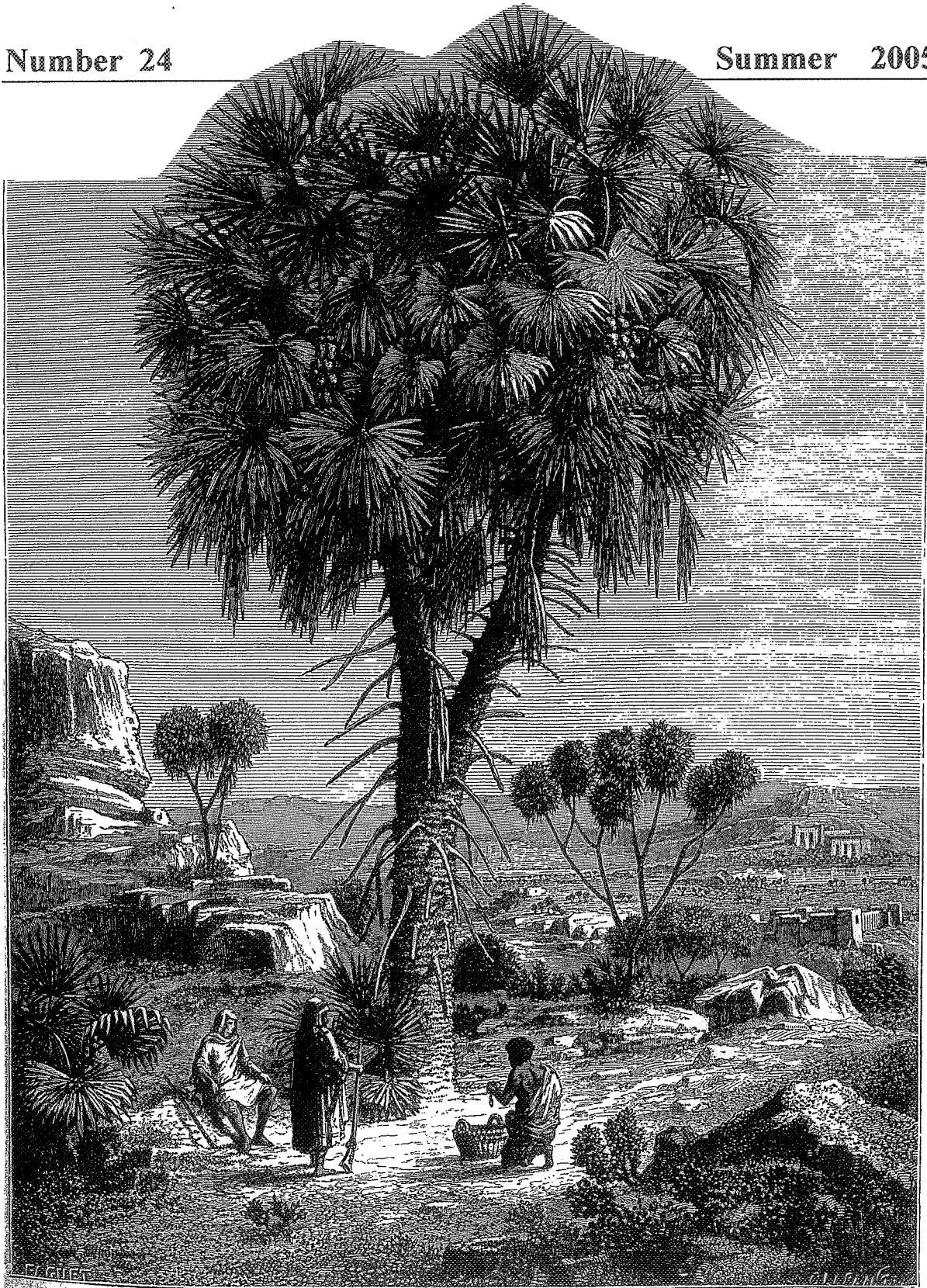


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

Number 24

Summer 2005



THE DOUM PALM IN NUBIA.

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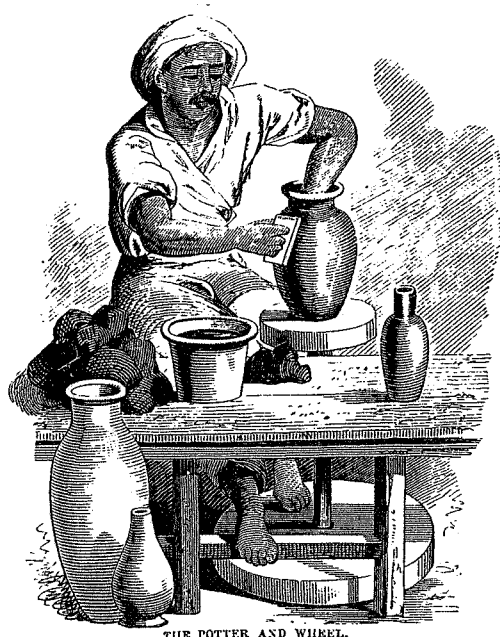
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The next Bulletin will appear in early October
2005. We welcome articles and news from
members. The deadline for articles is 1st
September, but please send your material earlier
as it greatly helps the Editor.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

All subscriptions and membership
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NW6 1ET or to asteneuk@aol.com NOT to the
ASTENE administrative office or to
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ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2005

The ASTENE AGM will take place on Sunday, 16 July at the Conference at Hulme Hall, Manchester. The Agenda, Chairman's Report and Accounts enclosed with this Bulletin.

ANOTHER MANCHESTER OPPORTUNITY

The Whitworth Art Gallery is situated on Oxford Road, a short distance from Hulme Hall, the conference venue. Its collections include outstanding prints, drawings and watercolours, and the finest collection of textiles and wallpapers outside London.

Although only a small fraction of the collections are on show at any one time, the gallery data base is available online on www.whitworth.man.ac.uk, allowing one to search the catalogue for particular artists and designers or types of textiles.

