, GONDAR GARDENS, LONDON NW6 1ET, OR TO asteneuk@aol.com NOT to the ASTENE administrative office or to LisaCAMB@aol.com.

ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

ASTENE 6th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER

The deadline for papers for the Conference is fast approaching so please e-mail your title and up to 100 word abstract to info@oxconf.co.uk; fax it to 00 44 (0) 1865 310284, or post it to ASTENE, c/o 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE.

Papers accepted already include those considering Ida Pfeiffer, Carsten Niebuhr, Christopher Wordsworth, George Gliddon, John Hyde, Ignacij Knoblehar, Pascal Coste, Robert Stephenson, routes through Eastern Turkey, travellers' impact on Egyptology, Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem, Pococke and Norden on the Nile, Discovering inscriptions in Yemen; An Egyptian traveller on the Haj; Travel and fiction

Contributors come from France, USA, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Israel, Ireland, among other countries.

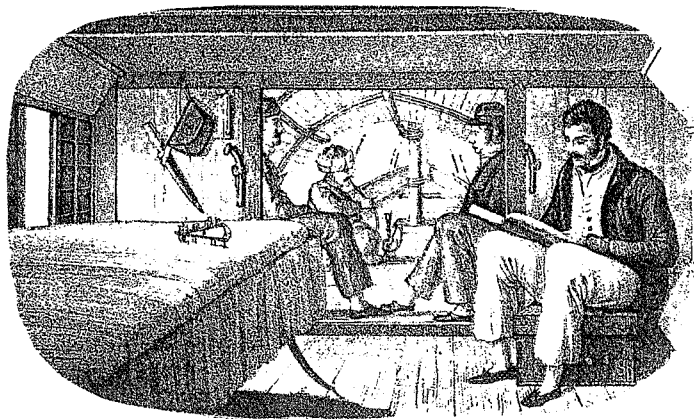
The title of the keynote paper by Professor John Williams on the evening of Thursday 14th July is "Cairo Rules..."

We can visit Thomas Legh's home at Lyme Park and see their Schranz watercolours; Dr Christina Rigg, Curator of Egyptology, will introduce the collection at Manchester Museum. There will be visits for those with a special interest to the Whitworth Museum and Manchester Art Gallery.

COMING TO MANCHESTER? - TRAVEL NEWS

For those coming to the Conference from overseas, note that Manchester is served by Aer Lingus, Air Baltic, Air Berlin, Air France, Air Malta, Alitalia, British Airways, British Midland, CSA, Cyprus Airways, Emirates, Helios, Iberia, Kibris Turkish, KLM, LOT, Lufthansa, Olympic, PIA, Qatar Airlines, Ryanair, Swiss Air, SAS, SN Brussels, Swiss, Syrian, Turkish, Virgin, and (from USA) American, Continental, Delta, US Airways.

Book your train ticket early and you will get a very good price. If you qualify for a senior railcard (60+) it costs £18 and gives big discounts.



THANKS TO JESSE HAWORTH

The British manufacturer Jesse Haworth (1835-1920) became interested in Egyptology when he toured Egypt in about 1880, and later became acquainted with Amelia Edwards. From 1887 he provided funds for Flinders Petrie's excavations and also supported the Egypt Exploration Fund. In 1912 he provided the funds for the Egyptology extension to the Manchester Museum, and presented to it all the antiquities he had received from Petrie's excavations. He was a generous donor to the Ashmolean in Oxford and the British Museum. He was first President of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society. We will hear and see more about him at the Manchester Museum.

INTRODUCTION TO SCHRANZ

Antonio Schranz (1801-after 1865)

Member of a family of artists from Bavaria, based in Malta from 1818. Between 1823 and 1847 Antonio accompanied numerous wealthy British families on journeys around the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt as their draughtsman, hired to record the famous monuments and lands that they visited. These included Robert Pashley (*Travels in Crete*, 2 volumes, 1837) and Viscount Castlereagh (*A Journey to Damascus*, 1847). The drawings made for Castlereagh are those now at Lyme Park. Other drawings by Schranz of the Near East are in the Searight Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. *Bryony Llewelyn*

SHOPPING...

Manchester has more than a great university and a wonderful range of museums, galleries and libraries – it is renowned for its shops, as we were often told when booking the Conference. But nothing like Lady Herbert of Lea (widow of Florence Nightingale's Minister of War) found when preparing to go up the Nile in 1865.

The three weeks spent in Cairo were almost entirely occupied, by the leader of the expedition, in providing the outfit necessary for the future tent-life of the party; and let no one imagine that this is an easy of expeditious matter.

If you want tents, you must first go to the bazaar, where the thread is woven; then to the one where the canvas is sold; then to a third, where the ropes are to be found; then to a fourth, for pegs and poles. It is the same with all your furniture. The metal of your pot or kettle must first be weighed and bought in the Copper Bazaar, and then manufactured, into the shape or article you want, somewhere else. Your mattress (sic) must be made up at home, after a whole day has been spent haggling for the wool in one place, or for the thread in another; and for the ticking in a third, and for the tassels in a fourth – and so on, *ad infinitum!*

ASTENE'S NEW PUBLICATION: *WOMEN TRAVELLERS IN THE NEAR EAST*

We plan to launch ASTENE's new title *Women Travellers in the Near East* edited by Sarah Searight at the Manchester Conference. The contents covers papers given at former ASTENE Conferences:

Travelling to Post: Lady Liston, an Ambassadress in Constantinople - Deborah Manley ; *Two Feisty Ladies in the Levant: Princess Caroline and Lady Craven* - Charles Plouviez; *Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe: Miss Muir Mackenzie and Miss Irby* - Dorothy Anderson; *Travels in Nineteenth Century Egypt: Sarah Belzoni, Amelia Edwards and Margaret Benson* - Megan Price; *Lucie Duff Gordon: A Woman's Perception of Egypt* - Sarah Searight; *Governess to the Grand Pasha of Egypt: Emmeline Lott* - Dr Alix Wilkinson; *The Unknown Pilgrimage to Sinai: Isabella Bird* - Deborah Manley; *'Women's Work for Women': American Presbyterian Missionary Women in Egypt 1854-1914* - Jeanne Marie Warzeski; *Perceptions of Women in the Eastern Desert* - Janet Starkey; *Archaeologists Wives as Travel Writers* - Dr Elizabeth French

Women Travellers in the Near East should be launched at and available at the Conference or can be ordered from Oxbow Books, Oxford or through all good booksellers. There will be a review of the book in the next Bulletin.

ROUTES WITHIN THE LEVANT

One of the topics considered at the Manchester Conference will be travel within the Near East - from, say, Trebizond to Damascus or Jerusalem to Cairo. His Imperial Highness Ludwig Salvator of Austria, an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society, was well known for his "travels and scientific labours", and thrice went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In 1878 he followed the caravan route from Egypt to Syria. He illustrated his resulting book with accomplished and atmospheric drawings.

KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS OPEN

Riding towards Bir el Abd ("the negro's well") below the Jebel el Magara, His Imperial Highness visited the cottage of a telegraphic watchmen. These men are Arabs and live there with their families. They are provided with a small store of wire and a few insulators to enable them to keep the telegraph in working order. They are placed at intervals along the line to Syria - each man having a separate section to superintend... The lonesome and uneventful life of these men seems strange enough when one thinks of the important news constantly flashing over their heads, for the uninterrupted transmission of which they are

chiefly responsible. (*The Caravan Route between Egypt and Syria*, London, 1881, p. 16.)
His Imperial Highness wrote a number of books: on Ithaca, Zante, Nicosia (Levkosia) and the Antipodes.

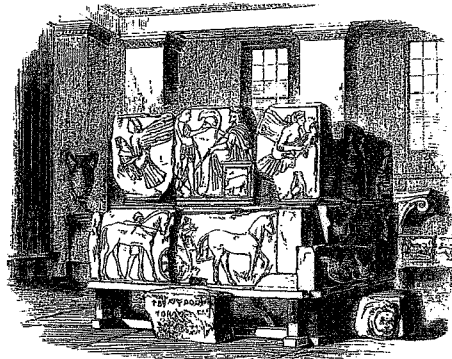
FORTHCOMING ASTENE ACTIVITIES

A VISIT TO THE RGS AND V & A

On Thursday, 12th May, Elizabeth Woodthorpe has arranged for ASTENE members to visit the Royal Geographical Society to tour the Society's house at the north end of Exhibition Road, Kensington and the new Reading Room at 11 a.m. The visit will be led by Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps.

Then at 2:30, after lunch, probably at the V & A café, Charles Newton has offered to introduce "Drawings and Watercolours: Egypt ancient and modern" in the prints and drawings collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum - at the south end of Exhibition Road.

There is only room for 12 participants, so it will be on first-come-first-served. Please let Elizabeth Woodthorpe know as soon as you can - see page 2.



BEYOND THE GRAND TOUR, Saturday 15 October, 2005 at Oxford

Continuing our co-operation on study days with Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, Dr Brian Taylor has arranged a day on this fascinating subject. Booking forms are enclosed with this Bulletin for UK/European members.

Even as early as the 16th century, British travellers went beyond the 'normal' boundaries of the continental Grand Tour by visiting Greece and the Levant, and thereby becoming known as 'Levant lunatics'. Amongst them were architects, traders, writers, topographers, scientists, antiquarians and classical scholars, many of whom published eye witness accounts of their journeys. Major archaeological discoveries were made, Greek Revival architecture, Romanticism in the arts and 'Turkomania' were introduced into Britain and a pictorial record of the exotic Near East was compiled by amateur and professional artists.

From within such a geographically and culturally wide-ranging subject area, four topics have been selected.

Dr John Revell on *John Sibthorpe, his tour of the Ottoman Empire and the Flora Graeca Story*

Dr Robert Morkot on *Flowers, the Bible, and Fellow Travellers: Captains Charles Irby and James Mangles at Petra*

Dr Kerry Bristol on *James 'Athenian' Stuart, and the Greek Revival Architecture*

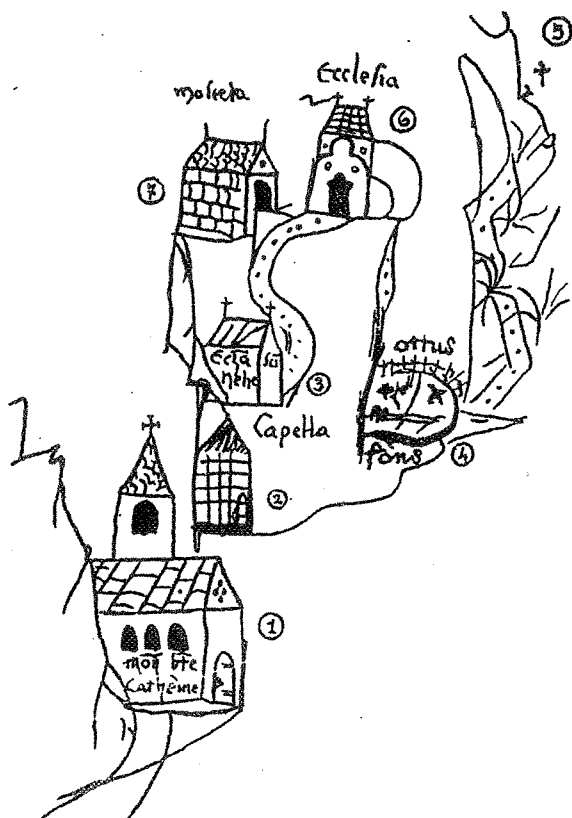
Enid Slatter and Dr Brian Taylor on *Sir Charles Fellows and the Xanthian marbles – one vast dream*

THE FRIDAY VISIT

On the Friday preceding the Study Day we are planning a visit to the Map Room of the Bodleian Library to be introduced to *The Book of Curiosities*, a manuscript of Arabic maps of the terrestrial and celestial worlds, dating from the 11th century. With an introduction to the manuscripts by Dr Emily Savage-Smith of the Oriental Institute, Oxford University. (We will be reviewing her book on the subject in the next Bulletin.) This visit will be followed by dinner at a Middle Eastern restaurant. The visit and dinner are open to all ASTENE members.

