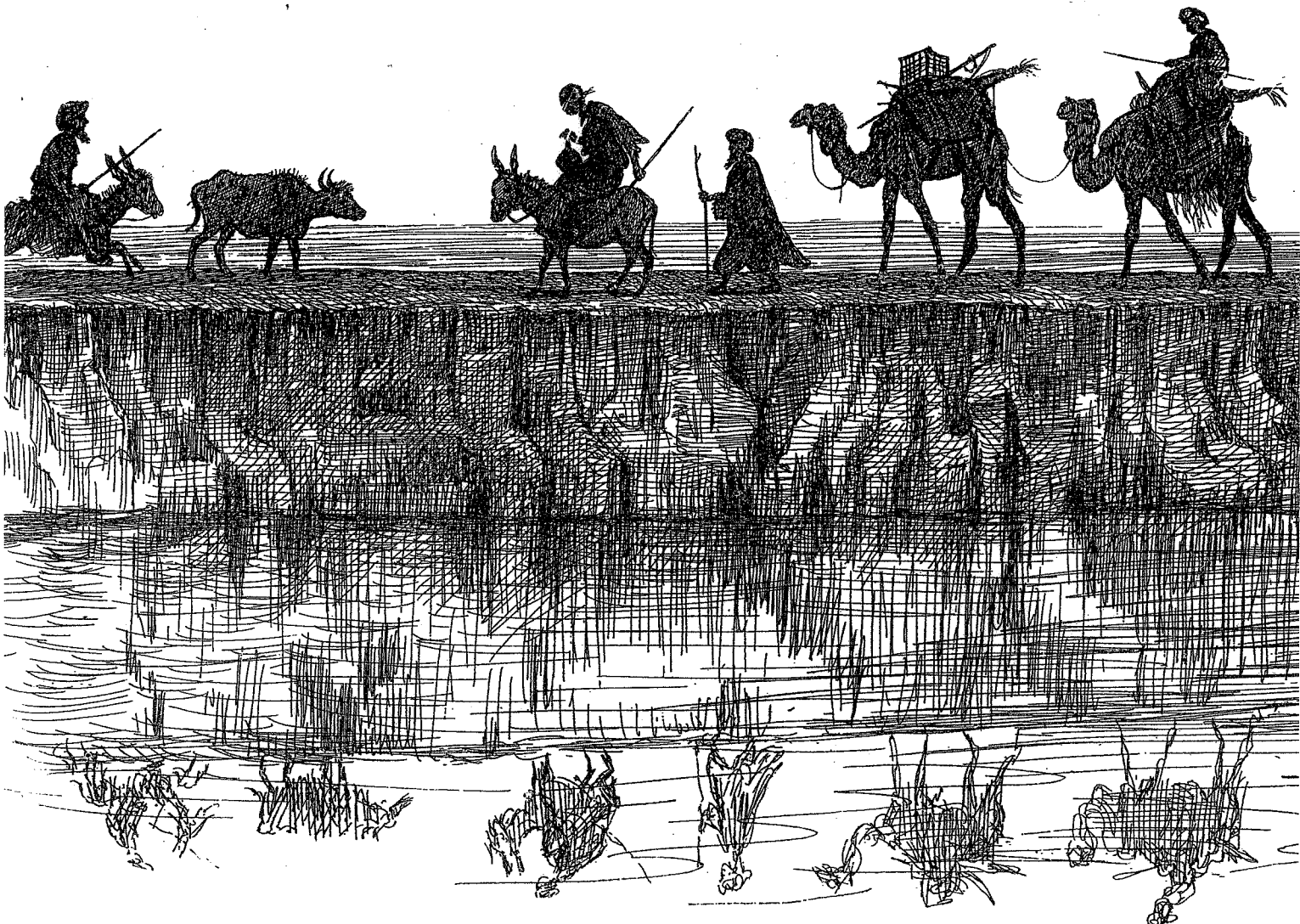


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No 27

Spring 2006



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BULLETIN 28

The deadline for the next Bulletin is 15 June. We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members – and others. Please send your contributions to the Editor, - the sooner the better. During 2005 there were 89 contributions from members to the Bulletin.

ASTENE NEWS & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE ASTENE VISIT TO SINAI AND CONFERENCE IN NUWEIBA

Travellers from previous centuries would be astonished at the resort of Sharm-el-Sheik – a tourist destination of luxury hotels and lush greenery that perches precariously on the edge of the Sinai Peninsula. But while most holiday makers never venture further than the pool-side bar, ASTENE's explorers shunned the five-star lifestyle after a single night to head inland for the start of a week-long visit to the Sinai region.

The coastal plain soon gives way to a mountainous terrain of vast ranges of salmon-pink and caramel coloured rock. Driving through this landscape the craggy outcrops seem as though they are hurrying to close you in on all sides, forcing the bus to wind its way around them. Without a sea-breeze the heat of the sun becomes more apparent and the sight of several desiccated camel corpses was a reminder that the slightest weakness in even the best adapted traveller will be punished in this unforgiving landscape.

It is within this remote and barren setting that the Monastery of St Catherine lies.

We spent two nights at the Monastery's guest house in the shadow of Mount Sinai and our visit to the monastery provided some of the high points of the tour. At nine o'clock in the morning travellers, tourists and pilgrims from all continents began streaming in through the monastery's narrow alleyways that were never designed for mass tourism. St Catherine's is only open for three hours each morning and visitors are keen to make the most of the time allowed to view the church and holy artefacts. Over successive days ASTENE members had the rare privilege of witnessing the monks performing Vespers, viewing the Library with its collection of manuscripts, studying the visitors' book going back to 1897, and entering the Chapel of the Burning Bush. Our chairman, Brian Taylor, and some other members were honoured by meeting Archbishop Damianos.

Watching the sun rise from the summit of Mount Sinai sounded like a splendid idea. Starting the climb at 2 a.m. to be there in time did not. Seven of the group, however, did set out with our Bedouin guide in the early hours for the ascent, trying to distinguish between boulders and sleeping camels by the sole light of the moon. But the effort was worth it. and we joined an international gathering of Indonesians, Singaporeans and Germans at the peak to watch the dawn of a new day.

At the end of our visit we returned to the coast, at Nuweiba, for a two day conference. ASTENE was delighted to welcome as its guest, Father Justin, the



Librarian of St Catherine's, who was given special permission to leave the monastery to attend the conference. As is customary for an ASTENE conference, the audience was given a glimpse into the lives of eclectic range of individuals and transported back to numerous colourful episodes in the region's history.

ASTENE's visit to Sinai was undoubtedly an all-round success. As a holiday, the sunshine made a welcome change for those of us who had left behind a wintry Europe. Culturally, it was fascinating to witness the life-styles of the Bedouin and monks who inhabit the harsh Sinai landscape. The chance to explore the well-preserved Nawamis, bronze-age burial chambers, and the Egyptian temple of Serabit, ensured that our visit spanned the ages.

Most importantly, the new relationship the Association has formed with St Catherine's could be one that is beneficial to both sides.

Although physically remote, St Catherine's is currently at the heart of several international exhibitions and projects involving icons and manuscripts in its archive, that will bring its exceptional collection to a wider audience.

Lorien Pilling

Particular thanks are due to Elizabeth Woodthorpe, Events Organiser and John Ruffle, Tour Leader.

NUWEIBA CONFERENCE PAPERS

Papers at the Nuweiba Conference (ASTENE's second conference in Egypt) were: Christina Erck, Tunisia on Count Tischendorf; Dr Joanna Holaubek, Vienna on Ida von Hahn-Hahn; Deborah Manley on Reverends Carne, Clarke and Wolff in Sinai, Lorien Pilling on Egyptian monasteries, Francesca Radcliffe on William Banks at Petra, Peta Ree on Mr and Mrs Hornby in Constantinople, Janet Starkey on John Varley Junior, Prof. Paul Starkey on Piri Reis, Dr Brian Taylor on the Earl of Sandwich, Prof. Malcolm Wagstaff on historic geography, Janet Starkey on Suez.

TUTANKHAMUN, CARTER AND JAMES

ASTENE President, Harry James, was in Cairo in November 2005 for the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the burial chamber in the tomb of Tutankhamun. Various special events took place in the Egyptian Museum, culminating in Harry's lecture which was held in the refurbished ballroom of the British Embassy. In this talk, he concentrated on less well-known aspects of the life of the discoverer of the tomb, Howard Carter, in the years before 1922.

As Carter's detailed drawings of the objects in Tutankhamun's tomb show, he was an accomplished draftsman and artist. His skill is demonstrated in the watercolours, drawings and portraits which he did in his native Norfolk, before he went to Egypt as draftsman on the excavations of Petrie, Naville and Theodore Davis. Harry presented slides of these early works, as well as of Carter's various homes in Egypt and England, in his accustomed engaging and entertaining manner. We wish him many more celebrations of Tutankhamun and other Egyptological luminaries.

Those who went on the ASTENE visit to the Searight Collection in the V & A last year saw some examples of such works by Howard Carter.

STUDY DAY ON SINAI, VISIT TO THE ISLAMIC STUDIES CENTRE AND ASTENE AGM

As previously announced the weekend of 30th June – 1st July will be an important ASTENE weekend in Oxford.

4 p.m. Friday, 30th June: Visit to the splendid new buildings of the Oxford Islamic Studies Centre on the Marston Road.

7 p.m. Dinner at El Shaami Lebanese Restaurant in Broad Street (possibly with belly dancing)

9:30 a.m. Saturday, 1st July: Pilgrims and Travellers to Mount Sinai and St Catherine's Convent – Study Day - Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education, St John Street

Programme

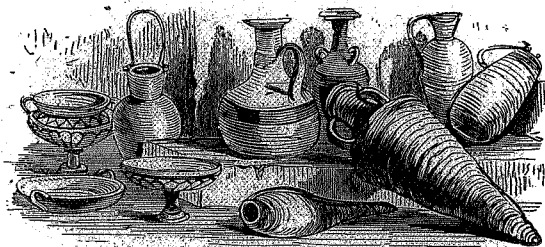
- 9:30 Introduction by Professor Robin Butlin
 - 10 St Helena, Egeria and the Early Travellers by Canon John Wilkinson
 - 11:30 The explorer-travellers: descriptions of the journey and place by Deborah Manley
 - 2:15 The Scriptural Geographers: critical engagements in sacred places by Edwin Aiken
 - 3:45 The miracles of the Exodus: the tradition investigated by Professor Colin Humphreys
 - 4:45 Discussion: Modern pilgrims' travels and experiences led by Professor Robin Butlin
- Slides of ASTENE's Spring expedition to Sinai.

