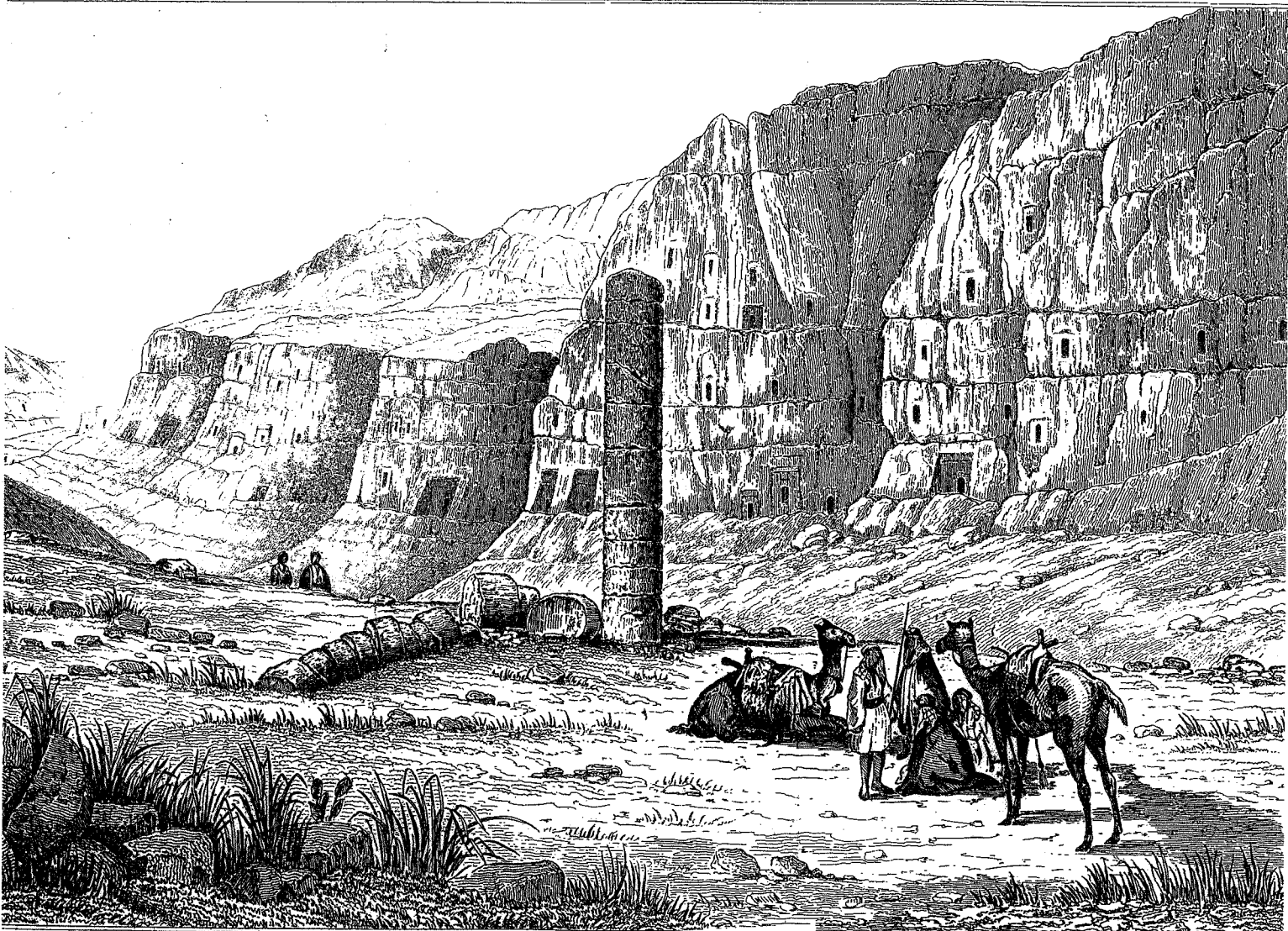


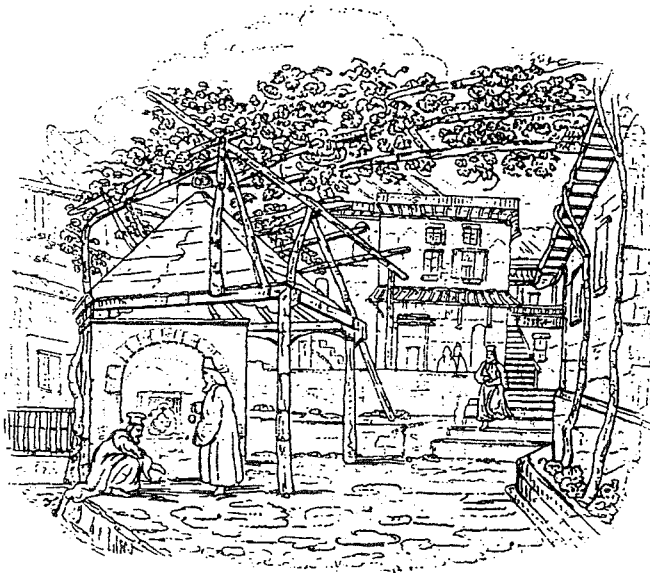
**Bulletin of the Association for the Study
of Travel in Egypt and the Near East:
Notes and Queries**

Number 25

Autumn 2005



View of an isolated column in the Ouadi Mousi



INTERIOR OF THE CONVENT

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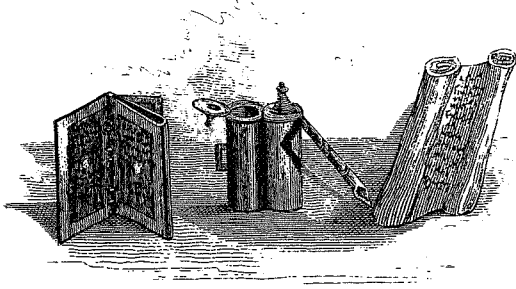
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NOTE TO MEMBERS

Please remember that all subscriptions and
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astene@aol.com
 no longer to the ASTENE administrative office
 nor to LisaCamb@aol.com

The next Bulletin will be published in January
 2006. We welcome articles from members – and
 others. The deadline for articles is 15 December,
 but please send your material earlier as it
 greatly helps the Editor.

ASTENE NEWS



THE SPOKEN BOOK

This Bulletin is heavily weighted towards books and book reviews. In societies where books were rare storytelling took their place. Here, to introduce this 'book issue', is the beautiful description by the traveller John Carne in his Letters from the East (1826), of this disappearing art.

The only places of amusement in Cairo are the coffee-houses, which are generally full; but however numerous the company, as soon as one of the story-tellers begins his tale, there is instant silence. Many of the Arabs display great powers of imagination and memory in these tales, which are admirably suited to amuse an indolent and credulous people.

A Turk, with his long pipe in his hand, will listen for hours to a tale of wonder and enchantment, with deep interest, with exclamations of Allah, and without once interrupting the speaker. This custom as universally prevalent throughout the East, is useful as well as amusing, for the stories have often an excellent moral; but a tale told in Europe would be a very different thing from one heard in these countries. The wild and rich imagery of the East would hardly suit our colder climes, any more than the often impassioned and graceful action of the narrator, or the introduction of his genii. Afrit or Goule.

Many of these men travel over the country, and get an uncertain living by reciting in the villages and towns; but the most esteemed are to be found in the cities. Their tales are either invented by themselves, or taken from the Arabian Nights and other Oriental writings. A new and good story here, like a new book in Europe, confers fame on the inventor, and becoming popular, passes from one city to another, is quickly learned by the Arabs, and retailed in all the coffee-houses of the land. On the halt of a caravan at evening, when the groups are seated at their tent-doors, round the fire, a tale from one of the company is a favourite and never failing source of amusement. You will observe on those occasions men of various nations suspend their converse, and then listen to every word that falls from the speaker's lips. *John Carne*

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE 14-18 July

The first conference paper at Manchester told how eight Danish travellers set out together, lone bought arsenic and only one returned, a mystery plot not unlike Agatha Christie's famous novel with the naughty name. The next was about a piece of clever artistic plagiarism. And the third paper recalled how Thomas Legh (whose great house, Lyme Park near Manchester, now owned by the National Trust, a group visited on Saturday morning) was almost assassinated by an Albanian soldier firing from one Nile boat to another. Dull ASTENE conferences aren't.

The crime rate did diminish during the five conference days, though we had gun battles, several deaths from cholera, a stabbing and a plane crash. And it has to be said that most of the criminals were European travellers rather than the people among whom they journeyed.

Not that it was all criminous. We had buffaloes and giraffes, dogs and crocodiles, and chaps who, like Shakespeare, might have been themselves or possibly someone else of the same name. Picking out the plums in such a feast of entertainment and instruction is well-nigh impossible, and to name names at all risks serious discourtesy to all the others. For there were no discreditable performances, and the general level both of content and of presentation of the 49 papers was higher than I remember at previous conferences. (See the summary of the programme below.)

Still, it would also be invidious not to pick out Cassandra Vivian's hilarious account of George Gliddon's time in the USA, or to note the excellence of the three Czechs (among the many speakers from eleven countries represented), whose mastery of English was only exceeded by their mastery of PowerPoint, an arcane mystery even to some American scholars. And on the subject of technology, it would be churlish not to mention the aplomb shown by Jennifer Scarce when the slide projector failed until after she had got through both paper and questions, or the insouciance of Robert Morkot, who declared that his slides were purely decorative, and as it was so hot he wouldn't object if we preferred the windows open.

Which brings us to the weather. It might be said that not many of our well-travelled company had ever experienced anything so unlikely as a five-day heat wave in Manchester, yet that is what we enjoyed, with just a light shower after the closing session to remind us how privileged we were.

Then there was the accommodation and the food. It is fair to say that Manchester did us proud on both parts. The rooms were better than most student accommodation, and the food was of excellent quality. And the caterers really pulled the stops out for formal dinner, causing mild

discomfort to sensitive stomachs when it was followed by Professor Rosalie David discoursing most interestingly on the pathology of Egyptian mummies.

In short, it was a splendid occasion, a great conference, and we owe a considerable debt to the small army of members, led by Priscilla Frost, who were responsible for its planning and organisation. Those who were there will undoubtedly already have Southampton in their diaries for July 2007: for those who weren't I strongly recommend you to make a note of it now. *Charles Plouviez*

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE PROGRAMME Thursday 14 – Monday 18 July

Session 1: Journeys in the 18th and early 19th centuries

Nigel Hepper: The Royal Danish Expedition in Egypt, 1761-62

William Peck: Pococke and Norden: Ships that passed in the Night?

Brenda Moon: Thomas Legh of Lyme Park, Disley (a preparation for Saturday's ASTENE visit)

Session 2: An Architect, the Khedive and Engineers

Caroline Williams: A Post-humus Candidate for ASTENE?: Pascal Coste

Dr Alix Wilkinson: Ezbekieh in the 19th century

Deborah Manley: An Engineer – or two – in Egypt (1857-8)

Session 3: Keynote address: Professor John Williams, William and Mary College, Williamsburg: "Cairo Rules..."