At the time of the ASTENE conference in July, the textile gallery will unfortunately be closed for refurbishment, but other displays will include the exhibition 'The Triumph of Watercolour', Durer Prints, and selections from the gallery's modern art collection. Items from the reserve collection could be specially accessed if any ASTENE members are particularly interested in seeing them. However, advance notice and an appointment are necessary. In the first instance contact Ann French on 00 44 (0)161275 7485 or Ann.French@Manchester.ac.uk

A TRAVELLER TO MANCHESTER

While making arrangements for the Conference in Manchester, consider the little known presence there of an important traveller to Britain

27 July, 1846 During the three days since his arrival in Birmingham, His Highness Ibrahim Pacha has visited the iron mines and collieries, a number of other establishments in the area and metallurgy factories in the city. Leaving Birmingham on 21 July, he went by train to Manchester, centre of steam engine construction and silk and cotton weaving factories and also those manufacturing thread. His Highness visited all the establishments and leaves for the important commercial port of Liverpool to sail to Ireland and Scotland. After having seen all that he has been invited to see, His Highness returns to London.

Translation from *Le Voyage d'Ibrahim Pacha en France et en Angleterre (Archives Europeennes du Palais d'Abdine, Cahiers d'histoire egyptienne, Cairo, 1948, page 107)*



BEYOND THE GRAND TOUR – ASTENE STUDY DAY IN OXFORD

Leaflets and application forms for this study day at Oxford University Continuing Education Department were included in the last Bulletin. New members can obtain leaflets by telephoning 01865 270368 or from ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk.

The study day topics are:

John Sibthorpe, his tour of the Ottoman Empire and the Flora Graeca story - Professor John Revell
Captains Irby and Mangles at Petra - Dr Robert Morkot

James 'Athenian' Stuart and the Greek Revival architecture – Dr Kerry Bristol

Sir Charles Fellowes and the Xanthian marbles – one vast dream – Enid Slatter and Brian Taylor.

A VISIT TO 'THE BOOK OF CURIOSITIES'

In 2002 the Bodleian Library of Oxford University purchased a remarkable Arabic manuscript. It was on display briefly that year and there was an exhibition devoted to it in 2004. Now, at 5 p.m. on Friday 14th October, ASTENE members are offered a private viewing of 'The Book of Curiosities' in the Map Room of the New Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The manuscript will be introduced to us by Dr Emily Savage-Smith of the University's Oriental Institute. (Her book will be reviewed in the next Bulletin.) The manuscript contains a series of very early (11-12th century) maps on celestial and terrestrial matters, and the copy we will see probably dates from the 12th or 13th century.

Naturally attendance will be limited to around a dozen people on this occasion (which will be followed by dinner at a Middle Eastern restaurant in Broad Street at 7 p.m. on the eve of the ASTENE Study Day on Saturday 15th October).

Please let ASTENE Events Organiser Elizabeth Woodthorpe know soon if you wish to attend the Library and/or the dinner. (See page 2)

FUTURE STUDY DAYS

We have proposed two study days to Oxford University's Continuing Education Department programme for 2006, and are discussing dates. One will be on "Travellers to St Catherine's and Mount Sinai" and is booked for Saturday, 1 July 2006; the other: "Travellers and the Haj" will be at a date yet to be determined. We will provide details in the next Bulletin.

VISIT TO THE RGS AND THE V & A

In May for the first time we had to cancel an event as not enough people were able to attend. This visit is now being re-instated.

On 27 October Elizabeth Woodthorpe has arranged to visit the Royal Geographical Society to tour the Society's house at the north end of Exhibition Road, Kensington and visit the new

Reading Room. The visit will be led by Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps.

Then after lunch, at 2:30. Charles Newton has offered to introduce 'Drawings and Watercolours: Egypt Ancient and Modern' in the Prints and Drawings Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum – at the south end of Exhibition Road.

There is only room for 12 participants, so it will be first-come-first-served. Please tell Elizabeth Woodthorpe if you wish to come. (See page 2.)

ASTENE TOUR AND CONFERENCE, SINAI

We have sufficient people to complete the numbers required for this tour, (though a few more places are available) so, if you are not coming, look forward to the report next spring... If you would like to join the group, please contact Elizabeth Woodthorpe – details on page 2.

PREPARATIONS FOR TRAVEL, 1895

In her In the Shadow of Mount Sinai (see *Bulletin* 23) Agnes Smith Lewis gave advice on travel to Sinai. She went there four times between 1892 and 1897, so knew what she was talking about. Here are a few points from her advice:

* The charge for each camel, going to and returning from the Convent is five pounds.

* As all our provisions for fifty days had to be carried, we required eleven camels – for the two of us, four for riding, and the rest for baggage. The dragoman and the cook being of course mounted.

* The Bedawin insist on all money being paid beforehand. Unless they have received your money they will not work.

* We had two tents when we travelled alone: one of which did duty as a bed-room and dining-room; and a kitchen tent in which the dragoman and the cook both slept.

* All dragomans have much to learn about the way to seat a woman comfortably on a camel. ... A man is infinitely better off than a woman, for unless he be of heavy build he can vary his position by sitting side-ways or with his face to the camel's tail.

* One simple rule to remember: *Observe what your dragoman has got for himself, and adopt it.*



OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS, AND NEWS

EXHIBITIONS

Islamic Art from the Madina Collection, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, through July
With more than 700 objects, the collection is especially rich in ceramics, glass, wood, stone, textiles, metalwork from Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey, some not seen since the Islamic exhibition in Munich in 1910.

Gold! , Houston Museum of Natural Science, through to 7 August
Human fascination with gold from ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt went on to the New World. The related film explores the cultural, economic and historical significance of this natural treasure.

Caravan Kingdoms, Sackler Gallery, Washington DC to 18 September
Yemen and the ancient incense trade linked the southern Arabian peninsula with the Mediterranean and elsewhere, and rulers grew fabulously wealthy from their control of caravan routes and trade. This exhibition draws together 200 items from the collections of the Republic of Yemen, the American Foundation for the Study of Man, the British Museum and Dumbarton Oaks to explore the cultural traditions of these ancient kingdoms.

Petra: Lost City of Stone, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan until 15 August
Art and artefacts from Petra, a major crossroads of international trade routes is represented in 200 varied objects. A linked exhibition of coloured photographs documents the lives of the Bedouin, the Bedouin tribe inhabiting the environs of Petra.