5:30 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT REWLEY HOUSE

To register for the Conference, use the enclosed form. If you plan to come to the visit to the Islamic Centre and/or the dinner on Friday, please register with Elisabeth Woodthorpe, ASTENE Events Organiser (see page 2).

OBITUARY: DR ALBERTINE GAUR (1931-2006)

With sadness we announce the death of Albertine Gaur, a founder ASTENE member and Bulletin Reviews Editor, and Deputy Director in charge of Oriental collections at the British Library. Born near Vienna, Albertine joined the Library in 1964; after her retirement she continued to write and review, was elected to the Kingston Council, and this year published an account of her childhood, *Spring and No Flowers*.



VESSELS OF GOLD AND SILVER.

OTHER EVENTS: EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, etc

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings of Sinai by David Risk Kennard made during ASTENE's visit will be exhibited at Gallery 54, 54 Shepherd's Market, London W1. 31 July – 5 August 10 – 8 pm. Works on display will include oil paintings, watercolours, and drawings in reed pen and ink. Other travels and British landscapes will also feature. Some prints may be available. Contact David on 01308 485529, mobile 07976 104811, www.riskkennard.co.uk, e-mail: akennard@bigfoot.com

Bellini and the East: The Image of the Muslim and Christian Mediterranean, National Gallery, London An exciting and very welcome exhibition. 12 April – 25 June, 2006. See related conference below.

The Road to Byzantium: Luxury Arts of Antiquity, Somerset House, London includes wonderful examples of the artistic luxuries of Greece, Rome and Byzantium from the collection of the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, from 30 May – 3 September.

Wilfred Thesiger's Iraq, 1949-1958, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford is scheduled to close on 16 April. A selection of 38,000 negatives, 75 albums of photographs and thousands of prints held by the Pitt Rivers has been professionally archived. Inquiries to ms-photo.colls@prm.ox.ac.uk

Treasures from Olana: Landscapes by Frederic Edwin Church (see below) features 18 landscapes both domestic and from the Middle East. National Academy Museum, New York until end April.

Lost Nubia: Photographs of Egypt and Sudan 1905-7 - from the first University of Chicago Epigraphic Expedition. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago until 7 May.

The Royal Tombs of Ur, Houston Museum of Natural Science More than 400 artefacts from the excavations by Sir Leonard Woolley in Iraq in 1922-34, are on display until 13 August.

Saladin and the Crusaders in Oldenburg and Mannheim Exhibition of 130 artefacts from Middle Eastern and European collections showing the cultural encounter of the Crusades, and that the encounter was not just about war but encompassed peaceful exchange and mutual cultural inspiration. State Museum for Nature and Mankind, Oldenburg, Germany until 2 July, then at Reiss-Engelhorn Museums, Mannheim until 5 November.

Petra: Lost City of Stone at the Canadian Museum of Civilisation, Ottawa, 19 April - 3 September With 200 objects and 19th century artworks, this exhibition documents the creation and re-discovery of Petra.

Harpies, Mermaids and Tulips at the Textile Museum, Washington DC to 3 September Embroidery of the Greek Islands and the Epirus region between 17th and 19th centuries - a time when the islands were at the crossroads of trade between east and west.

Letters to Khartoum, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire A new long term exhibition opened in March. It draws on family archives to follow the events of the 319 day siege of Khartoum, 1884-5, the death of General Gordon and the revengeful Battle of Omdurman. The exhibition focuses on the experiences of Captain Johnny Brocklehurst of the relief force, and includes unique Gordon memorabilia from the Sudeley archives and the Royal Engineers Museum at Chatham. Sudeley, with its historic house, beautiful gardens and tomb of Queen Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII, in the church, is highly recommended.

Facing East: Portraiture across Asia at Sackler Gallery, Washington DC, 1 July-4 September

An exhibition exploring how portraits expressed cultural identities across Asia over millennia: Egyptian pharaohs, Chinese empresses, Indian rajahs and a host of others.

Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, V & A, London from 20 July The renovated gallery houses the

10,000 treasures of Islamic art from the Middle East including the exquisite rock-crystal ewer from 11th century Egypt. The displays explain the development of Islamic art from the 8th-9th centuries onward, and highlight the fruitful interchange between the Islamic world and neighbours in Europe and Asia.

The Louvre Theme Tours, Paris are organised around 10 subjects, considering period, artefact or location. "The Palaces of the Ancient Near East" was offered on Monday afternoons in November. Other cycles look at Egyptian antiquities, society and nature or the arts of Islam. There is a very reasonable charge.

REVIEW

Pilgrimage: The Sacred Journey, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford until 2 April

The dimly lit McAlpine Gallery of the Ashmolean Museum provided an appropriate setting for artefacts related to pilgrimage of different faiths. In the first exhibition of the new Ashmolean Inter-faith Exhibition Service which will investigate artistic representations of religious concepts in different faiths. The exhibition drew upon the riches of Oxford and elsewhere, such as a 17th century inlaid olive wood take-apart model of the church of the Transfiguration in Jerusalem from the coffers of an Oxford college. William Wey's map of the Holy Land, which ASTENE members saw a few years ago, came from the Bodleian Library.

Articles in the accompanying book, *Pilgrimage: The Sacred Journey*, follow the paths covered by the exhibition, including: Pilgrimage in Judaism, Islam and Christianity; William Wey (1407-76) - An Englishman's Journey to Jerusalem; Pilgrim Tales - Benjamin of Tudela and Ibn Jubayr (12th century), Ibn Battuta (14th century). Edited by Ruth Barnes and Crispin Branfoot, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, large format p/b 132 pp. maps and full colour illustrations, ISBN 1 85 444 215 5.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Graduate Article Competition in Islamic and Middle East Studies 2006 of the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) is receiving articles from postgraduate students at UK universities. The winner will receive £5000 and will be published in the peer-review journal, the British Journal of Middle East Studies. The closing date is 1st December 2006. See www.brismes.ac.uk

British School of Archaeology in Iraq Appeal

The British School of Archaeology in Iraq is working on its own and with other bodies and agencies to safeguard Iraq's world famous heritage. The School in Iraq 1932-1990 cannot return there yet, but is assisting its Iraqi colleagues with scholarships, short-term fellowships and material resources to museum and university staff to train in

archaeology or related fields and to supply books, materials and equipment for both museums and universities. The first scholars have taken up their awards, using funds already raised. They are now appealing for £500,000. BSAI Appeal, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK. and bsaiappeal@britac.ac.uk

CONFERENCES, STUDY DAYS AND LECTURES

Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, Rewley House

For further details and registration telephone 01865 or emailppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

St George: Saint and Symbol, Saturday 3 June

The recent Radio 4 series reminded us of St George's origins and importance in the Near East. This day school conducted by the cultural historian Dr Sam Riches considers the origins of the cult; St George in the medieval world, martyr and soldier; Unravelling the dragon myth; St George in the post-medieval world.

Second World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Amman, Jordan, 11-16 June, 2006.

The Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (riifs) has been invited to organise and host this Congress – "the first time that experts on the Middle East drawn from all over the world and all branches of the humanities and social sciences will assemble together in the region to share and exchange their research, experience and ideas. See www.riifs.org 8822 or www.egyptology.uk.com/bloomsbury

Ancient Egypt, Israel and the Bible: Faith and the archaeological evidence on Monday 24 April Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society lecture by Peter Clayton in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre of the British Museum at 6 p.m.. All welcome. RosalindHaddon@aol.com

Rescue work at the Fourth Cataract, Thursday 27 April Lecture by Derek Welsby at 6.45 at the Egyptian Education and Culture Bureau, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1.

Two lectures looking at Sir Flinders' Petrie's work, Thursday 4 May at 6:45 at the Egyptian Education and Culture Bureau (see above):

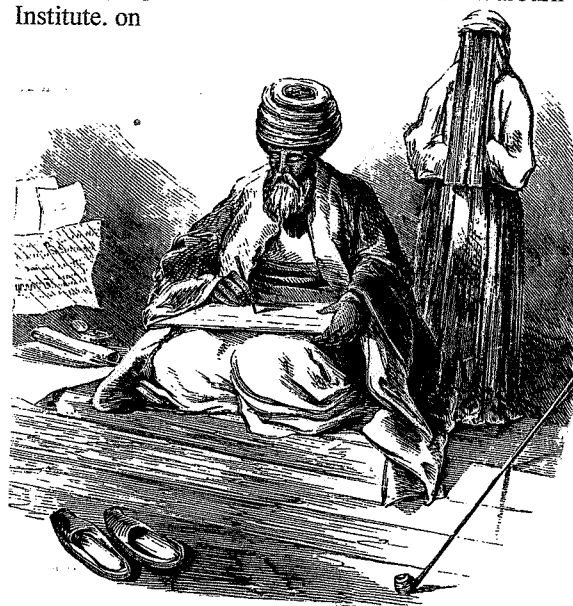
Margaret Serpico: *Archaeologists, antiquarians and astronomers: setting the stage for Petrie*; Friday 5 May at 6:30 at lecture theatre G6, Institute of Archaeology, 30 Gordon Square, London WC1: *What Petrie found, what Petrie missed: Amenhotep III and his court in Sinai.*

Tutankhamun Study Day, Saturday 13 May Emphasis on recent, current and future research in this field. Speakers include Dr Jaromir Malek, Dr Aidan Dodson and Christian Loeben. Tickets £33 from the Box Office, Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon St., London WC1H 0AH. Tel: 020 7388

Arabia's History in the 19th century

Lecture by social anthropologist Paul Dresch at the Society for Arabian Studies meeting, 5:30, 24 May at Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London.

The Renaissance and the Ottoman World, Warburg Institute and SOAS, London, 26-27 April. Coinciding with the Bellini exhibition at the National Gallery (see above), this conference brings together eminent scholars to consider relations between Christian Europe and the Ottoman during the Renaissance. Booking form and full programme are available from the Warburh Institute. on



RESEARCH RESOURCES

This section appears only in the Bulletin and is not repeated on the web-site.