Note: Comfortable accommodation is often available at Rewley House the night before a course there. Ring 01865 270368.

An application form for this study day is included in this Bulletin. Book for the library visit and dinner with Events Organiser, E. Woodthorpe, see page 2.



8.5 The chapels on the way to the summit of Mount Sinai

ASTENE TOUR OF SINAI AND CONFERENCE: March 16 – 23, 2006

ASTENE Events Organiser, Elizabeth Woodthorpe, has done further splendid work arranging this tour. We have a number of applicants - who will soon receive the formal registration brochure -, but you can still apply and we hope we can include all who wants to join us. The tour is being arranged by McCabe Pilgrimages. It includes a one day conference (possibly at Sharm el-Sheik or another centre) on 22nd March. We hope to hear from Egyptian and Near East members and others who would like to join us and offer papers for the conference and/or take part in the discussion. We are confirming bookings now. Interested? Please communicate your interest to Elizabeth Woodthorpe, see page 2.

Proposed Programme of the Sinai Tour and Conference:

Thursday, 16 March: To Sharm el Sheik by Monarch Airways from Gatwick at 11 a.m. arriving 1805. Overnight stay at 5* hotel.

Friday, 17 March: Drive to St Catherine's, en route boarding jeeps to explore the Nawamis – well preserved burial chambers from early Bronze Age. We stay two nights in the Guest House at St Catherine's Monastery.

Saturday, 18 March: Visit the Monastery and the new museum. Walk (or optional camel ride) through the Valley of the Forty Martyrs, visiting the traditional site of 'Moses striking the rock'. Walk with a Bedouin guide to take a picnic lunch with the family who run the Hyrax sanctuary in this fertile valley with views to Mount Sinai.

Sunday, 19 March: A full day to climb Mount Sinai – enabling us to take it slowly and enjoy the spectacular views. A picnic lunch on the mountain. Return to the comfortable Morgenland Hotel for a two night stay.

Monday and Tuesday: Visits to be finalised. We continue to Sharm el Sheik (or another resort) for a two night stay at a 5* hotel with the Conference on Wednesday 22 March and evening departure to UK.

Cost: about £725 sharing a twin-bedded room (£85 single supplement). Insurance premium of £39 per person. All rooms have private facilities. All meals are included as is the comprehensive programme of visits and entrance fees. Transport is a mix of coach or mini-bus, jeep and camel... Also included are airport taxes, gratuities and cost of Egyptian visas. Note: Walking tracks are often rough and uneven and climbs on Mount Sinai are long hauls. So, though age is not a barrier, very slow walkers or those who have difficulty with mobility should be aware that they may have to opt out of certain parts of the itinerary. If in doubt discuss this with the Events Organiser (see page 2).

THE TRAVELLERS' ROOM AT SAINT CATHERINE'S, SINAI, 1820

In 1819-20 Sir Frederick Henniker, a light-hearted baronet, travelled through Egypt and the Near East, observing and enjoying all he saw. In early 1820, en route to Jerusalem, he visited Sinai. His account was published by John Murray in 1823 as *Notes during a Visit to Egypt, Nubia, The Oasis, Mount Sinai and Jerusalem*.

The travellers' room in the convent of Mount Sinai, like the travellers' room in a public-house in England, bears the pencillings of its visitors; the memoranda in themselves differing as widely as the places are distant from each other. Here, instead of laughing at the amatory complaints of bagmen, we pause before the useful notices of those who journey in the pursuit of knowledge; and in lieu of passing by such names as Green, White, Brown, we are here reminded by such of men whose labours have benefited mankind. Seetzen *, on a vessel of paper, pasted against the wall, notifies his having penetrated the country in a direct line, between the Dead Sea and Mount Sinai, a route never before accomplished; this was the more interesting to me as I had previously determined to attempt the same, it being the shortest way to Jerusalem. (p. 223)

* Footnote to page 223: On the margin is written – Seetzen died at Acaba; supposed to have been poisoned.

EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS AND NEWS

MARY SEACOLE AT THE NPG

Those who visited the Women Travellers Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London and came to our joint study day last year, did not know of an important traveller waiting in the wings.

About three years ago a dealer bought a print dated 1869 at an antique fair in Oxfordshire. He found behind it an oil painting of a black woman. She was wearing military medals from which historians have been able to ascertain her identity. "It was," says the present owner of the portrait, "an iconic image of her at the height of her fame after the Crimean War, proudly wearing her Creole neckerchief, ear-ring and medals." She is Mary Seacole – "the black Florence Nightingale" – Britain's number one black heroine. She wrote of her life in *The Wonderful Adventures of Mary Seacole in Many Lands* – and she was in truth an ASTENE traveller. Her portrait went on display at the National Portrait Gallery on 10 January 2005. Jane Robinson, known to many of us through her travellers bibliography *Wayward Women* has at this opportune moment published Mary Seacole's biography, to be reviewed in the next Bulletin.



OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL 10-17 April

Jane Robinson is one of the panel on *Heroes of the Crimean War* at the Oxford Literary Festival at 2:30 on Saturday 17 April at the Oxford Union.

ASTENE members Barnaby Rogerson and Anthony Sattin (with Rose Baring) are discussing *Travel Writing and Publishing* – keeping classics of travel writing in print – at noon, Monday 11 April.

Giles Milton, author of *White Gold* the extraordinary history of the 17-18th century white slave trade in North Africa – some of whom travelled in our region – is at 12:30 on Thursday, April. To book (about £5.50) ring 01865 – 305305.

HOW MISS NIGHTINGALE TRAVELLED

For the next two years the famous carriage used by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War will be on show at the National Trust property Claydon House near Winslow, North Buckinghamshire. When she first went to the Crimea, Florence Nightingale travelled around on horseback. Later the Land Transport Corps offered her a Russian-made unsprung, hooded carriage. Her sister Parthenope lived at Claydon House and Florence often stayed here. While the carriage's normal home at the Army Museum is being refurbished, 'Florrie's Lorry' has come to Claydon.

EXHIBITIONS

Roman Egyptomania

This display exploring the influence on Egyptian art of Roman occupation is at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge until 8 May. Tue-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5. Free. Tel: 01223-332900

Palestine and Jordan 1500-1900

Part of Dr Hisham Khatib's impressive collection of books, atlases, artworks, manuscripts and maps is on display at Darat al Funun, Amman until Thursday, 28th April. Born in Acre in Palestine, living in Jerusalem until 1974, Dr Khatib's collection reflects his interest in the heritage of the Holy Land and includes Egypt – usually included in travellers' itineraries. Among the artist-travellers represented are Louis Forbin, David Roberts, Francis Spilsbury, Luigi Mayer and Leon Laborde. Pierre Jacotin's 'Napoleon atlas' with 6 plates on Palestine and 40 on Egypt from the French survey of 1799 is a highlight of the exhibition.

This is a rare opportunity to see part of this vast collection and we look forward to hearing from people who were able to visit it.



Wilfred Thesiger at the Pitt Rivers

The exhibition of the haunting photographs of travel by Thesiger in Iraq 1949-1958 at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, concentrates on the Marsh Arabs and life and scenery of Kurdistan. Thesiger, who died last year aged 93, gave some 50,000 images to the Museum's photographic collection, and this exhibition celebrates his gift. It continues at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford until 15 January 2006. Open daily 12-4:30. Free.

Masterpieces of Islamic Art from the Metropolitan Museum

30 works from America's finest collection of Islamic art (from Egypt, Syria, Granada and India) are added to the Louvre's own very impressive collection. Musee du Louvre, Paris through April.

Art of the Written Word in the Middle East

Explores different forms of the beauty of writing of pages from science to poetry, legal texts to ceramics. University of Michigan Museum of Arts, Ann Arbor to 5 June.

Sudan: Ancient Treasures – the Bowes Museum

Anyone who missed this exhibition at the British Museum can have the double pleasure of seeing it in the magnificent Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle, County Durham – a chateauful of treasures. The exhibition is the result of long-term collaboration between the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum and the British Museum. Many objects are being exhibited outside Sudan for the first time, several are only recently discovered. They range in time from the Palaeolithic through the Christian and Islamic periods. They range in scope from massive stone sculptures to exquisitely crafted jewellery and domestic items. At present archaeological rescue work continues in Sudan on sites threatened by a new dam which will flood the Nile valley by 2008.

The exhibition is linked to the Sudan Archive at Durham University which contains documents and photographs from the 19-20th centuries. There is a programme of events alongside the exhibition. For

information, ring 01833 690 606 or refer to www.bowesmuseum.org.uk.

Open daily 11 am – 5 pm; £6, concessions £5, children free. Other current exhibitions at the Bowes Museum include 'Raphael: Madonna of the Pinks' (16 April – 26 June) and 'Sense and Sensibility: Cotman' (7 May – 31 July). If you don't know the old county town of Barnard Castle, it will be an added treat.

A New Flowering: 1000 years of Botanical Illustration

This year's major exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford reveals the rich historical treasures of 'plant portraits' from Oxford's libraries and museums. The exhibition includes *Tradescant's Orchard* – garden fruit from 1620-30; Ferdinand Bauer's watercolours for the *Flora Graeca* from his 1786 visit to the Levant. Ashmolean Museum, 2 May – 11 September. Tues-Sat: 10 – 5; Sundays 12 – 5.

The Ancient Egyptians (and The Mighty Dinosaurs)

Two exhibitions offering everyone's favourite subjects: 'Mummies, coffins, gods and treasures' and 'The power of the great dinosaurs' at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester. Telephone 0116 225 4900 for opening times – daily except Fridays.

Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur

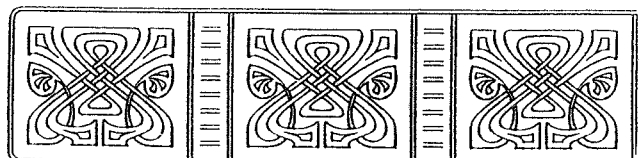
More than 200 Sumerian treasures excavated in the 1920s by Sir Leonard Woolley, including the famous statuette of a goat nibbling the leaves of a tree, jewellery, a bull's head lyre and vessels found in the tomb of Queen Pu-abu. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, to end of May.

Mirrors of the East

An exhibition exploring the impact of the East on Europe, between mid-19th and 20th centuries, including the rediscovery of the world of al-Andalus and Islam, and the influences on the modernist and Art Deco periods. Centre de Documentacio i Museu Textil, Terrassa, Barcelona through May.

Beyond East and West

Seven contemporary artists from Egypt to Pakistan who have lived much in Europe and America, focusing on their knowledge of multiple cultures. Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts to mid-May.



Asian Games: the art of contest

Many games originate and developed in the East. Here the paraphernalia of games and paintings and prints explore the role of games, such as chess, backgammon, snakes and ladders, card games and sports such as polo and hockey. Sackler Gallery, Washington DC until mid-May.

Caravan Kingdoms: Yemen and the ancient Incense Trade

The rich interaction resulting from the overland and maritime contacts linking the southern Arabian peninsula with the Eastern Mediterranean and northern Africa. Spectacular examples of architecture, sculpture, elaborate inscriptions from the collections of Yemen, and British and US collections. Sackler Gallery, Washington DC to mid-September. .

John Feeney Retrospective

40 years of photography of Egypt shows images from the Nile in flood, the Tentmaker's Street, shadow puppet plays and the domes of Cairo's old city. Sony Gallery, Cairo to 21 April.

Exhibitions at the Mathaf Gallery, London

The Mathaf Gallery has a large collection of 'Orientalist' oils, watercolours and prints in stock, and holds special exhibitions:

David Bellamy: Contemporary Orientalist watercolours – 14-28 June.

Falcons and the Arabian Horse – 4-16 July.

The Mathaf Gallery is at 24 Motcomb Street, London SW1; Tel: 0207-235-0010. Their website is ART@MATHAFGALLERY.DEMON.CO.UK

The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt

Exhibition addressing concern for health and the practical and magical treatment of wounds. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York to 17 July.

Tutankhamen – The Golden Beyond

The world wide exhibition of treasures from the Valley of the Kings is at the County Museum of Art, Los Angeles until mid-November.

