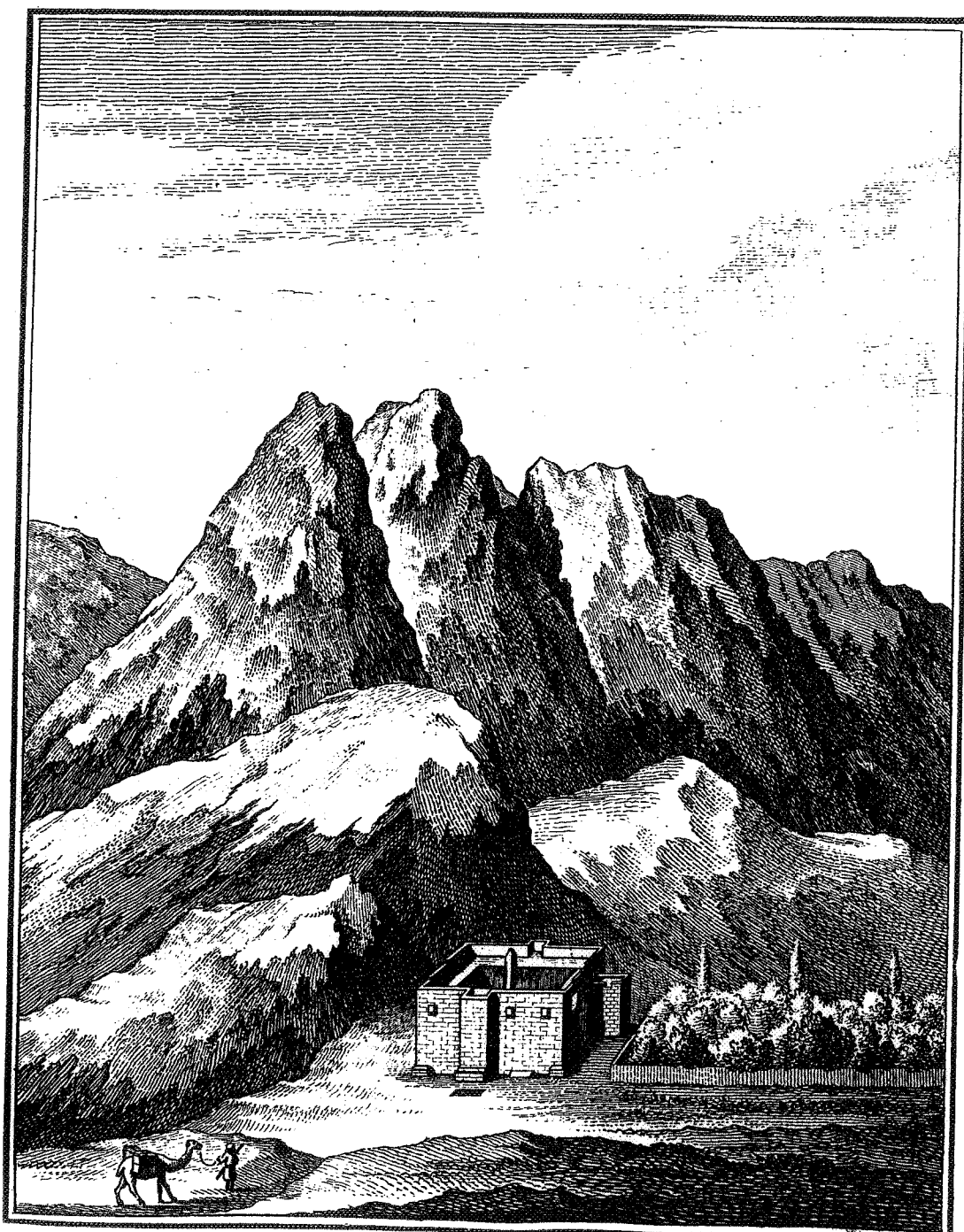


**Bulletin of the Association for the Study
of Travel in Egypt and the Near East:
Notes and Queries**

Number 26

Winter 2005



Prospect des Klosters am Berge Sinai von der Stelle A. auf der Tabelle XLIV.
Deféhrts Sculp.

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Cover: St Catherine's Convent, Sinai from Carsten Niebuhr's account of his travels, German edition, 1734.

Back cover: Hippopotamus by Consul General Henry Salt, 1825 from the Searight Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum.

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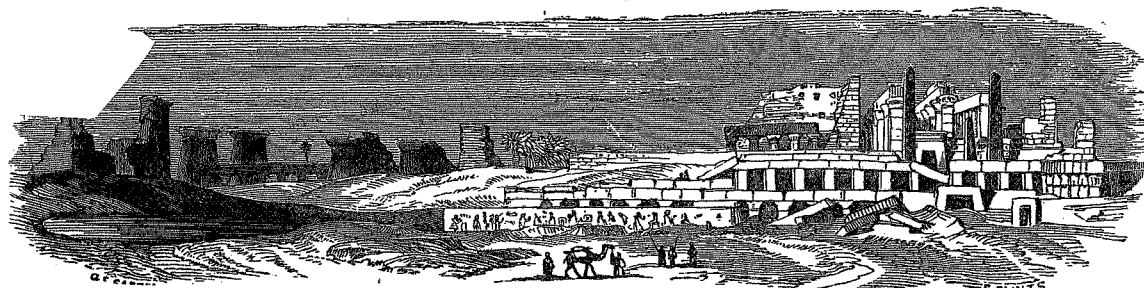
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The next Bulletin will be published in March 2006. We welcome articles and reviews from members – and others. The deadline for articles is 1st March 2006, but please send your material earlier as this greatly helps the editor.



RUINS OF KARNAC.

ASTENE NEWS & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BEYOND THE GRAND TOUR

This study day in Oxford was both most interesting and a very pleasant occasion. There was a good turn out of ASTENE members and many others. Chaired by ASTENE's new Chairman, Dr Brian Taylor, it included papers by Professor John Revell on the Oxford Professor of Botany, John Sibthorp (17xx-xxxx) and his mineralogist companion Hawkins; Dr Robert Morkot followed Captains Irby and Mangles, the ubiquitous William Bankes and others to Petra; Dr Kerry Bristol of Leeds University provided fascinating material on James 'Athenian' Stuart and the Greek Revival architecture; and Brian Taylor ended the day with Sir Charles Fellowes and the "Xanthian Marbles – one vast dream" – a traveller sadly neglected by his contemporaries.

There were some memorable quotes from these travellers, which we share with our readers.

"It may be useful to any future traveller in Greece to know before hand what he has to expect from Gnats and Bugs. If he sleeps under tents he is assailed by the one, if in chambers he is beset by the other and if he can obtain a sound nap in either case, good Lord! what must be the texture of his hide?" Sibthorp's diary June, 1787 after a particularly bad night, apparently as guest of the rich Greek, Giovanni di Stama Zanachi at Livadia, given in Lack, al. *The Flora Graeca Story*, p. 74.

"A cruel tax on the curiosity of travellers" is how Hawkins described quarantine, probably in a letter to his mother given in Lack, p.98, no source. Probably written after he entered Messina (in the Kingdom of Sicily) from Zakynthos at the end of 1787, on his way back to England from his first journey.

Captain Francis Beaufort (him of the wind scale) in his journal of 1811, deplored *"the piecemeal plunder of inconsiderate travellers who knock off a head, a hand, a leaf or a volute without comprehension and merely to show to their equally inconsiderate friends at home!"*

On Friday evening before the study day we were very privileged to have Dr Emily Savage-Smith of the Oriental Institute introduce the 9th century Book of Curiosities to us in the Bodleian's 15th century Convocation House, and then an Indian dinner enlivened by numerous students.

VISITS TO THE V & A AND THE RGS

In the fine autumn sunshine of October 27, members of ASTENE were received in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Geographical Society. These great institutions readily showed their justified reputation as amongst the foremost repositories of material on the Middle East. This most successful day was greatly appreciated by all

the participants, and special thanks are due to Elisabeth Woodthorpe, ASTENE Events Organiser, and to the organisers at the V&A and RGS.

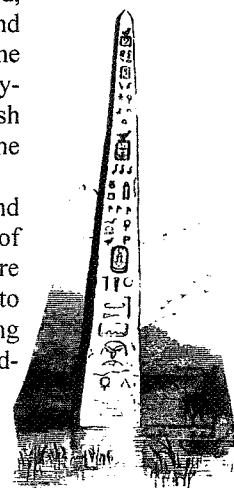
Housed in the Henry Cole Room, the Searight Collection of over 600 watercolours and drawings was introduced to us by its Curator, Charles Newton, who is, he says, "still at the Edward Lane stage" in his mental image of Egypt, as he knows it only through the eyes of 19th century artists and draftsmen. The collection is eclectic and diverse, ranging from a study of bird life by Howard Carter (originally a natural history artist) to the watercolours of Owen Jones whose work on Egyptian and Islamic motifs greatly influenced Victorian and Edwardian design. The guiding principle of the Searight Collection however was the ability of a piece to convey information, as opposed to its intrinsic artistic merit. This principle was exemplified by a naively-executed watercolour rendition of British troops at Alexandria railway station, presumably on their way to India in pre-canal Egypt.

As a record of the past, Charles Newton concluded that the Collection demonstrated that the driving force for Europeans to go to Egypt in the first place was intellectual curiosity, and not imperialism. The dignity with which contemporary Egyptians were depicted supports his point.