IONIAN BANK COLLECTION

Many of the foreign travellers in the Near East were merchants; all needed a source of money to fund their travels. Often one reads of them, with letters of credit and drafts on a bank, attending upon Mr Samuel Briggs in Egypt or others elsewhere to honour these arrangements. Thus, access to the papers of the Ionian Bank now offered by the London School of Economics could prove a great resource. The bank was founded in the 1830s, the first joint stock bank based in London to conduct business overseas. Its business activities covered Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and the USA. The archive is huge, including documents relating to the development and management of the bank overseas between 1837 and 1977. It is regarded as of particular interest to "economic historians studying the development of banking and trade in the Mediterranean – and also Greek family historians." For enquiries email: document@lse.ac.uk

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE AT ANKARA

The Institute is a registered charity that supports, promotes and publishes British research focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral within all disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences, and maintains a research centre focused on the archaeology and related subjects of Turkey and the Black Sea region. For further information contact: British Institute at Ankara, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. www.biaa.ac.uk

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

We have not included the PEF in the Bulletin for some time, and recommend it again. The PEF promotes research into topography, archaeology, history, manners and customs and culture, and natural sciences of the Levant. It holds public lectures and funds some research projects. It also has a most interesting and useful library in central London. See www.pef.org.uk

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL GALLERY

Free and open online access to a vast range of digital images from its collections, including historical maps, rare prints and photographs, and more. <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/>

NEWS FROM MONPESSON

Cassandra Vivian has given us another most useful resource: Project Gutenberg publishes out of print books and have a lot of travellers to Egypt. <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/17321>

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

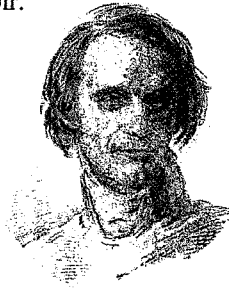
John Carne in 'Letters from the East' (pp. 186-7) tells of the memory of Burckhardt about three years after 'the incomparable' traveller's death – his information was not even then entirely correct....

The tomb of the unfortunate Burckhardt is in the Turkish burying-ground, without the city. This incomparable traveller was a most amiable man, and by his long residence among the Arab tribes had acquired the appearance and manners of a Bedouin. The Arabs often speak of Sheik Ibrahim; he was to be met with in the desert mounted on a good Arab horse, meanly dressed, with his lance, and a bag of meal behind him for his food. None of the Europeans, at Cairo, ever knew in what part of the city he resided, though he would come occasionally to their houses, and drink wine and eat ham like an infidel; but he was fearful of being visited by his countrymen in return, lest the Turks should observe their intimacy. The Pasha was fond of his company, and would sometimes send for and converse with him.

The Irish artist Lady Catherine Tobin wrote of the foreign Cairo cemeteries:

Not far from hence is the English burial ground, for which our countrymen are mainly indebted to the energy and public spirit of Mr Sheppard, two of whose children have been interred within its limits. Surrounded by a high well-built wall, it is laid out very tastefully, and is kept with extreme care and neatness. The graves are chiefly those of English, American and also a few German, who have died of late years at Cairo. I do not think that any of the ages marked upon the tombstones was more than forty-five, and by far the greater number were under twenty, - a too manifest token of that fatal scourge of northern lands, whose victims, hoping against hope - when all other means have failed - come hither but to die. A small chapel is in course of erection within this quiet cemetery, for the funeral service only; but the necessary funds are at present wanting to complete it: part of the roof is already laid. Formerly all Protestant Christians were buried within the precincts of the Coptic convent at Old Cairo. (*Shadows of the East*, 1855).

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), nephew of the poet who became Bishop of Lincoln, travelled in Greece and wrote *Athens and Attica* (1836, reprinted 2003), is buried beside his wife Susanna in the church at Riseholme, Lincolnshire. There is a memorial to him in Lincoln Cathedral behind the choir.



NOTES AND QUERIES AND REPLIES

We welcome queries for information about travellers and the places to which they travelled from our readers. The queries are published both in the Bulletin and on the ASTENE website; the replies appear only in the Bulletin. When you reply to the person who sent in the query, please also send your reply to the Bulletin Editor.

SOPHIE PALMER AT PETRA, 1882

Robert Munson of San Diego, California found ASTENE's website and asked for help. He is interested in 19th century lady travellers and would like information about Sophie M. Palmer who apparently visited Petra in 1882. He found reference to her in an article from the 1888 Century

Magazine (This appears to be Macmillan's Magazine, February, 1883, see below. Ed.).

Please reply to the Bulletin Editor and also to Robert W. Munson, 3803-4R Marquette Place, San Diego, California 92106, USA or to his email: Robert_Munson@nps.gov.

We passed Robert Munson's query to Norman Lewis, whose knowledge of travellers to Petra is wide-ranging. There is no entry for her in the New Dictionary of National Biography but he was able to provide references to Sophie Palmer's fictional writings under her single and married names (de Franqueville) and to a biography written by her sister in 1919. Daughter of the Lord Chancellor, she went to Egypt, Sinai, Petra and Jerusalem with family friends and wrote long enthusiastic letters (worth reading) and sent drawings to her family. An article by her about her experiences in Petra was published in Macmillan's Magazine in January, 1883. *Footprints quotes from that article.*

MISS DANIELL AT CAIRO

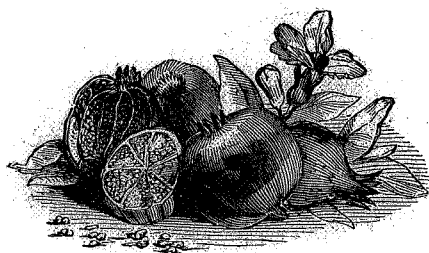
On 14 December 1861 the Irish artist, Lady Tobin, had tea in Cairo at Mrs Lieder's (wife of the Reverend Lieder) and admired "the valuable collection of Egyptian curiosities" belonging to her and her friend Miss Daniell. Then Miss Daniell read extracts from her manuscript journal of a tour in the Sinaitic Peninsula (where Catherine Tobin travelled twice). Who was Miss Daniell and has her journal survived? *Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.*

REVEREND RICHARD POCOCKE (1704-65) AND MR PASHLEY (1805-59) IN CRETE

I am at present researching these two characters for a DPhil at Sussex University and am searching for material on their early schooling and their travels in Crete. Pococke was born in Southampton, educated at Corpus Christi, Oxford, and was in Cyprus in the 1730s; Pashley was at Trinity, Cambridge and in Crete in the 1830s. Their colleges have not been able to supply much information. I am aware of Pococke's journals and manuscripts at the British Library, but little else and even less on Pashley. Can anyone suggest where I might find this information? *Dudley Moore, please reply to Editor*

TRAVELLER IN ARMENIA

Christopher Young would like information on Henry Finnis Bloss Lynch, a traveller in Armenia. *Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.*



POMEGRANATES.

REPLIES

Replies to Queries appear only in the Bulletin and are not posted on the ASTENE website.

Where is Mary Whately buried?

Mary Whately, daughter of the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin was an Irish missionary who both carried her message up and down the Nile but also started the ragged schools in Cairo (based on the Irish model in which she had worked). Many lady travellers visited these schools as 'sights' of the city. In Bulletin 22 there was a query about where Miss Whately was buried in Cairo.

Terry Walz of Washington DC was familiarizing him/herself with ASTENE's "worthy website", and noting that query wrote: "According to the Cairo correspondent of *The Standard* - a note republished in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* March-April 1889, p. 112) her remains have been laid among the people she loved so well." From this Terry Walz deduced they are in the Protestant Cemetery in Old Cairo.

This leads to another query. Do any members know of any research being carried out to record the gravestones in this and other cemeteries in the ASTENE region? Some splendid work has been done by a group of volunteers in the cemetery on the ramparts near the public library in Valetta, Malta over the past years.

Who was Napoleon's Mameluke?

In an earlier Bulletin we asked what was known of the man who in 1819 escorted Sir Miles Nightingall through Egypt. John Ingle of jingle@austin.IT.com of Austin, Texas replied:

"This was likely Roustan, the Mameluke who accompanied Napoleon for many years, including during his failed campaign to punish the Russians for trading with the English."

BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

The Reviews Editor is Thomas Rees. Please send books to review or reviews to him at The Old Manor House, Bridgewater, Stanwell, Somerset TA 7 9AE or email tbrees@btinternet.com

Osman's Dream: The Story of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923 by Caroline Finkel, John Murray, London, 2005, 660 pp. h/b. £30. ISBN 0 7195 5513 2

The Ottoman Empire governed for more than three hundred years, and in some cases more than four hundred, the territories in which ASTENE is interested. A new and thorough scholarly account

of its course, from its origins as one among several Turkic emirates in Anatolia in the 14C to its final demise following the First World War, is therefore very welcome. Caroline Finkel draws on a vast range of source material in Turkish, English and French – the bibliography runs to more than forty pages. (Interestingly, Bernard Lewis's classic if somewhat dated "The Emergence of Modern Turkey" is not cited.)

The character of the Empire at its outset was eclectic and culturally and philosophically diverse. This is reflected in the architectural and cultural achievements of the great period of Ottoman flourishing under the early Sultans, notably Mehmed II and Suleyman I (the Magnificent). With the slow erosion of its territory and the loss of its Christian dominions, once the bulk of the empire, Islam's importance as a political as well as a religious idea grew, until the eventual virtual exclusion of other minorities and their cultures.

For Western readers familiar with Ottoman history mainly through epochal events such as the siege of Vienna, the 1823 massacres of Chios, the Greek war of independence, and the Bulgarian and Armenian massacres of the late 19C and early 20C, this rich and detailed account offers a different perspective, in which such events are lesser incidents in a story dominated by the dynamics of internal Ottoman history. (The Chios massacres, so influential in dominating European attitudes towards Turkey, are not even mentioned.) It is a persuasive reading of the processes through which a multi-cultural Ottoman empire, in which 'Turk' was a term of contempt, evolved into an increasingly Muslim and 'Turkish' nationalist state. As a work of reference for historians of Ottoman politics and society it will be invaluable. *Tom Rees*

***Rethinking Orientalism* by Reina Lewis, I.B. Taurus, London, 2004, p/b 297 pp, ISBN 1 86064 730 8**

The purpose of this book is to challenge Western stereotypes about such matters as harem life, polygamy and the wearing of the veil. It adduces the personal experience of four Ottoman women of the first half of the twentieth century as they themselves recorded it or recounted it through an intermediary. In chapter 2, "Empire, Nation and Culture", the historical background is sketched in with particular reference to the varying effects of the lives and status of women. There are in all six chapters and they are best read as individual items for there is no developing argument but instead a series of approaches: in chapter 3, for instance, entitled "Eroticised Bodies", there is a lengthy discussion of Rossetti's "Pre-Raphaelite ladies". The book contains some interesting material but it is highly repetitive, and potential readers should be warned, much of it is written in the multi-syllabic, remorselessly abstract style of modern

contemporary cultural criticism. Those who, like the present reviewer, are not enamoured of this style may find the image of wading in a swamp comes to mind.