Session 4: Collectors and Excavators

Dr Gottfried Hamernik: Anton J. Laurin: Diplomat, Collector and Excavator

Cassandra Vivian: George Gliddon in Egypt

Rosalind Janssen: Mary Brodrick: A pioneer Egyptologist

Session 5: Pilgrims and Travellers with a Mission

Tomislav Kajfez: Ignacij Knoblehar (1819-1858): A Missionary and Explorer of the Nile

Dr Jakob Eisler: Aspects of Templar History

Dr Haim Goren: Irish Explorers at the Dead Sea: Science, adventure and imperialism

Paul Robertson: A Pilgrim's Progress? : The travel writing and photography of Colonel Muhammad Sadiq

Session 6 Architects and Monuments

Dr Kathryn Ferry: Asia Minor with Charles Texier

Dr Annat Almog: The grim consequences of an aesthetic approach: C.R. Ashbee and the Pro-Jerusalem Society, 1918-22

Janet Starkey, Celebrating Islamic Burials within Communities: A selection of vignettes

Women Travellers through the Near East

Dr Johanna Holaubek: Ida Pfeiffer and her First Journey to Palestine and Egypt

Jeane-Marie Warzeski: 'Stranded on a Scientific Sandbank': US Women as ancillary travellers and amateur Egyptologists, 1880-1912

Hana Havtujova: From the Czechoslovak Republic to the Near East; Three Czech Women Travellers in 1920/30s

Reception by *The Journal of Semitic Studies* and Middle East Studies, Manchester University to

launch ASTENE's *Women Travellers in the Near East* edited by Sarah Searight

Saturday visits: Thomas Legh's home Lyme Park, Disley or Manchester University Museum, Department of Egyptology with Dr Christina Riggs

Session 8A: The Literature and Art of Travel

Marie-Paule van Lathem: Portraits of Cleopatra

Fareedah Al-Murahhem: An Arab Woman within the Arab Hall

Dr Hana Navratilova: 'Book worm' travellers in Bohemia in the early 19th century

Professor Richard Lobban: The Tremaux Re-publication Project

Session 8B: "The Desert and the Fruitful Lands": Visiting and Promoting Egypt

Claire Malleson: The Landscape of the Egyptian Fayoum as described by Travellers

Dr Robert Morkot: Fuller and Fuller

Cassandra Vivian: George Gliddon in America

Session 9: Starting from and coming to Manchester

Peta Ree: John Hyde of Manchester

Dr Philip Sadgrove: A Mission from Egypt visits Manchester :

Brenda Moon: 'A Fearful Outbreak of Egyptology' in the North

Conference Dinner

After dinner speaker Professor Rosalie David

Session 10A: Scholar Travellers

Carl Phillips: Dr Andrew Mackell and the earliest discoveries of ancient south Arabian inscriptions in Yemen

Huw Owen Jones: Travels in Palmyra and Zenobia:

Dr William Wright in Damascus (1867-1875)

Edwin Aiken: Placing Prophetic Voices in Victorian Scotland: George Adam Smith and a Question of Context

Session 10B: Travellers, Tourists and Cameras

Dr Elaine Evans: The Grand Tour: Postcards and Travellers to Egypt

Bob Partridge: Photographing Ancient Egypt

Dr Sahar Abdel-Hakim: Towards a Destination: Travel in three Arab Cinematic Narratives

Session 11: Research Resources

Filling in the Background: What can you discover

about your traveller from his/her will? Peta Ree

Update on the Research Resources Project Dr Patricia Usick

The Unexpurgated record: the ASTENE Journal Project Lorien Pilling

Travellers' Graffiti with Roger de Keersmaecker

Session 12: Gentlemen and Other Travellers

Bart Ooghe: European Travellers in Mesopotamia (1500-1900): An Overview

Kai Kaniuth: Some remarks on Robert Ker Porter's travels in Mesopotamia

Charles Plouviez: 'A Pleasant Occupation'

Christopher Wordsworth's *Greece*

Session 13: Exploration of Self, Organisations and Places

John Ruffle (with Bryony Llewelyn): "I shall go on until I drop": the IV Viscount Castlereagh's

account of his travels in Egypt and the Levant

Prof. Ruth Kark and Dr Haim Goren: Pioneering

British-Holy Land Exploration: The Palestine

Association, The RGS and the PEF

Session 14 : Through Turkey and Asia Minor

Tom Rees: Some British Diplomatic Travellers in Turkey

Jennifer Scarce: Dr Robert Wilson (1787- 1871): Travels with a Wandering Scot

Dr Elizabeth French: Murray's Itineraries for Eastern Turkey 1854-1878

Session 15: The Recent Past; Looking Forward

Adela Mackova: Czech Travellers in Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s

Dr Susan J. Allen: The Lighter Side: Satire, Humour and a Traveller in Egypt

Dr Jacke Phillips: Some Things *don't* Change

POST-CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS (1)

A week after those intense, stimulating, exhausting and wonderful five days of the ASTENE Conference the conversations and papers still replay themselves in my head, and faces of people reappear in my mind. The large dose of content still sinks in, I feel honoured and grateful to be an ASTENE member.

The biggest challenge for ASTENE in the future will be, in my view, to keep the very special character and spirit of its conferences. While travel and its study are dead serious academic topics, the story of the human episodes involved could, at times, be sheer gossip. But they should *all* have a place in ASTENE's conferences. Now, while those presenting such episodes should never dominate the conferences, those concerned with pure academic study may well seize them as highly scholarly gatherings and might turn them into competitive forums of academic pursuit. This difference seems to me inevitable as the study of travel raises a vast repertoire of topics concerning the encounters – sometimes the clashes – of cultures. Their political, social and economic aspects would, and in my view should, find their way to ASTENE's intellectual forums. Such works presented side-by-side with the more light-hearted ones are of great benefit – one highlighting the human aspect of the often cold analysis of highly intellectual topics. This rare mixture, one of the hallmarks of ASTENE conferences, should be cherished. *Annat Almog*

POST-CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS (2)

I think that ASTENE's strongest point is that it is 'diverse', and in my opinion it is this side of it that needs to be highlighted in its activities. Its activities need to stress:

1. The different backgrounds of its members in terms of their training: architects, geographers, Egyptologists, critics, historians...
2. Its international reach, which is obvious in the nationalities and residency of its members. This both allows access to different materials and allows for different points of view to be voiced, and hence invigorate the Association.
3. As an Association for 'studies' it needs to accommodate the soberly (perhaps boringly)

academic, as well as studies that explore and expose new material in a less dry, more convivial way.

I believe that ASTENE's very survival is dependent on its diversity and, given that it is an aspect already there, it need only translate into *all* its activities (study days, publications etc) as well as in the conferences. *Sahar Sobhi Abdel Hakim*

Note: During the ASTENE tour to Sinai, there is a one day ASTENE conference in Nuweiba and we hope colleagues in the area will offer papers there. Abstracts should be sent to debmanley@beeb.net.uk

ASTENE'S NEW CHAIRMAN: DR BRIAN TAYLOR

On the last day (18th July) of the Manchester Conference I was given an opportunity to introduce myself as the new chairman, an opportunity I took advantage of because it also enabled me – on behalf of the Association – to record your grateful thanks and best wishes to three former committee officers, namely Dr Trisha Usick and Dr Lisa French (who both retired in 2004) and Professor Malcolm Wagstaff who was retiring as Chairman. Elected to the committee in July 2003, I have witnessed at first hand the dedication and enthusiasm of these three officers, their wealth of knowledge and experience in the fields of archaeology, history and geography and their many publications, all of which have contributed substantially to the high esteem in which they and ASTENE are held both by their peers and by comparable organisations.

However, I am grateful to have inherited an equally dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced committee and hope that together we shall be able to continue the good work of our predecessors. In the meantime what of me? A former geologist with the British Antarctic and British Geological Survey and, for the three years, the UK spokesperson on marine scientific research at the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, obviously my scientific background is irrelevant to the job in hand and to the aspirations of ASTENE, an organisation I became aware of by chance when I saw a leaflet advertising a day school in Oxford in March 2001 on "Travellers in the Levant and Palestine". The subject struck a chord because, having produced a WEA course on the European Grand Tour, I had just begun thinking about that course's natural sequel, namely the journeys of those even more intrepid travellers who went beyond the geographical and cultural boundaries of France, the Low Countries, German and Italy into Greece and the Levant. I am still very much involved in preparing that second course which is even more wide ranging than its predecessor.

I am, therefore, very much interested and involved in the work, aims and objectives of

ASTENE and feel very much part of an outward looking, cosmopolitan and international organisation that includes within its membership professional archaeologists, historians, geographers and other relevant scientific and artistic disciplines which give ASTENE its gravitas - as well as those - like me - who have an avowed interest in, and enthusiasm for, those many travellers, ancient and modern and from diverse backgrounds, who subsequently published eye-witness accounts of their journeys (often undertaken in areas not normally visited by western Europeans) and made important archaeological discoveries and compiled a pictorial record of the colourful and exotic Near East.

Brian Taylor

FORTHCOMING ASTENE EVENTS

At the start of the new academic year it seems appropriate to list the ASTENE dates for the year and a glimpse of the future:

15 October: Beyond the Grand Tour study day at Oxford, preceded by a visit to the Bodleian Library and Middle Eastern dinner.

27 October: Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum and Royal Geographical Society.

16-23 March, 2006: Sinai Tour and ASTENE Conference at Nuweiba on 21 March.

1 July, 2006: Travellers and Pilgrims to Sinai study day at Oxford and ASTENE AGM.

A BODLEIAN TREAT, MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER AND REWLEY HOUSE DAY SCHOOL, Friday-Saturday, 14th - 15th October

It is some time since we had a study day at the Oxford Department of Continuing Education, with the associated activity and dinner. Happily, two further study days, beyond the one planned for this autumn, will be held in 2006.

Friday October 14: Meet at the New Bodleian Library, Parks Rd and Broad Street at 6 p.m., where Dr Emily Savage Smith of the Oriental Institute, Oxford University will introduce us to *The Book of Curiosities* (See the review in this Bulletin.) Dinner afterwards at Jamals Restaurant in Walton Street. *As there are limited numbers for the Library occasion and we need to book for dinner, please let Elisabeth Woodthorpe know if you plan to take part in the Friday activities.*

Saturday October 15: Beyond the Grand Tour at Rewley House in St John Street. The programme: Professor John Revell on John Sibthorpe; Dr Robert Morkot on Captains Irby and Mangles at Petra; Dr Kerry Bristol on James 'Athenian' Stuart; Enid Slatter and Dr Brian Taylor on Sir Charles Fellowes and the Xanthian marbles.

VISIT TO THE V & A AND RGS

The visits to the Royal Geographical Society and the Prints and Drawings collection of the Victoria

and Albert Museum which had to be postponed earlier in the year have been re-instated for Thursday, 27 October. There were very few places available and these are now all taken.

SINAI TOUR AND CONFERENCE

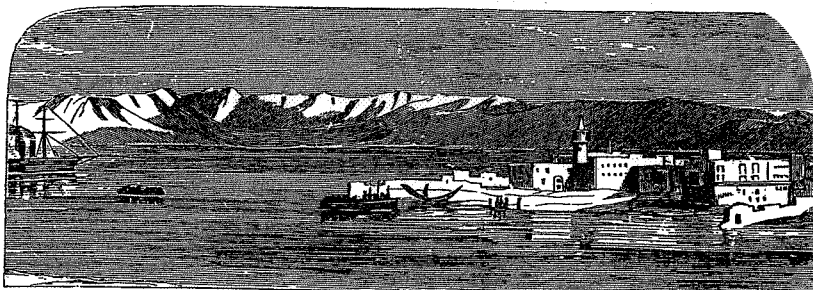
All places are now booked for the Sinai tour from 16 to 23 March 2006. However, any members in the region who would like to join ASTENE for the Conference at Nuweiba on Wednesday, 21 March, will be very welcome. Please let Events Organiser Elisabeth Woodthorpe know as soon as possible. If you wish to offer a paper, please post or email your 100 word abstract to Deborah Manley.

Note: There will be a Study Day at Rewley House on Saturday 1st July on Pilgrims and Travellers to Sinai. It will be followed by the ASTENE AGM. Booking forms will in the next Bulletin, but in the meantime make a note in your new diary.

ASTENE'S BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 2007

As we shall be in the great commercial port of Southampton in 2007 and able to visit the Royal Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth to see the Henry VIII's ship the *Mary Rose*, clamber through Nelson's *HMS Victory*, and go aboard the great iron-hulled *HMS Warrior* - and see much else - it would seem appropriate to hope for some sea-and-ship related papers among the papers of the programme. Perhaps these might include:

Captain Cavaglia; Irby and Mangles, Raymond Wellsted; Admirals Beaufort and Cochrane; The Dhows of the Red Sea; The Mahmoudieh Canal; Accounts of the Cataracts; Dahabeyehs and other Nile boats; Cook's steamers; The 'Overland Route'; The Suez Canal; Sailing East and Steaming East; P & O (Pacific and Orient or 'Port out and Starboard back') (Southampton is today home port to P & O); the Lazarettos and Quarantine; What the sailing records of Malta and other Mediterranean ports reveal. and, of course, much land-based material...