10,000 years of art and culture from Jordan

Exhibition showing evidence from 8th millennium BC to the early years of Islam from archaeological discoveries of the last 15 years, lent by Jordanian museums. Kunst-und-Ausstellungshalle, Bonn to 21 August.

Matisse: His Art and his Textiles, the Fabric of Dreams at the Royal Academy, London

Perhaps not immediately apparent as relevant to ASTENE this exhibition shows how Matisse was inspired by the textiles and fabrics to his paintings, including Ottoman materials. Until 30 May.

LECTURES

PEF Lectures at the BM

The Palestine Exploration Fund is running a series of 5-10 week lecture courses at the British Museum from April to June, many of which will be of interest to ASTENE members. We apologise for not knowing about them sooner. Each series will be held at the British Museum. They cost £100-180 depending on length. To book contact Course Co-ordinator, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde Mews, London W1U 2AA; Tel: 07930-396846 or e-mail lecture.course@pef.org.uk

April 4-June 20 Judea and the Hellenistic World – David M. Jacobsen

April 5 – May 3 – Soldiers, scholars and priests – the pioneer explorers of the ancient Levant – Felicity Cobbing

April 6- May 11 The Prehistoric Environment of the Levant – Caroline Cartwright

April 8 – June 10 To boldly go – the Phoenicians at home and overseas – Jonathon Tubb

April 7 – May 5 Money in the Levant – a survey of coinage used in the Near East from the ancient to the Ottoman periods – Sam Moorehead

12 May – 9 June From villages to towns –social transformation in the early Bronze Age of Palestine – Rupert Chapman

May 18 – June 15 The Iron Age – Israel and Judah in the archaeological record – Bjornar Storfjell

BANEA'S lecture list

The London Centre for the Ancient Near East (BANEASoutheast) has a quarterly subscription list of talks and other programmes in their area: The London Diary for the Ancient Near East which runs January-April, April-July and so on. To submit diary entries, contact Jan Picton (janpicton@ijnet.demon.co.uk); for subscription information (which is in both internet and print form) see their website: www.art.man.ac.uk/ARTHIST/banea.



NEWS

ARTICLES FOR 'ANCIENT EGYPT'

The magazine *Ancient Egypt* (the History, People and Culture of the Nile Valley) now has more pages, much improved reproduction, a greater number of images, and more and better articles. The Editor welcomes the submission of articles for inclusion that can sit side-by-side with articles by internationally known Egyptologists.

The Editor, Ancient Egypt, 1 Newton Street, Manchester 1 1HW. Tel: 0161 273 7007; Fax: 0161 273 5007; e-mail: subscriptions@ancientegyptmagazine.com magazine.com; website: ancientegyptmagazine.com

CLEOPATRA ON WOMAN'S HOUR

Okasha Eldaly discussed Cleopatra as she appears in early Arabic texts on Radio 4's Woman's Hour on 28th February. In these manuscripts Cleopatra was a great leader, a scholar and teacher, a healer, a builder, a philosopher and linguist. He believes that the Arabs valued her more for her scholarship than her status. Victorian scholars, on the other hand, considering her from the values of their classical education, took their view of her from the masculine imperial values of Rome - and disapproved of her.

COPTIC MANUSCRIPTS DISCOVERED

Polish experts excavating at Luxor recently discovered three Coptic manuscripts in a pharaonic tomb - the most important such discovery for over fifty years. The manuscripts date to the 6th century and were perhaps hidden in the tomb by Christians who were being persecuted by the Romans.

(Priscilla Frost drew our attention to this item from <http://www.travelwirenews.com>)

ALL THE MIGHTY WORLD

This is the title of the catalogue of the forthcoming exhibition at the Tate Britain on the photography of Roger Fenton in the Crimea and elsewhere in the East. Exhibition: 25 September-2 January 2006.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The material in this section of the Bulletin is not transferred to the web site but is retained for members and other readers only.

We welcome contributions describing resources used by members.

RESEARCH RESOURCES AT THE CONFERENCE

We plan to hold a session on research resources at the Conference. One of the subjects will be travellers' graffiti. Georges Guyon in Les Inscriptions et Graffiti de Voyageur sur le Grand Pyramide, (Cairo, undated but post-1937) includes this very specific graffiti in the 'Salle de la Reine':

**R.HAY & J. BONOMI
SLEPT HERE 30 NOV. 1824**

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Those attending the ASTENE Conference in July will have the opportunity of visiting one of Britain's great art galleries.

In 1824 Charles Barry, not long returned from Greece, Egypt and Italy, and devoted to "all things Greek", won a competition to design the building

which was to become the Manchester Art Gallery. In the last decade it has been linked to another Barry building, the Athenaeum. And Barry's love of Greece still dominates the gallery.

The Victorian merchants and industrialists of Manchester loved the richness of the Pre-Raphaelites and they are hung resplendently. It has been said, "You name a Pre-Raphaelite painting - it's here." Among them is Manchester's own Pre-Raphaelite, Holman Hunt and his miserable *The Scapegoat*. A recent acquisition is the actual lantern painted in his *The Light of the World*. And there is much, much else, from Lorraine to Lowry, from Etty to Sickert, from Valette's time in Manchester to Lely. Arts and Crafts is the theme for 2005 with the big exhibition at the V & A - and Arts and Crafts is permanently here with a display on the second floor. *And it's free. Open Tues-Sun, 10-5.*

BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The Royal Institute of British Architects' (RIBA) Library is the largest and most comprehensive UK resource for research on architecture. Established in 1834, it has more than 135,000 books and some 2000 periodicals. Likely to be of most interest to ASTENE members is the Early Imprints Collection - some 4200 books published up to 1840. It includes works by Inigo Jones, Andrea Palladio and many others.

In the same building is the RIBA Photographic Collection, with 650,000 images of architecture world wide - one of the most important collections in the world. To view the collection you need a prior appointment and to indicate what you require. Micro-film copies of most pre-1914 drawings from the Drawings Collection are also held here.

RIBA Library, 66 Portland Place, London W18 1AD. Telephone: Recorded information, +44 (0)20 7307 3707; Library Enquiries, +44 (0)20 7307 3882
Website: www.architecture.com

Open: Mon.-Fri., 9:30-5 pm.

Photographs Collection & Photographic Service:

Tel.: +44 (0) 20 7307 3627 or (0)20 7307 3642.

e-mail: photo@inst.riba.org

Opening hours: Monday - closed; Tuesday 10-8pm.; Wed-Fri. 10-5 pm; Sat. 10 - 1:30 pm.

Nearest tubes: Oxford Circus, Regent's Park, Great Portland St, Warren St.. Buses along Oxford Street. Advance booking is essential for the Photographs Collection, but not necessary for the Library.

Non-RIBA members can obtain a Day Ticket from the Bookshop of the ground floor. Full rate: £14 (£7); Concessions for students, senior citizens, unemployed, disabled: £7.00 (£3.50 half day)

Snacks and lunches available in the RIBA Café.



The British Architectural Library Drawings and Archives Collections are now at the Architecture Study Rooms in the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

Website: www.architecture.com Contacts: +44 (0)20 7307 3708; Fax +44 (0) 20 7589 3175

The material in this collection of some 500, 000 items of British and foreign architecture ranges from the 16th century to the present and includes drawings by Charles Barry, Sir John Soane and C.R. Cockerell and hundreds of others. The Archives hold diaries, travel journals, letters, notebooks and other personal papers.

Open: Tues – Sat 10 – 5:30; Closed Mon & Sun.

Nearest underground: South Kensington

Readers are advised to book in advance to ensure material is available.

ACQUISITIONS BY BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Professor Joan Rees drew our attention to the acquisition by Birmingham University Library of scrapbooks collected by the 'learned sisters' Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson (DA61/2). Birmingham University Library offered to advise us on other relevant material they hold, and were most generous in their help, drawing our attention to other relevant material.

Papers of Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson, 1803-1903

This collection consists of scrapbooks containing press cuttings relating to the twins' travels, publications and, in particular, ASL's discovery in St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai of a text of the fourth century Syriac Gospels, in 1892. A paper copy of this material is available for consultation in the Special Collections Department reading room of the University Library. (DA61) A further scrapbook of press cuttings for 1883-92, contains reviews of their books and press correspondence. (DA61/1) A fourth scrapbook of press cuttings for 1887-1903 contains articles and letters including those about the discovery of the Syriac Gospels in 1892, mixed up with the sisters' biographies. (DA61/2) The final press cuttings scrapbook covers 1895-1905 continues along the same lines, and also includes a review of Mrs R.L. Bensley's *Our Journey to Sinai* in 1896-7. (DA61/3)

Before the ASTENE tour to Sinai we would be very interested to hear from anyone who has consulted this material – and perhaps will offer a paper...

The Archivist at the University Library who provided this information, also drew attention to two other collections in which ASTENE might be interested.

Papers of George Auden relating to his visits to Coptic monasteries in the Wadi Natran, Sinai and Egypt in 1916, with 2 diaries and 67 lantern slides.

Personal papers of James Rendel Harris (1852-1941) biblical scholar, orientalist and folklorist. A large collection across a number of subjects, including his travel in the Middle East, diaries and correspondence with his wife and other scholars.

Some papers of Harriet Martineau are also held in the Special Collections

Special Collections, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT; telephone: 0121 414 5838; e-mail: special-collections@bham.ac.uk

Special Collections opening hours: Mon-Wed and Fri 9-5pm and Thurs 9-7pm. The collections are open to all interested researchers. New researchers should take a letter of introduction from someone of recognised position who knows the researcher well (e.g. research supervisor, colleague) so a manuscript reader's card can be issued. It is also wise to make an appointment. The Special Collections also holds the archives of the Church Missionary Society.

Search tools include a website – www.special.coll.bham.ac.uk which will lead on to further information.

COLLEGE DE FRANCE, BIBLIOTHEQUE D'EGYPTOLOGIE

The Bibliotheque has advised us of their list of acquisitions for 2004. The list this year covered 126 pages and so it has been decided not to circulate it in paper form but to enter it on the Bibliotheque Champollion's web page:

<http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/ins..bib/p999281027073.htm> INSTITUTION puis BIBLIOTHEQUES puis EGYPTOLOGIE puis LISTE ACQ 2004 .

College de France; Bibliotheque d'Egyptologie, 52 Rue du Cardinal-Lemoine, 75005 – Paris, France
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 27 10 47; Fax: +33 (0)1 44 27 10 44. E-mail: Jacques.berchon@college-de-france.fr

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON LINE AND BEHIND THE SCENES

The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office situated near Kew Gardens station – free parking too) runs a number of special activities such as exhibitions, behind the scenes tours and study sessions on the use of their online services.

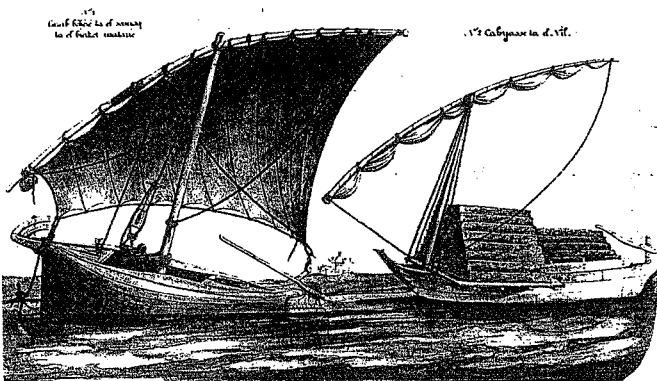
Behind the Scenes Tours, on Saturday at 11 and 2 are free. They introduce family history and other research and include a chance to see the vaults. Booking is essential. Call +44 (0) 20 8876 3444.

The study sessions discuss such matters as how to search and use the 1901 Census; searching archives and collections online; family history for beginners; the library catalogue. Within the next two years it is planned that all historic censuses from 1841 to 1891 will be made available online. Study sessions

are held on some weekday afternoons and are free, but you must book on the above number.

You can become a reader at the National Archives from age 14 on production of formal identification. Registration is free and takes about five minutes. Take formal ID: passport, driving licence or bank card and it is wise nowadays to take proof of your address: up-to-date utilities bill or bank statement, for example.