Joan Rees

***Edge of Empire: Conquest and Collecting in the East 1750-1850* by Maya Jasonoff, London Fourth Estate, 2005, 406 pp, ill. ISBN 0-00-7-718009-8, £20.00**

This is a remarkable and ambitious book, tracing the foundations of the imperial ideal in both British and French outlook, largely through the enterprise of their citizens in 'collecting' objects from the worlds they conquered. These were the rather different worlds of India and Egypt, a somewhat awkward juxtaposition. Nevertheless the cast of often extraordinary characters is superbly described. Their collections were vast – precious, symbolic, sentimental, almost all valuable historically, and Ms Jasonoff does a masterly job in resurrecting them. Foreigners in Lucknow, Plowdens and Clives all over the place (there's a wonderful description of Clive grandchildren on a tour of southern India collecting an entrancing menagerie), a mixture of the scholarly and the greedy in Egypt – Henry Salt, strongman Belzoni and rascally Drovetti. Black and white images are scattered throughout the text: I only wish they had proper captions.

The implication, however, that 'empire' lay behind the 'conquest' of the title I find uncomfortable. 1750-1850 is not really a period of empire – that came later. Commerce was the driving force. Marseille merchants, the Lancashire cotton industry, the *de facto* ruler of Egypt Muhammad Ali – were concerned primarily with commerce. Egypt was only 'conquered' in the literal sense by Napoleon and his conquest was extremely short-lived; the British moved in to impose their ideas of law and order in the 1880s, but Egypt was, of course, never part of the British Empire. Only with the evolution of the so-called Eastern Question' in mid-century did 'empire' begin to grab the headlines. Nor is it obvious that the 'looting' was inspired by ideas of imperial grandeur. That came later and it's interesting in this respect to compare Clive's goodies displayed in Powis Castle, acquired at the outset of this account, and Curzon's much more imperial and pompous 'collection' in Kedleston Hall.

As a child in London in the late '40s and '50s I was taken by my grandmother to improving lectures at the Imperial Institute, an agglomeration of imperial loot in South Kensington which the author of this book is too young to have enjoyed – bad luck on her. For the compensation for the lectures was the amazing French musical box, Tipu's Tiger: grandmother's sixpence activated the apparatus and Tipu's Tiger proceeded noisily to devour the struggling British soldier pinned beneath

its claws. Now the poor animal is behind glass in the V & A and rarely allowed to perform. The background to its capture is graphically described by Ms Jasanoff in her account of the British defeat of Tipu in 1799, reviving for me memories of the Imperial Institute, established to mark the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria, Empress of India (let us not forget), and a bewitching treasure house for a young child still innocent of the greed behind the contents.

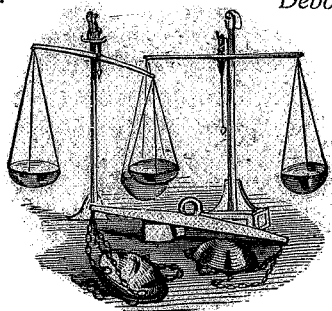
Sarah Searight

Miss Brocklehurst on the Nile: Diary of a Victorian Traveller in Egypt, Millrace, Disley, 2004, 144 p, line drawings, h/b £15.99, ISBN 1 902173 147

Fit Miss Brocklehurst into your pocket for your next flight to Egypt. She and her friend Miss Booth were Amelia Edwards' MBs on the Nile in the winter of 1873. Her slim, leather-bound journal was given to Macclesfield Borough Council for their Museum and has been transformed into a delightful – and unexpurgated – book, unlike the inevitably self-censored account of Miss Edwards. Here is Victorian tourism in the genteel raw – shooting crocodiles and every bird in sight, 'grubbing' for antiquities in the sands, snatching a mummy and concealing it in the linen closet, and being politically incorrect about other nations, but always being caring for their own staff.

Marianne's drawings are delightful – and, though needing to be reproduced very small, in the book, are on display at Sudeley Castle now (see above) – so one can see the originals. She gives some wonderful insights into Nile life – some totally original to me. My favourite is their own Reis' comment on the team who lifted them up the Cataract: "Twenty to row, thirty to scream and ten to direct."

Deborah Manley



A Silver Legend: The story of the Maria Theresa Thaler by Clara Semple, Barzan, London, 2005, 165 pp., fully illustrated, £19.95, ISBN 0-954901-0-1

When Clara Semple was given a Maria Theresa thaler by a silversmith in a Sudanese market it aroused her curiosity: "I was inspired to embark on their story." She has given us a fascinating and well-researched account of the origin of the coin, from 1741 when it was first struck, bearing the image of the first woman to inherit the Hapsburg throne.

Initially it was just one of a bewildering array of coins in circulation. Travellers to cities such as Jeddah had to cope with the money-changers in a chaotic market. But the Maria Theresa thaler gradually became the most widely accepted currency in the Middle East and parts of Africa. In 1780 France prohibited the export of French currency and the thaler began to be used extensively by Europeans trading with merchants in the Levant. By the 19th century it was the only currency accepted in some areas. In 1867, Lord Napier, on a military expedition to Ethiopia, had to carry crates of these heavy coins into the mountains.

In a generous number of superb photographs, we can easily see why this attractive piece appealed to nomadic women. If you are constantly on the move what better way to take your savings with you and show off at the same time? The Maria Theresa thaler could be hung glittering around your neck, fixed to your belt or headdress, or be dangled from your ankle.

An important factor was that it held its value. Although impostors were around, the exact details of the genuine thaler became well known and, if you wanted to test its worth, you could always bite it or throw it on a stone floor to check that it was not electroplated.*

Josy Eldred

Tom Rees remembers that when his grandfather used to go shooting in the Ionian islands in the 1920s, he would take a bag of gold sovereigns with him, as the islanders mistrusted all the local currencies in circulation at the time – which no doubt were depreciating by the hour. Apparently Maria Theresa thalers were still in circulation then too.*

* Maria Theresa thalers can still be bought in antique and tourist shops in Ethiopia today.

Making Cairo Medieval edited by Nezar Al Sayyad, Irene Bierman and Nasser Rabbat, Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto, Oxford, Lexington Books, 2005, ISBN 0-7391-0915-4 p/b, \$27.95

Much of this eleven chapter collection is less about Cairo than about European attitudes towards Cairo, a subject that demands as much acquaintance with the history of European taste and culture as with the history of al-Mahrusa. The chapter that will interest ASTENE members most, Caroline Williams' 'Nineteenth Century Images of Cairo: From the Real to the Interpretative', rests on solid ground in both respects. It offers rewarding analysis with minimal theory of speculation and elaborates a hard-won insight that should become basic to future studies. This insight – to the effect that European artists before 1860 sought to make an accurate visual record of Cairo, while those afterward created *capriccios* uniting authentic

materials in fanciful and anachronistic ways – is neatly sustained as a thesis, and is perfectly comfortable with the facts of both European and Egyptian cultural history.

She concentrates on a handful of the most distinguished Orientalist depictees of 19th century Cairo: Coste, Hay, Lane, Roberts, Frith (whose photography, she tellingly notes, necessarily excluded human subjects), Lewis, Gerome, and Deutsch, and lets the illustrations tell the tale. The reproduction of Deutsch's 'Le Tribut' (1898), for example, gives us an accurately detailed study of the portico of Sultan Hassan, but adorns it, as she points out, with some superfluous Turkish tiles, and peoples it with Ottoman costumes of more than seventy years earlier.

The original subject matter of Orientalists in Cairo – the manners, customs, modes of behaviour and dress that E.W. Lane, Hay or Roberts had depicted there before 1840 – were by 1860 certainly no longer intact, with Orientalist painters thus turned both perforce and by fashionable inclination to Arabian-Nights fantasies.

Other notable chapters in this collection, by Nezar Al Sayyad, Nasser Rabat, Khalid Fahmy, Nairy Hempikian, and May el-Ibrashy, will be of interest to serious students of al-Mahrusa. Two chapters that centre more or less on E.W. Lane are disappointingly infected by ignorant ideological attitudes out of the 1970s and 1980s and demonstrate the continuing need for Jason Thompson's still unpublished definitive biography.

John Rodenbeck

Athens and Attica: Journal of Residence there by Theodore Bent, first published 1836, revised edition 2004, 274 pp, 2 maps, 3 plates, £16.99, Archaeopress, Oxford; ISBN 0 9539923 3 0

"Had an embassy been decreed yesterday in the Pnyx, to meet Philip of Macedon at Thermopylae, there could not be more agitation at Athens than now," wrote Christopher Wordsworth caustically in his 1836 journal, having witnessed the Athenians squabbling over who was to be in the deputation of Nafplio to welcome the newly-arrived King Otto. Christopher, nephew of the poet and future Bishop of Lincoln, had visited Greece in 1832-3, at the troubled end of the War of Independence. When he first arrived, Athens was the only town south of Thermopylae still in the hands of the Turks, yet before he left he had been the first Englishman to meet the young king (an event not recorded in this volume).

Christopher covers thoroughly all the sites of Attica, so that the journal still serves, as its modern publishers propose, as a supplementary guide for today's tourist, but with the uncommon advantage that it gives an often graphic picture of the state of this very new nation. He records how his party on the way back from Delphi was attacked by

somewhat ineffectual bandits, who did not take them hostage in the hills because "the singular inclemency of the season ... rendered their access to their abodes difficult." And he draws a vivid picture of Athens in the wake of the war: "The streets are almost deserted: nearly all the houses are without roofs. The churches are reduced to bare walls and heaps of stone and mortar ... The least ruined objects here are some of the Ruins themselves."