10, 000 years of art and culture from Jordan, Kunst und Ausstellungshalle, Bonn, Germany until 21 August
Archaeological evidence of the cultures of the region to the early years of Islam – a time span within which fundamental developments of the history of civilization took place.

The Earthenware of Antiquity, Musee du Louvre, Paris until 26 September
An examination of the arts of fired earth in Egypt, the Near East and Greece continues the museum's investigations of artistic techniques.

The Quest for Immortality, Dayton (Ohio) Art Institute, 1 September – 3 January 2006
An exhibition drawing on objects never before seen outside Egypt from the Egyptian Museum in

The Quest for Immortality, Dayton (Ohio) Art Institute, 1 September – 3 January 2006

An exhibition drawing on objects never before seen outside Egypt from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Luxor Museum of Ancient Art and the site of Deir el-Bahari from 1550-332 BC.

Ancient Cyprus: a preview of the A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Cypriot Antiquities, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

A preview of the new permanent gallery of Cypriot antiquities due to open in December 2006.

Enlightenment: Discovering the World in the 18th century, British Museum

Permanent display of thousands of objects showing how the West understood their own world in the Age of Enlightenment and attempted to explore worlds beyond their own. The sections cover 'The Natural World', 'The Birth of Archaeology', 'Art and Civilization', 'Classifying the World', 'Ancient Scripts', 'Religion and Ritual', and 'Trade and Discovery'.

Threads of Tradition: Antiochan Heritage Museum, Ligonier, Pennsylvania to 19 November

Palestinian Bridal Costumes are the highlight of this exhibition of decorative arts from the Munayyet Collection

THE OTHER TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

In Bulletin 19, page 10, I confessed that the lure of the seaside on a summer's day was stronger than my curiosity about Dorchester's Tutankhamun Exhibition. However, during a recent visit to the Dorset Record Office (now being renamed the Dorset History Centre, a title presumably intended to make it more 'user-friendly', but in fact obscuring its function), I made time to see the Exhibition.

The inspiration for this ambitious enterprise was the once apparently immutable decision of the Egyptian Government not to let Tutankhamun's treasures leave Egypt again. Various skilled craftsmen, with detailed reference to the originals, and using wherever possible the same techniques, recreated a selection of artefacts in perfect facsimile. The museum opened in 1987.

Having walked through two rooms devoted to descriptions of the circumstances and people involved, from Tutankhamun to Howard Carter, and extensive coverage of that perennial media-fodder, the 'Was Tut murdered?' controversy, one came upon the life-sized facsimiles of Lord Carnarvon and Lady Evelyn Herbert watching Carter, wearing an unfortunate wig, holding a candle to look through a hole in a wall, rounding which one entered the ante-chamber, to see just what Carter saw that day in 1922. Next door,

Carter was to be found on scaffolding above the huge sarcophagus, in the act of separating the outer gold coffin from the inner ones. The warm scent of ancient unguents and aromatic oils suffused the air. Lastly, one reached the Treasures – jewellery, exquisite small figures and the Golden Funeral Mask itself. And so out into the shop. I really enjoyed it all.

Dorchester is replete with eclectic cultural treats. The Mummies Exhibition (on when I was there) was a touring one, but further down the main street one can "gaze in awe at the huge Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor of China", complete with multimedia sound and video. Close by are the Dinosaur and the Teddy Bear Museums. Sadly, I didn't have time to visit all these. I had an urgent date with the Dorset Records. *Peta Ree*

The Tutankhamun Exhibition is on High West Street, Dorchester; all the others are nearby. All are open seven days a week, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

CONFERENCES

BRISMES/EURAMES International Conference is at Durham University, 12-16 September. The main theme will be "Renaissance, Representation and Identity". For further information and registration see the BRISMES website: www.brismes.ac.uk

The Donkey in the Culture of the Mediterranean is the fascinating title of a conference organised by the Free University of Hydra and the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds 7-9 October to examine, document and celebrate the role of the donkey (and also the mule) in the culture of the countries bordering the Mediterranean, ranging from rearing and maintaining livestock, the shaping of the landscape, to literature and philosophy. Particular themes will be: donkeys in ancient history, the donkey in religious representation, a Charter for the Working Donkey, saddle-making, the languages and donkeys and donkey-drivers, women and their donkeys, the donkey goes to war, mules and donkeys as an environmentally sustainable transport option. If any ASTENE member goes we'd love a report.

Contact: *Ed Emery (Hydra Donkey Conference), Peterhouse, Cambridge CB2 1RD, UK. ed.emery@britishlibrary.net*



NEWS

BRISMES HAS A NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

The British Middle East Society (BRISMES) has a new address: www.brismes.ac.uk. It has links too to other societies and associations which may be of interest to ASTENE members.

BLACK VICTORIANS

Briony Llewelyn GIVES us advance news of this exhibition just as the Bulletin was going to press, and asked us to pass it on, representing as it does another strand of travel.

Black Victorians: Black People in British Art 1800-1900, Manchester Art Gallery 1 October 2005 to 8 January 2006. The exhibition then moves to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition challenges the view that there were few black people in Victorian Britain and reveals entertainers, churchmen, sportsmen, artist's models and politicians. Naturally, Mary Seacole, Crimean war heroine (see Bulletin 23) will be there.

DISEASED YET CREATIVE

Professor Rosalie David of the KNF Centre for Biomedical Egyptology, Manchester University is our Conference Dinner speaker. She was quoted in The Times of 29th March on the revelations about diseases being offered up by ancient Egyptian mummies:

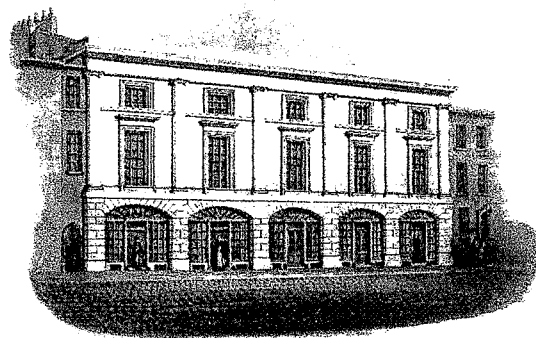
"The tomb scenes show (the ancient Egyptians) as being young, beautiful and healthy because that is how they wanted to be in the next life. But in fact I would say the work we do shows that far from living in a wonderful idealised world, they were racked with all kinds of hideous diseases. The amazing thing is that they still managed to create this extraordinary civilisation."