OBITUARY

We were deeply saddened to learn from Pascale Linant de Bellefonds of the death of her husband, Xavier. We have missed them at our recent conferences and hope that we may look forward to welcoming Pascale in the future. Our deep sympathy goes out to her and their children.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, COURSES AND NEWS

THE FESTIVAL OF MUSLIM CULTURES

This year-long arts festival, through 2006, seeks to increase understanding and respect. Its patron is HRH The Prince of Wales. It will involve some of the country's major cultural institutions. To find out more: www.muslimcultures.org

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

The Egyptian Cultural Bureau, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1J 5BG between Green Park and Hyde Park Corner (Tel: 0207 491 7720) runs a lecture series at 6:45 on Thursday evenings. The full list is available from the Bureau, but some of special interest for ASTENE members are:

17th November: Dr Okasha Eldaly: 'Missing Sources for the Study of Ancient Egypt'

8th December: Aidan Dobson: 'The Tomb of Osiris in Abydos'

2nd February, 2006: Dr Stephen Quirke of the Petrie Museum: 'An Ancient Egyptian History Museum'

16th February, 2006: Prof. Rosalie David: 'Ancient Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science'

8th April, 2006: Eric Uphill: 'Inundation in Ancient Egypt'

18th May, 2006: Nail Finneran: 'Egyptian Christian Monasticism: Some Archaeological Themes'

The programme also includes day schools and language courses, exhibitions and musical performances.

Red Sea Project Phase 3: Cultural Connections of the Red Sea

The Society for Arabian Studies has held two conferences at the British Museum in 2002 and 2004 on the Red Sea links. On 27-28 October 2006 the Society will hold this third conference, covering Marine Networks (commercial connections with a focus on cultural relations), Sacred Space (religious and political routes and connections), Identities (craft traditions and anthropological perceptions), Intellectual landscapes (visual and oral artistic links), Ecological Connections (focusing on natural history).

The Society welcomes offers of papers on these themes. For further information see

www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea and e-mail Janet Starkey, j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk as soon as possible.

COURSES IN CAMBRIDGE AND EAST ANGLIA

Madingley Hall, the Institute of Continuing Education of Cambridge University, runs a number of residential courses, day schools and weekly courses – for full list and details see www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk. Costs vary but are about £200-280 for a residential weekend. Some courses that might be of interest to ASTENE members in 2006 are:

Residential:

The Roman Garden, with Caroline Holmes, 3-5 March – The legacy of Hellenistic styles and Egyptian horticultural practice inspired Roman gardens. An exploration of real and painted landscapes.

'Missing Presumed Dead': Tracking down lost ancestors with professional genealogist Liz Carter, providing advice on tracking down ancestors – either yours or tracking a traveller. 17-19 March.

The Knights Templar: This course, run by Dr Evelyn Lord, looks at the multi-faceted role of the Templars as crusaders and lords and considers the many legends that attach to them. 30 June – 2 July.

Weekly Courses

The History of Egyptology with Dr Andrew Bednarski, 20 weeks winter-spring in Cambridge

Day Schools

The Knights Templar with Dr Evelyn Lord in Peterborough on Saturday 15 October, 2005.

DAY AND WEEKEND SCHOOLS IN OXFORD

For further information and booking Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2 JA.

www.conted.ox.ac.uk

7 – 9 October **Roman North Africa (ASTENE) Beyond the Grand Tour**

15 October **The First Crusade**

6 May 2006 **(ASTENE) Pilgrims and Travellers to Mount Sinai**

1 July 2006

OUCE is also running a series of lectures on Tuesday afternoons between 18 October and 22 November on Great British Archaeologists. The six lectures cost £90 (including tea or coffee) and individual lecture tickets are not available.

18 October: Early excavations: Richard Colt Hoare, William Cunnington and Philip Crocker (David Field);

25 October: General Pitt Rivers: father of scientific archaeology (Mark Bowden);

1 November: Flinders Petrie and the Creation of Egyptian Archaeology (Helen Whitehouse);

8 November Wooley of Ur: scholar and gentleman (Harriet Crawford);

15 November: Sir Mortimer Wheeler: hero in the land of the anti-hero (Barry Cunliffe);

22 November Dame Kathleen Kenyon and the establishment of the archaeological sequence in Palestine (Karen Wright).

Email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk Telephone: Short courses administrator: 01865 270380

EXHIBITIONS

Petra: Lost City of Stone at Glenbow Museum, Calgary until 20 February 2006

See Bulletin 24 for detailed information.

The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York September – 15 January, 2006

Objects from the Museum's collection related to the concern for prevention and cure of disease in

ancient Egypt, including the rarely seen Edwin Smith papyrus.

Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia at the British Museum from 8 September, 2005

Although outside the ASTENE 'region', this 'blockbuster' exhibition will be of great interest to many of us. It includes unprecedented loans from Iran. Look out for the curators' favourite objects: a stone guard dog from Persepolis and the head of a young prince carved in lapis.

The Golden Age of Arab Science at Institut du Moderne Arabe, Paris, 25 October through March 2006

The intellectual flowering of the Arab world led to remarkable advances in all branches of science. Arabic-speaking scientists carried the torch of knowledge to new heights and into new disciplines. This exhibition presents Arab achievements across fields of scholarship and science, showing its application in practical forms.

Lawrence of Arabia: The life, the legend Imperial War Museum, London, 14 October, 2005 – 17 April, 2006

Marking the seventieth anniversary of the death of T.E. Lawrence, this major biographical exhibition explores the life of an extraordinary and complex man. It will cover his early years, his wartime experience in the Middle East and the role he played in the Arab Revolt, his growing fame after the war and his writing of *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*; his 'disappearance' and his untimely death. A final section looks at the 'Lawrence legend' in books, films and the media.

The exhibition will feature a wide range of original material, including letters, diaries, his Arab robes, photographs, film, paintings and memorabilia.

Black Victorians: Black People in British Art 1800-1900, Manchester Art Gallery, 1 October-8 January; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 28 January – 2 April

The exhibition explores the presence of people of African descent in British art. The exhibition of around a hundred works in a range of media is divided into themes: Artist's Models, Anti-Slavery, Into and Out of Africa; Portraits, Fiction and Fantasy and Queen Victoria.

Pilgrimage – The Sacred Journey at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 11 January to 2 April, 2006

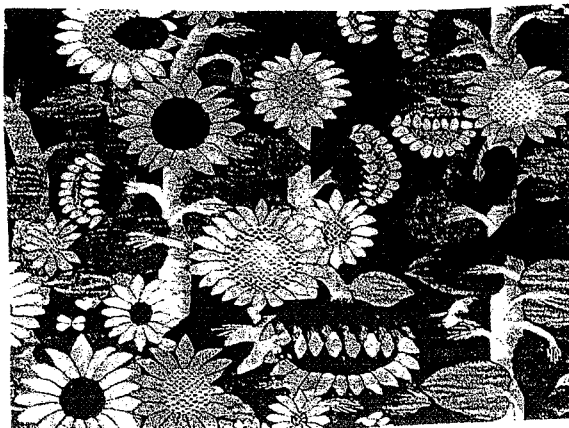
This exhibition will explore the role of pilgrimage in Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and the religions of India. The design of the exhibition is thematic: *Departure* looks at pilgrimage as a separation from daily life, in a search for physical and spiritual

well-being. It will include the Bodleian's Kennicott Bible, a 16th century Indian or Persian Quar'an and a medieval English alabaster relief panel of the Three Magi. The central piece of *The Journey* will be a spectacular map of the Holy Land; other pieces are astrolabes and instruments to determine the direction of Mecca, and an account of an English traveller's journey to Jerusalem in 1462. On the pilgrimage route, travellers stop at lesser shrines, shown under *Sacred Space*, considering how religious buildings need to fulfil devotional requirements. *The Central Shrine* – the destination of pilgrimage – includes a 17th century model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The final section, *The Return*, includes pilgrims' memorabilia and souvenirs – and the Ashmolean hopes to include contemporary objects, perhaps on loan from local people. A generously illustrated publication will accompany the exhibition.

Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre and anniversary London show

Egyptian souvenir and crafts shops can be very similar wherever you go, but not this one. Situated in the village of Haraniya between Giza and Saqqara, it is only reachable by taxi. Named after the founder, it is run by Ramses' daughter, Suzanne Wissa Wassef and her manager, Alfonso Azziz, who speak English and French as well as Arabic.

So what is different about this art centre? It began fifty years ago as a means of employment for some village women. Ramses' wife Sofi drew and painted large canvasses – one of date palms superbly drawn in pencil hangs in the associated museum/art gallery – and they taught the women how to weave. There is now a complex of little domed workshops built of traditional mud bricks. Each room is sufficient for a couple of looms with seated women weavers (and sometimes a baby nearby). They seem to be illiterate – yet they produce complex colourful woven tapestries (see detail) without any preliminary drawings and woven sideways. Most are large enough for wall hangings, and some are enormous – taking years to make. Subject vary from colourful designs to pictures of busy village life, plants, animals and Biblical scenes such as Adam and Eve. Each is a unique work of art in itself. I also noticed a young man doing a small tapestry in fine cotton thread which took him as long to do as some larger ones in wool.



Of course, the large ones for sale in the shop are very expensive, but there are smaller tapestries costing much less. Suzanne herself creates innovative pottery objects at a reasonable price.

The associated gallery is open to the public and shows off the best works purchased by the weavers and exhibited from time to time in USA, UK and elsewhere, making the workshop known worldwide. The 50th Anniversary Show will be in the Brunei Gallery of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 19 January to 12 March 2006. For further details see website www.wissawassef-arts.com

F. Nigel Hepper

BBC HIGHLIGHTS TRAVELLERS IN EGYPT

From Sunday 30th October for six weeks BBC1 will present a series of hour-long programmes, using a three story device to re-create ancient Egypt on a grand scale. This is "a drama-driven" series about "the intrepid adventurers, archaeologists and explorers ... as they travelled through Egypt in the 19th and 20th centuries." The series will also reveal "the Ancient Egypt whose secrets and belongings the adventurers were so desperately in search of."

The first programme will present Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb; then "the young French genius" Champollion's decipherment of the hieroglyphs follows; the last two programmes consider "The Great Belzoni, a jack-of-all-trades and diehard adventurer." One may feel we've been on Carter's excavation rather frequently, but the other programmes should provide much to consider. There will be videos and DVDs available should you miss any of the series.

Having watched the BBC's interpretation of events, one may be especially interested in visiting the related exhibition of Carter's finds at Highclere Castle.

VISITS

Highclere Castle: Cedars of Lebanon, Charles Barry and Tutankhamun

As we approached Highclere Castle through its wide parklands, I thought, "I've never seen so many Cedars of Lebanon together outside Lebanon." Highclere is the home of the Earls of Carnarvon of Tutankhamun fame. The architect of the 'Italianate castle' and much of its interior (1838-42) was Charles Barry – fresh from building the Houses of Parliament and the Traveller's Club, and remodelling Kingston Lacey, home of William Bankes – whom he had met on the Nile in 1818-19.

And there it stands – surrounded by all those Cedars. The guide explains them.. In 1770, Henry Herbert, the 3rd Earl, had inherited Highclere from his uncle and was improving the landscaped park. His cousin, the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, offered to send him "400 exotic tree seedlings

called Cedars of Lebanon". Henry replied: "Thank you for your nice offer but I pray you ... send me 4000 as I have plenty of room in my Park." He was sharply rebuked and told he was lucky to get any at all... But how was it that his cousin, was able to offer the "400 exotic seedlings" in 1770? *Does any reader know? Please let the Editor know.*

Another Highclere/ASTENE link is to Henry Beechey, Henry Salt's secretary in Egypt, and on the Nile too in 1818-19. His father, the fashionable portrait painter, Sir William Beechey, painted Henry, 1st Earl (1800) and the Earl's four children (with a rather fierce dog) (c.1795).

It was the 5th Earl – and after his death, his widow (who had helped on the dig in 1920) - who financed the expeditions which climaxed in the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, by Howard Carter with Carnarvon's daughter, Lady Evelyn digging too. Some of these finds are displayed in the small museum at Highclere. Then in 1987 – when the 6th Earl died – there was a new discovery for the 7th Earl: mysterious wrapped packages were between the Drawing Room and Smoking Room - long-forgotten finds by the 5th Earl from earlier expeditions (1907-20).

And, having seen all this, one can walk under the two century old Cedars and their offspring in the beautiful landscaped parkland and gardens.

Deborah Manley

Highclere Castle is a few miles from Newbury on the A34. It is open Monday-Friday and Sundays before summer Bank Holidays, 11 am – 3 pm. Admission: £7.50, £6 for seniors and students, £4 for children. Special group rates. The restaurant serves delicious food. 24 hour information line: 01635 253204. www.highclerecastle.co.uk

RESEARCH RESOURCES

This section of the Bulletin does not go onto the website, but provides information direct to members.