Athens and Attica is much more vivid and readable than the pompous drawing-room-table book of Greece that Christopher published subsequently and Archaeopress are to be congratulated on reviving it as one of their imaginative '3rdguide' series, superbly edited by Gerald Brisch.

Charles Plouviez

***Antiquity and Photography: Early Views of ancient Mediterranean Sites* by John K. Papadopoulos, Claire I. Lyons and Lindsey S. Stewart, Thames and Hudson, London 2005, h/b, 120 ills., 240 pp., £35. ISBN 0 500 54316X**

This is a handsome and authoritative book issued to accompany the exhibition that inaugurated the newly renovated Getty Villa in Malibu. The exhibition drew on complementary collections of photographs in the Getty Museum's Department of Photography and in the Research Library of the Getty Research Institute.

Claire Lyons, collections curator at the Getty Institute, gives a fascinating, detailed and expert account of the development of the development and use of the newly discovered art of photography as used to depict antiquities, particularly in the Mediterranean area. There follow individual studies of two photographers: Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey, whose very early daguerreotypes survive largely because he did not actually publish them – a process which at the time would have ruined the originals – and the intriguing American, William James Stillman, whose photographic study of the Athenian Acropolis feature so prominently in the Alma-Tadema archive now held at the University of Birmingham. Then there is an erudite study of the coverage and information that can be gained from photographs of the Acropolis by Stillman and by others from John Papadopoulos, whose knowledge of classical Athens is excellent. Finally there are two short sections on several other notable photographers of the period under study, 1840-1880.

The geographical area covered concentrates on Italy (Rome and Pompeii), Athens (with a few other sites in Greece) and Egypt with the addition of a couple of interesting early views of Baalbek and of the British Museum's work at Bodrum.

The book is essentially a study of the interaction of photography and archaeology and of the influence of this new technique in the wider field of

artists and cultivated travellers. A few cavils: the table of contents does not give the important subsection headings of the various essays; poor cross references to the illustrations in Claire Lyons' section; the lack of a full list of illustrations and a failure to group short notes on the various photographers in a single section (as in several other recent similar studies).
Lisa French

Note: It would be interesting to hear more about the travels of such photographers at our conferences. Ed.

***Re-orienting the Renaissance: Cultural Exchanges and the East* edited by Gerald MacLean with a Foreword by William Dalrymple, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2005, 216 pp. h/b £19.99, ISBN 1403992339**

Confrontation has long been a theme of studies on east-west relations but, as ASTENE members appreciate more than most, the true historical picture is far more complicated and far more interesting.

The eight essays in *Re-orienting the Renaissance* cover a broad range of subject matter. From Deborah Howard's study of early Venetian travel writers to Nabil Matar's investigation of the alternative perspective, that is, sources for Magharibi Arab views of Europeans between 1578-1727, the essays are consistently engaging. Barnaby Rogerson and Philip Mansel highlight the importance of diplomatic travel, looking in turn at Ogier de Busbecq's mission to Istanbul as Hapsburg Ambassador during the 1550s and the historical significance of the Franco-Ottoman alliance or, as one French ambassador in Istanbul put it, "the union of the lily and the crescent". Jerry Brotton provides a fascinating examination of how the myth of St George was used to symbolise power struggles between east and west whilst at the same time being co-opted to represent the division in European religion between Catholics and Lutherans. Pickings for the reader are rich even if in the case of Philip Schwyzer's essay, they are also a little gruesome. During the 17th century the Anglo-Egyptian mummy trade could make travellers a fortune thanks to the medicinal impetus for a little cannibalism, albeit of ancient mummified flesh.

In his introduction to the volume, editor (and ASTENE member) Gerald Maclean notes that the Renaissance would have been entirely different, if not impossible, without European contact with the East. On the basis of the essays included here, the process of *re-orientation* looks set to reveal the diversity and truth behind this statement.

Kathryn Ferry

***The Elgin Marbles* by Dorothy King, Hutchinson, London, 2006, h/b xii + 340 pp, 43 pls, £18.99, ISBN 0 09 180013 7**

This is a strange book. Dorothy King sets out to recount the history of the Acropolis from Mycenaean times to the present day with special reference to the Parthenon sculptures, and although sometimes repetitive, she succeeds pretty well in conveying a lot of information that is not easily accessible elsewhere. The plates are excellent, but neither they nor the illustrations in the text are numbered, and as King refers to the sculptures by standard Brommer numbers, there is no way to relate text to pictures.

But the book's title reveals the author's true agenda, since those in favour of returning the sculptures to Greece – whom King dubs the 'restitutionists' – never call them 'the Elgin marbles'. And her vehemently partisan stance mars the last third of the book. Although she takes her facts about the Elgin affair from William St Clair's authoritative account, she carefully selects those which are consistent with her thesis. For instance, claiming Lusieri did not actually damage the Parthenon's architecture in removing the metopes, she ignores the contemporary pictures which don't fit her story (in one case wrongly describing a plate in Hobhouse's *Journey through Albania etc*) and asserts the people who said they saw the damage being done – among them E.D. Clarke, William Gell and William Dodwell – were not telling the truth. Clarke is cast as her chief culprit, misleading Byron and prompting the other travellers to follow his example. The venom with which she attacks Clarke itself makes her a doubtful witness, though her attitude to modern Greek 'restitutionists' from Melina Mercouri on is equally unendearing.

It must be added that King has not been well served by her publishers. Many of the illustrations in the text are too dark to read, and there is a plethora of mistakes and misprints. We have 'Parnassus' for 'Parnes' on page 1; later Thomas Hope becomes Henry; and the Greeks of Asia Minor are seen yielding to the Persian 'yolk'. They are not the only ones with egg on their faces.

Charles Plowiez

***The Chains of Heaven: an Ethiopian Romance* by Philip Marsden, Harper Collins, London, 2005**

"Kes be kes inclulal be kuro yihedal : Step by step the egg starts walking. And Ethiopia is a wonderful country you know." Philip Marsden was in no mood to agree with this view when he was first in Ethiopia in 1982. Twelve years later he returned to complete 'unfinished business' and learnt to walk. With his guide-interpreter, Hiluf, and a variety of muleteers, he walked hundreds of miles, across the amazing mountains and valleys of Northern Ethiopia between the town of Lalibela and the sacred city of Axum. The result is a book that captivates the reader – engaging you every step of the way.

Marsden converses with nobles and farmers, politicians and minstrels, priests and monks, on table top mountains. The birds, trees and plants in the ever-changing light are beautifully observed. So are the pressing crowds and the solitary lives of hermits and the architecture of the rock-hewn churches. Searing heat, grey river beds and swirling 'dust devils', dry wind and frosty cold morning mountain air and the vastness of the terrain are relayed in concise lucid prose. The sheer terror and vertigo of the climbs up to the most inaccessible and isolated monasteries is felt in one's own sweating palms. "Be careful!" "Why?" "You must pull yourself up on chains. They are like the chains of heaven. If you look down it is like looking down on hell!"

He recounts touching love stories, recollections of gratuitous cruelty, famines and feasts, baptisms and funerals. He explores the history and theology of Ethiopia and its links with, and influence on, European thought, symbolism, poetry and politics.

Marsden's pleasure in his discoveries in the British Museum and Library is infectious. For example, St Pachomius, a 15th century ascetic, arrived from Egypt and his monastic rule was one of the first texts to be translated into Geez – the liturgical language of the Ethiopian church. The search for the fabled 'Book of Enoch', which vanished around 800 AD, was led by Fabri de Peirese – the copy brought to France was found to be a worthless fraud. James Bruce acquired three copies in 1770 – the first translation from one of these was in 1821. The work influenced Byron's 'Heaven and Earth' and William Blake's 'erotic drawing' of 'the two watchers descending to a daughter of men'. Marsden gives other fascinating examples of such influences.

Throughout the book, the point that Ethiopia represents an idea as much as a place is well made. Indeed, the outer and hidden meanings ('wax and gold') in traditional Ethiopian ballads and rhetoric act as a metaphor for Ethiopia and for Marsden's text as when he elucidates, with wry humour, the shifting politics and alliances at every level of Ethiopian life, ancient and modern. *Patricia Turtor*

***The Baghdad Air Mail* by Wing Commander Roderic Hill, Nonsuch Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 1929, re-issued 2005, 256 pp, p/b, £16.00 ISBN 1-84588-009-9**

The author describes the content as an outline of the history and operation of the Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Route, followed by personal narratives of some of his flights on the air mail service and elsewhere in Iraq. The air mail was operated by the Royal Air Force 1921-1926, when Imperial Airways took over. Hill was based in Baghdad October 1924 until summer 1926.

The history tells how the RAF prepared and operated the route. It does not address the politics

of the decision to initiate the service, apart from mentioning the enormous speed advantage for mail between London and Baghdad compared with the sea route via India.

In the 1920s the air mail pilot was very much on his own, relying for navigation largely on landmarks made by reconnaissance parties, struggling to gain height in the thin hot air, propelled by barely adequate engines, which were none too reliable. Emergency landing grounds were marked along the route and they were certainly needed. Flying was nothing like the modern experience and the air crews became very familiar with the desert, and its inhabitants, along the route between Zixia, Jordan and Baghdad. This is the real strength of the book – there is no mention of the quite famous expat personalities in Iraq whom the modern reader might expect to be mentioned.

Andrew Wilson

Thomas Rees also enjoyed this book and added this comment:

Like other early airmen – Montherlant and Cecil Lewis come to mind, or the painter C.R. Nevinson – there is a strong streak of poetic romanticism, even mysticism, in Hill's memoir. Whether in his description of the eerie atmosphere at the Roman fort of Kasr Kharana in the Jordanian desert, where he had to make a forced landing, or in his meditations in the clouds, this is more than just the journal of a (senior) flying technician on a small shuttle: "Beyond, tier upon tier, rise the Judaeen Hills, sometimes grey, sometimes lit by the sun into their rich galaxy of colours – reds, ochres, purples, slate blues: and away to the south the jagged salt mountain, its skirts covered with salty rocks like cream-curd."