NEW EGYPTIAN GALLERY FOR BRISTOL

On Monday, 9th May the Egyptian Gallery of the Bristol City Museum closed for 18 month refurbishment. The objects are being removed; the cases and fittings stripped out and then the creation of spaces and displays for the new gallery begins. The gallery is due to re-open at the end of 2006 with displays in 'life stages': birth and childhood, adulthood and work, old age, death and afterlife.

The existing collection – one of the top ten in Britain – will be mixed with modern collections, paintings and material from other collections in the museum (some travellers, perhaps?) From October there will be a display focusing on the 'afterlife' in the gallery, looking at the material possessions the Egyptians took with them to the grave.

If you have questions, ideas or issues about the new gallery, or if you want to find out more, please contact: Johanna Bolhoven, 0117 922 3605, Johanna_bolhoven@bristol-city.gov.uk



The Library in 1816

RESEARCH RESOURCES

THE LEEDS LIBRARY

Before public libraries, there were Subscription Libraries, from which, on payment of an annual fee, the genteel reader could borrow books. Most have now vanished, but Leeds Library, one of the earliest, founded in 1768, still exists, still in the elegant Greek Revival premises it has occupied since 1808; still only 600 subscribers may borrow books, and then only those published since 1850.

However, researchers are able to read in the Library, by applying to the Librarian with a letter of reference from an appropriate institution or professional person, and making an appointment.

The significance to ASTENE members is that the Library has always purchased books of interest to the readers of the day – and there has always been a fascination with travellers' tales – and, as far as I know, nothing has ever been thrown out. They have, for example, many old guide books, not always easily obtained elsewhere: Murray's Handbooks include Asia Minor 1895; Constantinople, 1895; Greece and the Ionian Islands, 1900; Egypt and the Sudan, 1907; the Mediterranean, 1882; Syria and Palestine, 1903; Baedekers include Greece, 1905; Egypt, 1929; Palestine and Syria, 1912; Cook's Handbooks, Egypt and the Sudan, 1906, by Wallis Budge.

There are as yet, no outlets for laptops; the files are conveniently on cards in drawers. The peaceful book-lined New Room (added 1880) in which researchers can work would not comfortably hold more than three or four at a time – but I usually find I'm the sole inhabitant, except for an occasional seemingly old gentleman reposing in one of the wing chairs in the corner, leafing through a magazine.

The staff are charming and helpful; there is a corner with table and chairs where one can drink tea or coffee (30 pence a cup put into a little tin cash box) or even eat one's sandwiches.

To me, this is a paradigm of what a library should be, and I commend it to you. *Peta Ree*

Leeds Library, 18 Commercial Street, Leeds LS1 6AL
Open: Monday – Friday, 9a.m. to 5 p.m.
Librarian: Geoffrey Forster, BA, MA, MCLIP
Tel: 0113 245 3071; Fax: 0113 245 1191
email: Counter@leedslibrary.co.uk

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

Useful to research on an individual traveller is their final resting place. Here are further graves to be added to the research list.

Note: The *New Dictionary of National Biography* provides known burial sites.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie	St Elmo's Fort, Valetta
Yanni Athanasi	West Norwood Cemetery, London
I.K. Brunel	Kensal Green Cemetery, London
Howard Carter	Putney Vale Cemetery, Lost at sea
Frederick Catherwood	Presbyterian churchyard, Mourne
General F.R. Chesney	St Paul's Cathedral crypt, London
Edward Palmer	Family vault at Dunmow, Essex
Richard Pococke	West Norwood
David Roberts	King Henry VII Chapel, Westminster Abbey
Dean Arthur Penryn Stanley	Marble Cemetery, New York
John Lloyd Stephens	Westminster Abbey
Robert Stephenson	
Emily Smythe, Viscountess Strangford (1838-1888)	Kensal Green (though she died on a ship on her way to Port Said.)

THE COUNTY ARCHIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (CARN)

Fifty county records offices in England and Wales now issue a shared reader's ticket. All researchers to these offices need this ticket. It is issued on arrival on production of proof of identity (a driver's licence or combination of photo identity (passport, card with photo/ name) plus proof of address (bank statement, utility bill). Day tickets are issued if you have insufficient identity. CARN tickets are valid for four years. You may be asked to deposit your card for documents you wish to study.

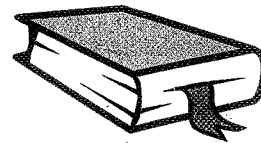
ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

Would anyone like to undertake visiting the archives in Warrington Library, Lancashire to report on the correspondence of Reverend William Beamont: correspondence and diary of visits to the Seven Churches of Asia. Please contact the Editor.

BODLEIAN, GOOGLE AND ASTENE

Oxford University has concluded an agreement with Google, the internet services company, to digitize more than a million Bodleian Library 19th century out-of-copyright books. The Google digital scanning unit should be able to produce 10,000 digitized books a week. There will be two copies of each book: one for Google, one for Oxford. The Google copy will be fully indexed and searchable through the Google search service; the Oxford copy will be linked directly to the catalogue record in the Oxford Libraries Information Service (OLIS). This

will give free access to Oxford's digitized collections from anywhere in the world. A similar link is being made between Google and university libraries of Harvard, Stanford, Michigan and New York Public Library. – a great resource!



BOOKS REVIEWS

Books for review to Edwin Aiken, Reviews Editor, 1 Ulster Ave, Annalong, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 4TX

Women Travellers in the Near East, edited by Sarah Searight, Oxbow/ASTENE, Oxford, 2005, pp. ix, 115; paperback £25, ISBN 1-84217-161-5
The latest ASTENE volume is a collection of ten papers, focusing on women travellers and workers, mostly during the 19th century. There are familiar names – Lucie Duff Gordon, Isabella Bird, Amelia Edwards – and some less well-known: Emmeline Lott, Pauline Irby, and the American Presbyterian Missionaries. These women invite the adjectives 'stalwart'; 'feisty', 'indomitable'. 'intrepid' – but as Sarah Searight points out in her introduction, they were also 'educated', 'enlightened'. 'inquisitive'. Most were of middle/ upper-class background. All of these factors are to be expected. The only subject who might be of 'lower middle or working class' background is Sarah Belzoni. A good aspect of the papers is the emphasis on women living and working in foreign countries – some for many years. We have an ambassador's wife, missionaries, educators and archaeologists, - and Emmeline Lott, governess to the Grand Pasha of Egypt.