ASTENE was equally fortunate in having as our host at the RGS Francis Herbert, Curator Maps, whose extensive and detailed knowledge of the Society's history enlivened our visit. Leading us back in time from the modern additions to the Society's building to its founding in 1830 and subsequent growth, he pointed out portraits of eminent figures in the history of exploration: Captain Cook (although there is some doubt by experts whether the portrait is of the man himself – adding piquancy to the portrait), James Silk Buckingham and his beloved wife, Speke, Livingstone and a bust of the Arabist and explorer Wilfred Thesiger.

The RGS map collection includes a particularly impressive large Mercator projection of the world, produced by Judocus Hondius of Amsterdam and dated 1608. The historical significance of the Society's holdings was illustrated by a finely-detailed map of Corfu (1817) produced by British surveyors, most likely for military purposes in the confrontation with the Ottoman Empire.

The highlight for many of us, however, was found in the Reading Room, where exquisite depictions of Egypt and the Near East by David Roberts are housed, including a volume of prints dedicated to Emperor Louis-Philippe of France. The Reading Room also demonstrated the Society's forward-



113. Obelisk of Helopolis.

Arts of the Islamic World, Shangri La, Honolulu
For those lucky enough to go to Hawaii, there is a new permanent exhibition of great interest. From the estate of Doris Duke, is a magnificent collection of Islamic art – tiles, textiles, paintings and jewellery – installed along with works in the permanent collection. www.shangrila.-hawaii.org

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs at the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale from mid-December: brings the treasures to America for the first time since 1979. It includes 130 works from the Egyptian National Museum and 50 objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

My dear friend Brocklehurst, West Park Museum, Prestbury Rd, Macclesfield, Cheshire until 26 January, 2006

Many of us are familiar with the name of Marianne Brocklehurst - one of the 'M.B.s' who accompanied Amelia Edwards 1000 miles up the Nile. Less familiar is Johnny Brocklehurst, a good friend of General Gordon. John Fielden Brocklehurst and Gordon met in Cairo in 1877 and travelled together on a hunting expedition. During the siege of Khartoum Johnny devised an ingenious plan to smuggle letters reduced photographically to the size of a postage stamp to Gordon. This exhibition includes these letters and related artefacts – including an impressive full length leopard skin! – Free. 1 – 4 pm daily.

A related exhibition is being planned next year at Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, we will give full notice of that.

Lawrence of Arabia: the life, the legend, Imperial War Museum, London until 17 April, 2006 takes us through the widely varying interpretations of his life, portraying him as “neither saint of charlatan”. It includes the wonderful Augustus John portrait of Colonel T.E. Lawrence in 1919, many exhibits from All Souls where he wrote *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, and his newly discovered Peace Map of the Middle East in 1918. A visitor suggested that had his proposals been accepted the region would have been more peaceful today.

Pilgrimage: The Sacred Journey, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford 11 January – 2 April

The role of pilgrimage is explored in Christianity, Islam, Judaism and the religions of South Asia. This is the first exhibition of the new series presented by the Ashmolean Inter-Faith Exhibition Service. The series investigates artistic representations of religious concepts in the various faiths of Asia and the Mediterranean world. Arranged thematically, (Departure, Journey, Sacred Space, Central Shrine, Return) the exhibition illustrates

the differences between religions and compares the responses to similar elements of religious experience. Furthermore, it celebrates some of the most sophisticated traditions of religious visual material. It is an important exhibition for ASTENE, and timely in the light of our next two study days.

The Golden Age of Arab Science, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris until 19 March. How the Arabic-speaking scientists carried knowledge into new heights and into new disciplines. The exhibition presents achievements in sciences from mathematics to geology, from engineering to alchemy and includes examples of the practical applications of their work.

Lost Nubia: photographs of Egypt and Sudan 1905-7 – 24 February until May. The exhibition features the first University of Chicago Epigraphic Expedition with temples and the team at work and ethnographic scenes of now vanished ways of life. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

Seminar for Arabian Studies, British Museum, 21-23 July, 2006

The annual presentation of research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula from earliest times to the present.

Archaeology in Iraq: the case of Hatra

Susan Downey of UCLA explores the role of Hatra in antiquity and the restoration and damage to the site. University of Buffalo, New York, 4:30 p.m., 7 February.

RED SEA PROJECT PHASE III, 27-28 October, 2006

This conference organised by the Society for Arabian Studies at the British Museum will have the theme “Cultural Connections of the Red Sea”.

The Call for Papers suggests any connections across or up and down the Red Sea or with the Mediterranean or Indian Ocean. They propose to offer sessions on cultural connections of the Red Sea to bring together historical, ethnological, ecological and architectural focuses on these topics:

- * Maritime including seafaring, harbours, navy
- * Sacred spaces and landscapes
- * Religious traditions, pilgrimages and architecture
- * Identity : visual and oral interaction

Abstracts of not more than 300 words should be submitted by 15th February preferably by Email to s0453472@sms.ed.ac.uk or by post to C. Lindner, c/o School of Literature and Cultures, 19 George Square, Edinburgh EH18 9LD, Scotland.

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CRUISES

Members may be interested in a new small Saga cruise ship, *Spirit of Adventure*, (350 passengers) with interesting cruises in our region. In addition to the more well-trodden routes of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Adriatic (one with ASTENE Treasurer Dr Diane Fortenberry as guest lecturer), and the Iberian Peninsula, there are Red Sea/Arabia cruises in October 2006, from whence the ship goes on to the Orient. For the brochure ring Freephone 0800 056 2485.

A DAHABEEYAH TODAY

There are again dahabeeyahs on the Nile. Anthony Sattin writes about them in the next Bulletin.



BOOK REVIEWS

Who, that has been taught to relish at all the pleasures of reading, can refrain from enquiring after almost every new book of travels, the publication of which is announced? Preface by Robert Heron, translator of Carsten Niebuhr's Travels, 1792.

For two years Edwin Aiken of Queen's University Belfast has done a splendid job as the Bulletin Reviews Editor. Sadly he has decided to step down with this issue. However, most fortunately Thomas Rees has agreed to take over his role with the next Bulletin. (See contact address on page 2.)

We would like to thank Edwin for his service and to hope that he will continue to provide the knowledgeable and sensitive reviews we have come to expect from him.

A Passion for Egypt: A Biography of Arthur Weighall by Julie Hankey, London/New York: I.B. Taurus, 2001. Pp. 390; Pls. 21 + drgs. 15. £22.50 h/b. ISBN 1- 86064 - 566 - 6

There are many kinds of travellers, and many ways to travel. One is the journey through life, and in this Arthur Weighall has managed a more disparate journey than most. From apprentice accountant to Egyptologist, to ex-pat government official (Chief Inspector of Antiquities, Upper Egypt, no less), to set designer, lyricist and playwright for the London stage, to author of *both* fictional and scholarly historical biographies, to syndicated newspaper columnist of literary criticism, travel, and the famous incident of November 1922, to touring academic lecturer and gossip-commentator on life

in Hollywood, he has meandered through three continents and numerous professions we would consider both high and low, with equal determination, zest and enthusiasm for his task at hand.

His numerous professions also involved many others, some of whom (like Howard Carter and Beatrice Lilly) remain famous, those whose fame has since diminished, and others never otherwise famous but important in his life – including his rather ethereal wife Hortense, a haunting beauty who silently appears with him and other Egyptologists in many often-seen photographs at many Egyptian sites.

From the sober academic detail of *The Mastaba of Gem-ni-kai* (1905) to the silliness of *Susanna's Squeaking Shoes* (smash hit song of 1922), the many facets of Weighall and his legacy are explored by his granddaughter, Julie Hankey, in an immensely readable book that is only partly a response to his portrayal of others elsewhere, through many (cited) sources including numerous family records previously unavailable. And, all in all, an enjoyable read even if, like me, you want to bang some sense into his head on occasion.

Jacke Phillips

The Monuments of Historic Cairo by Nicholas Warner, AUC, Cairo, 2004, ISBN 977 424 841 4

This book, announced last year in the American University in Cairo Press catalogue, has just reached me. It is the first in a new conservation series published by the American Research Center in Egypt, The historic illustrations of the city and the early maps will delight all ASTENE members, though there is less illustration, either as plans or photographs of the actual monuments than one might have hoped. These could easily have been supplied digitally. The heavy glossy paper makes it appear lavish, though it is not over-priced. It forms a fundamental cartographic record of the architecture of the city and the basis of a plea to the authorities to recognise the full worth of their city.