***A Quest in the Middle East: Gertrude Bell and the Making of Modern Iraq* by Liora Lukitz, I.B. Taurus, London, 2006, h/b ix + 306 pp., 8 ills., notes, bibliography and index. £24.50**

Before reading *A Quest in the Middle East*, I knew Gertrude Bell only from her posthumously published letters, so I hoped that 'A Quest ...' might shed some additional light on the woman. The book centres mainly on the period between WWI and her death in 1926, offering insights into Gertrude's life and spirit and into her position in Middle Eastern politics, through previously unstudied letters and personal writings of herself and those close to her. As Liora Lukitz herself states, Gertrude Bell has, over the years, been the topic of divergent discourses, from admiration of her strong position in a male dominated world to criticism of her overly romantic and imperialist views on the Middle East. 'A Quest ...' portrays her, in my opinion, in a more realistic light. As the author clearly shows, one can't ignore her unique position and provocative spirit any less than her, at

times, overly self-assured and conservative views of her role in reshaping the region. It is one of the book's strong points that it does, indeed, address both issues, while having a mass of original literature to back up the constructed image.

However, it must be said that 'A Quest ...' reads more like a political history than a biography *sensu stricta*, focussing heavily on Gertrude's involvement in the re-creation of the Middle East after the fall of the Turkish Empire. Relating the political revolution of the time through the eyes of a woman who was so closely present on this scene, the book paints a vivid image of Western attempts to recreate Iraq in its own image and (partly) for its own benefits. In the light of present day affairs, the bitterness of such convictions hardly need elucidating.

Personally, I found it a most interesting read, though no doubt the focus on politics may deter some readers. Still (and despite a few typographical errors) 'A Quest ...' offers a valuable, well-written and thoroughly researched overview of a specific moment in history and provides important insights into the life and character of a remarkable woman who, for better or worse, helped shape the modern Middle East.

Bart Ooghe

OTHER BOOKS ETC

Description de l'Egypte ou Recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Egypte pendant l'expédition de l'armée française, Paris: Imprimerie Impériale/Royale, 1809 [1810], DVD-Rom. Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing, 2005, Eu. 30

At long last, here is the only complete re-issue of the whole *Description*, including both the entire text – for the first time – and all the additional material added to the Panckoucke edition (1822-1829). Released in November 2005, this DVD-Rom version is the result of collaboration in Alexandria between Harpocrates Publishing, under the proprietorship of Colin Clement, and the Centre of d'Etudes Alexandrines (CEAlex), founded in 1990 by Jean-Yves Empeur as an Egyptian adjunct of the Centre of National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). Stimulated by an eminent archaeological architect, the late Yves Guyard, CEAlex developed an early interest in computer technology and initiated the *Description* project after discovering that a privately owned copy of the entire work had already been scanned by Patrick-Loïc Brunet. What remained, however, was digital adaptation of this scan to a publishable format, a daunting task undertaken at CRNS under the direction of Danielle Guiraudios, professor of computer science. The result is a single 35-gram

DVD-Rom that offers not only all the contents of the original *Description*, but also features of which its authors could never have dreamed: links between plates, captions, and the text, which is completely indexed and even cross-referenced to allow for the idiosyncrasies of 18th century spelling.* All plates can be displayed in their original sizes and magnified up to 200% without loss of detail** An incredible bargain at 30 Euros.***

Other good news is that this DVD is the beginning of a series: the next offerings will be Vivant Denon's *Voyage dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte* – interesting even for those who already own copies of the superb IFAO reprint of 1989 – and Champollion's *Les monuments d'Egypte et de Nubie*.*** *

* Operating systems required are either Mac OS 10.2.8 or higher or PC Windows 2000 SP2 or X P

** A copy of Adobe Reader 7 is included on each DVD, and Mac users (I am one) are correctly warned to open Adobe 7 first and use it for navigating, rather than attempting to open directly from a pdf.

*** Copies may be ordered from Les Amis du Centre d'Etudes Alexandrines, Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, 7 rue Raulin, 69007 Lyon, France.

**** Harpocrates Publishing may be contacted at 9 Sesostris Street, Attarine, Alexandria, Egypt; Tel. +20 3-487-6979, e-mail: colin.clement@cea.com

The Heirs of the Prophet Muhammad and the Roots of the Sunni-Shia Schism by Barnaby Rogerson published by Little Brown, 2006, h/b £17.99, will be reviewed in the next Bulletin.

For Lust of Knowing: The Orientalists and their Enemies by Robert Irwin, Allen Lane will be reviewed in the next Bulletin. ISBN 0-713-99415-0

Beyond the River: Ottoman Transjordan in Original Photographs by R.S. Abujaber and Felicity Cobbing, with over 200 photographs of Transjordan from the PEF collection, published for the Palestine Exploration Fund, Stacey International, 2005. h/b 176 pp., £25. ISBN 19009 88 8 28.

A Decade of Archaeology and History in the Lebanon by Claude Doumet-Serhal with A. Rabate and A. Resek, previously listed. £64 plus £8 post & packing, ISBN 2913330347, is available from The Lebanese British Friends of the Museum, 11 Canning Place, London W8 5AD.

Rhodes in Ancient Times and Rhodes in Modern Times by Cecil Torr, 280 pp, with maps and plates, each £16.99, *The Cyclades or Life among the Insular Greeks* by Theodor Bent, £17.99; Archaeopress, Oxford, 2002-5, ISBN 0 95399236 5; 0 9539923 2; 0 95399231 4

Originally published in 1885 and 1887, these revised editions with additional material are published in the series 3rd guides – new editions of classic travel accounts that have an emphasis on culture, history and archaeology as well as landscape and the sense of place. Later this year Archaeopress will publish Mrs Mabel Bent's travel journals for the first time, covering present-day Thrace, the Cyclades, the Dodecanese west Turkey from 1863 to 1868.

Archaeopress, Oxford

Others will know of this specialist publishing company (see above) – publishers of British Archaeological Reports – I did not. Naturally most of their list is specialist archaeological material, but a few titles caught my eye as of possible interest to others – particularly those on maritime discoveries: *A Sixth Century AD Shipwreck off the Carmel Coast* by Sean S. Kingsley; *From the River to the Sea on the Euphrates and Northern Levant* – Society for Arabian Studies; *The Towns of Palestine under Muslim Rule 600-1600* by Andrew Peterson; *Peoples of the Red Sea* edited by Janet Starkey; *Zenobia between Reality and Legend* by Yasmine Zahran; *Weapons, Warriors and Warfare in Early Egypt* by G.P. Gilbert. Contact: Archaeopress, 276 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7ED.



Lady Franklin's Revenge, A True Story of Ambition, Obsession and the Remaking of Arctic History by Ken McGoogan, Bantam Press, h/b 467 pp, £20

I was surprised when I first discovered that Lady Franklin (1791-1845), wife of the lost Arctic explorer, Sir John Franklin, was an ASTENE traveller. When her husband was posted to Malta, she took off "on an arduous tour of the biblical lands" and, later, between bouts of raising money and interest in her husband's fate, she appeared on the Nile. *Is anyone considering her for a conference paper?*

Saudi Aramco World

We have remarked on this free journal before, but the December issue had much of special interest to

ASTENE members. Erstwhile ASTENE member, Dutch writer Arita Baaijens owns her own camels in the desert and explores on them in the winter. Her beautifully illustrated article follows the seasons with pastoralists in Sudan to whom home is still "where we pitch our tent". By contrast William Facey's article "Queen of the India Trade" – with splendid pictures, ancient and modern – looks at the historic impact of the India trade on Jiddah.

Almost unknown to me was the American artist Frederic Edwin Church and his house 'Olana' overlooking New York's Hudson River. Church and his wife spent three months in the Levant in 1868 and brought as much of its home as they could to create "an architectural landmark of Middle Eastern vernacular art in a New World landscape." The house reflects their enthusiasms. As his wife wrote: Damascus houses are "highly and gorgeously decorated with mirrors everywhere." The Court Hall appears to have everything one might wish to bring back from the 19th century Levant from spears to rugs "and 20,000 other things". Olana is a National Heritage Landmark managed by the New York State Historical Society. (See *Exhibitions*.)

Book Fairs

The Provincial Booksellers Fairs Association organises second-hand and antiquarian book fairs up and down Britain from York to Edinburgh, Woodbridge to London and Exeter to Cambridge through the year. For ASTENE the most relevant is the Travel and Exploration Fair at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7; 11-5 on Sunday 2nd April. Most fairs include booksellers with specialist travel lists. For further information and the year's programme see www.pbfa.org or write to PBFA, The Old Coach House, 16 Melbourn St., Royston, Herts SG8 7BZ.

Antiquarian, Scarce and Out-of-print Books on Middle East and related area

Norman Lewis sent me catalogue 85 of Joppa Books* and for the next hour other matters took second place. In light of the correspondence in Bulletin 26, Norman pointed out item 160, p. 17: John M. Munro, *The Nairn Way: Desert bus to Baghdad*, New York, 4th edition, 112 pages with numerous illustrations, from the library of H. St J.B. Armitage, £45.00. Norman also pointed out copies of the Naval Intelligence Division's *Turkey*.

Apart from these there is page after page of temptations: W.H. Bartlett's *Forty Days in the Desert* (a journey made in 1845, fifth edition, 1862). Bartlett is recognised widely as a topographical artist, but I also admire him as an observant and sympathetic writer; Felix Fabri's *Travels* in German (1965, £65.00); Gurney's *Rambles of a Naturalist in Egypt* (1876, £65); and

Hoskins' *A Winter in Upper and Lower Egypt* (1863, £180) might be just within reach. However the books one really wants are not: William Jowett's *Christian Researches in the Mediterranean 1815-1820* (1824, £650) and *Travels around the Mediterranean and parts thereof 1816-18* (1821, £853) will have to wait.

* Joppa Books Ltd, 68 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7QL; Tel: +44 (0) 1932 336777; Fax: +44 (0) 1932 345881; website: www.joppabooks.com

Murrays at the Travellers Club

The club's Library Newsletter of January 2006 has this charming note about Murray Handbooks:

Of value today for their meticulous description of a vanished world, "to read them is like overhearing one 19th century member of the Travellers Club advising another on a forthcoming journey," Philip Glazebrook is reported as saying. The Library also possesses a large number of Baedekers, immortalised by E.M. Forster's character in *A Room with a View* who found herself in Santa Croce without one.