The National Archives' quarterly What's On leaflet is posted free - phone the above number. Online version at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ enewsletter.



FINDINGS FROM TRAVEL IN SUDAN

For over a century the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford (which focuses on ethnography and anthropology) has been working in and with southern Sudan. Anthropology in this area – as in others – followed trade and the flag. In the writings of many early travellers there are records of observations of societies along the Nile and beyond. Most of them are somewhat transitory as the travellers passed by, made a note, and passed on, perhaps collecting a contemporary object or two, but more likely focusing on the ancient rather than the living communities. A few - like John Lewis Burckhardt and the less well known Dr Robert Richardson, personal physician to Lord Belmore's expedition in 1817 -, made some very interesting observations of contemporary life.

In 1926-30 Edward Evans-Pritchard (1902-73) studied the Azande people of southern Sudan, publishing his findings in 1937. In 1932-4 he was professor of sociology at King Fuad I University in Cairo and continued his work in the Sudan, publishing three books about the Nuer people of the Upper Nile swamps. The war broke into his work and at its end he held the post of political officer in Cyrenaica. In 1946 he was appointed professor of

social anthropology at Oxford. Many of his finds came to the Pitt Rivers Museum.

For over a year the Pitt Rivers has been creating an on-line catalogue of objects and photographs of the region – many of the latter now entering the public arena for the first time. Rachel Sparks, the Sudan Project Researcher, is discovering not only the technologies and purposes of the objects but also their histories and human links.

For ASTENE members the photographs on this website are likely to be of supreme interest.

For further information on the project and its growing work, see www.prm.ox.ac.uk/sudan.

ASTENE JOURNAL RESEARCH PROJECT (1): Huntington Library

Peta Ree spent time in the Manuscripts Department of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California in February, and has provided information on this resource for the ASTENE Journal Research Project.

The Library holds most of the papers of Sir Francis Beaufort (of the Wind Scale) and his family, including Emily Anne Smyth, Viscountess Strangford, nee Beaufort, both of whom travelled in the Near East. The Library also holds the papers of Sir Richard Burton on 15 microfilm reels – the originals are held by the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office. A further holding is William Makepeace Thackeray's sketches and watercolour paintings for *From Cornhill to Cairo*, the account of his Mediterranean tour.

Peta provided detailed information about how to access the collection and this will be given when the Journal Project is added to the ASTENE Resources website.

Viscountess Strangford's papers include a scrapbook of the many, many reviews of her book Egyptian Sepulchres and Syrian Shrines. This example from The Literary Gazette of 27 July 1860 may have either amused her or irritated her....

More lady travellers. They are young ones this time evidently, and not ill-favoured, if one may form a conjecture from the naïve confessions of the writer of this work, who is plainly very much tickled at the many offers made to purchase herself and her sister on the part of the enamoured Sheiks. She does not inform us what colour her eyes are, but had they been black she might, according to one of her confidential anecdotes, have fetched 11,000 piastres, and according to another, her skill with the rifle so charmed a ruffianly old Sheik, with four wives already (of one of whom, however, he was heartily sick and tired, and promised faithfully to get rid), that his 'bid' at last fetched the enormous amount of ten camels.

**ASTENE JOURNAL RESEARCH PROJECT:
(2): Somerset Record Office**

Thomas Rees undertook research for this project in the Somerset Record Office in Taunton, looking at the papers of Sir Mervyn Medlicott (1837-1908).

The charm of this material is that it was written by a (very) young midshipman: 15 in 1852, 17 when the last of the diaries relating to the Near East was completed. That is also its principal limitation, as Medlicott was too under-educated to understand much of what he was seeing, although he had been at Harrow School and picked up some French and a smattering of classical knowledge. His accounts are interesting for what they say about the attitudes and sensibility of a young man of his class and background as much as for his observations of the world he saw. Although he visited, inter alia, Carthage, Tunis, the Troad, Constantinople and Smyrna, his descriptions are conventional and rather cursory. However, his accounts of shooting and fishing (which occupied most of his time ashore) allow for some moderately interesting description of the topography and of the indigenous inhabitants with whom he came into contact.

The most vivid and potentially most rewarding section of the 1852-4 journals relates to the 1853-4 period when he was on active service in the Crimea. This entailed a lot of fighting off the Black Sea coast, some land sorties against the Russians, and more than one visit on leave to Constantinople. They paint a lively picture of life on board a fighting ship (still a sailing ship), of intercourse with the French and Turkish navies, and of the frequent excursions made to the shore by naval parties in search of adventure or exercise. They also bring out the relatively empty nature of much of the territory in this part of the world in the mid-19th century.

Thomas Rees

We are still eager to find members willing to be involved in this project in their local area. We are particularly interested in material in the British Library and the National Army Museum in London. Would anyone using these libraries be willing to turn aside from their main research to report on one or two of these journals? Please contact D. Manley on 01865 310284. We would equally appreciate input from overseas members about journals in libraries in their area.

Within the next months the research achieved so far will be entered in the ASTENE Research Resources website.

**ASTENE RESEARCH RESOURCES
WEBSITE**

The new password for 2005-6 to this website is enclosed in this Bulletin.

A PROBLEM WITH DATES

Very strangely it seems that a few travellers, who tended to be in the Near East from autumn of one year to spring of the following year, give the wrong year date for their travels. The year they give in their published account naturally becomes the accepted date. However, evidence from other travellers is sometimes in conflict with this; as can be other external evidence. Here is an example I have recently come across.

Sir Frederick Henniker's travels are given in *Who was Who in Egyptology* and elsewhere as 1820. In his book, *Notes during a Visit to Egypt, Nubia, the Oasis, Mount Sinai and Jerusalem* (1823) he gives the date 1820, and *Who was Who* gives the date he gave the coffin of Soto to Henry Salt as 1821.

Henniker's very entertaining book consistently provides the days and months – and even the hours – but not the years. For example, his ship, the brig *Constante*, was under weigh at Malta for Alexandria at 3 pm on 6th October. On 24th June 1820 the 'newsletter' of *L'Ermite du Liban* (July 1820, Tripoly de Syrie), published as an Appendix to Henniker's book (p. 337-9) tells how he was attacked near Jaffa 'le 24 Juin'. Henniker himself tells of this near fatal attack as within a day's ride of Jerusalem, but it could have been reported to the Consul at Jaffa.

"...I looked up, and within a few inches of my head were three muskets, and three men taking aim at me." I cannot go into the gruesome detail with Henniker bleeding profusely, two vultures hovering over him, and little help until a beautiful young bride at a well took pity on him. His camel-back journey back was torture: "at every step my wound opened and shut like a quivering door." (284 ff)

If this date of 24 Juin is correct, it follows that Henniker reached Egypt in 1819.



For parts of his tour Henniker was accompanied. Would his fellow travellers provide dates? At first he travelled with Charles Francis Grey of University College, Oxford. Together they went to Sinai soon after they arrived in Egypt. Grey published "Inscriptions from the Wady el-Makketeb copied in 1820". Henniker then went to Nubia; Grey elsewhere. But Henniker returned to Sinai before he went on to Jerusalem. Was this when Grey copied the inscriptions?

In Jerusalem Henniker met John Hyde who had carved his name at Abu Sir in February 1819 when he joined the Salt/Bankes expedition of 1818-19. (p.282)

Why did I begin to question Henniker's dates? It was because in October when he was in Cairo he watched Ibrahim Pasha return triumphant from the war against the Wahabis in Arabia. If he saw Ibrahim Pasha, then surely he arrived in Egypt in 1819...
Deborah Manley

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The first number is the Bulletin number; the second the page. This index will now go onto the ASTENE website so a wider audience can become aware of the advantages of membership!

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THE JOURNALS

Many of those researching travel in the Near East must be having recourse to the journals of the time – *The Quarterly Review*, *The Monthly Magazine*, *The New Monthly Magazine* and *The Edinburgh Review* amongst others. In these there were frequent reviews of the published works of the travellers, sometimes serialised accounts of their

journeys, at certain periods almost every month there were records of their finds. Only a few of these journals have cumulative indexes – *The Quarterly Review* is one such.

Do any readers know of other indexes? Do you have your own that you might share? Do you know of a relevant index to a non-English journal? Do you know anyone working on a project to provide such an index for an 19th century journal?

We might discuss this matter in the Research Resources session at the Conference.

FINDING, BUYING AND SELLING TREASURES, 1820

One of the most light hearted of Nile travellers was Sir Frederick Henniker (1793-1825) in Egypt and the Palestine in 1820 (or was it?) With Lieutenant Macdonell of the Royal Navy, he was the first known European to climb to the apex of the Second Pyramid. He talked to and listened to the people, and from this came two observations.

22 October 1819 near Rosetta Henniker found labourers making excavations in the sand ...

I saw no fruit of their industry, but am told whatever is found is again hidden, till a sufficiency is collected for market. (p. 24)

Near Benihassan, 30 December 1819

Coins in great quantities are found here, which the Arabs are glad to exchange for paras with foolish ignorant Franks. This old money won't purchase bread. (p.94)

(Sir Frederick Henniker, Notes during a visit to Egypt, Nubia, the Oasis, Mount Sinai and Jerusalem, 1823.)



BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Please send information about books the Bulletin might review to Edwin Aiken, Tulster Avenue, Annalong, Newry, Co Down, BT34 47X. Kathryn Ferry is starting a new job with the Victorian Society and so, sadly, has had to stand down as a Reviews Editor.

Women's Costume of the Near and Middle East by Jennifer Scarce, RoutledgeCurzon, London, 2003, ISBN 0-7007-1560-6, p/b 192 pp., 128 b/w ills. 21 diagrams, £19.99

The author, Jennifer Scarce, was Curator Middle Eastern Cultures in the National Museum of Scotland until her retirement and this book, first published in hardback in 1995, is the result of many years of research. She uses her experience to

demonstrate the range and vitality of Ottoman female dress, concentrating on the shape, cut and construction of surviving pieces and supplementing this with many contemporary illustrations and with quotes from contemporary sources.

This is a really pleasant book to read. The size, weight and binding make it easy to handle, almost every page includes an illustration and the text is interesting and non-demanding. It is divided into four main sections:

- * The Ottomans and the traditions they may have inherited from Central Asia and from the Byzantines;

- * The Ottomans at home – which covers urban fashion and style, predominantly in Istanbul.

- * The Ottomans in south east Europe and in the Arab world.

- * The Ottomans' neighbours, specifically the Safavid and Qajar Iranians, the Kurds, Qashqa'i and Afghans. In this section, Miss Scarce draws attention to some similarities but, more fascinatingly, to the differences in tradition and in the way fashions were recorded and have survived.

Whereas many scholars have published research on aspects of Islamic dress, it is difficult to think of a general book which is accessible to the non-specialist. This book fills an obvious gap and with its notes and bibliography, it is a lovely introduction to the subject and the clear line drawings might even tempt readers to make some of the garments for themselves.

Jennifer Scarce, a former ASTENE Committee member, is now Honorary Lecturer in the School of Design, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, University of Dundee. *Jennifer Weardon*

In the Shadow of Sinai: Stories of Travel and Biblical Research by Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson, Alpha Press (Brighton and Portland, Oregon), ISBN 1-898595-23-2, 1999, £14.99 p/b.

The twin sisters Agnes and Margaret Smith (born in 1843) were formidable intellectuals with enough money to satisfy their inclination for intrepid travel. Their first venture was to Greece (*Glimpses of Greek Life and Scenery*, 1883). The sisters knew Greek and for some years Agnes studied Arabic and Hebrew. When Margaret's husband died they moved to Cambridge and Agnes married Reverend Samuel Lewis (who had visited Sinai on his way to Petra). The three planned a trip to Sinai and, when he died, the twins went alone in 1892, planning, with basic photographic training, to photograph and identify the ancient manuscripts in the library of St Catherine's monastery. Agnes studied Aramaic and the script used in early Syriac texts for this purpose.

This book includes both Margaret's *How the Codex was Found* (covering their journeys in 1892-3) and Agnes' *In the Shadow of Sinai – A Story of Travel and Research from 1895 to 1897*.