Elizabeth French

The Orientalists: Western Artists in Arabia, The Sahara, Persia and India by Kristian Davies, 303 pp. 300 illustrations, Laynfaroh, New York, 2005, h/b \$70 - £40, ISBN 9759763-0-6

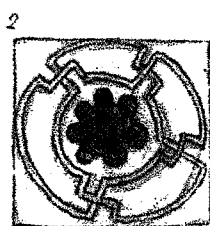
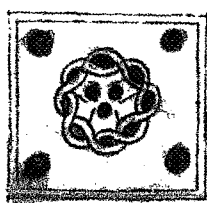
From his opening assertion, "I love Orientalist paintings" (13), to his enthusiast's closing sentence, [Orientalist painting] "must be seen not as a sideshow or a footnote to art history, but ... as ranking among the finest and most admirable work ever created in Western art" (299), Kristian Davies focuses on how realist, academic painters of 1860 to 1900 depicted the Islamic context and culture. Davies supports his love affair with this genre with a descriptive text that is sensitive and perceptive, as well as with the 300 illustrations, in wonderful

colour, of which at least half are full page enlargements of telling and inviting details. For Davies, these paintings of desert and caravan, of *kayf* (the smoking of hashish), the armed guard, of women, and of faith, were more than genre tableaux: they were “a passport to his imagination”. These “cinematic images” imparted “a visual sense of the history, people and places” which Davies was subsequently to encounter for himself, and it is this personal, positive predisposition – a “primer” – that he wishes to gift his post-9/11/2001 readers. This indeed is surely the pleasure and the wisdom that the new initiate will derive from this volume.

For those who have been reading books and collecting catalogues of Orientalist artists since the late 1970s, when they first became a category for study, Davies also offers fresh material and insights. He brings to life in sumptuous colour paintings the Central Asian work of Russian painters Vasily Vereshchagin (1842-1904) and Ilya Repin. For other artists like Leon Belly, Gustave Bauernfeind, and James Tissot, Davies gives their neglected work new life and merit.

The illustrations in this beautiful book make Davies’ central point: the value of these images is in images themselves, records of a time and of places that without the actualisation by Western artists would not have been given visual memory. The arguments swirling round Edward Said’s Orientalist thesis of 1978 have obscured this fact. Davies presents as his last image *The Connoisseurs 1892*, by the Hungarian artist Gyula Tornai, wherein a group of native ‘Orientals’ scrutinize the work of an Occidental orientalist painter. For them and for us, Davies has highlighted an enduring and enchanting record. * *Caroline Williams*

* *The Orientalists* is readily available to order in Britain.



Les Voyages dans le Hawran (Syrie de Sud) de William John Bankes (1816 et 1818) by Professor Annie Sartre-Fauriat, published as a cooperative work by the Institut Francais du Proche-Orient and the Universite Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux, Bordeaux and Amman, 2004

Norman Lewis drew our attention to this book and wrote ‘notes’, rather than a ‘review’ on it.

The Hawran is a gigantic storehouse of Roman (and other) ruins, and was pretty wild at the beginning of the 19th century. Bankes, unlike other travellers there, said little about that aspect. Bankes was there

for a total of nine weeks in 1816 and 1818, visiting 58 different sites either with no European companions or with only Giovanni Finati. He worked with furious devotion and determination to record everything he saw, ‘producing scores of drawings, plans, elevations, copies of inscriptions and notes.

All this material, along with a great deal more from Egypt, Nubia, Asia Minor and elsewhere, lay forgotten at the Bankes family home Kingston Lacy in Dorset until the 1990s and is now either at the British Museum (Egyptian and Nubian) or at the Dorchester County Record Office.

Annie Sartre-Fauriat has had facsimiles (not just copies) made of all the Hawran papers – masses of them – and has published them in this splendid book. And it is splendid: worthy of the finest coffee table in the land – but it should only be on a table when not being studied by members of ASTENE, historians, archaeologists or even biographers – no one can know Bankes really well until they have seen what he did in those few weeks.

Professor Sartre-Fauriat has not, of course, merely published Bankes’ work; she has studied, analysed and commented on every aspect of it and has added much pertinent material from other sources including photographs. In summary her work is a scholarly work superbly presented.

French is the main language of the book, but all of Bankes’ own words are reproduced in English as well as being translated into French. Prof. Sartre-Fauriat has ventured beyond the limits of the Hawran to discuss a few peripheral topics such as the ‘discovery’ of Bankes’ papers at Kingston Lacy in the 1990s, and his relations with Burckhardt and Buckingham; there are a few, very few, slips in those parts of the book, but they are of little significance. *Norman Lewis*

“William Bankes is another of my early friends. He is very clever, very original, and has a fund of information: he is also very good natured; but he is not much of a flatterer. Lady Blessington in her Conversations of Lord Byron, 1834 p.172

* *William Bankes and the Making of an English Country House* by Anne Sebba, John Murray, London, 2004;, 308 pp, 14 colour ills., h/b £22.50; p/b £8.99 ISBN 0-7195-6328-3

This is the third book since 2002 about the once-neglected traveller William Bankes*. The focus of this biography is on his art collections and the remodelling with the architect Charles Barry**, of Bankes’ Dorset house, Kingston Lacy.

William Bankes is famed for his travels in Egypt, Nubia and the Near East (1815-19), where, either alone or aided by artist-draftsmen, he created a

portfolio of drawings of ancient sites, monuments and inscriptions which remains of great archaeological importance through its scope and accuracy. Much that he recorded is now otherwise lost. The chapters devoted to these travels are based on the version of his travels presented in *The Narrative of Giovanni Finati*, Bankes' dragoman, which emphasises the anecdotal elements of the story rather than the seriousness of Bankes' motivation and scholarly record. Supposedly merely translated and 'edited' by Bankes, the volume of Finati which covers his travels is now considered to be written by Bankes himself.

Bankes abandoned the portfolio of drawings and his house in 1841 when, having been arrested in Green Park with a guardsman in compromising circumstances, he fled charges of sodomy for which there was still capital punishment. During his fourteen years of exile he continued to embellish the house 'by remote control' – he never returned to live there. The same patterns which inspired and directed his travels and recording are evident in his collecting. He had a passion for architecture, an obsession with accuracy and detail and complete confidence in his own taste. A shrewd and opportunistic collector of European art, he also acquired some important Egyptian pieces. Rich enough to travel in style, he could endure arduous living with equanimity and was driven by a penchant for risk and adventure. As Sebba says, "Adventure is a key Bankes word.", but control was also a dominant trait and Bankes wielded his wealth, social position and intellect against those who disagreed with him in matters of taste or judgement.

Sebba notes that, reflected in contemporary reports, Bankes can appear peripheral, insensitive, humiliated by constant scandal – a man who made little contribution in his day. He never published his portfolio and his discoveries were forgotten for many years after his death. She argues that the latter years, in which, against the odds of exile, he pursued the completion of his life's work on the house, show a man of determination and courage. However his letters home showed that he also remained intemperate, deeply critical and arrogant. From this period Kingston Lacy (National Trust) is today filled with some 17,500 objects; the cellars remain stuffed with Bankes' purchases as the family never sold anything.

This is a picture of a confident man from a family of high standing yet one who never seemed completely at ease at Cambridge, in Parliament or in London society, and whose character and circumstances made him first a traveller and ultimately an outlaw. *Patricia Usick*

* *Adventures in Egypt and Nubia: The Travels of William John Bankes (1786-1855)*, British Museum Press, London, 2002; *Les Voyages dans le Hawran* by A. Sartre-Fauriat (see review above).** Who Bankes had first met in Egypt in 1819.

From Empire to Orient: Travellers to the Middle East 1830-1926, Geoffrey Nash, I.B. Taurus, London, pp. 252, £24.50, ISBN 1-85043-767-X

Geoffrey Nash has provided a timely contribution to the growing corpus of literature concerned with provoking a new understanding of the personalities involved in the practical and political struggles of colonialism. Nash's study is of interest to ASTENE because, as the title implies, it deals with particular personalities who were travellers in our region.

Nash is specifically interested in the way in which these travellers' reports and narratives fed into the wider public discourses on the engagement of western societies with the Islamic world through a colonial framework.

The lives of five figures whose voices and lives dissented from assumed commonplace colonial values are followed in detail in the five main chapters of the book. The stories of David Urquhart, W.S. Blunt, Lord Curzon, Edward Granville Browne and Marmaduke Pickthall provide a temporally spread set of instances which muddy and problematize further the increasingly unfashionable monolithic notions of the Orientalist discourse.

Nash's work is important in helping us to reassess the contributions of writers whose works and lives encapsulate the less considered aspects of colonial narratives, and the contribution of westerners to the growth of post-colonial discourse. In providing a strong point in the case for understanding contextually situated history through biography, Nash's work helps to underline the complexities of positioning and mutability of travellers' identities within a geographical framework.

Edwin Aiken, Queen's University, Belfast

The Tano Family and Gifts from the Nile, by Robert S. Merilles, Moufflon Publications, Nicosia, 2003, no price given, ISBN 9963-642-11-X

The repute of the Tano family is widespread in the world of Egyptian antiquities and many items in both museums and private collections in Britain came from them. Here, however, Robert Merilles adds another useful and intriguing contribution to his many studies of both Cyprus and Egyptian archaeology by tracing the history of the family and particularly its relation to the Nicosia Museum and the Cyprus Antiquities Service.