ARABIC FOR FOREIGNERS

For this quarter's word list from Egyptian Arabic Self-Taught by Major R.A. Marriott DSO and Negib Hindie we offer the vocabulary for an Excursion on the Nile.

Does anyone have a similar vocabulary list for another part of the ASTENE region? Please contact the Editor.

An Excursion.

Wake me early in the morning	saht-ni badri es subh
we are going to see the Pyramids to-morrow	ehna rāyhin neshūf el āhram bukra
do you want me to get the donkeys ready?	ḥadrétak 'aux in-ni aḥaddar el hemir?
perhaps we shall go in a carriage, but anyhow we shall take food with us	yumkin nerūh fi 'arabieh, walakin 'ala kulli ḥāl nākhod ākl wāyyā-na
yes, sir; everything will be all right	ḥādir ya sidi, kulli shey yibqa tamām
you must take the necessaries for tea	lāzim takhod el ashya el lowāzimah li shāi
the teapot, the spirit, matches and everything must be wrapped in paper	el abriq, es sbirt, kabrit, wa lāzim kullu yitlaff fi waraq
I have wrapped up everything and put it into the basket	ana laffeyt kullu wa ḥotteyt-u fil qafas
we can buy oranges and melons on the way [the wine good; do not forget we want to go up the Pyramids	yumkinna nishteri bortoqān wa shammām (or batākh) wa ehna fi sikkah tāyyib; ma tinsāsh en nebtā biddinna nitl'a el āhram [effēndim
just as you wish, sir it is not difficult, but it tires one	zey ma terid (or keyfak), deh mush sa'ab, walakin yit'ab el insān (man)
I will bring two men to go up with you	agib rāgileyn yitl'au wāyya ḥadrétak
this is not necessary	deh mush darūri

ARTICLES

LETTERS FROM THE EAST

A friend of Dr Alix Wilkinson has very kindly agreed to us publishing excerpts from letters from her great-grandmother Mary Home Renshaw written from the Holy Land in 1876 during a trip with her new husband, Charles Bine Renshaw, to her mother and father in Scotland. We have chosen excerpts about the burgeoning spring.

Damascus Hotel, Jerusalem, March 19th, 1876

I must first of all tell you that we reached here safely after two days spent most pleasantly on the road. ... rode all day through the valley of Sharon – and at nights pitched our tents in the mouth of the Valley of Ajalon. We did not see any rose that might correspond to Solomon's 'Rose of Sharon' but I never before had the fortune to see such masses of wild flowers, as decked the fields, and lined the road-sides all along our way, chief among them is the scarlet anemomey (sic), which grows in beds and covers the hills with its brilliant red blossom – a natural idea indeed it was for the early pilgrims to call it "drops of blood"....

What gardens of oranges and lemons, figs and almonds we rode thro' the first part of the way! The huge oranges (merely 'large' scarcely gives an idea of their size) gleaming from out of the masses of foliage.

They travelled out from Jerusalem each day.

... we were glad to find our tents pitched in a lovely spot at the head of a well cultivated valley. We were at the Pools of Solomon – 3 large reservoirs for collecting the water supposed to be the same as are alluded to in Eccles. 2.6. ... The corn fields are brilliant with flowers and it was most refreshing to return to regions of cultivation – poor as it is – after being in the desert.

WORK, ART, ARTISTS AND GAMES AT HALICARNASSUS

Donald Bailey was interested by the note concerning Charles Newton's work on the site of the Mausoleum in *Bulletin 26*. HMS *Supply* mentioned there succeeded Her Majesty Steam Corvette *Gorgon*, which arrived at Budrum on 18th November 1856. The *Gorgon* was commanded by Captain Towsey, who brought Newton out to the site. Towsey wrote a journal that ends rather abruptly on 3rd April, 1857. In it he describes many aspects of the excavations. Like the writer of the letter quoted in *Bulletin 26* (p. 19), he complains that his sailors and marines were expected to dig and shift large pieces of marble. This journal is in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the British Museum, with a posthumous title of *Narrative of the Expedition by Sir Charles Thomas Newton to Asia Minor in 1856-57*.

Although Newton in his published work on the expedition does not seem to mention it, he brought out with him three artists, possibly to illustrate the excavations, but perhaps just to draw and paint. Towsey was scornful of these men, who went on to become fairly well-known. He writes (he is not over-generous with punctuation):

20th November 1856

Sent all the artists to look at their house and routed out their gear the young ones aghast at no glass and cracks in the floor and talk of draughts of wind etc they will soon learn better

24th November 1856

Watts down on his luck today because the mutton is all gone and no eggs or milk forthcoming and as he lives to rule I do not know how he will get on he had much better go home at once a person who cannot eat anything has no business on an expedition of this sort*

25th November 1856

*For a party picked out in England for an expedition of this sort they really are with the exception of Newton the most useless set of men I ever came across quite unable to do for themselves and utterly without knowledge of the science of Antiquity or possessing a particle of zeal for it I ought to except Watts a man of talent and (?)experience but so utterly broken down for fear of his health that he requires all the care and attention of a child cannot eat this must not eat that is the cry with him all day every day requires cold baths half a dozen a day warmed water in bottles at his feet every night – and such a man they send out to rough it on the coast of Asia Minor Stanhope and Princeps ** the two who came out the Lord knows in what capacity appear to have nothing to do but amuse themselves and get Greek boys to sit for models while they draw them it is quite disgusting when so many men of talent would give their ears to come for months to this locality*

Captain Towsey mentions several amusing events, including the sailors hoisting Newton up in a wheelbarrow and parading him round Budrum, singing wild ditties and profane chants.

Also, *A match of cricket very well played the ball hit into the water shabby conduct of Mr Denny (Eng.r) who would not go in for it whereby they made runs no end till a Royal Marine up to his neck extracted it*

* George Frederic Watts, 1817-1904, the painter of 'Hope' and a portrait painter.

** Roddam Spencer Stanhope, 1829-1908, Valentine Cameron Prinsep, 1838-1904, were both friends of G.F. Watts and were influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites and others. Newton may have known them through his wife, Mary Newton, a talented artist.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin John Rodenbeck reviews the marvellous DVD-Rom issued by the Centred'Etudes Alexandrines. Below are his observations on some other editions, and the

astonishing circumstances in which one of the finest of these was produced in Lebanon in 1975, at the height of the fighting.

THE DESCRIPTION IN VARIOUS FORMS, CO-OPERATION AND A MONUMENT

Few of us in ASTENE, I imagine, own sets of the *Description de l'Egypte*, with its 9500-odd pages of text and nearly 1000 pages of illustration – fewer than 1500 copies of both editions were ever offered for sale – though most of us, no doubt, wish we did. It is always possible, of course, to order a freshly printed page of an illustration from the Louvre, which still has all the original plates, and I have indeed done so from time to time. The text, of course, is a different matter. *

Mere reproduction of the illustrations, always and inevitably different in format from the originals, are not at all hard to come by. I have owned for a decade two complete collections thereof, for example, the big boxed volume produced by the Institut d'Orient in 1988, which was supposed to be followed by a volume or volumes of text, and the fat paperback published by Taschen in 1994.

In addition I own four specialized abridgements. There is, for example, the excellent and very usefully annotated *Egypt Revealed* (1987) by Robert Anderson and Ibrahim Fawzy, which contains contributions by ASTENE members, Harry James, Charles Newton, and Geoffrey Martin, Hilary Weir and Frances Maddison. Gilles Neret's little paperback volumes of excerpts from the Antiquites section in the complete Taschen edition is sometimes handy to use (and makes it necessary to purchase Charles Gillespie and M. Dewachter's pretentious *Monuments of Egypt: Description de l'Egypte: The Napoleonic Edition* (Princeton, Princeton Architectural Press, 1987; French edition, Paris, Hazan, 1988). I also own a copy of Francis Xavier Hery and Thierry Enel's rather naïve paperback selection of what they call "les plus belles planches de la *Description*", published by Edisud in 1992.

By far the most impressive of my four volumes of abridgements, however, is *The Splendour of Egypt: A Commentary on Napoleon Bonaparte's Expedition (1798-1801) and the "Description de l'Egypte"* by the art historian Angele Kapoian-Kounymjian and Dikran Kounymjian, a limited edition (1000 numbered copies) produced in Beirut in 1975 – though the place of publication is given as "Delmar, N.Y." – by my friend and colleague Zahi Khuri, who was unchallengeably the best book-designer in the Middle East, probably the best between Vienna and Tokyo.

This superb collection of 100 plates was printed on 240-gram Austrian art carton, measures 50 x 34cm, is bound in vegetable-tanned goatskin, and

originally came double-boxed. Production took place during the Lebanese Civil War: printing was achieved in a Maronite-owned shop on a Christian-controlled street, binding and boxing in a Sunni-owned shop that happened to stand back-to-back to it, but fronting on a Muslim neighbourhood. The problem of having to transport books from one shop to the other under hostile fire from both Christian and Muslim snipers was solved by breaking through the rare walls of the two establishments, thus creating a safe and direct passage. Boxed books were then trucked away as they were completed by a driver, who being Greek Orthodox, was regarded as a neutral. Zahi himself, a Greek Orthodox Palestinian, weathered the rest of the Civil War and the Israeli invasion of 1982. Years after hostilities were supposed to have ceased, however, he was kidnapped, tortured and murdered, his mutilated body being left where his mother could find it. His killers have never been identified. *The Splendour of Egypt* remains his monument.

John Rodenbeck

HAS ANY ASTENE MEMBER FLOWN IN A FLYING BOAT ?

Nigel Hepper asked this question in his review of Corsair in Bulletin 26. Tom Rees answered.

I am one of those who flew as a child on three occasions from 1948 to 1950 from Southampton to Cairo and Alexandria during the school holidays. One would leave in the grey dawn of a chilly English winter day, board the flying-boat sitting low in the water, and after a trip lasting seven or eight hours (if I remember rightly) would land at Malta or Sicily for an overnight stop. The sunlight and smells of a Mediterranean town would burst marvellously on one's senses as one stepped out of the plane into the launch waiting to take one to the quay. The following morning, after a breakfast of fresh bacon and eggs (sensational after the austerity of food rationing and school meals) with a great rush of water past the windows of the plane as it took off, it was on to Egypt, either the Nile at Cairo or, less often, Lake Mareotis in Alexandria.