They were welcomed into the monastery library where they discovered an unknown Syriac copy of the Four Gospels. Their photographic record of it was not adequate, so they returned four times - in 1893 with three scholars and their wives (Prof. Rendel Harris, Prof. and Mrs Bensly and Dr and Mrs Burkitt). As Greek speakers the sisters were able to work with the monks with mutual satisfaction, and they prepared detailed lists of the manuscripts in the library.

Victorian travellers journeyed with the Old Testament in their heads and knew, for example, that at Ain Mousa (the well of Moses) Miriam began her song of triumph, and understood the natural doubts of the host of Israel in this harsh, monotonous land. The sisters' recreation on their day-long dromedary rides was to read a Hebrew psalm. When based at the convent, they travelled around the area staying overnight in Bedouin encampments.

Sections of the book describe their work deciphering the photographic palimpsest (re-used sheets of vellum) published by Cambridge University Press. Agnes provided very thorough advice for the traveller to Sinai. They also went to Ma'lula, the Syriac-speaking village then "in the Lebanon", and to Jerusalem.

Highly recommended for anyone visiting Sinai and St Catherine's monastery. *Deborah Manley*
See the information about the sisters in *Research Resources in this Bulletin*.



Rethinking Orientalism: Women, Travel and the Ottoman Harem by Reina Lewis, 297 pp., I.B. Tauris, London, 2004, ISBN 86064-730-8, p/b £14.95

In *Rethinking Orientalism: Women, Travel and the Ottoman Harem* Reina Lewis has brought together valuable and little-known accounts of the lives of Ottoman women in the early years of the 20th century. Three of her chosen sources were Ottoman Muslim subjects: Halide Edib, campaigner for women's rights, and the sisters Zeyneb Hanim and Melek Hanim who had supplied Pierre Loti with material for *Les Desantchantees*; the other two were Demetra Vaka Brown, an Ottoman Greek Christian, and Grace Ellison, an English journalist and Turkophile. Each of them sought to present an experience of life behind the veil as it actually was,

and not as it was interpreted in the Occidental stereotype. These women set out to challenge that stereotype.

Lewis's particular strength lies in presenting and analysing the complexities, ambiguities and misconceptions in both Occidental and Oriental perceptions of the "Other". Halide Edib found the term 'harem' itself a stumbling block, and asked English feminists to "delete for ever that misunderstood word 'harem', and speak of us in our Turkish 'homes'" Lewis cogently relates their writings to the political scene in which great changes and reforms were taking place in Turkish society in the last days of the Ottoman Empire.

Anyone interested in the whole question of 'Orientalism' will find Lewis's insights, supported as they are by wide-ranging research, a fascinating and illuminating read. The book is a worthy successor to her *Gendering Orientalism* in which she examines the image of the oriental woman in Western art.

Margaret Clarke

Muhammad Ali and his Sabil by Agnieszka Dobrowolska and Khaled Fahmy, The American University in Cairo Press, 2004, 64 pages, 130 illustrations, ISBN 977-424-831-7, p/b \$12.95

This charming booklet tells the story of a building and its patron. Muhammed Ali Pasha, Egypt's modernizing viceroy, in 1820, erected a Sabil, a charitably endowed public cistern and water dispenser, in memory of his favourite son Tusun, tragically dead at twenty-three. This sabil was a new ruler's innovative architectural marker on a medieval city. In the first half of the book, "The Building and its changing Fortunes", Agnieszka Dobrowolska, the conservation architect and ASTENE member, details the process whereby she and her team transformed the Sabil from ruin in 1998 to triumphant resplendence in 2002. Khaled Fahmy, a historian of nineteenth century Egypt, in his half of the book, "The Pasha, His Times, His Family and His Achievements", places the Sabil within a historical context. The story is thus jointly and effectively told. The spare text is complimented with a bounty of interrelated and interlayered images: archival documents and drawings, before and after images of the restoration work, clarifying sketches and plans, situating maps, genealogical trees, all mounted together in a visually exciting presentation.

The Sabil now houses several exhibition spaces wherein the nature of the building and the restoration process are explained, the newly discovered underground cistern is accessible, and memorabilia of the founder and heirs are on view. This book is a handsome and informative guide. It should be a model for further monographic publications on the subject of Cairo's architecture and urban development.

Caroline Williams

Egypt 1950: My First Visit by Bernard V.

Bothmer, edited by Emma Swann Hall, Oxbow Books, Oxford, 2003, xx+ 168 pp, 90 b/w photos, ISBN 0-936770-25-2, h/b £35

Bernard Bothmer (1912-1993), who was to become one of the most distinguished experts on Egyptian art, first visited Egypt in 1950. Now his diary of that journey, which he was preparing for publication shortly before his death, has been published.

The diary is a matter-of-fact record of his trip since he warns the reader that he avoided any critical remarks due to the censorship of the day. He toured the country from Cairo to Aswan, but, in common with most travellers and Egyptologists of the time, neglected the Delta and the north. Much of the ambiance which he documents in Egypt has now vanished, yet in many ways Egypt remains the same. Thankfully the means of travel to Egypt have much improved, so the city-hopping through Europe which he documents is now a thing of the past. He mentions the many Egyptologists, both native and foreign, whom he met in his travels and the sites blissfully empty of tourists. This volume provides interesting details of a period in the history of Egyptology and travel which is not usually highlighted.

M. L. Bierbrier

Cairo: A Cultural and Literary History by

Andrew Beattie, 256 pp., illus, index, Signet Books Ltd, (The Cities of the Imagination Series), 2005, 1-902669-77-0, p/b, £12.00

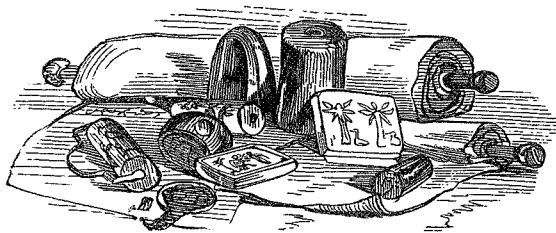
This is one of a series of books linking travellers' accounts and novels to country or place. Andrew Beattie, who has travelled widely in the Islamic world, also writes for Rough Guides. He uses excerpts from literature to illuminate his descriptions and explanations of place, and includes many names unknown to me in this context.

He draws mainly on mid-19th century and later writers, but includes observations from Ibn Kaldun in 1383 and John Greaves in 1646. Other views and experiences include: Edward Said's and Penelope Lively's childhoods; Major Robert Gayer-Anderson's first sight of the house that now, as a museum bears his name; Baron Edouard Empain's palace – he is buried in the French Catholic church; Naguib Mahfouz's account of Midaq Alley; Elizabeth Cabor Kirkland at the Pyramids; Benjamin Disraeli in 1831 – and much more. The book combines an insight into the past with a thorough introduction to the present. A good book for ASTENE...

Deborah Manley

Dictionary of British Classicists, Thoemmes Continuum, 11 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RR (www.thoemmes.com/dictionaries/class.htm), 3 volumes, £495/\$845, 2004.

An invaluable source for researchers of early travellers in Greece, Asia Minor and the Levant.



ANCIENT SEALS AND SCROLLS.

With approximately 700 entries, and primary and secondary bibliographies for both well-known and more minor or neglected figures. It should be available from academic and other larger libraries.

Diane Fortenberry

The Miracles of Exodus: A scientist's discovery of the extraordinary natural causes of the biblical stories by Colin J. Humphreys, Continuum, London, 2004, ISBN 0-8264-7429-2, p/b £10.99

"Oh, not another book on the plagues of Egypt!"

Yes, but look at the sub-title. The author, Colin Humphreys CBE, is a Cambridge physicist who is also interested in chemistry, astronomy and geology, as well as the Bible.

Any ASTENE member who has travelled in Egypt, Sinai and Palestine (and who has not?) will be as fascinated as I was to read this book. You can see he's a teacher because he tells you what he is about to say, then repeats what he's said. Not only has he studied all the relevant publications but he has been to the places, Bible in hand as a guidebook. In the same way that I've looked at botanical references and then studied the ecology on the spot, Humphreys has studied the relevant topography and geology. His motto seems to be "Try, try again if you don't succeed the first time," and he is not embarrassed by over-turning long-held beliefs. The monks of St Catherine's Monastery will not be pleased to hear that they are not living on Mount Sinai after all – it's miles away in Arabia. (Actually they took no notice when told that their cherished Burning Bush is just an old blackberry.)

It makes tremendous sense to show that the way Moses went was an established trade route; and I reluctantly concede that the Red/Reed Sea was near Eilat. As to all the plagues that preceded the exodus, again there is a lot of good sense and logical, scientific reasoning. However, each reader will need to be convinced by the arguments set out so clearly point by point. Thankfully it is neither sci-fiction nor a scientific treatise: it is a lightly written discourse which is stimulating to read. Although not all the conclusions may stand the test of time, I think this is a major step forward that biblical scholars as well as ordinary Bible readers should take seriously.

F. Nigel Hepper

Royal Tombs of Great Britain: An illustrated history by Aidan Dodson, Duckworth, London, ISBN 0 7156 33104, h/b £25

Aidan Dodson, ASTENE member and Egyptologist, has turned his attention onto royal sepulchres in Great Britain, considering, in classic manner, the lives and deaths of the royal dead and the manner of their interment. The book will be reviewed in the next Bulletin.

A Classical and Topographical Tour through Greece by Edward Dodwell, 1822.

When we inform our readers that this work occupies two large quarto volumes, (containing altogether above eleven hundred pages, rather closely printed) and that those volumes are replete with interesting, curious and instructive matter; they will easily perceive that a much greater space than the miscellaneous nature of our Journal allows to reviews of new publications would not by any means suffice even for a slight notice of all the passages that seem to us worthy of their attention. We shall not, therefore, undertake to offer more than an outline of Mr Dodwell's Tour, premising (what can rarely be said of modern travellers) that he appears throughout this work more studious of comprehension than of amplification, though evidently writing from an abundant mass of materials, and always perfectly master of his subject.

The Classical Journal, March, 1822

HURST AND BLACKETT'S NEW TITLES FOR 1871

Turkish harems and Circassian Homes by Mrs Harvey of Ickwell, Bury, with coloured illustrations.

A Cruise in Greek Waters with a Hunting Excursion in Tunisia by Captain Townshend

Wild Life among the Koords by Major F. Millingen

– "This book is amusing, and the more valuable as accounts of Koordistan are scarce." *Athenaeum*

Eastern Pilgrims: the Travels of three Ladies by Agnes Smith (Turkey, Egypt, Palestine and Greece)

– "The tone is devout, and altogether the book deserves our warm commendation." *Record*

Medieval Travellers: The rich and the restless by Margaret Wade Labarge, Phoenix, London, 2005 (reprint of 1982 edition), ISBN 0 75382 041 2, £8.99; Canada \$18.95.

Written by a distinguished medieval historian, this book shows Labarge's deep knowledge of the lives of the indefatigable travellers who spread out across the known and un-known world in the 13th-15th centuries.

Her travellers in the ASTENE region include: Crusaders Louis IX of France and Edward of England with his wife Eleanor in 1270-2 and M. Joinville, who she regards as "primarily a

sightseer" ; Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick (with 53 wonderful-looking line drawings by an English artist in the related manuscript) and the important layman Ghillebert de Lannoy to the Holy Land in the 15th century; the stream of pilgrims to Mount Sinai who scratched their coats of arms on the convent walls; the Spaniard, Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, a knight of good family, sent out by Henry III of Castile in 1403 who left an important record of the *how* of travel and the speed with which distances could be covered.

This is a book which whets the appetite for more knowledge of such early travellers. and Labarge's bibliography and notes provide a good setting off point for such a journey. *Deborah Manley*

Names of the Locations of Cyprus Lost in the Depths of 2000 years of History in Turkish and English by Prof. Dr Ata Atun, Famagusta-Gazimagua: Samtay Foundation 2004. ISBN 975 6653 15 9. Obtainable from the Samtay Foundation. 8 Kermerli Street. Oldtown, Famagusta Cyprus. e-mail suna@samtay.com

The world price is £11.00, but ASTENE members it is available at £9.50 including packing and airmail postage. Orders should be placed with Prof. Dr Ata Atun, 24 Istikial Avenue, Oldtown, Famagusta, Mersin 10, Turkey. e-mail ata.atun@atun.com.