The antiques business in Cairo had been started in 1870 by Panayotis (Marius) Tano whose grandfather had moved from Lefkas in the Ionian Islands to Larnaca some hundred years earlier. In 1844, according to official letters, he gave two Egyptian mummies to the Cyprus Museum. Merilles traces not only the very varied activities of the Tano family over the years, but also the career of the mummies themselves as apparently they had "caused such fright in the Cypriots and

reproduced, and a photograph shows a flying-boat at Rod-el-Farag, Cairo, and another shows three more at Alexandria in the 1920s. Altogether a good read.
F. Nigel Hepper

“Beyond the Clash of Civilisations: Missionaries, Conversion and Tolerance in the Ottoman Empire” – *biannual publication of Lebanese British Friends of the National Museum, 2005.*

The publications of LBFNM (formerly National Museum News) are often reports related to the Museum’s research and archaeological finds. Occasional issues, like this one, look at subjects related to travellers to Lebanon. This issue published the papers given (in English and French) at a symposium at Rice University in April 2004 looking at the work and impact of mainly 19th century Western Christians missionaries in Lebanon and the Middle East. Naturally, this subject raised many issues: confrontation between indigenous and incoming Christianity and both versions with Islam; was this “cultural imperialism” ?; the competition of Catholic and Protestants and of British and French and American missions; the re-evaluation of the complexities of missionary history in the Middle East – and much else.

As always with these publications presentation is impressive with a useful selection of illustrations. This is mainly a membership subscription journal. For further information www.ahlebanon.com. Subscription UK.£22; USA/Can. \$47; Europe E37.

Egypt: How a Lost Civilisation was Rediscovered, by Joyce Tildesley, BBC Books, 2005, £17.99, ISBN 0 563 52257 7

The book of the television series is, as so often, more thorough and more detailed than the film, and concisely and intelligently written. Focusing on the characters of Champollion, Belzoni and Howard Carter, it provides a potted history of Egyptology from the late C18 onwards. Given its origins in a TV series for a British audience, the emphasis is inevitably – apart from the story of Champollion – on the contribution of British archaeologists, and on the more well-known of these. The importance of French scholarship is recognised without being much explored. Nonetheless it is, with its concise history of ancient Egypt and its references to major developments in Egyptology (including Professor Rosalie David’s forensic work on mummies, memorably described in her after-dinner address at ASTENE’s conference in Manchester this year) a very readable introduction to the perennially fascinating subject of the Egypt of the Pharaohs.

Tom Rees

One ASTENE member’s comment on the BBC television series on Egypt: “I like dramadocs, but I prefer more documentary and less drama.”

Egypt and Austria : Proceedings of the Symposium, edited by Johanna Holaubek and Hana Navratilova, 170 pp, b/w ill., Czech Institute of Egyptology/Oxbow, £15.00, ISBN 80-86277-43-7

Edited and with contributions by ASTENE members, this collection of papers (four in German) considers socio-cultural relations of the Hapsburg monarchy and Egypt, in its historical context. It covers travel interests from 16-20th centuries, political negotiations around the Eastern question, and the interests of artists and collectors. The papers include *The 18C Franciscan missionaries of the Czech crown lands and their accounts of the Levant, Egypt and Ethiopia; Austrian architects on the Nile, 1869-1914* (by Johanna Holaubek), *Leopold Carl Muller’s travels to Egypt, Travellers to Egypt in 1920-30s* (by Adela Mackova), *The Oriental policy of the Hapsburg monarchy in the 19C and Anton Prokesch von Osten as its remarkable diplomat, Vencelas Kramerius and bookworm travelling in the early 1800s* (by Hana Navratilova); *Glimpses of Social History: Austrians in Egypt.*

A Silver Legend: The Story of the Maria Theresa Thaler by Clara Semple, Barzan, London, 2005, 165 pp., fully illustrated, £19.95, ISBN 0-9549701-0-1

Clara Semple’s book will be reviewed in the next Bulletin.



OTHER BOOKS

ZERO Books in Istanbul

Dr Elizabeth French writes: ZERO offers rare and antiquarian books as well as current books, series and resources published in Turkey, particularly on archaeology, art history and history. They provide a quick and efficient service (personal experience) and accept payment by credit card.
zero@kablonet.com.tr

SPECIAL OFFERS AND REMAINDERS

PostScript is a remaindered book company which issues a most tempting monthly catalogue. The Christmas Gift Issue, 2005, included, for example: *Ottoman Embroidery* by Marianne Ellis and Jennifer Wearden (\$45 now £14.99), *The Search for Nefertiti* by Joann Fletcher (h/b £7.99); *The Extraordinary Voyage of Pytheas the Greek* by Barry Cunliffe (h/b £6.99), *White Gold: North Africa’s One Million European Slaves* by Giles

Milton (h/b £7.99), *The Faber Book of Exploration* edited by Benedict Allen (h/b £7.99).

If you want to tempt yourself, the website is www.psbooks.co.uk and the address PostScript, 24 Langroyd Road, London SW17 7PL, UK.

EGYPTIAN ARABIC SELF-TAUGHT (6TH edition, 1907)

This quarter's selection gives us useful phrases for excursions and the journey on the Nile (pages 77-79). Henry Keown-Boyd has provided information about the author: Major Richard Adams Marriott, DSO (Mejidie, Osmanieh), Royal Marines, (1857-1930). Mr Keown-Boyd suggests Marriott may have spent some time in Egypt after his army experience – perhaps involved in archaeology?

An Excursion.

Wake me early in the morning	saḥt-ni badri es-subb
we are going to see the Pyramids to-morrow	ehna rāyḥin nashūf el aḥram
do you want me to get the donkeys ready?	bukra ḥadrétak 'aux in-ni aḥaddax el ḥemlr?
perhaps we shall go in a carriage, but anyhow we shall take food with us	yumkin nerūh fi 'arabīah, walakin 'ala kulli ḥāl nākhod akl wāyyā-na
yes, sir; everything will be all right	ḥādir ya aḥdi, kulli aḥey yibqa tamām
you must take the necessaries for tea	lāzim takhod el aḥya el lowāzimah li aḥāi
the teapot, the spirit, matches and every-thing must be wrapped in paper	el aḥriq, es aḥrit, kabrit, wa lāzim kullu yitlaḥ fi waraq
I have wrapped up everything and put it into the basket	ana laḥeyt kullu wa ḥotteyt-u fil qafas

“Mohammaden Europe” (which takes in a wider area, through to Egypt, and uses the work of many lesser known 16-17th century travellers, though often lacking references. Bates gives a very clear description of the ‘hotels’ of the Levant – the khans:

A ‘khan’ was a building which some compare to a barn, and one to a tennis-court, with a platform running round the inside walls about four feet broad and usually three to four feet high, but sometimes ten. At intervals of about eight feet were chimneys. The platform was for the travellers; the inner space for their beasts; the chimney for each party to cook food at. ...

The average Christian found that the noise and lights prevented sleep, but the Turk carried a rug to sleep on, used his saddle as a pillow and his great rain-cloak as a covering and found it comfortable enough till daybreak, when he thought it suitable to get up, greatly to the disgust of the Christians present. ...

The fact that ‘khan’ is indiscriminately applied to all by most Franks is evidence that they were not on speaking terms with the natives, to whom many were known as ‘Imaret’, those that is that provided food free. All lodgings were a form of good works among the richer Turks, a practical attempt to disarm the customary suspicions of the Grand Signor or the well-justified wrath of Allah; and free food was an extension of this appeal. (from pp.248-9)

WOMEN TRAVELLERS IN THE NEAR EAST

ASTENE's new title, edited by Sarah Searight and published by Oxbow, Oxford, this year includes studies of a spectrum of women travellers from archaeologists and archaeologists wives to an ambadress, from the famed Isabella Bird on an unknown journey to Egypt to insights on one of the best known travellers to Egypt, Lucie Duff Gordon, from two feisty – and scandal-making – ladies in the Levant (Princess Caroline and Lady Craven) to Belzoni's wife, Sarah.

TOURING IN 1600

I recently acquired at an Oxfam Bookshop a reprint of *Touring in 1600* by E.S. Bates, published by Constable, London in 1911, re-issued by Century in 1987. My copy came with a 1998 Barnes and Noble, San Diego receipt, a French railway ticket, Antibes-Barcelona, also 1998, and a beautiful dried lime leaf. It was well travelled.

Bates was a natural ASTENE member, working for the Westminster Bank while he carried out detailed research into early travel through Europe and the Near East in his spare time. His bibliography includes archive material from various libraries and published material. It is a most interesting guide to travel with a chapter on

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The information in this section is not repeated in the version of the Bulletin on our website as it is for members' use.

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY ON LINE

Dr Elizabeth French reminds us: The great new Dictionary of National Biography is on line free of charge for UK residents either at any public library or from home by using your library membership number. It is a most useful facility that saves a great deal of time.

1901 CENSUS ON LINE

The British Census for 1901 is on line with 32 million people, over 6 million households and much else for those tracking down the backgrounds of the travellers from England and Wales. There is direct access to the digital images of the census on www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

You can access this resource from your home, from your local or university library, from record offices and elsewhere. For more information about the National Archives project to digitise the historic

censuses you can contact the 1901 Census on Line Team by telephone on +44 (0) 1684 585299; Email: support@censushelpdesk.co.uk

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY, London SE1

Founded in 1610 on the south bank of the Thames, oppsite the Houses of Parliament, is the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Although the focus of the collection is ecclesiastical history, it covers a wide variety of topics, and is a significant resource for genealogy as it holds early marriage licences and wills, records of Elizabethan and Jacobean voyages, records of 19th century bishops of Jerusalem. Among the manuscripts is the 15th century account of Lionardi de Frescobaldi's journey to the Holy Land in 1384; Open: Monday-Friday, 10-5. Closed public holidays and about 10 days at Christmas and Easter. The library issues 5-year tickets for which you need to produce proof of your permanent address, two passport photographs, and a formal letter from an academic colleague or supervisor, librarian, vicar or employer. For further information ring +44 (0)20 7898 1400 and go to the website: www.lambethpalacelibrary.org

NEAR EAST MAGAZINE

SaudiAramco World is a free subscription magazine published by Aramco Services Co. in Houston, Texas. Its purpose is "to increase cross-cultural understanding". This it does by well-illustrated articles, usually with a historical or cultural theme. The summer issue, for example, considered "The Indian Ocean and Global Trade", including much on ancient and medieval Mediterranean trade. There were articles on Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta and the less known Chinese Admiral Zeng He who traded into Yemen in the 15th century.