ASTENE'S RESEARCH DATABASE

During this summer we have been busy building up the archival information which is available only to ASTENE members through the Research Database on the ASTENE website. To access this you will need to enter the password for the current year. Should you not have received this separately in the Bulletin earlier this year, it is enclosed on a slip in this Bulletin. If you lose the password, please email Trisha Usick at usick@dircon.co.uk or write to the ASTENE administrative office.

Once you enter your password, you will find simple instructions on the screen for searching the database and a form which can be filled in either electronically or manually in order to send us your own contributions. Those who do not use a computer can send us information by using the

appropriate headings to fill in the form printed on the last page of this Bulletin. Photocopy it and send it in by post and we will put your information up on the database. Please photocopy the form if you need further copies.

We would like all members to contribute any useful sources for research which they may have discovered during the course of their work. Sharing research resources has always been a much appreciated feature of belonging to ASTENE and has usually been done informally between members, by mail or in person at conferences. Much of the research information which has been printed up in earlier Bulletins (but not included on the ASTENE open website) is now being added to the database where it can be easily searched and found by ASTENE members.

Research resources at the ASTENE Conference

At the well attended and enthusiastic session on Research Resources in Manchester, we received many helpful suggestions for additional information, including some very recent online additions with great potential. The session also included Peta Ree explaining how to access wills – which can tell us much about our travellers* - and Lorien Pilling who described his work on the ASTENE Journal Project for which members are investigating a list of less known archives held all over the UK. Reports from this research will soon be added to the Research Database.

One of our aims is to have all the abstracts from previous ASTENE conferences – both in UK and abroad - and day schools on the Research Database so that members can see which subjects have been researched in the past or are currently being studied. Members will then be able to contact the individual authors if they would like to obtain a copy of an unpublished paper.

During our own research we all uncover sources of information which can be of inestimable value to other members. Remember it is not the material you are working on which needs to be shared but the extraordinary world-wide hoards of information which you are discovering. This is your Research resource. Please look at it, use it and enable us to add to it. *Trisha Usick and Henrietta McCall*

*** A copy of her paper is available. Please send a stamped addressed A4 envelope to 57 Plantation Rd, Oxford OX2 6JE marked 'Wills'.**

ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

At the Manchester Conference Lorien Pilling gave an enthusiastic account of his work on this project which is collecting and recording information about little known journals of travellers, often lying in unlikely archives. This important research information is now being added to the ASTENE Research Resources website. We are therefore renewing our search for volunteers willing to report

on manuscript journals in archives near to them. This is a project for which ASTENE, with its membership scattered across Britain, is especially well fitted.

How the Project works

Volunteers are supplied with references for the material and a form to complete which records the main content and method of access of the materials. This is now being added to the ASTENE Research Resources website for other ASTENE members use. Details of access will appear in the next Bulletin.

The time required depends on the complexity of the material and the detail you wish to supply. We also welcome articles based on this research for the Bulletin.

If you would like to offer help in any of the places listed below, please contact Deborah Manley on debmanley@beeb.net or by phone or fax on 01865 310284:

Aylesbury, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, East Sussex Record Office, Liverpool, London (British Library, India Office Library, Friends' Society Library, National Army Museum, National Maritime Museum), Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield, Shrewsbury

A new entry

Following a query in Bulletin 24 from Michael Gillam about his ancestor, Captain S.C. Plant, he was contacted by Christopher Young who is studying the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company which employed S.C. Plant – giving him his first command and providing him with the experience of river navigation that led to his great work in the Upper Yangtze. Michael Gillam will shortly be supplying information about S.C. Plant for the ASTENE Journal Project.

DATES AND DAYS

www.nyrevels.org/calendar.html

Despite its dubious appearance members can use this website to show what day any date (since 1st January 1583!) fell on - which may be of some use in research. I've used it and found it very handy to contextualize the travel journals of George Adam Smith, who gives dates but not days. Hope it's useful to others. *Edwin Aiken*

THE SKILLITER CENTRE FOR OTTOMAN STUDIES

This Centre is a significant resource for ASTENE members researching across the region, but most especially those focusing on Ottoman history.

In 1985 Dr Susan Skilliter, a Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, and the University's lecturer in Turkish, left a unique legacy to the College = her outstanding collection of works on the Ottoman Empire, and a rare books collection dating from the 16th century. Her expertise was Ottoman history,

specialising in the early diplomatic relations between England and the Ottoman Empire.

Her endowment has enabled a research centre to be established in Newnham, supporting research into the history, literature and culture of the Ottoman Empire.

Bursaries enable scholars to undertake research in Cambridge or elsewhere. The Centre hosts international conferences and workshops, and produces a range of publications on specialist topics.

For further information contact:

The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies,
Newnham College, Cambridge CB3 9DF. Tel:
01223 335804; Fax: 01223 357898;

E-mail: skilliter.centre@newn.cam.ac.uk.

Website: www.newn.cam.ac.uk/skilliter

POPULARITY OF OXFORD'S GRIFFITH INSTITUTE WEBSITE

In May and June this year requests for items from on the Griffith Institute's website exceeded one and a half million each month! The address is www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/Griffith.html

There was a recent invitation from the Griffith Institute to see some of their completed Archive projects: new housing of drawings and watercolours by H.F. Garrett and Alfred Wood in Sudan 1911-12 and 1914; the restored Egyptian albums of Sir Charles Barry dating to 1818-19; newly presented 19th century albumen prints of Egypt. The Griffith Institute is based in the Sackler Library, St John's Street, Oxford, beside the Ashmolean Museum.

SOCIETY FOR ARABIAN STUDIES

The Society supports and encourages research in Arabia, making the results as widely known as possible. It awards research and publications grants. Membership is open to all who are interested in the history and culture of Arabia. A wide range of lectures are given during the year by recognised authorities on aspects of the archaeology, history, culture and natural history of Arabia and its neighbours. There is an annual *Society for Arabian Studies Bulletin*. Inquiries about membership to The Hon. Secretary, Society for Arabian Studies, The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

RESEARCH AS IT WAS

In stark contrast to the access to the above information, Dorothy Anderson in her article about Viscountess Strangford writes of her own experiences of research in the 1970s.

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

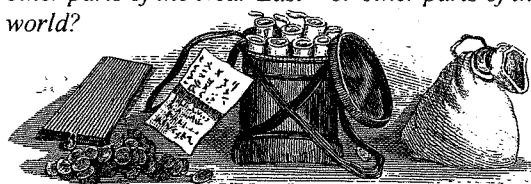
The Oxford New Dictionary of National Biography required its authors to provide details of where people were buried – tomb stones and memorial

plaques can reveal much... or even lead one unexpectedly to an ASTENE traveller.

Ashley Jones provided us with this information:

General Sir Charles Warren, Royal Engineers, (1840-1927), soldier, colonial officer, later Commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, in 1867 went to Palestine in command of the survey. Astonishing work was done in Jerusalem where the Royal Engineers surveyed the city using underground sewers/channels because they were not allowed to excavate from the surface. He died 21 January 1927 and is buried in Westbere churchyard, three miles from Canterbury.

Does anyone have knowledge of the graves, tombs and memorial plaques of travellers in Egypt or other parts of the Near East – or other parts of the world?



BOOK REVIEWS

The ASTENE Bulletin Reviews Editor is Edwin Aiken. He can be reached at 1 Ulster Avenue, Annalong, County Downe, BT34 4TX.

In Bulletin 24 Dr Robert Morkot reviewed Women Travellers in the Near East pre-publication. As it is ASTENE own title, we asked Professor Joan Rees to review it further in this issue.

Women Travellers in the Near East, edited by Sarah Searight, ASTENE and Oxbow Books, 2005, 128 pp., £25 (see special offer to members), ISBN 1-84217-161-5

This book consists of nine essays by, with one exception, different hands, each supported by a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The emphasis is predominantly on the nineteenth century and the editor's introductory chapter sketches in the historical background – the slow decline of the Ottoman empire, the relatively greater ease of travel and the impulse to stretch their wings felt by women who in their own society were bound by restricted opportunities and limited expectations. This last fact sets into sharp relief the enterprise and strong individualities of those who undertook difficult and sometimes dangerous journeys, deliberately seeking to encounter and in one way or another come to terms with alien cultures and environments.

Being the firm and distinct characters they were, they are resistant to generalisation. Among them were the personally adventurous, but those who were not left their mark all the same. The correspondence, variously entertaining and illuminating, which was a natural medium for some, offers an

intimate glimpse of, for example, Lady Liston who first went to Constantinople in 1812. Then and afterwards she gave a stamp of her own – and flowers – to her husband’s embassies. She was followed a few years later by Princess Caroline and Lady Craven, ladies of colourful history who also wrote letters in which they passed on their impressions of people and places. In their turn they left notable impressions of one kind and another on those who encountered them.

Lucie Duff Gordon’s correspondence is of a quite different order, charged as it is with the knowledge and insight she acquired through years of living in intimate daily contact with “ordinary” Egyptians. Her letters are rich in content and literary skill and have survived to delight and inform visitors to this day. Amelia Edwards was different again. She was a professional writer whose one visit to Egypt in 1873 produced a classic of travel literature, *A Thousand Miles up the Nile*, and induced her to give up a successful career as a novelist and to devote her pen and her energies thereafter to nurturing the nascent science of Egyptology. Her work is noted here, but its range and professionalism lies rather outside the scope and style of this book. Sarah Belzoni’s *Trifling Account* of her life fits more comfortably and is given appreciative attention. Margaret Benson is remembered as the first woman to conduct and organise her own excavation in Egypt.

Georgina Muir Mackenzie and Paulina Irby were differently motivated from any of these. Travelling in the Carpathian Mountains in 1859, they were arrested and accused of Panslavism, an incident which, far from deterring them, had the effect of stimulating their interest in social and political issues. They became fervent champions of the south Slavs and devoted themselves to improving the conditions of Slav women. Georgina died in 1867, but Miss Irby continued to prosecute her causes with vigour. She lived on in Sarajevo until her death in 1911, the centenary of her birth in 1934 being commemorated there and throughout Yugoslavia.

Religious impulse inspired some women in their travels, as it did the American missionaries to whom one chapter is devoted, but the story of Isabella Bird’s pilgrimage to Sinai, told in detail for the first time here, is in a class of its own. Her journey to Sinai was taken for no social or other purpose but solely for the sake of seeing with her own eyes the sites of the Old Testament stories which she knew well. It was a journey of great rewards but also of much illness and many hardships. Her endurance and determination are extraordinary and so is her later career when she continued to travel in the East as far as China.

The advantage that women travellers had over their male contemporaries was their acceptance into harems, and Emmeline Lott’s account of life

there as a governess to the Grand Pasha of Egypt is strikingly different from the romanticised versions of excluded males. There are no male contributors to this volume except for Charles Plouviez and his “rather naughty English ladies”. The editor offers no comment on their absence, but Janet Starkey’s contribution, on “Perceptions of Women in the Eastern Desert of Egypt”, perforce relies largely on what male travellers were able to discover or deduce about her subjects. Elizabeth French’s “Archaeologist’s Wives as Travel Writers” likewise stands somewhat apart from the rest in that it expands the time frame to include accounts of two twentieth century expeditions. This brief look into a post-nineteenth century world, one of rapid scientific development and radical change in the position of women, invites another book, one which would inevitably be very different from the present volume. What form a successor should or could take is an interesting question. *Joan Rees*

***Medieval Views of the Cosmos* by E. Edson and Emily Savage Smith, Bodleian Library/ University of Oxford, 2004, 122 pp., £xxxx, ISBN 1851241841**

Medieval Views of the Cosmos is a work set to have wide appeal. Lavishly produced, copiously (although always usefully) illustrated, and representing good value, it will have obvious appeal for the general reader. Additionally it will also prove a useful text for those studying travel writing in Medieval times, or indeed the Medieval contribution to astrology and cosmology. Furthermore, the book will be of considerable value for those whose main research interest is the history of cartography. In addition to acknowledging the Medieval world’s inheritance from the Classical era, the book examines both Christendom and the Islamic world’s contribution to science, cartography and astrology. Notions such as the erroneous claim that the Medieval world believed the Earth to be flat, or that religion was at that period the enemy of scientific enquiry, are shown to be modern misconceptions.

This is a work which is set to find its way onto both coffee tables and study bookshelves, and is deserving of space on both.

J.A. Aiken, School of Philosophical Studies, Queen’s University, Belfast

Note: Dr Emily Savage Smith of the Oriental Institute, Oxford will be introducing to ASTENE members the “Book of Curiosities” in the New Bodleian Library.