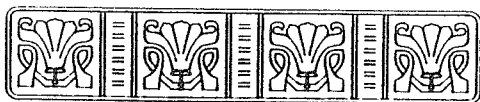
NOTES AND QUERIES

POSTCARDS FROM EGYPT

Through the Association of Maltese in Egypt, Lewis Said was introduced to ASTENE. He is working on a series of Postcard Books on Egypt (1882-1956), which he would like to draw to the attention of our members.

Mr Said's life is part of the very fabric of travel in Egypt. His great-great-grandfather went to Port Said after the opening of the Suez Canal and started the first ship water supply company in the Canal Zone. Mr Said was born in Port Said in 1936, grew up in Egypt, worked in Port Said and Fanara. In the 1950s he settled in England, married and had a family. Nostalgia and a wish to show 'his' Egypt to his family started him collecting postcards and other memorabilia of Egypt (books and newspapers dating going back to 1846). He is planning a series of books on Egypt using this collection. He is creating a website to promote these books.

Lewis Said can be contacted by Fax on 01869-822544 or lewis.said@ntl.com



AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT AND WILLIAMSON WALLACE

Dorothy Anderson asked for information for a friend's researches on her great-uncle, Williamson Wallace (1860-1932), who came of a family involved in teaching and developing agriculture. He was Director of the College of Agriculture in Egypt until 1910. Articles from the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, July, 1893 give some background.

REJOICINGS AT KELTON

The village of Kelton was a scene of unusual gaiety and excitement on Thursday on the occasion of Miss Cameron's marriage. From every house in the village flags were displayed. Conspicuous amongst the British flags waved the Egyptian colours, with its crescent-shaped moon in the centre, put up by Mrs Captain Richardson in honour of the gallant bridegroom. Punctually at three o'clock the village bell was rung by Mr Cameron's coachman, and all the villagers assembled together in the village inn to drink Mr and Mrs Wallace's health...

The Bridegroom

Mr Williamson Wallace, director of the Egyptian College of Agriculture, Cairo...was selected in 1889 as agricultural expert to the Egyptian Government...Within twelve months...Mr Wallace organised the Egyptian College of Agriculture, an institution which is endowed by an annual Government grant of over £5000.

The staff of the College, which is half European and half Egyptian, includes among its professors three graduates of Edinburgh University - William Mackenzie D. Sc., (chemistry); John Bayne MA, BSc. (Agriculture); John Mitchell BSc (biology).

Attached to the College is an experimental farm of 300 acres of rich alluvial soil, capable of producing two crops yearly, and worth an annual rental of £7 per acre. Modern European implements and machinery, which are considered suitable to Egyptian conditions, are there seen at work by the agricultural community.

*** **

After their wedding Wallace and his bride returned to Cairo. While in Cairo Rosina fell ill, was in hospital, recovered and made a generous bequest to the hospital reported in the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* on 27 March 1895 quoting from the *Egyptian Gazette*.

*** **

A Handsome Gift

A most generous donation of £1200 has been made by (Miss) Rosina Cameron of Kelton, Dumfries, Scotland, now staying at Shepheard's Hotel, Cairo to the Victoria Hospital for the foundation and maintenance of a free bed for poor women of any nationality or creed.

Does anyone know of the College or a later Institute originating from it? or of Victoria Hospital - perhaps now under a different name?

Please reply to either the Bulletin Editor or the ASTENE office by e-mail.

NAPOLEON'S MAMALUKE

When Sir Miles Nightingall travelled through Egypt in 1819 his party was accompanied by a Mamaluke as interpreter. He spoke French like a native of the country. He told James Hanson, recorder of the journey, that he had served Napoleon Bonaparte for sixteen years, and "if the French nation had been half as faithful to him as his Mamaluke guard, he would still have been sovereign of Europe." This man was a Christian, born at Cairo, and a remarkably handsome fellow.

If any more is known of him, please let the Editor know.

A TRAVELLER FROM LIBERIA

In Jerusalem in 1866 the Christian missionary Edward Blyden of Liberia (1832-1912) passed by the "mosque of the West Africans, where I saw natives of Senegambia at prayers...It is no uncommon thing for Mohammedans from the west coast of Africa to find their way across the continent to Egypt, Arabia and Syria on pilgrimage. I met Mandingoes at the mosque of Mehemet Ali in Cairo..." (p. 180, *West Africa to Palestine*, 1873) He travelled via Britain to Egypt and Palestine and wrote a fascinating account of the experience.

Are there any other records of travel from west or other parts of Africa?

WHO WAS MATILDA PLUMLEY?

The name is so idyllically Victorian that I turned to her *Days and Nights in the East* with interest. Who was she? The preface, dated May 19th, 1845 gives a small clue: "For these notes I am indebted to another, but for the remarks, reflection or opinions ... I alone am responsible..."

Was it Miss Plumley who shared a boat along the 'Mamhoudie' Canal with a Colonel X; who was an eager shot at anything from a pigeon to a crocodile (and "astonished the natives by shooting their pigeons" p.31); who entered a mosque in Cairo and went into and up the pyramids one morning; was entertained by dancing girls; rode astride a donkey; and then went into the hammam at Siout, undressed, and had "a sturdy young fellow take me in hand...scrub me well with a rough glove... and then lead me, still naked, to the dressing room where the Count and V. were rolled up like mummies, and my attendant soon relieved me of my wet drapery..."(p.64)? Was it Miss Plumley who ran from her bed into the Red Sea? (p.99) If not Miss Plumley, who was it?

Please let the Editor know!

MY ANCESTOR, CAPTAIN S.C. PLANT (1866-1921) IN IRAQ

Michael Gillam is looking for information about his forebear and the his life with the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company. Briefly the facts are:

In April 1891, a 25-year-old Englishman, Samuel Cornell Plant, was given command of a stern-wheel paddle steamer, the *Shushun*, and instructed to set up a passenger and freight service in south west Iran. He and his engineer, Stanley Webber, were employed by the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company in its service between Basra and Baghdad. The company had been asked to assist the Mackinnon Group in establishing a trade route between the Gulf Ports and the Persian plateau by providing a steamer service to be linked to a light railway to Ispahan. The two young men established the river service, but the light railway never came to fruition. The *Sushun*, originally built for the Nile expedition to Khartoum, continued to steam the rivers leading to Shatt al Arab until 1915 when she was commandeered by the British forces in Mesopotamia. She took part in the battle of Ctesiphon, was lost to the Turks and probably sunk.

Back in England, in 1898 Cornell Plant wrote an account of his adventures. His handwritten manuscript is kept in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, London. His description of the River Diz is still included in the current edition of the Admiralty Pilot of the Persian Gulf.

This experience prepared him for the task for which he is best known: the introduction and development of steam navigation through the Upper Yangtze. He died in Hong Kong in 1921 and his life is marked by a granite memorial on the banks of the Yangtze.

Michael Gillam would like to know about life in the Euphrates and Tigris Navigation Company 1885-1895 – What were Plant's duties? - For how long did the Ahwaz Shuster service run? - Any information about his personal life and his wife Alice Peters who he married in Banda Bushire in 1898.

Please send any information to the Bulletin Editor or to MichaelGillam@compuserve.com.

WHO HELPED LUCY PERKINS?

Arielle Kozloff of Cleveland, Ohio is interested in Lucy Olcott Perkins, an American (sometimes mistaken for British) in Egypt 1900-12, before being interned in an insane asylum in Britain 1912-13, and sent back to the US. Who put her in hospital in London – possibly a private hospital? Who paid for her, as she had no money of her own? She may have been sent there from Cairo. *Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.*

WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT GENERAL MUSTAPHA?

General Mustapha, alias Campbell, was according to Dr William Wittman, surgeon to the British Military Mission in the Grand Vizier's army, "a Scotchman who lived for upwards of fifty years in Turkey, had embraced the Mahomedan religion and attained the rank of Cumbaragi Bashy. By 1800 he was general of bombardiers in the Turkish army. He had been entrusted with the construction of military works in the Turkish empire. Wittman met him in February, 1800 near Jaffa. He was then between seventy and eighty years of age, "appeared well informed, and to have received a polished education." (p. 251, *Travels in Turkey*, etc)

What more is known of him?

FROM EGYPT TO MALTA AND GREECE

The Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt (founded Alexandria 1854), the Association of Greeks from Egypt and Aide Associazione Italisti d'Egitto are researching the history of the various (foreign) people who lived in Egypt and memories of their historical voyages. The information will be shared through their newsletters. Should you have any information or family history and records which could be of interest to them, please write to: AMCOE, Mr Herbert Magri-Overend, 34 Mills Road, Melksham, Wilts SN12 7DT
AGE, Mr Nicholas Nikitaridis, Drosini 11, 11141, Athens, Greece
AAIE, Mr Mario Palmerini, Via Quarticciolo 11, 00010 S. Angelo Romano, RM, Italy

REPLIES

THE REVEREND DR WILLIAM WRIGHT (1837-1899)

Huw Owen-Jones queried in the last Bulletin whether anyone had come across material which might be helpful in his researches on the life of his ancestor. With members' help he is now able to make this outline of that life:

William Wright spent 10 years in Syria, and was a contemporary and friend of people like Richard Burton, Jane Digby and Lord Leighton. He wrote three books in his lifetime: *The Empire of the Hittites* (1884); *The Brontes in Ireland* (1893) and *Travels in Palmyra and Zenobia* (1895). He studied Greek and Latin literature at Queen's University, Belfast. In 1865 he and his newly-wed wife, Anne, left for Damascus to take up a missionary post for the British and Foreign Bible Society. Wright believed that that the Bible could to some extent be taken as a historical document and it was this that led to his passion for archaeology and subsequent research into the Hittite civilisation. In 1871 he secured the Hamathite hieroglyphics for the British Museum

and Palestine Exploration Fund. The originals were sent to Constantinople and in 1874 Wright declared to *The British and Foreign Evangelical Review* these hieroglyphics to be Hittite, six years before Sayce.

Huw Owen-Jones would welcome any further 'sightings' of his ancestor. He can be reached on haoj@aol.com or 078017125.

SCHLIEMANN IN EGYPT

Jacke Phillips wrote in reply to the query about Heinrich Schliemann in Bulletin 22:

He had travelled in Egypt earlier – in 1886-7. In 1888 he was there with his friend Virchov. Flinders Petrie recovered a copy of Book II of Homer's Iliad at Hawara (in south-eastern Fayum) that 1888 season – part of the mummy wrappings in a Greco-Roman grave – which was published by Reverend A. Sayce In Petrie's excavation report the following year. Schliemann – who was planning to go back to Troy at the time (and went in 1890) – must have heard about the papyrus discovery during his trip, and went specifically to Hawara to meet Petrie and see the text himself. He also searched for the tomb of Alexander the Great during the trip.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jay Starkman of Atlanta, Georgia, USA e-mailed pointing out – to non-British readers – that the baby hippo 'Guy Fawkes' born in the London Zoo of Egyptian parents in November 1872 would have taken its name from Fireworks Day held to celebrate the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot against Parliament on 5 November 1605 when Guy Fawkes failed to blow up the Houses of Parliament. The baby hippo turned out to be female – and was re-named Miss Fawkes.

ARTICLES

SOME GRAFFITI AT PHILAE

STRATON
BENNETT
FULLER

RDK 915 Philae – Temple of Isis, main temple, first pylon, inside, top

Charles Irby (1) and James Mangles (2) arrived back from the south to Cairo in late August 1817, where they, together with Giovanni Belzoni (3),

Henry William Beechey (4) and Giovanni Finati (5), opened the great temple at Abu Simbel, on Friday, 1 August, 1817 (6). It was Finati who first entered the temple. (7) In Cairo Irby and Mangles met in Henry Salt's (8) house Colonel Joseph Straton (9) together with a certain Mr Fuller, both were coming from a "grand tour" in Greece and Palestine. (10) Subsequently two other travellers, Captain D. Bennett and Reverend Thomas Robert Joliffe (11) also arrived from a tour in the Near East. Joliffe then later returned to England. (12) The three, Straton, Bennett and Fuller, started on a trip to the south and on their journey stopped in Luxor where they visited the excavations of Belzoni. Together with Belzoni and Beechey they entered the tomb of Rameses I, which had just been opened. (11) In the tomb they made a graffito to commemorate the visit on 11 October, 1817 (12) Giovanni Finati was directed by Salt to accompany them into Nubia. (13) Another memorial they left during their trip was at Philae (above).