For more information: www.aramcoservices.com

LOST IN A CATALOGUE: A SEARCH FOR A RESOURCE

Norman Lewis told me of the Naval Intelligence Handbooks published country by country from 1916. They sounded interesting, so I consulted the Bodleian Library catalogue. I got nowhere. The librarians knew of them, but could not help. They referred me to the pre-1920 printed catalogues, which would have been consigned to the stacks if people had not protested. And there I found them. I also came upon other books of interest: the pilot books for the Mediterranean, the Adriatic (1861), The Gulf of Aden (1863-87), and Sailing Directions for the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus (2nd ed. 1877).

This material may be familiar to others; to me it was entirely new. I turned to the British Library printed catalogues, to see what they held. There the material gets further obscured by being presented under "England - Admiralty - Hydrographic Dept."

and obscured by many distractions. I was intrigued by The Black Sea Pilot by Chevalier Taitbout de Marigny, translated in 1855 (who was the Chevalier?); Alexandria Harbour, 1857; the Mediterranean Pilot including the coasts of Karamania and Syria (1905), and the Red Sea Pilot (with directions for the navigation of the Suez Canal), 1873.

Then, finally, the Geographical Handbook Series, with plates, including maps for, among others, Syria 1843, the Dodecanese (1941), Albania 1945, Arabia 1916, Mesopotamia 1918, Asia Minor, 1919, A Manual of Eurasian Routes, 1920 - just the sort of book a traveller might carry along. And that led me back to the Bodleian, now able to call up Arabia, Vol. I, 1916 and Vol. II, 1917 (numbered copies, for official use only).

And there was a further surprise. On the title pages is printed the stern words:

Attention is called to the penalties attaching to any infraction of the Official Secrets Act.

It is for official use only, is the property of HM Government. Its contents are not to be communicated to the Press, or to any persons not holding an official position in HM Service.

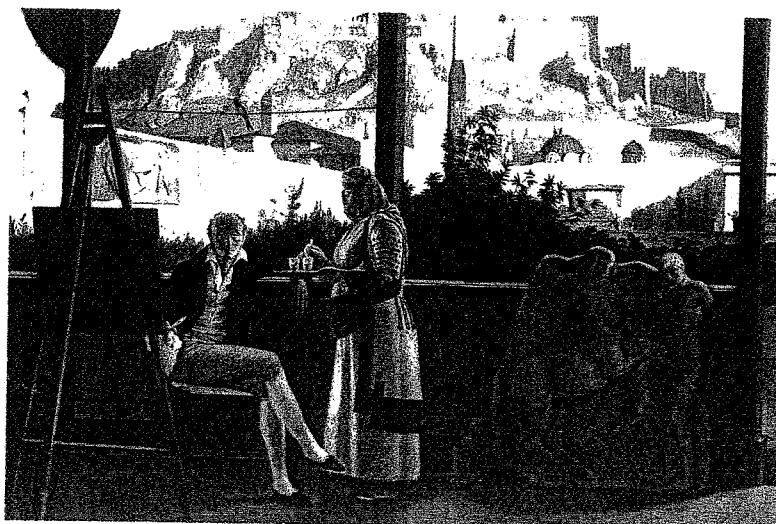
The Arabia Handbook had escaped from an office in Aden, and I am told that the second-hand value is now £80. The reason for all this secrecy was the collapsing Ottoman Empire and the European interest therein....

The Arabia volumes were bound with a little flap with what was known as "a pippety-pop" to fasten it and stop the maps escaping. The index of Vol. I is 73 pages of close print. The glossary gives many Arabic terms for types of boats and for road surfaces: "light shifting sand; hard and gravelly; a stationary sand-dune; hard shiny pebbly ground ...". There is wonderful information about horses and camels and the trade in these animals (24-32,000 camels being traded in Damascus annually). And then in Vol. II we get distances:

From Akaba to Mecca: crow-fly 650 miles; road 697 miles, computed at a rate of 2 ½ miles per hour (by a camel, perhaps?).

Deborah Manley

FAUVEL'S HOUSE IN ATHENS



Louis-Sebastien Fauvel (1753-1838) was “host and cicerone to nearly every foreign visitor to Athens, ... one of the most familiar features of the Athenian scene” wrote Richard Stone in his *Land of Lost Gods*, 1987. Fauvel was collector, artist, traveller and for years French “sub-commissar at Athens”. To his house – looking toward the Acropolis - came most foreign travellers through the first third of the 19th century.

This house was made famous in the 1819 picture by Louis Dupre, widely known in the lithograph but of which the original oil was sold a few years ago. As it is of considerable interest to ASTENE members, I call attention to an article about it which has recently been published in a journal not likely to be checked regularly by many of you. “La Casa de L.S. Fauvel, Primo Museo Ateniese” in *Arkhaiologiki Ephemeris* 2001, pp. 2-120. (The Journal of the Archaeological Society of Athens.)

Elizabeth French

THE FIRST EGYPT SOCIETY

On 11 December 1741 the physician, antiquary and divine William Stukeley, was appointed secretary of The Egyptian Society or Egyptian Club. The society’s purpose was to examine Egyptian antiquities and – no doubt - to share experiences of Near Eastern travel.

The Society had its origins – as so many societies have had – at a dinner. This one was at Lebeck’s Head Tavern, Chandos Street, London. Lord Sandwich (Fourth Earl, 1718-92, in Egypt 1738-9) presided. Also present were Dr Richard Pococke (1704-65, in Egypt in 1737, 1738, 1739, *A Description of the East, and some other countries*, 2 vols, 1743-5; Secretary of the Society 1742-3); Dr Charles Perry (d. 1780, medical writer and traveller, in Egypt, Palestine and Greece 1739-42, *View of the Levant*, 1743), and the Danish Captain Frederick Norden (1708-42, in Egypt for the Danish King 1737-8, *Travels*, 1751.)

The Society’s life was brief. It would be interesting to know much more about it.

References: M. Bierbrier, *Who was Who in Egyptology*, London, 1995; Warren R. Dawson, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, 23, (1937), 259; *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 7 (1852) 145-58; William Stukeley, *Medallic History of Carausius, 1757-59*, preface vi; John Nicholls, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, 1813, 334.

RIBA BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY DRAWINGS AND ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

Following the recent ASTENE visit we bring you up to date information about this collection, now housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL.

E-mail: drawings&archives@inst.riba.org

Website: www.architecture.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7307 3708; Fax +44 (0) 20 7589 3175

Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10.00 – 17.00 (Closed Sundays and Mondays)

Readers are advised to book beforehand to ensure that material they wish to consult is available.

I was looking at Charles Barry’s Egyptian and Near East diaries – half a dozen slim little books filled with tiny neat writing about both buildings and daily life.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, EDINBURGH

Many travellers in the East were Scottish: Robert Wilson, Osman, General Abercromby, William Rae Wilson, Sir Archibald Edmundstone to name a few. Apart from the splendid main collections and the beautiful gallery itself, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery Print Room has over 20,000 prints and about 1500 drawings and watercolours of Scottish, English and foreign sitters. The Portrait collection is one of the most extensive in the UK. The Reference Section has records and documents of 20,000 people. The Library contains 50,000 items, including exhibition and sale catalogues which can lead a researcher along many unexplored paths. The Archive of Negatives has about 20,000 items, many resulting from a 70-year-long survey of private collections.

Access by appointment only Monday-Friday.

For further information: Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD; Print Room: 0131 624 6425; email: pgprints@nationalgalleries.org; Reference Section: 0131 624 6426, Email pgreference@nationalgalleries.org; Library 0131 624 6420, Email pglibrary@nationalgalleries.org; Archive of Negatives 0131 624 6405, Email pgarchive@nationalgalleries.org

BANEA

The British Association for Near East Archaeology is open to anyone interested in the archaeology, languages and history of the ancient Near East. The association brings together professional and non-professionals to exchange information about recent developments. They have an annual Bulletin with brief reports on fieldwork in the region, news about exhibitions, books, research and grants. They hold an annual conference, usually in January. There are regional groups in London (whose members receive the very useful London Diary for the Ancient Near East), a long-established list of lectures etc, Scotland and the North East, the North West, and West and South West. Membership is £10; £5 for students.

Contact: Jan Picton, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, 30 Gordon Square, WC1 OPY. Email: j.picton@ucl.ac.uk

VICTORIAN TURKISH BATHS

Malcolm Shifrin is researching Victorian Turkish baths in Britain and elsewhere and has a website which he offers to others interested:
<http://www.victorianturkishbath.org>

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REMEDIES

Travellers often passed on their experience of useful items to carry along with one, places to stay, books to read and remedies for the ills that accompany travel. Please pass these on to the Editor to be shared in the Bulletin. If you have used the experience and recommendation, how useful was it?