The political situation of their respective times often influences the writings of these women: most restricted themselves to comments, although Pauline Irby became more actively involved with politics, supporting the Slav cause in the Balkans.

The authors of the papers are with one exception (Charles Plouviez) woman, and mostly familiar to ASTENE members: Sarah Searight, Deborah Manley, Dorothy Anderson, Alex Wilkinson, Megan Price, Jeanne-Marie Warzeski, Janet Starkey and Elizabeth French. Although none of the papers is particularly long, each has a specific point to make. For example, Deborah Manley's second paper highlights Isabella Bird's pilgrimage to Sinai, one of the least-known of her travels, and Janet Starkey turns her attention to women in the Eastern Desert. The volume is attractively produced, and the paper quality good. One small personal criticism: I found the print size slightly small for reading comfortably on a train. *A longer review will follow in Bulletin 25.*

Robert Morkot



Ankness by Pip Jones, London/Baltimore: PublishBrittanica 2004, pp. 196, £12.50, p/back, ISBN 1-4137-3869-9

Something a little different is presented here, written by one of our ASTENE members with an academic background in Egyptology. This is Pip's first novel, which she has set in ancient Egypt, apparently (though not stated) during the New Kingdom. It tells the story of a young woman named Ankness and her family, and their new slave, Salman. Travel is not a theme of the story, which takes place mostly in their village near Luxor, but rather trouble (involving murder, the royal tomb robberies, and even the young pharaoh and his mother) comes to them. Aimed at a younger/teenager readership, it is a 'whodunnit' with a rather nice deductive/observational solution to unmasking the main villain that would do credit to Sherlock Holmes. *Jacke Phillips*

Letters from the Desert: The Correspondence of Flinders and Hilda Petrie, Margaret S. Drower, Oxford, Aris and Phillips, 2004. pp. xvi + 261, col. pls. viii, £30 h/back. ISBN 0-85668-748-0

What is so wonderful about reading first hand accounts is their directness, as if they were written for the current reader, rather than their original recipient. A collection of letters, such as these, penned whilst on excavation and survey almost entirely from the same country over some nearly 60 years between 1880 and 1938, is even more rewarding, an inverted time capsule where events unfold simply by turning to the next page to the following day – or skipping over a few pages and years. What we have here is the equivalent of a diary or journal, of life and events occurring that the writers felt to be of interest to friends and relatives who were not with them.

What is of interest to us is their description of off-the-tourist-route 'roughing it' travel and daily life in Egypt and Palestine, both the Petries and the people with whom they interacted – those who became friends and colleagues, those who remained only their 'workers', and still others they would rather have avoided altogether. Unlike contemporary travellers, the Petries interacted with their indigenous hosts to a degree little considered in their day, as well as the Euro-Egyptian bureaucracies in Cairo, little known to tourists, who met these same bureaucrats only on a social or commercial basis. Some sections of the Petries' letters were later published in their academic reports, others in more popular texts, but the 'raw' letters home have an immediacy that the sometimes 'smoothed' publications do not. *Jacke Phillips*



DECADE: A Decade of Archaeology and History in the Lebanon, Claude Doumet-Serhal, Editor, with Anne Rabate and Andrea Resek

In November 1999 the Beirut National Museum re-opened its doors to the general public and since then *National Museum News* has broadened its scope, evolving from a Museum newsletter to an independent journal of history and archaeology with Lebanon as its primary field of study. The Editor, Claude Doumet-Serhal is an ASTENE member and other members contributed articles on travels. The journal, now re-named *Archaeology and History in Lebanon*, continues disseminating information on Lebanon's cultural heritage.

DECADE covers research programmes in Lebanon's ancient sites: Tyre, Tell Rachidieh, Sidon, Byblos, Tripoli, the Qadisha Valley, the Cedars, Baalbek and elsewhere. Each site is introduced by a leading archaeologist or historian who summarizes a decade of achievement. The book includes articles from the last decade that discuss 19th century painters, travellers, collectors.

For further information and distributors in UK and USA, please see www.ahlebanon.com or www.lbsm.org

BOOKS ANCIENT AND MODERN

In the Autumn (October) Bulletin we plan to start including members' recommendations of books related to ASTENE's researches whether just published or published a century or more ago. Send your recommendation in no more than 100 words to the Bulletin Editor by 1st September. Please give bibliographical information – and, for modern books, ISBN, publisher and price.

EXAMPLE

To Baghdad through Desert Ways by Louisa Jebb, Nelson's Shilling Library, London, c. 1907

At the turn of the 19th century two young women from distinguished English families struck out across Asia Minor with Baghdad and Damascus as vague destinations. The account of these two 'Pashas' tells more about the lands, the modes of travel and the people encountered than almost any book I know, and at the same time reveals much about them and their guides and workers: the huge, gentle Turk, Hassan; the diffident, erratic Armenian cook, and the Iraqi oarsman, 'the Evil One' – and brings to the reader the silence of the desert...

PAST REVIEWS

The Ordnance Survey of the Sinai Peninsula, reviewed in *The Athenaeum*, August 17, 1872

The importance to the intelligent study of the Bible of such exhaustive and accurate accounts as that given by the Ordnance Survey of Sinai needs no comment from us. If the Palestine Exploration Fund can only carry out their proposed survey of the Holy Land in the same complete and systematic manner, a different complexity will be given to Bible criticism, and we shall be spared the futile speculation and impossible identification which

every Cook's tourist in Palestine thinks himself justified in inflicting on the public.

FOOTNOTE TO CARSTEN NIEBUHR'S TRAVELS

Robert Heron, translator of Carsten Niebuhr's Travels (1792) provided this footnote to page 16.