***The First Crusade: A New History* by Thomas Asbridge, London: The Free Press, 2004, P/B 408 p, colour plates, ISBN 0-7432-2084-6, £8.99**

So much praise has already been heaped upon this work that it’s hard to know where to begin to sing its praises; I vainly reach for my thesaurus for more

worthy words. Perhaps my energies are just as well deployed in noting the relative lack of work that ASTENE has thus far devoted to the Crusaders. Here is an excellent stimulus for an additional focus for the zeal of our membership for research.

Asbridge is painstakingly precise, relentlessly chronological (perhaps only a geographer considers this worthy of pointing out) and bewitchingly fluent. The crusade and its leaders come to life in an enthralling tale of adventure, luck, greed, religion, brutality and intrigue. This is a story which pays no mere lip service to homicide.

Beginning with the re-establishment of Papal authority by Gregory VII and taking us to the call to crusade by Urban II, we first follow the pulses of Europe before the First Crusade sets out, and then the journey itself. En route, as it were, battle after battle is described using a range of contemporary sources and accounts, from mere skirmishes to the siege of Antioch, and the capture of Jerusalem itself, bringing us to the return of the few surviving Crusaders to Europe.

Along the way Asbridge has paid careful attention to the cultural, political, spiritual and intellectual factors surrounding the Crusaders' efforts and quite unbelievable successes. Political negotiations among the Crusader Princes and with Alexius, Emperor of Byzantium, are painted with small brushes and a rich palette; spiritual motivations along the way are in delicate, expressive relief; the broader picture of European society is nonetheless clear, and has yielded its soul generously to Asbridge's sensitive telling.

A fine Christmas present for any ASTENE member – whichever side you consider yourself on.... *Edwin Aiken, School of Geography, Queen's University, Belfast*

Note: Dr Tom Asbridge will talk on 'The course of the First Crusade' on Saturday 6 May 2006 at a Rewley House day school in Oxford on the First Crusade.

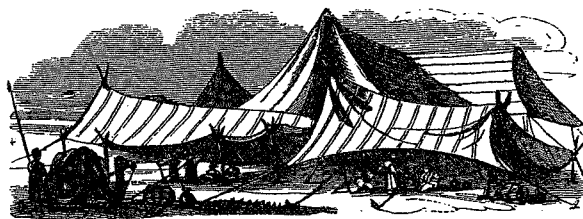
***Lady Hester, Queen of the East* by Lorna Gibb, Faber and Faber, 2005, h/b 268 pp., £14.99, ISBN 0-571-21753-2**

Between 1803 and 1806, when William Pitt was First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, his niece, Lady Hester Stanhope, then in her late twenties, acted as mistress of his household at Walmer Castle and Downing Street. Thirty-three years later Hester died, destitute and crazed, in a decrepit house on the outskirts of a Lebanese village. Her riches to rags story has been told many times, but never better than in this book by Lorna Gibb. The book's strength is in its roots: in the impressive amount of documentary and other source material of which Gibb has made us aware and which ranges from Hester's own letters – found in a dozen different archives in England – to the half-remembered, orally transmitted stories which are still current in one of the Lebanese villages in

which Hester stayed from time to time. Gibb's hard-earned knowledge of the primary sources, combined with her familiarity with more recent literature has enabled her to produce a biography packed with information about every aspect of Hester's life.

There are occasional inaccuracies in the book, most of them of little consequence, and, surprisingly, there are a few places where her text differs markedly from that of the original documents.

Gibb has written about a notoriously difficult subject, a woman of complex characteristics, about whom it is almost impossible to give a dispassionate account, and the task is made harder by the aura of romantic sentiment and legend which has grown up round her. Gibb treats her sympathetically but avoids indiscriminate praise and does not shrink from recording her weaknesses, her often foolish behaviour, her superstitions and



delusions from which she suffered and the wild and cruel temper which in later life she could not control. Nevertheless, although the reader knows that the author is striving to be fair and impartial in her judgements, he knows "which side she is on" from the beginning, from these words in the prologue: "it is far too easy to forget how important and wonderful the Queen of the East was". At this point I, the reviewer, must record that I differ from the author. It seems to me that the facts hardly warrant the above quoted phraseology; Hester's importance was local and fleeting and she was never "Queen of the East" or anything like it. The nearest she got to it was on her journey to Palmyra, one of her proudest achievements; no European woman had been there before her. When she reached the ruins, her well-rewarded Bedouin guides and protectors put on a colourful "fantasia" for her. (Gibb should surely have known better than to repeat that "beautiful adolescent girls ... scantily dressed in loose transparent robes" posed on the pillars). The women then placed a circle of flowers on her head and hailed her as "the queen of the desert". That was it.

As for the word "wonderful", I would not use it myself. She was remarkable, certainly; she took a ship-wreck in her stride in 1811 and acted with great courage during the civil strife of the 1820s in Lebanon and the Egyptian invasion of the 1830s. She successfully defied the great men of the time – Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt, his Mehmet Ali Pasha, and Amir Bashir of Lebanon, and despite their efforts to

stop her, she made her house an inviolable refuge where women, children and even “enemy” fighting men were fed and cared for. Yet, at much the same period, during frenzied outbursts of rage, she would thrash her own servants and slaves for committing petty misdemeanours. Wonderful?

Perhaps none of these expressions of opinion should be in a book review. They reflect my opinion of Hester rather than of Gibb’s book, and might therefore be considered irrelevant. My opinion of the book, on the other hand, is relevant – and I think highly of it. *Norman N. Lewis*

***Visions of Ararat: Writings on Armenia* by C.J. Walker, London/New York: I.B. Taurus, pp. viii + 157, p/b £12.99, ISBN 1-85043-888-9**

Historic Armenia was much larger than today’s Republic, but between 1375 and 1918 it had no political independence. Rather it became divided between the Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires. Armenia was not a closed country, however, and English travellers passed through from the late 16th century onwards. Christopher Walker, an expert on Armenia, introduces a selection of these and excerpts from their descriptions of land and people, but he also quotes other English writers who did not visit, for example, Byron on his efforts to learn Armenian and Gibbon on Armenian religion.

The picture which emerges is of an idyllic landscape, occupied by an industrious, peaceful and happy people. Despite the rigours of the Russian occupation of Armenian territory and the persecution and population transfers under Savafids Persia, both of which get scant mention, Walker suggests that all would have been well for the Armenians as a whole but for the ‘wicked Turk’, with his inclination to persecute and murder Christians, especially Armenians. Walker quotes Gladstone’s speeches on the Armenian massacres of 1894-96 and the British Government’s command paper of 1916, largely compiled by Arnold Toynbee, on the massacres and allegedly planned genocide of 1915. Walker has hardly anything to say about what provoked these terrible events. He plays down the emergence of an Armenian nationalist movement with a terrorist wing, like similar movements in the European provinces of the Ottoman Empire. No mention is made of the Armenian attacks and Muslim deaths which, for instance, preceded the notorious massacres at Sasun (1894) and Adana (1909) or of the more than a million Muslims driven out of their homes in eastern Anatolia by the Russians and Armenians, mainly in 1915. Moreover, Walker’s claim that the cynical Allies at the end of the First World War forgot the plight of the Armenians is misleading. *Peacemakers* by Margaret Macmillan (John Murray, 2001) shows that the Armenian Question was very much in the minds of the allied statesmen,

though little of practical use emerged for even the clauses in the Sevres Treaty (1920), which created an independent Armenia (Section VI), could not be enforced and were overtaken by events in the region. Altogether, then, Walker has produced an interesting compilation but an impaired vision.

Malcolm Wagstaff

***The Art of the Islamic Garden* by Emma Clark, The Crowood Press, Ramsbury, Marlborough, 2004, 208 pp., £25 – ISBN 1-86126-609X**

On a hot, dusty day in the Mediterranean area there is nothing better than to pass from a traffic-filled street into a walled garden. Here, among the shady trees and fragrant flowers, one can relax to the sound of trickling water. Sounds like paradise! Well, that’s precisely where our word ‘paradise’ and the associated link with heaven comes from.

The author of this book, Emma Clark, is a professional garden designer who has exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show another design at no less a garden than Prince Charles’ at Highgrove. She is also a British convert to Islam – so there are frequent quotations from the Quran and the sayings of the Prophet, as well as stress on the spiritual significance of the over all design and details of each feature of an Islamic garden. In fact, this book could have been sub-titled “How to design an Islamic garden in Britain”. The essential ingredient of water (pool or fountain or both) is repeatedly stressed with the fourfold pattern of the hard landscaping and its symbolism, of course, and the appropriate colouring. The Quran mentions many fewer plants than the Bible, so the selection is limited and a much wider list is suggested. The author occasionally mentions the Bible and ‘Christian gardens’ such as those in monasteries – but unlike the fixed pattern of an Islamic garden, I doubt whether the same applies since a Bible garden can have any design as it is the species of plants that carry the symbolism. She cited my *Bible Plants* but evidently overlooked my *Planting a Bible Garden* which is more relevant. There are useful details about tiles and colour, walls and seating, and a whole chapter on water.

The book is beautifully illustrated with colour photographs of historic Islamic gardens from Spain (Seville, Granada, Cordoba), to Morocco (Marakesh), Egypt, Syria, Iran and India (Taj Mahal). Although I doubt whether any ASTENE member will construct one themselves, this book could be an interesting reference and source of information about such gardens. *F. Nigel Hepper*



***The 8:55 to Baghdad* by Andrew Eames, Corgi Books, London, 2005, p/b £7.99**

To train lovers – and others – Andrew Eames provides visions of the past glories and present uncertainties of obscure trains from Sunningdale to Baghdad as he follows Agatha Christie in 1928. *The 8:55* is a wonderfully researched book with the research carefully braided together with Christie's journeys and Eames' own 2002 experience.

This is a book not only full of history and observation but also full of humour. Eames often made me laugh out loud. "Trieste – the last full stop in Western Europe before the alphabet begins to change."; a splendid description of the fog-filled Nur ad-Din Hammam in Damascus; Palmyra – "a true precursor of a Warner Village, a 2000 year old retail park on the by-pass."; not very kind observations of other Brits on a most unlikely tour of pre-war Baghdad. I was really sad to reach the journey's end, and wanted to seek out and re-read Agatha Christie's own *Come Tell Me How You Live* and *They Came to Baghdad*.
Deborah Manley

Eames thanks ASTENE Committee member, Henrietta McCall for her help with information about Max Mallowan and Mesopotamian archaeology.

***Crete: Women, History, Books and Places* by Susanna Hoe, Holo Books, Oxford, 2005, 408 pp, b/w illus, £9.99, ISBN 0-9537730-7-8**

This is the second in a series, "Of Islands and Women", providing history and itineraries of place linked to women's travels and experiences. A good index and thorough bibliography and frequent extracts give the reader a clear focus. Within the text, the traveller – whether armchair or on the ground – meets many women's writing alongside an unusually thorough background history of the island. Among the travellers are people familiar to us: Harriet Boyd, Mary Chubb, Jacquetta Hawkes and Mary Renaault; and travellers less known in this context: Hilda Pendlebury, Lady Mary Wortlet Montagu among them.

Susanna Hoe has created a guide which gives both an unusual introduction to Crete and will recreate the island for those who have been there before. It is a great guide for those interested in travellers.
Deborah Manley

***Royal Tombs of the Kings of England*, by Dr Aidan Dodson, Duckworth, 2004**

One may well do a double take when reading the title of this book by the well-known Egyptologist and ASTENE member, Dr Aidan Dodson. "Royal tombs" presents no problem, but one would expect to see "Ancient Egypt" rather than "Great Britain". Dr Dodson brings to bear all his research prowess to produce a book that is informative, comprehensive, and even surprising. All the rulers of Great Britain are treated starting with Raedwald, the probable occupant of the spectacular Sutton Hoo

burial, who lived at the beginning of the 7th century, and ending with George VI, who died in 1952. Burials are not limited to the British Isles since several Normans are buried in France and George I in Hanover. The arrangement of the book is basically chronological, allowing for overlaps of the early English kingdoms and the parallel reigns of the Scottish kings up to James VI/I.

The book can be enjoyed on several levels from armchair reading to ready reference, and my strong recommendation is to take it to each site to fully appreciate your visit.

I tested the book with two companions at both the St George's Chapel of Windsor Castle and at Westminster Abbey. At Windsor we spent an enjoyable morning stopping at the tombs, reading about their history and their occupants. I had assumed that once a British ruler was laid to rest, he or she was left in peace. But this was no more true of British than of Ancient Egyptian rulers.