Mary Eliza Rogers, sister of HM Consul at Damascus in the 1850s, gave such advice in her very detailed book *Domestic Life in Palestine* (2nd edition, London, 1863, p. 57)

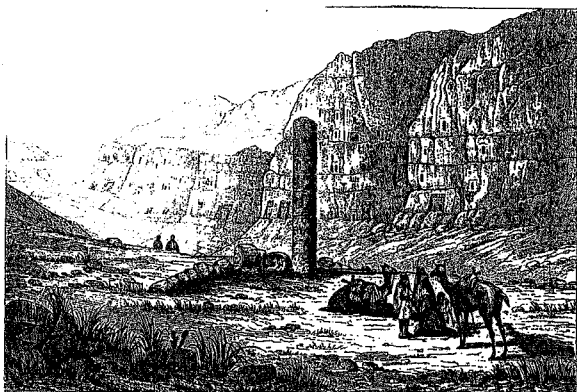
Thoroughly tired, but well pleased, I went to my tent (at Talibiyeh); and according to the advice of the Armenian nurse, bathed my feet and arms with milk and vinegar, to allay the irritations caused by the mosquitoes, which had tormented me in the convent at Bethlehem. It proved an effectual remedy, and I recommend travellers to try it.

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

Brian Taylor has provided the following information about Sir Charles Fellows.

Following his retirement to the Isle of Wight (where he devoted his time to agricultural and rural affairs), he died in November 1860 (aged 61) and is buried in Highgate Cemetery in north London, where his grave is marked by a single stone bearing just his name and dates upon it.

NOTES AND QUERIES



THE SCENE AT PETRA

Norman Lewis would very much like to know if anyone recognised where this wonderfully bad print of Petra (above) used on the cover of the last Bulletin (25) originated. It was a print I purchased at a book fair with no other evidence except that printed on it. The main title was in French and

W.H.Lazars could be French, but he thinks the book from which this particular print came was an English publication – the illustration was complete with an English translation of the original French title and a good old text (finishing lamely with ?) from Jeremiah. He would guess it was from the 1840s. *Please reply to Norman Lewis and to the Bulletin Editor.*

TRAVELLERS IN IRAQ

As some members who were at Manchester know, Bart Ooghe is doing doctoral research on European travellers in the region of present day Iraq ca. 1300-1900. More particularly he is dealing with the ways in which the human and natural landscape was represented and how and to what extent it would be reconstructed through these travel accounts. He has collected quite a range from Anglo-Saxon and French travellers, but at present German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese travellers are under-represented.

If you can suggest accounts, please contact Bart at Bart.Ooghe@Ugent.be or write to him: Ghent University, Department of Languages and Culture of the Near East, St Petersplein 6, B-9000, Ghent, Belgium, and to the Bulletin Editor.

SIR JOHN MAXWELL (1791-1865)

Can anyone report for the ASTENE Journal Project on the two-volume travel journals covering Europe and Egypt (1813-1816) of Sir John Maxwell which are lodged in Strathclyde Regional Archives as T-PM 117,129. *Please reply to the Editor.*

ANTONIO MONDAINI alias NAMINDIO

Dr Rita Severis writes: I am searching for biographical notes on Antonio Mondaini alias Namindio. He was an 18th century traveller and writer. He lived in Syria and Cyprus, and was a friend of Giovanni Mariti to whose books he contributed chapters. He retired to La Manon in Provence. He published the following books:

Favole anedotti e novella composta da Namindio, 1798, Ancona; *Istoria della Guerra accessa nella Sotia I 1771*; *Dalle armi di Ali Bey dell' Egitto e continovazione del successo a ditto Ali Bey fino a quest'anno 1772*, Florence; *Della Robbia sua coltivazione e suoi usi (Giovanni Mariti)* scritta dal Signor Antonio Mondaini, 1776, Florence; *La vita di Epicteto filosofo: considerate da Namindio e didacta ai sui amici*, 1797, Ancona;

In many libraries these titles come under the name of Giovanni Mariti. In Italy these are also found under Mondaini. Probably the two collaborated.

I would be very grateful for any information as I am publishing one of Namindio's manuscripts and have nothing on the man, not even his birth and death dates!

Please write to Dr Rita C. Severis, Email: severis@cytanet.com.cy

SELINA AND CHARLES BRACEBRIDGE

Does anyone have information about this couple who took Florence Nightingale to Egypt and Greece in 1849-50 and were with her in Rome in 1848? Selena was an artist and painted in Egypt, Greece and the Holy Land as they travelled. Some of her works are in the Birmingham Art Gallery. The Bracebridges later accompanied Miss Nightingale to the Crimea and is they who stand beside her in the famous painting.

Please reply to anthony@sattin.co.uk and to the Bulletin Editor.

MARGARET FOUNTAINE AND KHALIL NEIMY

Natascha Scott-Stokes is completing a biography of the butterfly collector Margaret Fountaine (1862-1940). Her partner for over 25 years was a Syrian called Khalil Neimy (or Neimi), Natascha would dearly love to trace his descendants to get their side of the story. She has a number of questions to answer.

He died in Damascus around 7th July, 1928. She has no idea where he is buried – but would love to know. Does anyone know of any records that might help her or a researcher in Damascus who would know how to find Neimy's grave? He had a wife and children in Damascus; his mother was A. Neimy, his sister Poling Neimy, and his nephew Fares Neimy.

Khalil Neimy was a Christian of the Greek Orthodox Church, born of Greek parents in Cairo on 15 July 1877. There was a Bishop Neimy in Damascus in the 1920's, who was his uncle. Apparently he granted Khalil a divorce in 1924. Would there be records? Where? She has an address for the nephew in 1928 in Rue de Minchie, Place Merje, Damascus. What is this street address called now?

Please reply to a.l.haysev@durham.ac.uk and mark for attention of Natascha Scott-Stokes, and also to the Bulletin Editor.

REPLIES

A query in the Bulletin can be very rewarding, especially when the replies come in from around the world of the ASTENE network. They are not put on the ASTENE website.

DR MOSS R.N.

Dr Elizabeth French writes following her query in Bulletin 20.

A wonderful assortment of replies has now come in. Peta Ree immediately sent me information on how to find out about naval officers. Then all quiet until mid-June this year when I got an e-mail from Paul Appleton in Victoria BC, Canada.

"I will be publishing the biography of Moss later this year and have a great deal of information about him, including letters about his visits to Schliemann at Hissarlik. You might check out the article I co-authored with David Traill in the Jan/Feb 2002 *Archaeology* magazine. Not included was a letter to Schliemann in the fall of 1879 describing and identifying the various bones, molluscs, fragments etc that he brought back to England."

This information was immediately sent to my colleague studying the Troy material and to the Manchester Museum. Then a further problem arose: the Manchester Museum did not register the material when they received it so we cannot tell who actually gave it to them and when – for Moss himself died the next year. Never mind: the sherds and bones came from Schliemann's actual excavations. Moss proves to have been an energetic and diverse personality and we shall await Paul Appleton's biography with interest.



ANZACS TO BAGHDAD

The query in Bulletin 25 about the Nairn Line to Baghdad brought a record 9 replies in the first week. All had references which can be followed up. As Margaret Clarke wrote "the Nairn Line sent bells ringing", and what started as mere curiosity has become a communally-written article. Lifetime memory of some members is today's history.

Dr Laurence Cook in Stockport sent a wonderful quotation from Vita Sackville-West's *Passenger to Teheran* (Hogarth Press, London 1926, reprinted by Arrow Books in 1991). This appears in full below, and a later reply confirms that Nairn first ran Cadillac cars across the desert.

Alison Millerman, from Manchester, and Margaret Clarke from Oxfordshire both drew our attention to H.V. Morton's *Through the Lands of the Bible* (Methuen, London, 1938 (with a fifth edition by 1946). This is a book full of not only the Bible and St Paul, but of Greek and Roman pilgrims in the Egyptian desert, Crusaders, Robert Wood and James Dawkins at Palmyra in 1751 and Lady Hester there in 1813, among others. Morton introduced the Nairn Line thus in chapter 2:

Standing outside the window in the early morning was a long, experienced-looking motor-coach. It was touched everywhere with brown dust. The words "Nairn Transport Co." were written on its side. It was a heavier, longer version of those coaches which roll so swiftly through the English countryside. It had made a special stop at Palmyra to take up passengers, for its normal route is straight from Damascus to Baghdad.

H.V. Morton soon met Long Jack, the driver. Born in Wellington, New Zealand, he had come to Syria as a boy of eleven. The Nairn brothers, Jerry and Norman, were also New Zealanders. They had served in Palestine during the war and then started their desert transport business. Margaret Clarke wrote of a rather surreal Morton experience at Rutba Fort, halfway between Damascus and Baghdad, where a George Bryant was commandant at the rest-house, and where the menu started with tomato soup and went on through fried fish (from the Tigris), roast beef with horseradish sauce and Yorkshire pudding to raisin pudding and lemon syrup!

Lorien Pilling, of Harrogate, also knew of Nairn from H.V. Morton, and supplied a website for Morton: <http://www.Coptic.org/language/2.htm>

Margaret Edgecombe – our New Zealand member – told us of a book, *Nairn Bus to Baghdad* by J.S. Tullett published in Wellington in 1968 (not yet tracked down in U.K.), "purporting to be the story as told by Gerald Nairn to the author."