1. M.L. Bierbrier, *Who was Who in Egyptology*, London, 1995, p. 214.
2. *Ibid.* p. 273; 3. *Ibid.* p. 40; 4. *Ibid.* p. 37;
5. *Ibid.* p. 150
6. Giovanni Belzoni, *Narrative of the Operations and Recent Discoveries within the Pyramids, Temples, Tombs and Excavations in Egypt and Nubia*, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants, 1971, reprint from the 1820 London edition, p.221; Charles Irby and James Mangles, *Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria and Asia Minor, during the years 1817 and 1818*, London, 1985, reprint of the 1823 edition, p. 76
7. Irby and Mangles, *op.cit.* p.75; *Life and Adventures of Giovanni Finati*, ed. W.J. Bankes, 2 vols., London, 1830, vol. ii, p.205; Louis A. Christophe, *Qui, le premier, entra dans le grand temple d'Abou Simbel?*, Bulletin de l'Institut d'Egypte, 47, (1965-66), p. 37-45
8. M.L. Bierbrier, *op. cit.*, p. 229
9. *Ibid.*, p. 406; Gentleman's Magazine, Obituary, May 1841, p. 537
10. Irby and Mangles, *op. cit.*, p. 163
11. Giovanni Belzoni, *op. cit.*, p. 229
12. Gustave Flaubert, *Voyage en orient 1849*, Paris, 1925, p. 111. "Une seule chambre avec un sarcophagi en granit, vide. Une inscription au crayon declare que Belzoni, Stra(1)ton, Beechy et Bennett on ete presente a son ouverture le 11 Octobre 1817." Flaubert does not mention the name of Fuller in the inscription.
13. Giovanni Finati, *op. cit.*, p.213.

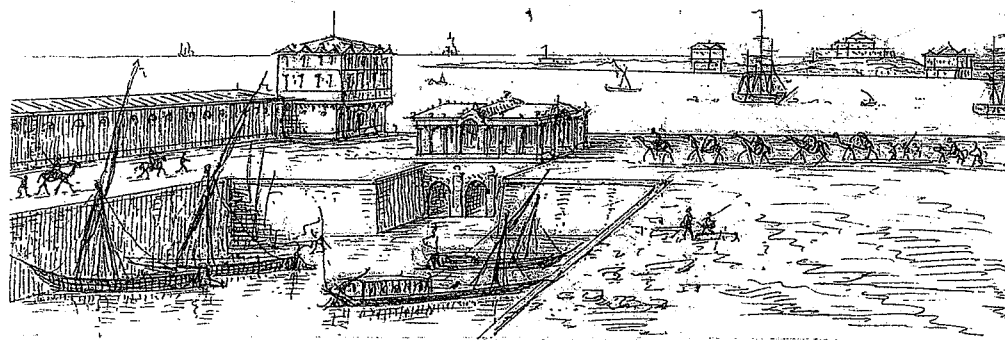
WHO DESIGNED AND DUG THE EGYPTIAN CANALS?

One cannot travel in Egypt without noticing the huge irrigation canal system. Each time I see these canals I ask myself the questions: how did they come into existence? and when? Depending on the time of year, they can look like broad rivers, while at other times they are dry or nearly so.

Recently, Raymond Coe, a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers put me in touch with Mike Chrimes, Librarian of the Institution in Great George Street, London, to whom I am grateful for selecting some erudite works on the subject. One of them gave a brief history of drainage in Egypt in language I could comprehend (1). I had been told by Egyptian guides that these canals were dug in the 19th century. So they were, but one has to go back to Menes the First (3400BC) for the first large-scale basining works. In order to protect the western parts where the capital (Memphis) and the vast rich agricultural land lay, he constructed embankments on the left bank of the Nile. Eventually the right bank was also protected in view of the increasing population there. With banks on both sides of the Nile, the flood waters were constricted and there were devastating floods downstream.

Herodotus recounted the legend of how Menes, the first king of the Two Lands (Upper and Lower Egypt), had built his capital city: "On land which had been drained by the diversion of the river, King Menes built the city which is now called Memphis... In addition to this, the priests told me that he built there the large and very remarkable temple of Hephæstus [Ptah]." The folk tale about the diversion of the Nile, by the means of damming it and forcing it to flow in man-made channels, could have been an elaboration on the builders' techniques employed in laying the foundations of the new capital." (I am not sure whether this is the basining work mentioned above or a different project.)

By the Twelfth Dynasty, Amenhotep the Second, in order to counteract the floods caused by Menes' basining, devised a sophisticated solution. He converted Lake Moeris in the Fayoum Province into a reservoir to store excess waters during the



Bassin et Port à écluse à Vannes
 du Canal de navigation et Mahamoudieh,
 au débouché dans le Port vieux d'Alexandrie.
 Travaux terminés en 1825. Alexandrie

high floods and return them to the Nile in periods of shortage. Apparently this was the forerunner of the modern polder system used in other countries. In Egypt the land was divided into basins of 400 to 1699 hectares by the construction of dykes. The flood water was let into the basins and a month or two later when the Nile had fallen, these basins were drained and used for crops. Such a system continued until the 19th century AD.

By about 1820 Egyptian agriculture was undergoing a vast change with the introduction of cotton and sugar cane – both being very thirsty all-year-round crops. Mohammed Ali in 1826 developed a system of deep canals for the irrigation of lower Egypt where the cotton was intended to be concentrated. I am not sure whether Egyptian or foreign engineers drew up the plans. Excavation was certainly by local labour. In those days ‘bucket-and-spade’ were the order of the day, as Dr Alix Wilkinson pointed out in her article on the Mahmoudiyyeh Canal, in which she detailed the terrible conditions the workers had to endure. (3)

For some years the scheme worked magnificently to the benefit of the population and Egyptian economy. Then the deep canals started to silt up and the Ruler employed forced labour to clear them. About 1860 Delta barrages were constructed on the Rosetta and Damietta branches about 23 km north of Cairo, but they were not strong enough to hold the pressure of water building up behind them. The re-modelled barrages, designed by engineers who had experience of such work in India, served their purpose until the ‘Mohammed Ali Barrages’ were constructed and completed in 1939 at the head of the Rosetta and Damietta branches.

I am sure that an engineer with historical knowledge could add a great deal more to this account of Egyptian canals, but I hope the above will be comprehensible and of interest to ASTENE members.

F. Nigel Hepper

1. Drainage Irrigation and Drainage in the World, a Global Review, by K.K. Framji, B.C. Garg and S.D.L. Luthra, 3rd edition, 1981, New Delhi, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, vol. 1, pp. 333-339. See also Linant de Bellefonds Bey, Memoire sur les principaux travaux d'utilite publique executes en Egypte depuis le plus haute antiquite jusqu'a nos jours., Paris, Arthur Bertrand, 1872-3 (chapter 2 Le Lac Moeris, pp. 47-88 and maps.
2. People of the Pharaohs from peasant to courtier by Hilary Wilson, London, Brockhampton Press, 1999, p.44.
3. Bulletin of ASTENE 19, pp. 15,16, 2004

MENES' CANAL IN 1912

Lady Evelyn Cobbold travelled in the Fayoum and wrote of her experiences in Wayfarers in the Desert, 1912.

King Menes, of mythological fame, was the founder of Memphis, a city blotted out of existence by that insatiable monster, the desert sand. The date of Menes' reign is lost in the vast ocean of time, but it is certain that he lived before the days of

Abraham. From the misty Past but few particulars have descended to us of what must have been a very glorious reign.

Menes was renowned for his victories abroad, and he increased the nation's prosperity at home. He instituted the worship of the gods, and he altered the channel of the Nile that its waters might overflow and fertilise this country. Though the moles of massive masonry by which he accomplished this Herculean task are now buried deep beneath the mountains of sand which the centuries have heaped up, the mighty work remains. For many thousand years the waters have in vain beaten against the barrier erected, and the Nile still obeys the mandate of the great dead. King Menes, like most of the Pharaohs who succeeded him, was a keen follower of the chase, and he was killed by a hippopotamus he had wounded, in the sixtieth year of his reign. (pp. 18-19)

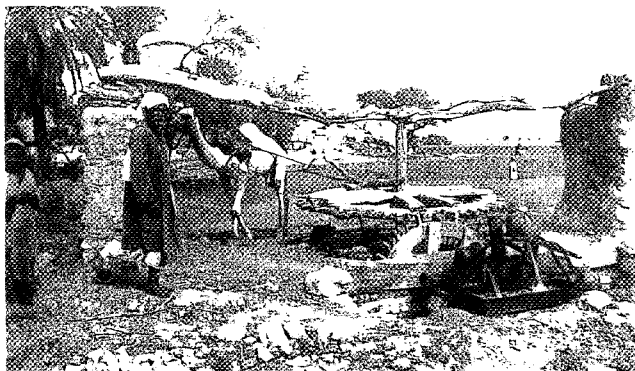
TRAVELLERS' POSTCARD MEMORIES

The great wooden water wheels (*saqiya*) of Egypt's Nile valley not surprisingly attracted the attention of travellers, artists and photographers. Life in the valley quite literally depended on them. Together with the simpler man-powered *shaduf* they irrigated the agricultural land. Over the last 35 years, with the easy availability of electricity and water pumps, those wonderful machines have largely gone out of use, and with so many features of traditional life, almost without local record. Qurna, on the west bank at Luxor, now has at least *some* record of these important features of life and landscape.

For many years the wheel of the *saqiya* of the Bogdadi family lay rotting under some scrubby trees where it had fallen. You could see it clearly as you looked east across the fields from the back of the Ramesseum Resthouse. You spot these wheels all over Egypt, often placed so that passersby can see them, propped up against the walls and by the side of the road. In a land without good, cheap timber it is clear that these wooden structures have a deep significance that preserves them from secondary use. Through the life-giving water, they are closely associated with life itself and thus should not be destroyed.

Photos of *saqiya* with the people and animals who worked them were a common subject in Egyptian postcards for the tourist market, and personal collections. Qurna was one of the most visited places and it was possible, by walking only a few yards, to take photos of the 'rural scene' in many different locations. As a by-product these photos also record members of many different farming families. Over the last few years I have collected photos from books, postcards and private collections of the *saqiya* on the Qurna plain, mainly because those have the only known photos of particular individuals whose descendants still live in Qurna. It is thus possible, in many cases, to

'return' these family photos. By chance one of the first *saqiya* photos I found was of the Bogdadi *saqiya* worked by a long dead Bogdadi uncle. It is in the fascinating Dawson Collection in Cambridge County Library.



The Bogdodi *saqiya* wheel is now proudly propped up opposite *Qurna Discovery*, seen by all who visit the Nobles' Tombs. In May 2004 a small display was created about the *saqiya* of Qurna which hangs on the wheel during *Qurana Discovery* opening hours. The display explains how the *saqiya* worked, illustrated by the wonderful drawings of the IFAO publication by Nessim Henein, *Mari Girgis*, and a quote from Edward Lane's *Description of Egypt*. Ten of the local *saqiya* can be seen in photos from 1910-c.1935, including two photos of the Daramalli *saqiya* by the Ramesseum, one showing a woman working with a camel (most unusual), and the other the gardfather of Gabr, the present Guardian of *Qurna Discover*, in 1924 – another amazing coincidence.

Qurna Discovery is open every day except Tuesday, 8-12 and 2-5. Entry is free. There are two exhibitions: 'Life on the Theban Hills 1826: The Panoramas of Robert Hay' and 'Qurna, living villages of the city of the dead (1997)'. It is in the Nobles' Tombs area, one minute's walk south-west of the car park, on your way to the tombs of Rekhmire and Sennufer. See the new website: www.quarna.org.