I recommend this book to everyone with an interest in British history in general and a love of travel to places of specific historical interest. It should be sold in the bookshops of such places as Westminster Abbey so visitors can augment their experience. Dr Dodson is to be applauded for noting the lack of such a guide and supplying it with all the scholarly exactness we expect of him.
With thanks to Dag Bergman and Deborah Manley.

Diane Bergman

***The Orientalists: Western Artists in Arabia, the Sahara, Persia and India* by Kristian Davies Laynfarah, New York, 2005, hb. 304 pp large format, full colour illustrations throughout, £40 in UK, ISBN 0-9759783-0-6**

This splendid book will be reviewed in the next issue of the Bulletin, but we recommend you to look at it.

***From Empire to Orient: Travellers to the Middle East 1830-1926* by Geoffrey Nash, 264 pp., I.B.Taurus, £24.50, ISBN 1 85043 767 X**

We plan to bring you a review of Geoffrey Nash's book in the next Bulletin.

OTHER BOOKS

TRAVELLERS' CATALOGUE

At regular intervals I receive a catalogue from the Traveller's Bookshelf near Bath, and go through it with great interest. Catalogue 35 in August included Clara Clements' *Constantinople: The City of the Sultan* (1895); Lady Frances Egerton's *Journal of a Tour in the Holy Land* (1841); H. St J. B. Philby's autobiography (1948); and Malise Ruthven's *Freya Stark in the Levant, among much else*. Of course such books don't come cheap, but then nor do they come often.

To join the mailing list write to The Traveller's Bookshelf, Canal House, 64 Murhill, Limpley Stoke, Bath BA2 7FQ, England; Telephone 01225 722589; Email jenny@travellersbookshelf.co.uk

BUY YOUR OWN HOTEL

Unexpectedly I came upon an Egyptian reference in The Africa House by Christina Lamb (Penguin Books, 2004). It is the extraordinary story of one man's dream house and life in Zambia in the inter-war years, but on page 28 is this about his aunt and uncle, Ethel and Hugh Locke King:

Hugh's weak chest meant that for the first years of their marriage they had wintered in Egypt, like many fashionable couples. As Ethel was unable to find a hotel luxurious enough for her tastes in which to stay for four to six months each year, they acquired Mena House, a former royal hunting lodge of the Khedive Ismail at the foot of the Pyramids, and converted it into an English country house, keeping the oriental décor, but installing great log fireplaces in every room and filling it with antiques. Deciding it would be fun to turn it into a hotel 'to end all hotels', no expense was spared in designing a dining room to look like the interior of a mosque, beautiful Moorish lamps hanging from the domed ceiling, acquiring carved *mashrabia* furniture inlaid with ivory and mother-of-pearl and installing latticework balconies leading from French windows in every bedroom so that guests could breakfast out of doors, something unheard of in hotels at that time.

Deborah Manley

There is a bit more, but, if you visit Mena House, you can ask for the history which they published a few years ago. I was given a complementary copy.

IT IS NEEDFUL TO HAVE MORE MEN

A friend of mine who lived in Sudan has given me a treasure – a well-thumbed little green-covered book: *Egyptian Arabic Self-taught* by Major R.A. Marriott DSO with supplementary vocabulary by Negib Hindie (London, 1907, 6th edition). Major Marriott thanks Professor Flinders Petrie and others for revision of the proofs and suggestions made. My friend recommended page 72 as being very useful for those visiting Egypt for the purposes of excavation... We reproduce it for you.

Query: Does anyone know anything of Major R.A. Marriott DSO or Negib Hindie?

TRAVEL LIKE A VICTORIAN

Lisa French drew our attention to an article in The Times 11 June 2005 under this title by Tom Chesshyre about "the latest UK travel craze – voyaging like a Victorian, with an old copy of a Baedeker or Murray tucked under your arm."

For years I have taken Amelia Edwards as my guide book for Egypt and read her description of

Karnak within the great hypostyle hall. I have taken Murray to Simla and found the houses that have their names marked on the town plan of 1900. I have taken Harriet Martineau to Petra and there read her descriptions.

The article quoted Jonathan Keates, "one of the country's foremost guidebook collectors" as saying "Modern guides could learn a lot from old ones: not to be afraid of giving people more facts, that people have greater attention spans and not to talk down to people."

Do others have experience of being guided through the ASTENE region by Victorian guide books?

SO MUCH KIT!

The American traveller, Reverend Stephen Olin, travelling to Mount Sinai, was critical of the goods and equipment which other travellers expected to have carried for them.

I have three camels, which is considerably below the proportion often taken by travellers. An English gentleman of the party has no less than eight. English travellers, however, who are commonly rich, carry two or three times as much baggage as other people. They take a larger inventory of bedding, clothes and furniture, and do not like to dine without plum pudding and London porter. All of this is troublesome, and costs a good deal more in the way of additional care than it is worth. In my own outfit, I proceeded on the principle of taking nothing which I could conveniently dispense with.

Directions to Workmen.

Bring a hoe	hāt turieh (v); hāt fas-(L) *
bring a basket	hāt ghalaq (muqtaf)
bring rope	hāt hābl
dig here	ifhat hena
take from before you	imsek min qodām
take from behind you	imsek min wara
make it wider	'amal-u was'a ziādah
deeper yet	ghawit lissā
go down deeper	inzel wāti lissā
go down to water	inzel lil moyyah
go down to native earth	inzel lil 'ard sāhīh
go thus	māshi keda
take care of it	bishweysh min deh (lit.,
leave it complete	khallīh salīm [slowly with it])
turn it over	iqlib-u
do not break the bricks	mā tiksar-ūsh et tūb

NOTES AND QUERIES

A NOTE ABOUT THE NOTES

The ASTENE Notes and Queries network is one of the Association's greatest assets, encouraging as it does the sharing of research knowledge between members. The Queries also appear on our website and have produced both answers and several new members. The 'Yellow Pages' – just re-issued electronically by Neil Cooke after a great deal of

hard work – is also a most useful way to learn who might know what about whom and where and when. The Research Resources sections of the Bulletin – which, like the Responses to Queries, are not put on the website – also make a helpful contribution. ASTENE's further contribution to research support is the Research Database on the website – also limited to membership.

QUERIES

ANY EXPERTS ON THE 19TH CENTURY EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OUT THERE?

Aidan Dodson is interested in verifying the identity of the 'Egyptian Minister of War' who was responsible for the discovery of a number of antiquities in the late 1820s. In particular, a sarcophagus that ultimately passed into the hands of the 10th Duke of Hamilton (and in which he was ultimately buried!) was found by him in 1828, and admired by Champollion, who bought the sarcophagus of Djedhor, now in the Louvre (D9-N.345), from the Minister.

Champollion calls the Minister ?Mahmoud-Bey?. However, this presents certain problems, as according to Khaled Fahmy, *All the Pasha's Men: Mehmed Ali, his army and the making of Modern Egypt* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), Mehmed Bey Lazoglu had died in 1827, and while Champollion was negotiating during 1828/9, the Director of Mohammed Ali's War Department, was his successor, Ahmed Pasha Yegin (d. 1855).

Any reader who can help resolve this paradox is invited to e-mail Aidan.Dodson@bris.ac.uk, or write to him at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, 43 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 100 – not forgetting to send a copy of their reply to the Editor of the Bulletin to share with other readers

AND OTHER MILITARY MEN

Does anyone know anything of Jules Planat, a staff officer in Mehemet Ali's army, whose letters from Egypt were published as *Histoire de la Regeneration de l'Egypte* in 1830? Please reply to Edwin Aiken, e.aiken@qub.ac.uk and to the Bulletin Editor.

What is known of the Scotsman, Wilson, who, like the American, George Bethune English, joined the Egyptian army, served in Senaar and then lived out a wretched existence on the edges of the Frank community in Cairo and met and was helped by John Carne in 1821-22? Please reply to debmanley@beeb.net

THE CURTIS LETTERS

The Archivist at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, Jean Bray, asks for the following information.

Who was Mr Curtis – the Arab-speaking gentleman who was employed in the summer of 1884, during the siege of Khartoum, to carry letters, newspaper articles and documents through the Mahdi's lines to General Gordon? A few of the photographically shrunken letters which he carried are kept in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives at King's College London and others, together with transcripts, are included in the Gordon/Brocklehurst Papers, but little is known of Mr Curtis himself.

I am currently writing a biography of General Gordon's friend, Captain John Brocklehurst, who organised the Curtis courier service and would be grateful for any information about Mr Curtis and his mission. If anyone can help, please could they contact Jean Bray, Archivist, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 5HU. Tel: 01242 602308. Fax: 01242 602959; e-mail: marketing@sudely.org.uk .

NAIRN LINE TO BAGHDAD

What is known of Nairn Line, created by two New Zealanders – Gerry and Norman Nairn – in 1923 as a motorised cross-country link between Beirut, Damascus and Baghdad? In 1926 they carried 1600 passengers, two years later 2500. In the 1930s the completion of the Orient and Tarsus Express was completed, and put the Nairns out of business. There are, I understand, accounts of travellers who went via the Nairn Line. What do readers know? *Deborah Manley*

PIERCE, KIRWAN AND/OR WEBBER SMITH?

Haim Goren is looking for any information concerning the following travellers between 1834 and 1837.

Robert Pierce – no further details known.

Charles Kirwan – Irish, travelled with G.H. Moore to Persia, and perhaps later in the Middle East.

Lieutenant Charles (?) Webber Smith, in Beirut in 1835, later in Greece

Please reply to goren@telhai.ac.il and the Editor.

A CHILD'S DREAM

We have had a rather unusual query from Professor Ruth Kark of the Department of Geography, Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She writes:

Many years ago I purchased a 19th century travel book at Hay-on-Wye (to those who don't know, this is a small Herefordshire town whose business is second-hand bookshops!). Stuck in the book was an unusual illustrated letter from a Royal Air Force officer to his daughter on the occasion of her fifth birthday. I wrote to the address in Scotland over 15 years ago, but was unable to locate the family. Heather Cottage had become a holiday let cottage and her respondent said "it would never again be used as a permanent home."

Any help in finding the daughter (or the father who must be in his eighties if still alive) would be much appreciated.

If you can suggest how Ruth might contact members of the Young family, please reply to her at mskarki@msee.huji.ac.il and let the Bulletin Editor know.

Ruth sent a copy of the original letter with its illustration. The letter reads:

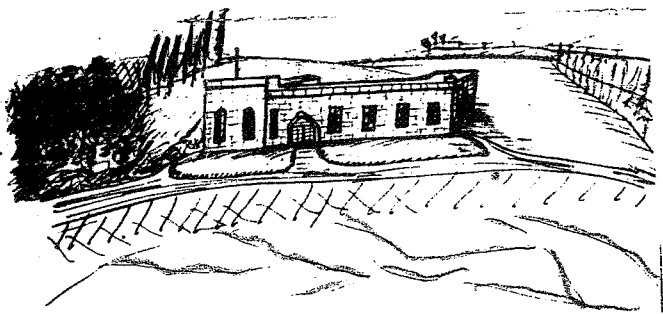
Miss Jennifer Young, Heather Cottage, Rockcliffe, Dalbattie, Scotland – 5th May 1943

This is the House that Daddy is planning to build Mummy, Chris and Pete and you when he comes back.

I have sent you a New Testament from Nazareth and a handbag from Cairo, for your birthday.

Many Happy Returns Daddy

Then there is a tiny sketch of a birthday cake with five candles and the number 5. Here is the illustration of the planned house.



REPLIES

The replies to Queries are not included in the ASTENE website.

THE VICTORIA HOSPITALS

James Rennie offered this information in reply to the queries in Bulletin 24 about Victoria Hospital in Cairo. Queen Victoria's eldest daughter was called after her. She married the Crown Prince of Prussia, who ultimately became the Emperor Frederick of Germany. The hospital in Cairo managed by Germans, which is mentioned in Bulletin 24 (page 10) must have been called after Princess Victoria, not her mother.

Augusta Victoria was the wife of Emperor William II who abdicated at the end of World War I. The hospital in Jerusalem mentioned at the end of the note about Cairo, must also have been German and called after her.

(See also the article about Lady Strangford that arose from this correspondence.)