Henry Keown-Boyd of Herefordshire had read of the Nairn Line from Jerusalem to Damascus in Harold Nicolson's biographical stories, titled *Some People* in the story called 'Miriam Codd'. The drivers, he remembered, were Australians and New Zealanders. "It was a pretty punishing job and they had to be skilled mechanics as well." This sentence sums up this story – I leave it to you to read it:

I was perfectly aware that around me stretched Arabia Deserta: that beside me, a point of civilisation in a radius of several hundred miles, were grouped a Cadillac, an English driver, a behaviourist, a Colonel, a smashed aeroplane, a Polish neuropath, some sausages, tea, cardboard plates, marmalade and Lea and Perrin's sauce. (p. 180)

More surprisingly, it seemed at first, when Mr Keown-Boyd was in Baghdad in 1957, Nairn operated long-distance buses, "but I daresay it was only the name which had survived and the brothers were long gone." He added that Sir Lee Stack's Australian chauffeur who was wounded when Stack was assassinated in Cairo in 1924, Fred March GC, used to say that he had been a Nairn driver. (See Mr Keown-Boyd's *The Lion and the Sphinx*, p. 126.)

Then Norman Lewis of Croydon told me he knew lots of people who used the Nairn Line in the 40s-50s. He thinks it folded because of local competition and the increasing use of the motor car.

He spoke to an old friend who used a Nairn bus in 1953. She spoke very highly of it and mentioned that when they stopped at a mid-desert toilet she and her two small children were escorted and guarded while they were there, and ditto back to the bus, - other people having to wait!

Norman recommended Murray or Baedeker as a likely source of information. He also recommended a less known resource: the country by country Geographical Handbook series of the Naval Intelligence Division published in the 1940s. And that led to another search, recorded elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The next informant was John Bartlett from Dalkey in Co. Dublin, Editor of *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*. He remembered reading about the Nairn Transport Service as a boy in an article by H.E. Symons FRGS in a book called *Power and Speed* edited by F.A. Dean, Temple Press, London, 1938. "I loved that book and have kept it" and he enclosed copies of the relevant pages – including these pictures. *Not* you will note just "a longer and heavier version" of a country bus, but "the largest bus in the world – 68 ft. long, nearly 9 ft. wide and 11 ft. wide, carrying 12 first class passengers, 20 second class passengers and 6,100 pounds of luggage."

Andrew Wilson from Leeds, one of ASTENE's railway experts, recommended *The Nairn Way* by Professor John M. Munro of the American University of Beirut, Caravan Books of Delmar, New York, 1980, ISBN 0-88206-035-X. This deals with the Nairns and their business up until they retired: Gerald in 1946-7 and Norman in 1950.

"The Nairn company," Andrew wrote, "carried on in the old way until 1956, but then political developments started to be increasingly unfavourable to expatriate-owned business. Road services continued to operate under the Nairn Transport Company name until about 1973" – so Henry Keown-Boyd was right in his memory.

Andrew also commented on information in the original query that "In the 1930s the completion of the Orient and Tarsus Express put the Nairns out of business." He suggests this was not so, with a brief, succinct and fascinating history of railway development in the region.

The Orient Express and various similarly titled trains operated only west of the Bosphorus, and were railway networks were largely completed in Victorian times. Asia Minor had a rather fragmented railway system and the only major long distance rail route pre-1914 was the line from the Bosphorus to Konya, which was being extended towards Baghdad when war broke out. The Baghdad Railway ended up in 1918 with a major unfinished gap in what was to become eastern Syria and northern Iraq, which was not connected up until 1940.

The other major rail route, from Turkey to Egypt had been completed by 1918 but involved mountainous narrow gauge lines from the Beqaa to Damascus and

Haifa where it connected with the British military-built railway to Egypt.

The Taurus Express seems to have been introduced in 1930, providing links from the Bosphorus to Baghdad and Cairo, using road connections over the gap in the Baghdad Railway, and along the Lebanese coast, bypassing the narrow gauge section of the railway through Damascus, but in both cases the road coaches were provided by CIWL (the International Sleeping Car Company), not by the Nairns.

After World War 2, the through trains resumed, subject to political opportunities, to Baghdad and to Beirut, although no passenger trains have operated in Lebanon since about 1975. Beirut was reached over the wartime-built British military railway along the Lebanon coast. More recently, Syria has built a new standard gauge railway into Damascus, entirely bypassing any bit of Lebanon and a through connection now runs from Istanbul, I think, once a week. Do not imagine a gleaming luxury train for these services; travellers report one single car shunted off another train and leaving Turkey at the head of a freight train. Very much an adventure, requiring determination and patience.

This could clearly be a good subject for a paper – or even a session - at the next ASTENE conference....

TRANS-DESERT MAIL by Vita Sackville-West
Dr Cook led us to this record of the Nairn Line. The cars, he writes, had come from Beirut and looked it, and the driver had had a varied life.

He drove, his eyes whitened by the stream of the headlights, and as he drove he talked, with a soft Scotch accent among the Persian hills. He was on the desert service usually, he said, Beyrout to Baghdad, that meant thirty-six hours' continuous driving, with an hour's stop for dinner, rough going part of the way, no regular track, and plenty of rocks and gullies to look out for, smooth going part of the way, as smooth as a hard tennis court, and that meant seventy miles an hour for a matter of two hundred miles. This route he travelled sometimes twice a week, if drivers were short, arrived in Baghdad, he might be told to turn his car round and drive straight back. Well, he said with a grin, we do sometimes drop asleep at the wheel. But he did not much mind, he said – one got used to it – the pay was good, and his wife was in Beyrout.

Little by little the story came out. The son of a Scottish crofter, he had gone to Russia fourteen years ago, to work on the railways, had been caught there by the war, enlisted in the Russian army; did not like it; deserted; came to England, enlisted afresh, went to France a week later, tried to return to Russia after the war, but so far had not succeeded in getting farther than Syria or Persia. He had married, but his wife went mad in Baghdad, and he had been obliged to drive her across the desert to put her into a mad-house in Beyrout. Such as the life history which, without the air of thinking it in the least unusual, he unfolded to me. I had already heard him speak Russian and Persian with equal fluency – but our conversation was interrupted, for a wild, coloured figure on horseback came at full gallop into the glare of our headlights.

From V. Sackville West, Passenger to Teheran, Hogarth Press, 1926; reprinted Arrow Books Ltd 1991.

NOTES

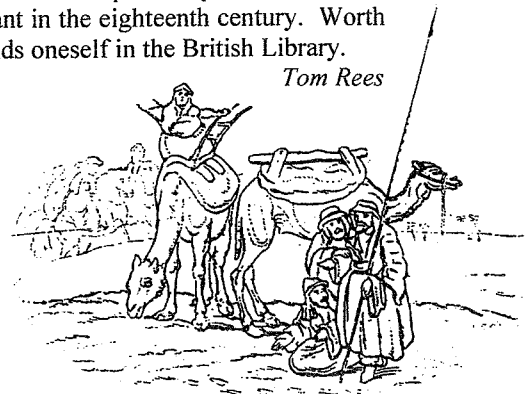
FITZHUGH – THE STORY OF A FAMILY THROUGH THE CENTURIES

This note relates to a privately printed work (Ottershaw 2001) by the distinguished genealogist Terrick Fitzhugh, with supplementary chapters contributed by other members of the FitzHugh and Fitzhugh families, of which there is a copy in the British Library (shelf-mark YA.2002.B.256). Chapter 21 is of interest to ASTENE members, dealing as it does with the experiences in Aleppo between 1735 and 1751 of William Fitzhugh, sent out as a trainee at the age of 18 to work for David Bosanquet, a member of the Levant Company's factory in the city.

By the middle of the C18 the Aleppo factory, once second only to Constantinople, had greatly shrunk in size. The author describes some of the political and mercantile reasons for the decline of business, not least of which were the rapacious tax-farming ambitions of the local chief Customs officer. The distance of Aleppo from Constantinople made administrative problems of this kind difficult to resolve. William Fitzhugh's own history shows that nonetheless there were fortunes to be made in this era in Aleppo. Working first for Bosanquet, then for the dynamic London merchant Jacob Chitty, and ultimately for himself as well, Fitzhugh was able to leave Aleppo in 1751 a wealthy man at the age of 33. Despite local dislike of *giaours*, Fitzhugh is recorded as having made at least two journeys in the company of one of the other factors, Alexander Drummond, during the course of which they visited the Valley of Salt, and made a circuit of more than two hundred miles via the banks of the Euphrates, inspecting ancient sites, including St Simon Stylites, column, the castle of Ruwant (identity?) and the ancient city of Hierapolis (modern Manbij). A nice Ottoman detail was the sight of a Turcoman settlement, far from the traditional Turcoman territory. The journeys were attended by difficulties with predatory 'Gourdin' (Kurdish?) tribesmen and suspicious Ottoman officials, but passed off without serious incident.

Terrick Fitzhugh's account of his forebear is well written, sets its individual history in historical context, and is an attractive addition to the rather scanty literature on European experiences in this part of the Levant in the eighteenth century. Worth a look if one finds oneself in the British Library.