The unpressurised planes had an upstairs observation lounge and bar, if my memory serves me right, and flew slowly enough for the pilot to decide to take a circle round to look at something interesting down below, like a shark. The corollary was that if one hit a thunderstorm one could not fly above it, and I remember one particularly gruelling flight in which the plane bucked and wobbled for more than six hours through a pitch black thundercloud lit by frequent flashes of lightning.

The flying boat service stopped, I believe, in 1950. In 1952 they had a glamorous successor in the form of the Comet jet, the first commercial jet service, on which I also travelled, which flew via the Middle East to Johannesburg. Incredibly rapid by comparison, the Comet was hugely popular until

a series of fatal crashes which brought the service to a close after only two years. I remember that travelling on it brought me great, if wholly unearned, prestige among my school- friends.

Tom Rees

THE GARDENS AND GARDENERS OF CAIRO

I gave a talk recently in Cairo, at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, on the gardens belonging to Ibrahim Pasha on the islands of Roda and Gezira. to the group concerned with the reconstruction of Manial Palace on Roda Island.

Ibrahim Pasha employed two gardeners on Roda Island: a Frenchman and a Scot. The Frenchman, Nicolas Bove, was sent by the King of France in 1825, and made a formal garden of geometric shapes; the Scot, who arrived in 1832, made a landscape garden, adjacent to the French garden.

Both gardeners collected quantities of plants from India, Arabia, Syria, the West Indies and South America. Traill's landscape garden was decorated with a Greek temple, kiosks set on hillocks, a grotto, small lakes, and a winding stream, enclosed within a balustrade. There were open areas with lawns, and shady groves and avenues.

Ibrahim Pasha was anxious to improve the stock of hardwood trees for building purposes. He encouraged Traill to raise three hundred teak trees, and plant mahogany, ebony, cedar, and other trees useful for cabinet-making as well as house-building. Ibrahim had a palace and a harem on the island. But the ladies seldom visited the garden, to the surprise of European travellers, who thought the island was a paradise.



ON THE NILE.

Since there is such a valuable historical and botanical legacy in the Manial grounds, it is important that the restorers, under the direction of Dr Abou el-Dahab, should make an inventory of the surviving plants, to make sure that after their long life, they are still carefully preserved. Some archaeological work might be undertaken, to see if any remains of the kiosks and palaces dating from Ibrahim Pasha's time can be found.

At present there is much activity with bulldozers which are removing the hotel bungalows, put up by

Club Mediterranee, but, I believe, their activities should be confined to this work, and not extend into the gardens themselves, which have always been thickly planted with bamboo, and tropical trees and bushes.

The gardens of Gezira Boulaq were designed by Ibrahim Pasha himself towards the end of his life. He imported statues from France of draped male and female figures. He had an elegant kiosk, which was replaced by the cast iron Alhambra-style pavilion, created by Carl von Diebitsch for the Khedive Ismael.

Alix Wilkinson

FOOTPRINTS

A DISSERTATION UPON ASSES, 1483

Asses are animals of such a nature that they are fitter for crossing the desert than horses. The ass is a beast which can bear burdens and endure labours, and is contented with common or scanty food. He picks up his food among burrs, thistles, and thorns, and makes his way into thick prickly bushes; wherefore the little birds hate the ass, and mob him as they do the owl, because he does mischief to their nests, eggs and young ones in the thick thorn-bushes; for as he pulls down and nibbles at the bushes, he casts down the nests, and when he brays he frightens the young birds.

The ass knows his master, his rider, his road, his halting-place, his master's voice, the limit of his day's journey, his work, the hour for work and the hour for rest, better than any other animal, and keeps to them more carefully. He is a very kindly beast, and far better suited for human companionship than horses or mules. Appearance deceives many people in choosing asses, because often the ugliest-looking asses are the best, and vice versa. *Friar Felix Fabri*

THE ASSES OF CAIRO

There are more asses in Cairo than are to be found perhaps in any kingdom in the world; they are exceedingly large and good, and extremely convenient in so great a city, especially in the hot months, as a man may find them at the corner of most streets, where he may mount without speaking to any one, and ride away where he pleases, one of the boys who are retained for that purpose, following: you pay a regular price, according to the distance, which is very reasonable. The inhabitants assert, that there are more than a hundred and fifty thousand, which are let out as hacks in the city, but this is mere conjecture. *Abraham Parsons, Travels in Asia and Africa, London, 1810, p. 320.*

MORNING IN THE EAST

You are awakened in the morning by the song of birds, which the sleeping ear, all regardless of the jackal's howl or the ocean's roar throughout the night, yet recognises as its expected summons. You fling off the rough capote (cloak), your only covering – start from the carpet, your only couch – and, with a plunge in the river or the sea, your toilet is made at once.

The rainbow mists of morning are still heavy on the landscape while you sip your coffee; by the time you spring into the saddle all is clear and bright, and you feel, while you press the sides of your eager horse, and the stirring influence of morning buoys you up, as if fatigue could never come. The breeze, full of Nature's perfume and Nature's music, blusters merrily round your turban as you gallop to the summit of some hill to watch the Syrian sunrise spread in glory over Lebanon, Herman or Mount Carmel.

Eliot Warburton

IN A CAIRO GARDEN, January 1839

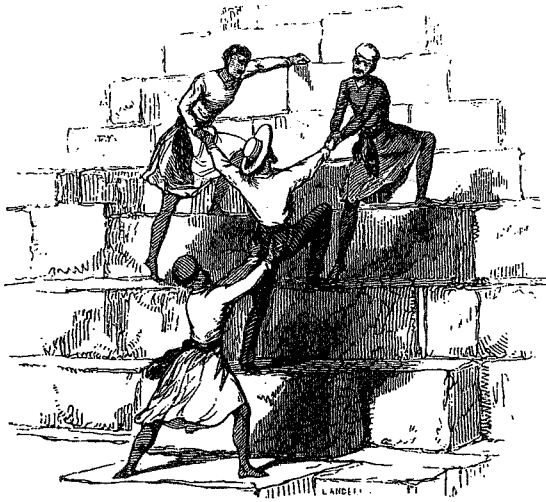
The gardens of Mehemet Ali at Shubra are even more stiff, trim, and formal, than those of Roda, where somewhat of an English taste has been introduced. There were at Shubra an abundance of trellised arbours and marble fountains, and long walks paved with mosaic-work of black and white pebbles and shaded from the sun by an arcade of luxuriant foliage. But the place appeared deserted; and solitude becomes a mere weariness amid so much art. Our footsteps echoed with melancholy sound along the paved walks; and the groups of gaily dressed ladies, whose appearance you thought so incongruous amid the wild solitudes of the Trossachs, were sadly wanted to enliven the gardens of Shubra.

John Kinnear

SAND-WICHES AT THE PYRAMIDS, 1872

Our first meal in the Desert made us acquainted with strange seasoning: cold chicken and sand, potted veal with salt and sand, sanded bread and sanded wine, 'fixings' to which our teeth found it very hard to accustom themselves. (Paul Lenoir, *The Fayoum or Artists in Egypt*, English translation, London, 1873)





Having read such travellers' accounts is it surprising that tourists so readily answered Thomas Cook's call to follow him to the East?

COOK'S EASTERN TOURISTS, 1870

To anyone interested in the impact of Cook's early tours on the tourists and the toured to *East and West* by Mary E. Beck (London, 1873, reprinted from *Through Egypt to Palestine*), though not providing an exciting read, will give first hand information. It covers a tour from Alexandria around the Eastern Mediterranean to Athens, the Adriatic and Venice (with a Cook's Tour map of the route).

Mary Beck details the activities and arrangements of such a tour, which included visits to mission schools and hospitals along the way. The tour lasted from February to April so it is understandable that in April she wearily wrote of an outing to Ephesus:

2nd April Our party made up four boats-full for an excursion to Ephesus, the modern Ayassoulouk. Crossed over to Smyrna, and from thence travelled forty-eight miles by rail in luxurious carriages, quite equal to those in England. It was a realizing assurance that we were nearing Western civilization. The country through which we passed was bounded by noble mountains on each side, camels were looking wonderingly at the train, storks flying through the air, greenness and fertility abounding. At the end of our journey, rough horses without side-saddles awaited those who preferred to ride; the rest made the best of their way through mire, clay, and wet, to the ruins and excavations, about two miles distant.

COOK'S EASTERN TOURISTS, C. 1872

How Cook's tourists were seen by the 'independent' traveller Edwin Hopper...

We had also on board a party of Mr Cook's Eastern tourists, about 45 in all, including seven or eight ladies. Amongst them were representatives of all sorts and conditions of men, from the light and frivolous idler to the devout and earnest student. They came from all quarters of the globe, they included four out of the seven ages of man, and of course they represented every phase of character.

No educational test had been applied to them before starting by any school board; and while one spoke of the Arabs as a 'premature' people, meaning primitive, and of three houses being 'contagious' to one another, when he meant contiguous, another could discourse with the Arab in his own tongue, and read the monumental histories with almost as much ease as he read the newspaper ... It would be unpardonable were I to omit to say ... that there were half a dozen or more 'Reverends' among the party, varying from the Established Church to Primitive Methodists.

TRAVELLERS' COMPLAINTS, 1839

John Kinnear, a Scots businessman, met the artist David Roberts in Egypt and travelled with him. His first experience would not have encouraged others...

Cairo, 28th January, 1839

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

FROM "AN ADVENTURE AT PETRA"

We so successfully impressed the Sheiks with the idea that we wished to go the shortest way to Petra that, leaving the ordinary route, Abbas led us into the Arabah by a pass memorable for its difficulty and for the magnificence of its views. A sorry time it was for our horses and mules, and even the plucky little donkeys were occasionally non-plussed; but at last, by heads and tails, all were safely hauled over the worst places, and the camels were made to pay for the superiority of their spongy feet, and were sent up again for their canteens and some bedding, which, with the medicine-chest, had been deposited on a rock by a poor mule as he tumbled over; fortunately the only sufferer was the medicine-chest; and soon our beasts were easily slaking their thirst in some rain-pools down below. We lost two hours by this *shortcut*, and were obliged to camp early, as men and animals were utterly done.

Sophia Palmer in *Macmillan's Magazine*, vol. xlvii, January 1883



EASTERN PLOUGHING.