Call for help! Please if you have old photos (pre-1950) that show local people in Qurna, I would love to have copies to add to the *Qurna* collection and take back to the families concerned.

Caroline Simpson

THE SAQIYA IN 1840

The topographical artist and writer W.H. Bartlett described the work of the *saqiya* in his book, *The Nile Boat*. Above is his illustration of one such machine.

...The rich brown soil in the dry season, and when the river is low, requires irrigation to maintain its constant fertility. The method adopted in Lower Egypt is ... to sink a pit in the bank, into which the water flows, and it is then raised, for this purpose,

to the surface above by means of a broad wheel turned by a buffalo; round the wheel is a band with numerous jars attached to it, which, as the wheel revolves, dip into and bring up the water, emptying it into a channel, from which it is distributed in trenches about the thirsty level.

Thus irrigated, it will yield annually three crops; being first sown with wheat or barley; a second time, after the vernal equinox, with indigo, cotton, cotton, millet, or some similar produce; and again, about the summer solstice, with millet or maize. These and the numerous fruits and vegetables which succeed one another in similar succession, render the rich valley of the Nile a carpet of perpetual verdure, except during the period of the inundation, and justify the description given by Amer, its Arabian conqueror, that "according to the change of seasons, it is adorned with a *silver* wave, a verdant *emerald*, and the deep yellow of a *golden* harvest!"

CLAUDIUS RICH'S BABYLON, 1812

Bound together at the Bodleian Library, Oxford are *Memorandum on the Subject of the Earl of Elgin's Pursuits in Greece*, (no author given, 1815*) and Claudius James Rich's *Memoir on the Ruins of Babylon*, 1815. Rich (17xx-18xx) was Resident for the Honourable East India Company at the Court of the Pasha of Bagdad. This Memoir was originally published in the journal *Mines de l'Orient* conducted by Mr Hammer in Vienna. Abraham Volpy then published it in book form in London.

At that time the site of Babylon had never been thoroughly explored or accurately described, and, when "frequent interruptions from indisposition and official occupation" allowed he attempted to make up this lack. From earlier accounts he had "no conception of the prodigious extent of the whole ruins", but he also expected to be able "to distinguish many of the principal structures of Babylon." Time, distance and the size of the site limited him greatly. He confined himself to an account of what he actually saw. He made sketches and a Mr Lockett superintended measurement of the site. He made no great claim for his work and offered it "merely as a prelude to further researches, which repeated visits to the same spot may enable me to make." (p.66) Instead he died in a cholera epidemic.

He referred frequently to earlier travellers and writers: Herodotus and Diodorus, favouring Herodotus as an eye-witness account "notwithstanding the credulity which may in some instances be laid to his charge", "the Turkish Geographer who copied Abulfeda", Pietro della Valle, d'Anville (1697-1782), Carsten Niebuhr, James Rennel (1742-1830). He thus provides a wide range of sources for the modern researcher, but thought some modern travellers' accounts "loose and inaccurate".

The people of the country told Rich that it is "extremely dangerous to approach this mound after daylight, on account of the multitude of evil spirits by which it is haunted." (p.27)

The determination and discipline of such people as Claudius Rich and later travellers to record sites that might otherwise have disappeared with the ravages of time and human activities continues to be applauded.

* This Memorandum is likely to be the one wrongly attributed to W.R. Hamilton but in fact compiled by Rev. Philip Hunt, Elgin's chaplain, when he and Elgin were under arrest in France and published by Elgin in Edinburgh in 1810 and London in 1811. The Bodleian version seems like a later edition. It has been suggested that the Mr Hammer is Baron Joseph von Hammer-Purhstall, translator with the British in Egypt with the Grand Vizier's army, and translator of various works from Turkish and historian of the Ottoman Empire.

The most modern traveller to Babylon has been John Curtis of the British Museum. An account of his report on 15 January, 2005 can be read on guardian.co.uk/iraq.

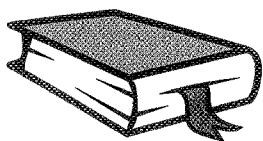
MANUSCRIPTS AND ANTIQUITIES, 1825

By chance, just as I heard from Kai Kaniuth of Munster about Claudius Rich (see Bulletin 22), I came across an article in *The Classical Journal* for 1825 about three collections of Oriental manuscripts which had travelled to Britain – "among the most important and valuable ever brought to Europe."

One collection was that of the "celebrated traveller" James Bruce and was made up mainly of Aethiopic and Arabic manuscripts. They were then owned by his daughter-in-law and deposited at the Chelsea Hospital. Two or three of the items had been valued at 1000 guineas. The second collection was the 730 volumes of Sir Robert Chambers, made in Bengal and in 1825 was in the house of his widow at Putney.

The third collection had only recently arrived in England after the death of Claudius Rich, Resident for the East India Company to the Pasha of Baghdad. It included Babylonian treasures including the cylinders "which so much excited the curiosity and exercised the ingenuity of learned antiquaries," – and much else: medals, coins, armour, firearms. His widow, Mrs Rich, then held the collection at her father's home in Cadogan Place, London.

Where are these collections now?



DEATH ON THE NILE: EUGENE PRUYSSENAERE (1826-1864)

While preparing a major study on Belgium and the Orient during the reign of Leopold I (1831-1865), I came upon another interesting and largely forgotten figure: Eugene de Pruyssenaere de la Wostyne.

He was born in Ypres on 7 October 1826 into an old Flemish noble family, and initially he was preparing for a career in law. Soon however he became fascinated by biology and exploration, and in order to be fully prepared for his subsequent travels, he studied botany, zoology, ethnography, astronomy, and several languages (apart from his native French and Dutch, Latin and classic and modern Greek, he studied German, English, Italian, Turkish, Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic).

First he travelled extensively in Greece and Asian Minor (April 1854-July 1856). In Bursa he encountered the exiled Algerian rebel Abd-el-Kader and they became friends (they met again later in Damascus).

On 27 February 1856 he lands in Alexandria. The following months he studies and speaks to members of the Egyptian government, which is planning to expand the conquered territories in Nubia. Pruyssenaere's childhood dream of discovering the source of the Nile gets a major boost.

From 1859 to 1864 he is relentlessly exploring Upper Egypt, Nubia and the Soudan. Indefatigably he traverses and basins of the White and Blue Nile. On the White Nile he gets no further than the Gondokoro latitude, but he explores the region on the left bank and the Bahr-el-Ghazal basin. On the Blue Nile he reaches the 10o latitude and explores the region between the White and Blue Niles, north of the Sobat River, comprising this river and the Yal.

He does not survive his final trip on the Blue Nile, as on 15 December, 1864 he succumbs to severe fever attacks in Harab-el-Dunya – aged 38 years. Unfortunately, a large part of his belongings, including his botanical and zoological collections, sketches and drawings were lost.

It should be stressed that Pruyssenaere's importance can hardly be revealed by this short note. I hope to expand on this remarkable character in the above mentioned study. *Jan Anckaer*

Note: *Eugene de Pruyssenaere does not appear in either Alan Moorehead's The Blue Nile nor The White Nile – great resources for this region. If anyone has 'sightings' of Pruyssenaere, Jan Anckaer would be very interested.*

Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Constantinople and Turkey in Asia, 1878

There had been earlier Murray's Handbooks for this area in 1854 and 1871. These are very rare. The 1854 edition came under Greece as it covers the

FOOTPRINTS

Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Constantinople and Turkey in Asia, 1878

There had been earlier Murray's Handbooks for this area in 1854 and 1871. These are very rare. The 1854 edition came under Greece as it covers the Ionian Islands too. The Handbook was up-dated to take in "the remarkable studies of Schliemann in Troy, Wood in Ephesus and Di Cesnola in Cyprus." The 1878 edition, which includes Cyprus and Rhodes, gives many routes starting from Smyrna, Constantinople and Trebizond. It makes most exciting reading. One might, however, not want to start in Smyrna:

"The hotels in Smyrna are inferior and dirty... The Boarding Hotels are not very suitable for English people... Native wine in Smyrna is very bad."

The 'cafes' sound better: The British and Smyrna Club, looking on the bay, had a billiard room and "in the summer a band and sometimes a small Italian dramatic company performs." (p. 248)

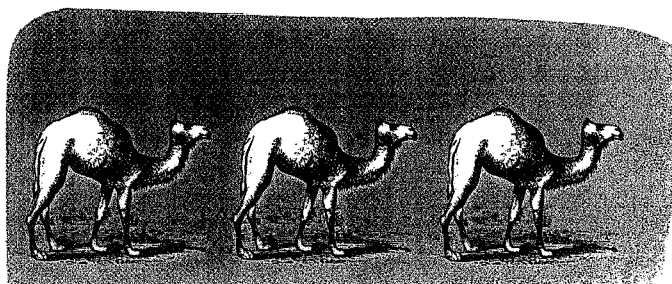
It was by 1878 possible to go from Tarsus to Bagdad by train on the Euphrates Valley Railway. Another route was from Trebizond to Moosool (17 days ride) and then onward down the Tigris on a raft. This, as described by R.G. Watson, the editor, sounds a dream and was "as easy as the journey on horseback was fatiguing." (445) The most exciting route sounded the one from Bagdad to Damascus via Palmyra, despite the "painful monotony from the moment one leaves the banks of the Euphrates till he sees on the distant horizon the old Saracen castle that overlooks the ruins of Palmyra... After 10-12 days ride it "is a veritable oasis."

The Handbook includes wonderful visions, as for example:

If the traveller be fortunate enough to arrive in the Mohammedan feast of Bairam, he will see these cities of the desert (in present day Iraq) at their gayest time. It is in these centres of the far east that the Turk looks like himself. (442)

For the brave, there was an alarming description of hog-hunting with the spear...with a party of Arabs always ready for fun and mischief...and manoeuvres not without danger to horse and man. (441)

We hope to hear more of such journeys at the Conference in Manchester.



OUR HOTEL IN CONSTANTINOPLE

We remained patiently on board the steamer, while our dragoman was dispatched to secure apartments at Mysseri's Hotel, and pass the luggage through the Custom House. HMS 'Terrible' lay at anchor close by, undergoing repairs; for she only returned yesterday from taking a prominent part in the siege of Odessa. At last Vincenzo returned; and we landed at Pera in two of those elegant *caïques*, with nice clean cushions to sit upon, and their varnished inner edges neatly ornamented with elaborate carving. A steep and toilsome walk of half an hour brought us to our Hotel, the landlord of which – like Demetri at Beirut – is a Lacedemonian, married to an Englishwoman; and I believe he is son to the Mysseri who travelled both with Lord Byron and 'Eothen'. His hotel, considered the best in Constantinople, is now so full of English and French officers, that we had some difficulty in procuring accommodation. About sixty sat down to dinner at the *table d'hote* today, and among the guests were several of our fellow-travellers. The afternoon turned out extremely hot.

Catherine Tobin, in Shadows of the East, 1855

KINGLAKE AND MYSSERI

An article in the *Edinburgh Magazine* on Kinglake after his death in 1891 identified his companion 'Methley' as Lord Pollington, later Lord Mexborough. Their interpreter, Mysseri, kept a Constantinople hotel when Kinglake visited during the Crimea War, where "perhaps in virtue of the fame derived from the book (*Eothen*), in which he is favourably mentioned, he exercised an independence of demeanour not distinguishable from incivility." (February 1891, p. 303)

BREAKFAST IN PERA

On 14 August 1799 Dr William Wittman, surgeon to the British Mission to the Grand Vizier's army, breakfasted with Captains Lacy and Leake at Pera near Constantinople.

Pipes and coffee were first served, and were followed by a very agreeable preparation of milk, called *caïmac*, which was accompanied by hot sugared cakes, and melons. Our repast was concluded by a second service of coffee; and during our stay, sherbet and pipes were brought to us at intervals. (p. 43)

ON DISORDERS

The aristocratic traveller, Edouard Montule, in Egypt 1818, watched his dog smell the water of the canal and retire; he found it agreeable and drank copiously.

...from which at night, I became badly disordered, and had recourse to a remedy almost uniformly efficacious with me, and easily procured in Egypt; I ate raw onions, and was much recovered by the following morning. (p.3)