Those who are curious to prosecute investigations respecting the pyramids, would do well to consult Governor Pownall's Essay on the Study of Antiquities*; a work written in a very involved and perplexed style indeed, yet with great force of language, with extraordinary powers of penetration and invention, and with a very uncommon display of liberal, enlightened erudition.

* *Thomas Pownall (1722-1805) A Treatise on the Study of Antiquities as the commentary on Historical Learning.*

NOTES AND QUERIES

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE: DALMATIAN COAST PROJECT

ASTENE member Barnaby Rogerson is also Co-Publisher at Eland. They are currently looking at compiling a collection of travel accounts and extracts of history from the Dalmatian Coast. The aim is to entertain, amuse and educate the modern reading public that is increasingly being drawn on holidays to the Croatian coast.

Any thoughts, suggestions, photocopies and snippets would be gratefully received. If the project floats off into a book, this assistance will be formally acknowledged with free copies awarded for 'useful' contributions.

*Barnaby Rogerson, Dalmatian Coast Project, Eland, 61 Exmouth Market, London EC1R 4QL,
Tel: 020-7833-0762; Fax: 020-7833-4434;
Website: www.travelbooks.co.uk*

CAN FINATI FANS HELP?

Sean Bermingham in Singapore asks if any members have information as to what eventually happened to this amazing adventurer. The last evidence in his *Narrative*, in the Editor's Preface added in 1828, is a reference to Finati being engaged as an interpreter in Egypt by Lord Prudhoe. According to Patricia Usick's biography of Bankes, *Adventures in Egypt and Nubia*, p. 200), Finati was left in Alexandria, following his tour with Prudhoe, on 19 November 1826. After that the trail dried up. Does anyone know anything of what happened to Finati after this? Is there any record of where – or when – or how he died?

Sean Bermingham's email is seanbermingham@hotmail.com - please also send a copy of your reply to the Editor.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF BROWN, COBHAM AND MICHELL?

Andrekos Varnava of the Department of History, University of Melbourne, Melbourne 3070, Australia (avarna@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au or agioselias@optusnet.com.au) is looking for information about three men.

* Samuel Brown, one of the foremost engineers of the 19th century, supervised construction of the Grand Harbour in Alexandria, became Chief Government Engineer in Cyprus in 1880. He later served in Hong Kong. Andrekos knows much about his life in Cyprus; little before that, save for his work in Alexandria. He would like to know more about his career and reputation. * Claude Delavel Cobham, District Commissioner, Larnaca for nearly 30 years from 1879 – a Greek scholar who published a number of works on Cyprus and the Near East. Again Andrekos wants information on Cobham's life before Cyprus and why he came to that island. * Roland Michell, District Commissioner Limassol at much the same time.

Andrekos is also seeking information on sanatoria used by Europeans in the Near East, especially in Lebanon. Please reply to him, but also to the Bulletin Editor for sharing with other members.

REVEREND WILLIAM WRIGHT

Unfortunately Huw Owen-Jones' email address and mobile number were given wrongly. They should be haoj73@aol.com and 07810517125. Huw has been getting on with his researches both at the Palestine Exploration Fund and in Cambridge, and is giving a paper at the conference in Manchester.

A NOTE ON DAVID HA-REUVENI'S VISIT TO THE FUNJ SULTAN IN 1523

David Reubeni (hereafter Reuveni) was a Jewish adventurer who travelled to Sennar and met King 'Amara (Dungas?) ruler of the Funj Sultanate, in 1523. His visit to the Sultan was in itself remarkable since this remote and rather unruly African kingdom was not in the limelight of European and other travellers.

My note traces his travels to the Arabian Peninsula, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. On his return trip he had an audience with the Pope and asked for his support in raising a Jewish army (in Ethiopia?) so as to liberate the Holy Land from the Ottomans. He was later deported from Portugal to Spain where he was executed by the Spanish Inquisition.

David Ha-Reuveni has to be viewed as a product of his generation. As such he fitted into a pattern of Jewish hope pertaining at that time, regarding the coming of the Messiah who would lead the Jews back to their historic homeland and bring about their salvation.

*Gaby Warburg
Has any reader come across this traveller in their researches?*

VICTORIAN MUMMY PARTIES

Christina Grand Porter of Ohio has been trying to gather information about Victorian mummy unwrapping, particularly – not the public performances conducted ‘professionally’ by people such as Dr Pettigrew – but those hosted by people in their own parlours. Edgar Allen Poe wrote a short story – “Some words with a Mummy” – which satirizes these parties, but offers no vision of the actual activities.

Does anyone know of descriptions of such parties? Who did the unwrapping – the host or an unfortunate servant? How were the mummies – or parts of mummies – acquired? How long did the process take? Were hankies with perfume on them handed round to fight any odours?

Please send any help you can give to her (e-mail Christina Grand Porter) and/or to the Bulletin Editor.

A QUERY FROM SIWA

Eng. Khaled Shabody of Siwa Oasis (siwashali@hotmail.com) is looking for any information or references about Siwa, its history and old travellers there. References which are available on the internet would be especially useful.

REPLIES

Replies to Queries are printed only in the Bulletin and are not included in the ASTENE web page.

THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL, CAIRO

In Bulletin 23 there was a query about the whereabouts of the Victoria Hospital in Cairo to which Miss Rosina Cameron of Kelton, Dumphries gave £1200 in 1895.

There appear to have been at least two Victoria Hospitals in Cairo. The earliest was in Sh. Dayr al-Banat (now the western end of Sh. ‘Abd al-Khalak Tharwat), on a site across the street from the present Swiss Embassy. Until 1914 it was managed by Germans, which suggests that it may not in fact have been a British foundation. Certainly the German deaconesses were in place once again in 1952, if Baud’s *Guide Bleu* is correct, and one of Samir Raafat’s correspondents* mentions the birth of a son there in that same year. Another Victoria Hospital stood in Garden City, which was not developed until 1905-6, at the corner of Sh. Saray al-Kubra and Sh.al-Hars, opposite the Canadian Embassy, and just around the corner from what was then the English Church. It later became a Jewish hospital and is now a girls’ hostel.