DAVID HA-REUVENI'S VISIT TO THE FUNJ SULTANATE

Dr Jacke Phillips returned from an extended visit to Ethiopia to find Bulletin 24 with the query from

Professor Gaby Warburg. She was able to tell him that the text for the Nubian portion of Ha-Reuveni's journey, and further references to other parts of his journey elsewhere, can be found (in English translation) in Giovanni Vantini, *Oriental Sources Concerning Nubia* (Warsaw/Heidelberg, 1975). If this was not available in Israel, she offered to send him a copy of the pages.



ARTICLES

PALESTINE AND JORDAN (1500-1900)

We are very grateful to the writer Jane Taylor for offering us this review of Dr Hashim Khatib's wonderful exhibition at the Darat al-Funum in Amman between February and April this year.

This unusually interesting exhibition was held in the 'House of Arts' of the Khalid Shoman Foundation, a distinguished gallery and arts centre based in the handsome stone-built house that was once the home of F.W. Peake (Peake Pasha), creator and first commander of Jordan's Arab Legion, 1921-39.

The exhibition was entirely drawn from the well known collection of works of art on the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan belonging to Dr Hishab Khatib (an ASTENE member). Certainly one of the richest and most extensive collections on this subject still in private hands, it contains several hundred paintings (mainly watercolours), thousands of original photographs, an extensive collection of travel books, including many valuable plate books, and early maps, as well as atlases, lithographs and etchings. Although Darat al-Funum is fairly spacious, only a limited portion of the collection could be exhibited - the Palestine and Jordan sections - and the rich Egyptian component had to be omitted.

The quality and variety of the collection is the fruit of Dr Khatib's deep knowledge of the topography and monuments of the region, as well as of the artists, cartographers and photographers who have worked in it, his persistence in seeking out the best, and his patience in waiting for what he wants. With its emphasis on the top, and avoidance of oriental flights of fancy, the collection is of priceless documentary and historical value for its record of the life, monuments, people and customs of the region. Though rooted in the Ottoman period, and mainly in the 19th century, many of the works speak of a tradition that stretches back thousands of years.

Jerusalem inevitably formed the core of the exhibition. Paintings, lithographs and photographs record almost every part of its walls, streets, arched alleyways and mosques and churches at various

dates, and times of the day, and in varying states of repair. Even where no date is given, telltale features give clues – for example, we can see whether the Holy Sepulchre was drawn before or after 1868 by the state of the main dome, which was repaired in that year.

The Artists

The paintings are something of a roll call of major artists who worked in the Middle East in the 19th century, mainly watercolorists. One, by Carl Hagg, portraying Muslims at prayer beneath the Dome of the Rock, was placed side by side with a lithograph of the same scene, giving a fine comparison of differences in colour and detail. Other exceptional works are by Carl Werner, Tristram Ellis, Walter Tyndale, and Georg von Rosen. There is also an exquisite small view of the Pillar of Absalom in Jerusalem by William Holman Hunt, and a dashing watercolour of Jaffa, probably executed by John Singer Sargent on his visit to Palestine in 1905. Also displayed were three of William Simpson's dramatic sepia colour and wash drawings of underground Jerusalem executed at the time of the Palestine Exploration Fund's excavations in 1869.

Early works and maps

A 1486 topographical view of Jerusalem and the Holy Land is the oldest item in the collection, and there are several 16th century maps, including one published by Abraham Ortelius in 1584 and a Sebastian Munster of 1592. As a fascinating contrast to these early works, there are also examples of the first series of 'modern' maps, executed by Pierre Jacotin, a member of Napoleon's team of specialists after his conquest of Palestine in 1799. Then, from 1879, are the maps of the P.E.F.'s survey of western Palestine.

Apart from other Jerusalem, other towns such as Jaffa, Haifa, Acre, Bethlehem and Tiberius, were painted, engraved and photographed in sufficient variety to be able to compare points of view and the existence (or disappearance) of some features.

Books and photographs

The valuable plate books are of special interest, with rare works such as those of Louis de Forbin, Robert Hay, Achille Priss d'Avennes, David Roberts, and Charles van der Velde. Depictions of the monuments and landscapes in these books are enlivened by groups of local people in various everyday activities or in peaceful repose.

Of equal interest are the photographs which were displayed in a separate building. The earliest was an albumen print of Bethany by M.J. Diness, dated 1857; and from the 1860s were several photographs by Francis Frith and Frank Mason Good (including some of Petra), and a collection by H. Phillips, taken for the P.E.F.. The Bonfils family and the American colony are also well represented from the last decades of the 19th century, and some of the early stereoscopic photographs of Underwood and Underwood.

In conclusion

The exhibition continued over two months and was very well attended. An extensive catalogue accompanied it. It is to be hoped that at least parts of this remarkable collection will be exhibited outside Jordan in the future so that its richness and value can be shared by a wider audience. *Jane Taylor*



RECALLING LADY STRANGFORD AND HER REFUGEE WORK 1876-8 – AND RESEARCH

We sometimes forget that ASTENE's boundaries to the west include the Ottoman Balkans. Here a traveller who first appears in Egypt as Miss Emily Beaufort on the Nile in 1858-9, and is known for her travels in the Levant, is seen again in the Balkans in the 1870s.(1)

I first encountered the Viscountess Strangford when I was researching for *Miss Irby and her friends (2)*: Lady Strangford, Miss Irby and Miss Johnston were committee members of a relief fund, set up early in August 1876, to provide medical help for the Serbian army. It was one of the first of the funds that came into existence as the response of the British public to uprisings against Turkey throughout the Balkan provinces, with consequent severe reprisals.

The "Bulgarian atrocities agitation" swept through the country during the summer of 1876 with a great outpouring of meetings, the organising of relief funds and missions. The responses to subscription requests were overwhelmingly generous, with an equally generous response from volunteers ready to take aid to the Balkan people. In April 1877, when Russia declared war against Turkey, the earlier agitation blended with the appeals for new relief funds, aimed at attracting the attention of those whose sympathies were for the Turks and Russians.

In *The Balkans Volunteers* I brought together the stories of the relief organisations and of the doctors, nurses, amateur soldiers, relief workers, and their missions which were as geographically extensive, from Agram to Ezerum, from Bucharest to Constantinople, as their objectives. In my research I was constantly amazed at their courage and zeal, disturbed by their naivety and foolhardiness, and entertained by the rivalries and bickering that spilled over into meetings and letters: there were personal attacks that were far from charitable.

Lady Strangford was one of the most prominent of the volunteers, because of her position, her knowledge of the region, and her willingness to go directly into action: she proved a controversial figure, criticised by other fund organisers, always ready to refute any criticism. By mid-August she was requesting funds for her own venture, the Bulgarian Peasant Relief Fund, and was ready to leave immediately. She and her small group of doctors and nurses settled in Philippopolis, distributing clothing and food to villages, and setting up a hospital. She wound up her work in 1877, and, exhausted, returned to England.

At the beginning of June she was appealing for a new fund, the British Hospital and Ambulance Fund for the Sick and Wounded of the War, with its aim, the nursing of Turkish soldiers. She was in Adrianople with nurses and doctors by September, establishing a small hospital, then moving to Sofia, a bigger house, more beds. She was there in December when the Russian army arrived, was courteously treated, but left immediately.

After the fall of Plevna, Turkish soldiers and fugitives fled south. Three hundred thousand, it was believed, reached Constantinople between January-March 1878, and the city became one of refugees and refuges, of disease and near famine. Several British relief operations were there, fully occupied, and also the newly established Baroness Burdett-Coutts' Turkish Compassionate Fund. In March Lady Strangford arrived, planned a hospital for severely wounded soldiers, because, she considered, they were neglected. The group of nurses and doctors were still with her, and the hospital was set up in Scutari, staying open until September 1878.

*****8

In looking back through *The Balkan Volunteers*, I became very conscious of the differences in historical research, writing, and book presentation, since its publication in 1968. These were very much related to the changes through computer technology in the availability of information resources and the printing industry. In *The Balkan Volunteers*, the illustrations (from *The Graphic*) are gathered together, inserted mid-book, dark and murky. The sources are well set out, but there are no footnotes. This was a printing economy and the style of the time: footnotes were for academic works, omitted from historical books intended for the general readership. The differences are apparent in today's books, which can be elegant, are easy to peruse, illustrations with text; and are more efficient in revealing research details.

Today the whole undertaking of historical research is so different. Looking through the box files of material, I was reminded vividly of how much physical drudgery went into research, days spent within the inhospitable Colindale Newspaper Library, working through files for 1876-8, pencilled

transcribed notes, faded photocopies, barely legible. There are pencilled notes from the British Museum Manuscript Room, and from private papers hoarded in old tin boxes. My correspondence files show the helpfulness of individuals I approached, and are reminders of smudged carbon copies.

In the 1970s, as a Librarian, I was involved in international programmes concerned with the development of computer technology in libraries. We emphasised the immediate consequences: ease of cataloguing, sharing of bibliographical records, and envisaged more long term advantages; but we could not have anticipated the resulting explosion, the release of information resources in so many forms. Research work today, if still necessitating patience, attention to detail, can be of immediate interest and easy fulfilment.

Information technology has come, too, as a release to librarians and information workers. For so long – and certainly as late as the 1960s – librarians were bedevilled by the limitations of the card catalogue and human inadequacies in developing and pursuing it: with a response that was familiar, "I'm afraid that we won't be able to ..." Now, with facilities for searching and answers available, there is an eagerness in responding: "Yes, we are able to ..."

Dorothy Anderson

1. *The Balkan Volunteers* by Dorothy Anderson, London, 1968
 2. *Miss Irby and her Friends* by Dorothy Anderson, London, 1966
- Dorothy Anderson's third 'traveller biography' is *Baker Pasha: Misconduct and mischance*, London, 1999

THE GRAFFITI OF JEAN JACQUES CASTEX

Many of us will have read this inscription on the inner face of the first pylon of the great temple of Philae and wondered about it – and passed on.

L'AN 6 DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE
 LE 13 MESSIDOR
 UNE ARMÉE FRANÇAISE COMMANDÉE
 PAR BONAPARTE EST DESCENDUE
 À ALEXANDRIE
 L'ARMÉE AYANT MIS VINGT JOURS
 APRÈS LES MAMMELOUKS EN FUITE
 AUX PYRAMIDS
 DESAIX. COMMANDANT LA-
 PREMIÈRE DIVISION LES A-
 POURSUIVIS AU DELA DES
 CATARACTES OÙ IL EST ARRIVÉ
 LE 13 VENTÔSE DE L'AN7

LES GÉNÉRAUX DE BRIGADE
 DAoust FRIANT ET BELLIARD
 DONZELOT CHEF DE L'ÉTAT MAJOR
 LATOURNERIE COMMDE L'ARTILLERIE
 EPPLER CHEF DE LA 21^{me} LÉGÈRE
 LE 13 VENTÔSE AN7 DE LA RÉPLUBLIQUE
 LE 3 MARS AN DE Js Cst 1799

GRAVÉ PAR CASTEX SCULTEUR

Jean Jacques Castex was born 9 April 1731 in Toulouse, and died at the end of 1822 in Paris. It was he who carved the inscription on the inner face of the first pylon at the great temple of Philae, which commemorates the passage of the French soldiers. He also modelled in wax the zodiac of Dendera. In spite of his talent, he died in misery at l'hotel-dieu in Paris.

Castex also carved his name elsewhere as Roger de Keersmaecker records:

Dendara	East Osiris chapel : CASTEX (written in a rectangle)
Edfu	On the pylon CASTEX 1799 Pylon CASTEX
Gebel El-Silsila	Great speos of Haremhab, façade CASTEX Great speos of Haremhab, sanctuary CASTEX
Thebes	
Karnak	Hypostyle, great column (1) CASTEX sculpteur AN 7 Propylon, Karnak North CASTEX AN7
Luxor	Birth room, column (written in a rectangle) CASTEX AN 7

Valley of the Kings

(Jules Baillet, *Inscriptions grecques et latines des Tombeaux des Rois ou syringues a Thebes, p.v, Le Caire, 1926*)

Tombeau de Ramesses VI Ramesses V, petite sale du fond, mur oest sur le disque: CASTEX

Tombeau de Ramesses III, sale a droite, de la sale au pilliers, mur gauche CASTEX

Tombeau de Tausert, 1st sale, 1st pillier a droitr, a l'encre noire: CASTEX AN 7

Tombeau de Sethos II, dans le cabee, au gauche
CASTEX

Biographical and bibliographical details:

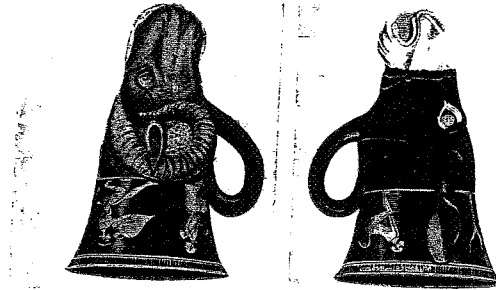
George Legrain, *Inscriptions Francais de Haute Egypte (Thebes, Esneh, Edfou, Assouan, Philae)*, Seances et travaux de l'Academie des sciences morales et politique, Compte rendu, Paris 1911, p.612 *passim*; Jean Tranie, J.C. Carmigniani, *Bonaparte: La campagne d'Egypte*, Paris, 1988, p.284

Roger O. De Keersmaecker

[To members who do not know Roger and his work, here is a summary of his brief autobiography from his third record: Philae, the Kiosk of Trajan, 2004.