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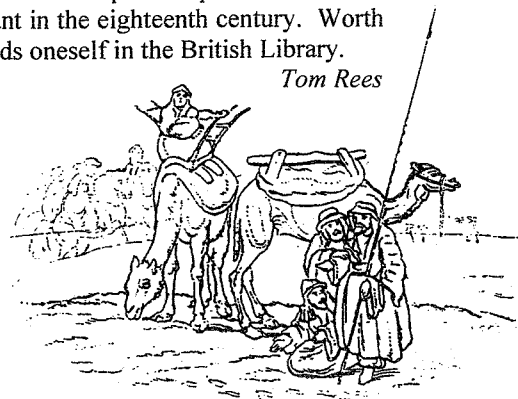
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JAMES PARKER SIMPSON'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF EGYPT

The Archive of the Griffith Institute in Oxford has one of the largest collections of the so-called studio photographs of Egypt, those produced by professional photographic studios active in Egypt between about 1855 and 1900. The collection may be consulted on <http://www.ashmolean.museum/gri4mirage.html>.

We are now extending our interest into the area of amateur and tourist photographs taken during the same period. We have been fortunate in being able to examine, analyse and scan images taken in Egypt in 1888 by James Parker Simpson. His great-grandson, Simon B. Simpson OBE, writes about his ancestor as follows:

My great-grandfather, James Parker Simpson, was born in July 1841 in Leeds, Yorkshire. As a young man he returned north to the country town of Northumberland, Alnick, the county of his forebears and started a grain merchanting business in the town in 1866. By 1872 he had purchased a piece of land at Greenbatt, Alnick and built his first maltings. During the next twenty years his business flourished, supplying malt to the local breweries in the north of England. At the time of his death in 1897, his maltings stretched from Darlington in the south to the borders of Berwick upon Tweed in the north – eight maltings in total. It was in 1888 under doctor's orders that he made the trip for the winter in Egypt.

Several of the photographs are of considerable interest for Egyptologist because they show two scenes which are now damaged or lost (this is especially true of TT96, 'Le Tombeau des Vignes', of Sennufer, the mayor of Thebes under Amenophis II). There are other photographs, including one showing the entrance to the famous Shepheard's Hotel at 8, Sharia Kamil in Ezbekiya, Cairo. The hotel was burnt down in 1952 and replaced by establishment in Corniche El Nil Street. Copies of the photographs are now in the Archive of the Griffith Institute and can be seen on <http://www.ashmolean.museum/gri/4simpson/>.

Jaromir Malek



FOOTPRINTS



CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT SINAI

E.H. Palmer (1840-1882) was a member of the Sinai Peninsular survey expedition of 1868.

We had returned to Sinai in time to spend Christmas Day there, to celebrate the Advent of Him who was the Fulfilment of the Law beneath the very shadow of the mountain from which the Law was first proclaimed. Christmas morning broke bright and clear; in the desert it was not likely to be ushered in by many extraordinary festivities, but we observed it as a day of rest, and passed it in a very agreeable manner, Mr Holland performing morning service in the mess tent. Nor did we forget the old customs of the season. True, we had neither holly nor mistletoe, and the nearest approach we could have contrived to a Yule Log would have been to borrow a walking stick from the Oeconomos at the Convent; but Salvo, our Maltese cook, had extracted much festivity out of some olive branches and cypress twigs, and the tents were unanimously pronounced to be "most tastefully decorated". And who shall paint the glories of our Christmas dinner of stewed ibex, followed by a real, palpable plum-pudding, made months before by fair hands at home? The *vis inertiae*, the power of laziness, which followed that meal proved that we did it ample justice.

[From *The Desert of the Exodus* by E.H. Palmer, p. 144]

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

On Christmas Eve we had for the third time selected a palm for our Christmas-tree. This symbol, still more beautiful than our fir-tree, was decorated with lights and small gifts. Our artists celebrated the cheerful festival in other imaginative ways, and an illuminated Christmas crib, executed in the typical manner, and placed at the end of the long rock-passage, was most successful.

[From Dr Richard Lepsius' *Egypt, Ethiopia and Sinai*, translated by Leonora and Joanna Horner, London, 1853]

MR HILL'S HOTEL, CAIRO, 1839

I arrived here on 23rd January, 1839* after a very wearisome and uncomfortable journey, and am now in what is called an English hotel, kept by Mr Hill, who has some similar establishments at Alexandria and Suez. I find nothing very English

about the house, except the bills, which are extravagantly high, and the passengers to Suez, who in bad dinners, *khamseen* winds, prickly heat, and fleas, have abundant opportunities of indulging their national privilege of grumbling. Would you believe it! there is neither bottled porter nor Harvey's sauce in the house! Such are the dreadful privations of which I sometimes hear loud complaints.

John Kinnear

* The Scottish businessman, Kinnear met the Scottish artist David Roberts while travelling in Egypt – and they travelled on to Sinai together.

THE KITES OF CAIRO, 1923

H.V. Morton is one of the most sensitive modern writers on the Middle East – knowledgeable, and understanding and appreciative. His travels probably deserve our attention. I came across this piece in Middle East, a collection of other writings brought together in 1941.

The plaintive whistle of the kite is one of the characteristic sounds of early morning in Cairo. Those big brown birds, which sometimes measure five feet from wing-tip to wing-tip, have scavenged the streets of Cairo for centuries. No one would kill a kite in Egypt. To do so would bring bad luck, and there is even a belief that if a kite haunts a certain balcony or window, it is a sign of death. Like the ibis and the cat in ancient Egypt, the kite is privileged and protected.

I stand on my balcony every morning to watch those birds. They have no fear of human beings, and many a time I have seen them swoop among a group of street cleaners and, without pausing in their flight, rise grasping in their claws some fragment of offal. They love to perch on high places such as the top of flag-poles, where they look rather like eagles as they keep watch on the streets below. (p.52)

A SAILOR'S TALE

It is not often that we hear the voice of the 'common man' among the travellers. In May 1858 when Charles Newton was working near Bodrum at the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, a letter, unsigned, was picked up in the street and handed over to him. The writer was evidently one of the sailors from the Supply which was loading the antiquities. Newton published it in Volume II of His Travels and Discoveries in the Levant, (London, 1865, re-issued Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim, 1989). Dear father and moter, with gods help I now take up my pen to rite these few lines to you ... Dear father of all the drills that a seaman was put to I think the Supply's company have got the worst, for here we are at Boderumm a using the peke madock & shovel. nevr was there such a change from a

sea man to a navy; yes by George we are all turned naveys sometimes a dragging it down to the waters edge & then imbarcking it. Dear father this is the finest marble that ever I saw; we get on so very slow that I fear we shall be hear a long time ... what is the most to be seen is the crockery ware that they used in those days ... they have dug up to lions, but they are very much broken about from lying in the ground or by the shok of the earthquake when the place was destroyed.

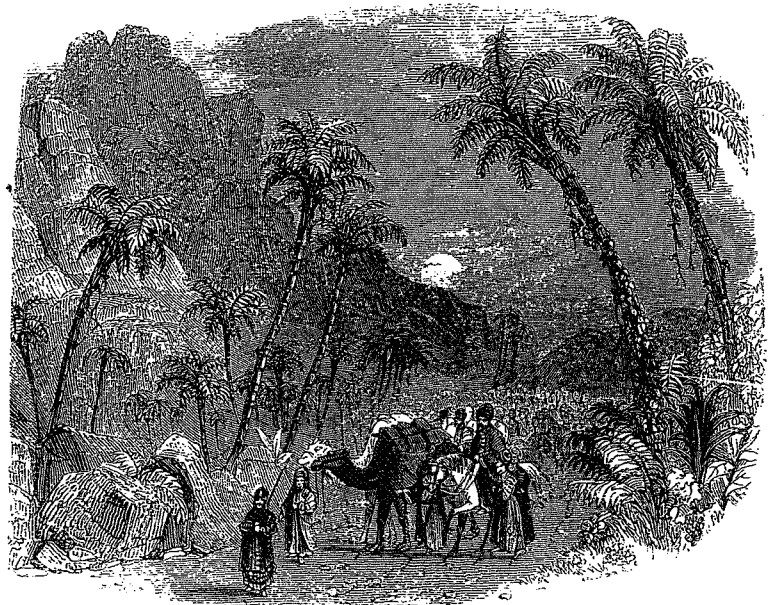
Charles Newton completed the chapter in which this letter was published:

Our last act before abandoning the ground where we have so long laboured, was to make a small mound within the Quadrangle, which will be marked on the Plan to enable future travellers to identify the site where once stood one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

AT PEACE IN THE CONVENT

For those not going on the ASTENE tour to Sinai in March, here is a description by W.H. Bartlett in his Forty Days in the Desert: A journey from Cairo, by Wady Feiran, to Mount Sinai and Petra (5th edition, London, 1862) to make you wish you were...

I did little this afternoon but lounge about the building ... After dinner, I sat in the shade of the corridor, and looked over the interior of the building. Its inmates are now no longer under the temporary excitement of an arrival; and all has repassed into its usual quiet; one may almost hear a pin drop: now and then a gust of wind sweeps over the bleak perpendicular precipices, which seem threatening to bury it, and furiously rattles an old casement or two; then all is still again. ... One would never suspect the little busy world hidden beneath, - the snug storehouses of corn, wine and wood; the monastic makers of bread, distillers of raki, tailors, blacksmiths, shoemakers, and cook, all busy, like ants underground; ...



[A Valley in Sinai.]