* See Samir Raafat’s website: <http://www.egy/landmarks/98-09-03.shtml> which shows a photograph purportedly of this Victoria Hospital, though it may be of the earlier one.

At no time, however, was there any connection between a Victoria Hospital and Victoria College, Egypt’s famous public school. Private charitable

endowments supported most of Cairo’s hospitals, though few donations can have been as generous as Mrs Wallace’s – equivalent to almost a lifetime’s wages for an English house-servant at the time. There was a Royal Victoria Hospital in Suez, and there is a well-known Victoria Hospital still in Alexandria (18 Sh. Philippe Galad). Jerusalem has an August Victoria Hospital. *John Rodenbeck*

Viscountess Strangford and Victoria Hospital, Cairo

By chance the ASTENE Journal Project had turned up another link with Victoria Hospital.

The Huntington Library in California holds the papers of Admiral Beaufort of the Beaufort Wind Scale and his family. This collection includes the papers of Emily Anne Beaufort Smythe, Viscountess Strangford (1838-1888). This remarkable woman made her first (independent) journey to Egypt in 1858. She met Viscount Strangford in the Near East. When he died in 1869 she went through four years of hospital training and devoted herself to promoting nursing. She organised the Bulgarian Peasant Relief in 1876, and established temporary hospitals there. She also helped to set up a Victoria Hospital in Cairo after the Arabi Uprising in 1882. She died on her way to Port Said where she was to set up a hospital for British seamen. The Library holds her travel journals for 1876-7 and some also some of her correspondence.

She would seem to deserve the attention of an ASTENE researcher with access to these papers – the New Dictionary of National Biography will introduce her further. Her father, the Admiral, was also a traveller in the ASTENE region. D. Manley

BONAPARTE’S MAMLUKE

This reply came to the Query in the last Bulletin asking for information about this man who acted as dragoman to Sir Miles Nightingall in Egypt in 1819.

This man’s image is very well known. There are several propagandistic paintings that include him, and a couple of months ago I found, in a brocanterie or salon de depot-vente here in Languedoc, a plaster statuette of him that I would happily have bought, if it weren’t so ugly and hadn’t been damaged and badly repaired. Its mere existence, though, tell us something. *J. Rodenbeck*

A Problem with Dates (Frederick Henniker’s travels), Bulletin 23, page 12

This question related to the dates of Sir Frederick Henniker’s travels in Egypt and the Near East (1819 or 1820). In Giovanni Finati’s *Narrative* the remarkable Italian renegade-turned dragoman who, among other achievements, was the first person in modern times to enter the Great temple at Abu Simbel. After various adventures and experiences Finati was recommended by Henry Salt to become Sir Frederick Henniker’s dragoman and

“accompanied him in his canja beyond the first cataract as far as Abousombal.” After a period spent primarily shooting wild animals, Henniker and Finati next turned their attention to the Oasis of “El Wah” (Bahariya?). Henniker though, was “disgusted altogether with the expedition”, and they soon returned to Thebes, then to Cairo, where Finati was reassigned to another traveller.

A footnote in Finati’s *Narrative* (Vol. II, p. 348), presumably added by his editor William Bankes, states that Finati was first appointed to Henniker’s service in December 1819, which suggests that Henniker arrived in Egypt sometime earlier that year, and not in 1820. *Sean Bermingham*

SCHLIEMANN IN CAIRO

Dr Jochen Hallof responded most helpfully to the query in Bulletin 22. Not only does a vast correspondence between Heinrich Schliemann and Rudolf Virchow exist (published recently as *Die Korrespondenz zwischen Heinrich Schliemann under Rudolf Virchow*, Berlin, 1990) but there is also the diary of Virchow. This diary, difficult to read and as yet unpublished, is preserved in the Archives of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin, Nachlas R.V.

Virchow was in Cairo 5-14 April 1888 where he included among his visits the museum in Bulak, the pyramids of Giza, the necropolis of Saqqara, and the medical school and botanic gardens in Cairo. Unfortunately the dinner on 8th April at Shepherd’s Hotel is not noted. Despite the fact that his diary is full of names of persons met by him during these days, the only couple mentioned is Dr and Mrs Rogers. Maybe this is the name of the unknown lady. It would be interesting for me to get a copy of the article “An Evening with Schliemann” from Blackwood’s *Edinburgh Magazine* January-June 1891. (He now has one. Ed.)

ARTICLES

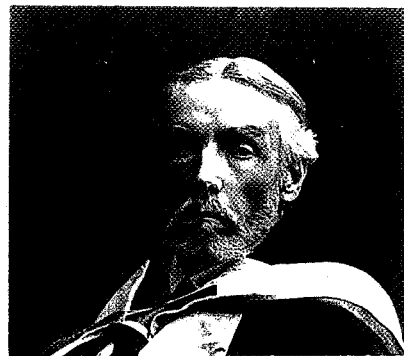
JESSE HAWARTH AND THE MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Dr Christina Riggs, Curator of Egyptology, will be our host for the visit to the Manchester Museum during the Conference. Here, she introduces one of the Museum’s greatest benefactors.

The Manchester Museum owes much of its collection, and most of the roof over its head, to Victorian yarn agent Jesse Haworth (1835-1920). Haworth was born in Bolton and educated at Manchester Grammar School. He joined the firm of James Dilworth and Sons in Manchester, and together with his brother, Abraham Haworth, went on to become a partner in the firm and a leading member of the city’s Royal Exchange. Haworth married Marianne Armitage in Altrincham in 1874;

the couple had no children. Jesse and Marianne Haworth are commemorated in the museum today by a handsome pair of marble busts displayed next to the Egyptian galleries.(1)

Throughout his life, Haworth was active in the Congregationalist church, teaching in Sunday schools as a young man, offering financial support to missionary efforts, and serving at one point as superintendent of the Eccles Congregational Sunday School. By the late 1870s, Haworth had settled in Bowdon, Cheshire, where he served as a deacon of the Bowden Downs Congregational Church. His religious faith perhaps fuelled his interest in the ancient past, and during the 1860s and 1870s he collected Wedgwood pottery, especially ‘classicizing’ pieces of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. (2) After reading Amelia