He was born in Leopoldville (Kinshasa), Belgian Congo, 11 September 1931. When he was still very young he became interested in the Egyptian art, ... for a long time a trip to Egypt was as far away as a trip to the moon. In 1960 he married Helena Beeckman, and together they started visiting European Egyptian collections. In 1965 his long awaited dream became a reality: they went to Egypt for two weeks with three cameras and a lot of rolls of film. In the interior of the pylon of the temple of Edfu, Roger noticed his first graffito of John Gordon 1804.

Year after year he went back ... and in 1975 he was selected as photographer at the tomb of Padihorresnet at the Asasif (Theban necropolis). Later he worked for several seasons with the Belgian archaeological mission at Elkab. He had already started his research on early travellers' graffiti. He is the author, printer and publisher of the Travellers' Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan: www.egypt-sudan-graffiti-bej



NELSON'S GREEK POT?

The article appeared in full in The Ashmolean, Number 49, Summer 2005, and the author agreed to it being reproduced in the Bulletin. The ASTENE travellers in the article are in italics.

Thanks to the generosity of the late Noel Blatchley, the Ashmolean has received two watercolour sketches of considerable interest (2005.9-10). They show both sides of an Athenian red-figure animal head drinking vessel (*rhyton*), the original of which is now in the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. The object is rather odd, in that seen from one side it represents a ram's head, and from the other a mule's. The neck is decorated with a series of skinny satyrs.

The story behind them as told to me by Mr Blatchley (who bequeathed the drawings to the Museum), goes as follows. He was raised in the household of the Beaufort-Palmer family (descendants of *Admiral Beaufort* of Beaufort windscale fame), and in the 1940s found in an old sea chest lined with camphor wood a leather case containing both the Greek pot and the sketches. He took it to Newbury Museum, and the curator put him in touch with Professor Beazley in Oxford, who had an encyclopaedic knowledge of decorated Greek ceramics. ... when a few days later Mr Blatchley arrived at the Ashmolean, he found Beazley waiting for him on the steps "walking up and down and quivering with excitement". with a copy of Baron von Stackelberg's *Die Graeber der Hellenen* under his arm; for it was here that the pot in question had been published in 1837. ... Mr Blatchley made the mistake of asking what the pot was worth. "Priceless," came the answer. ... and the pot went off to Christie's where it was bought for the Walters for only £600. ...

The drawings were retained by the family, however, and when they were brought into the Museum by Mr Blatchley in 2003 they were immediately recognised as the work of *Thomas Burgon* (1787-1858).. He was a Turkey merchant

who lived in Smyrna until 1814, before returning to live in England. He subsequently revisited the Aegean several times, excavating and collecting antiquities. Athens and Melos were his favourite haunts. He was unable to make a living as a Turkey merchant, and instead became a member of the Coin Department of the British Museum. He offered his collection to the British Museum in 1842, but the numerous sketches he had made over the years eventually came to the Ashmolean. Many of them have recently been made available through the Burgon Archive Project:

<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/amulets/burgonarchive/index.html>

Not only is the style of Burgon's drawing distinctive, but so too is his tiny crabbed handwriting. The content of the inscriptions on Mr Blatchley's sketches, however, presents many problems. They both read 'Horatio Nelson, Feb. 8th, 1821, Tenedos'. Tenedos, the Turkish island at the mouth of the Dardanelles, is presumably where Thomas Burgon saw and drew the pottery *rhyton* on 8th February 1821. But what of the name 'Horatio Nelson'? Lord Nelson died at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Was it the name of a ship? HMS Horatio Nelson only exists in science fiction. The simplest answer is to assume that the *rhyton* once belonged to Nelson.

If so a possible scenario might go as follows: Nelson was famously the lover of Emma Hamilton, the wife of Sir William Hamilton, the British ambassador at the court of Naples. Hamilton was the owner of successive collections of Greek antiquities found in tombs in the environs of Naples and, in addition to fostering the arts of his day by supplying models that inspired craftsmen, he derived a considerable income from selling Greek pots to the British Museum. There are about three dozen *rhyta* and similar vessels known, more than half of them come from southern Italy, and most of them from Campania, Hamilton's hunting ground. Hamilton is known to have possessed another *rhyton* that was half ram's head and half boar's head, and decorated round the neck with pygmies and cranes. Although Stackenberg described the *rhyton* now in Baltimore as coming from Athens, he may have been mistaken, for very few such *rhyta* have been found in Greece (for all that they were made there). It is easiest to assume that the pot was found in Campania, had belonged to Hamilton, who gave it to Nelson, who had a leather travelling case made for it, and that it later belonged to whoever Burgon met on Tenedos on the eve of the Greek War of Independence. This was almost certainly not Admiral Beaufort, for his records (preserved in the Huntington Library in Pasadena) inform us that he was in Reigate in February 1921.

Michael Vickers

STOP PRESS !

As this Bulletin was about to go to press the postman delivered the catalogue for a sale at Sotheby's on Tuesday 11 October of "The Library of a Gentleman: Travel Books of the Middle East, Central Asia and Elsewhere".

The books can be viewed on Thursday and Friday 6-7 October 9 – 4:30; Sunday 9 October noon – 4 pm; Monday 10 October 9 – 4:30. The sale starts at 10:30 on Tuesday 11 October.

Among the authors and travellers included are:

Reverend George Percy Badger

John Lewis Burckhardt

James Bruce

Sir Richard Burton

Francis Rawdon Chesney

Pascal Coste

Sir Austen Henry Layard

James Justinian Morier

Emily Beaufort (Viscountess Strangford)

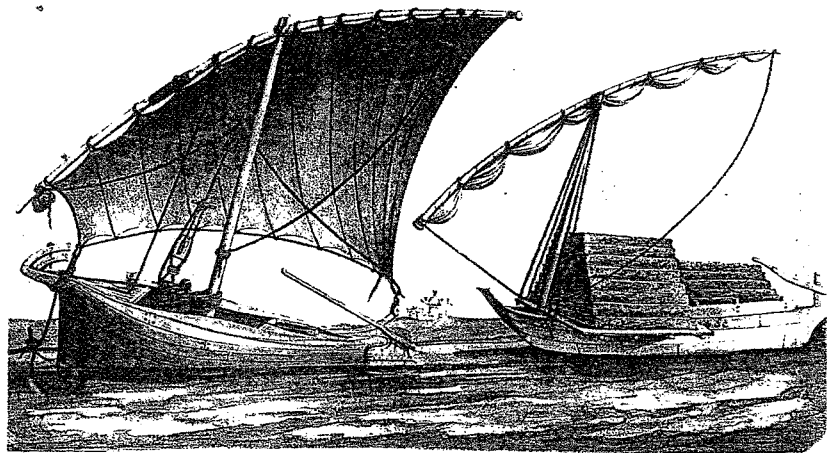
Carsten Niebuhr

Comte de Volney

William Macmichael (with Thomas Legh's second journey)

Claudius Rich

The generously illustrated catalogue is itself a most attractive bibliographical document.





Please use the headings below for your research material.

The first heading, 'Subject of Research Material' is mandatory and must have an entry for the search facility to function. Any of the other fields can be left blank, however, please note there is a strict limit of 350 words under each heading. In order to aid the search please standardise the transcriptions of place names and royal and personal names to the following:

For Egypt: J.Baines and J. Malek, 1996. *Atlas of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford.

For the Near East: M. Roaf, 1990. *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the ancient Near East*. New York.

For Greece: R. Morkot, 1996. *The Penguin Historical Atlas of ancient Greece*. London, New York.

Subject of Research Material: Insert subject of research material. Please enter a word or short phrase. (Mandatory)

Name of Traveller: Insert name of traveller , e.g. WILKINSON, (Sir) John, Gardner

Alias: Nickname, variant, alternative spelling, etc.

Birth / Death: Dates.

Place Of Birth: Place and country.

Biographical Information:

Places Of Travel: Please standardise names by using the above atlases if possible.

Travel Companions: Spelling variants or nicknames should be added.

Archival Material: Contact name and address of the archive.

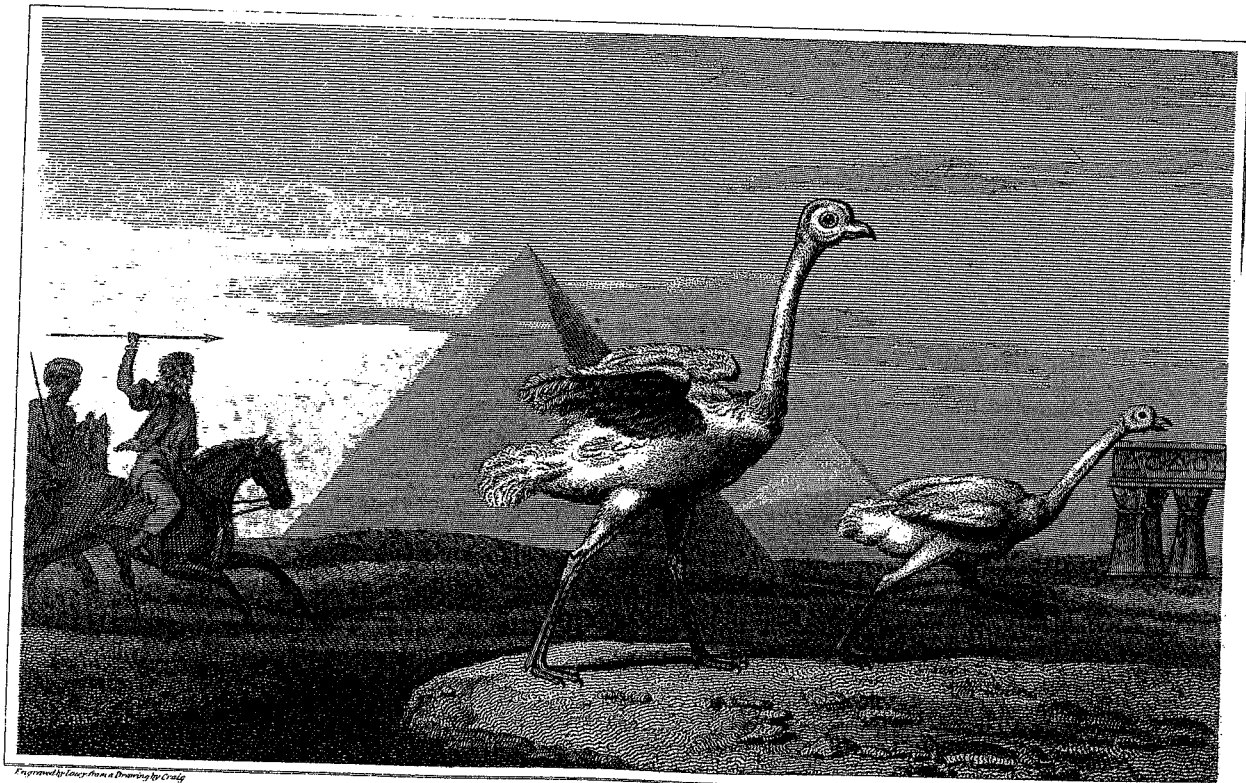
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Bibliography:

Source Of Information: Name of member who submitted the information. Please also give date of input and if you are not in the Yellow Pages, give a contact if possible.

Image: See instructions.

Additional Information:



Engraved by Lewis from a Drawing by Crayle

HUNTING THE OSTRICH.

For the Gallery of Pictures &c.

London, Published by H. W. & G. Chiswick Lane, Sep. 1. 1814.