Edwards’ *A Thousand Miles up the Nile*, published in 1877, Jesse and Marianne Howarth were inspired to travel to Egypt and follow in Edwards’ footsteps. Although no letters nor diaries from their travels seem to have survived, the journey clearly had a significant impact on them. Back in England, the Haworths met and befriended Edwards, and joined the newly established Egypt Exploration Fund. A list of EEF subscribers and donors from June 1888 includes Jesse Haworth and his brother Abraham, with Mrs Jesse Haworth as the Local Honorary Secretary. (3)

When Petrie broke away from the EEF in 1886, and thus found himself short of funding for his excavations, Edwards approached Jesse Haworth for help. Haworth at first preferred to remain anonymous, and Edwards described him to Petrie as “a good and enlightened man”, interested in furthering historical research rather than discovering treasure. Haworth’s relationship with Petrie proved to be fruitful and long-lasting, leading to important discoveries at Kahun, Gurob, and Hawara in the late 1880s. Haworth built up a sizeable collection of Egyptian antiquities from Petrie’s work, which he donated in 1890 to the Manchester Museum, part of the University of Manchester. He added to the collection almost yearly, and in 1907 agreed to donate funds for an extension to the Museum, to house the displays and offices of the Egyptology collection. The

extension, called the Jesse Haworth Building, was opened on 30 October 1912, with a ceremony that included a keynote lecture by Petrie himself.

The University made Haworth an honorary Doctor of Law in 1913. At his death in 1920, Haworth bequeathed a further £30,000 to the Museum, which helped fund a 1927 extension. A few more Egyptian antiquities were given to the Museum by the executors of Marianne Haworth's estate in 1937. In 2000 a descendant of Abraham Haworth also donated an assortment of objects ranging from a travertine kohl-pot to several potsherds and tourist trinkets that the Haworths might have picked up on their travels – which, happily, brings the family's association with the Museum into a third century. *Christina Riggs*

1 A similar pair of busts depicting Abraham Haworth and his wife, sculpted by J.W. Swinnerton in 1876, remains in the family.

2 Haworth's Wedgwood collection is now in the Manchester Art Gallery.

3 I thank Dr Brenda Moon for this information.

A GARDENER IN ASTENE'S REGION

At Manchester Dr Annat Almog will talk about an outstanding architect of the Arts and Crafts Movement, C.R. Ashbee. The great gardener of the era was Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932).

When she was 19, Gertrude Jekyll travelled to Greece with Charles Newton and his young bride, Mary - Charles, the distinguished Orientalist and excavator of Halicarnassus, Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, being a friend of her father. He was preparing his book, *Travels and Discoveries in the Levant* (1865).

They stayed in Rhodes for three weeks and Gertrude and Mary sketched and painted, and Jekyll took home an iris root from the Turkish cemetery. They went on to Gallipoli, Constantinople, where Newton wished to visit the Library of the Seraglio, Scutari and eventually Athens.

Many years later, in August 1927, Gertrude Jekyll recalled this journey for readers of *Gardening Illustrated*. From the sea the Islands had looked barren, and it was "delightful to find them clothed with a quantity of sweet herbs besides the usual Myrtle, Lentisk, etc." (Jekyll always gave plants the capital letters of proper nouns.) There was little in flower in November, "only a good sprinkling of Cyclamens in the nearer wilds, but they were not easy to reach on Rhodes as there were no roads "only rather difficult mule tracks". Back in England, the iris from the Turkish cemetery proved to be *I. albicans*.

Jekyll wrote too in this article of a visit to a friend in Algiers. The open country beyond the suburbs was "delightful rambling ground" – the home of *I. stylosa* and *I. alata*. Hedges of prickly pear were "garlanded with *Clematis cirrhosi*, with its warm, white bell-shaped flowers". She saw

Orchis and diminutive Daffodils, and found a keen delight seeing these plants "for the first time in their own homes."
Deborah Manley

(Sources: Miss Jekyll: Portrait of a Great Gardener by Betty Massingham, Newton Abbot, 1973, *Gardening Illustrated*, 27 August, 1927)

(Two papers there not yet offered at ASTENE Conferences, I believe! Editor)

FOOTPRINTS

DRESS FOR THE TRAVELLER IN EGYPT

It is always desirable when travelling to dispense with unnecessary luggage, at the same time, if the traveller intends to journey for months, he must be well supplied with clothing.

Gentlemen should take with them an evening suit, thick and thin light-coloured tweed suits, a suit of some dark-coloured material for wearing upon special occasions, a flannel suit or two, riding breeches and gaiters, thick and thin pairs of shoes both in black and brown leather. A pair of thick-soled shoes, or boots, will be found invaluable in exploring ruins. Woollen socks, flannel and linen shirts, slippers, straw and felt hats, cloth caps, white umbrella lined with green, cork sun helmet, and an Ulster, make a fairly complete outfit. A *kefiyyeh*, or turban cloth, to be tied round the hat or helmet in such a way that a good portion of it falls over the neck and sides of the face, should not be forgotten.

Did Wallis Budge, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum 1894-1924, and penner of this advice, travel so 'lightly' when he was in Egypt as a working archaeologist?

His clothing list for ladies was considerably simpler, and I fear would have been received with some disapprobation by his feminine readers.

They will find very useful thick and thin brown shoes or boots, and short blue serge skirts, white or coloured cotton and linen shirts, dresses of thicker materials for cold days and evenings, wrappers and cloaks, etc. If shoes are worn (*and only brown ones, mind!*) in exploring ruins, gaiters will be found most useful for keeping out the sand and for protection against the bites of insects.

What has Madam to wear when Sir was resplendent in evening suit, or smartly dark-clothed on special occasions, one wonders.

Cook's Handbook for Egypt and the Sudan, 1906, by Wallis Budge MA. Peta Ree

TRAVELLERS' ECCENTRICITIES

A former traveller in a boat like ours, being afraid of wanting exercise during the voyage, took a skipping-rope on board, on which he exercised himself every day, with such solemnity that the sailors thought it a religious ceremony, and once, in his absence, one of them tried to imitate him, and was tripped up, whereupon he restored the rope to its place, with the remark that he was rightly served for imitating a religious rite not meant for Moslems.

(William Beamont, To Sinai and Syene and Back, 1871)

