

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

No 28

Summer 2006



CONTENTS

ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS 3

Chairman's Annual Report – *Dr Brian Taylor* 3;
ASTENE membership around the world 4;
Congratulations! 4; Visit to Sudeley Castle 4;
Visit to the Islamic Centre, Oxford 5; Pilgrims and
Traveller to Mt Sinai and St Catherine's Convent
5; Forthcoming events: Study Day: Travellers on
the Hajj 6

OTHER EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES 6

Exhibitions 6 ; Conferences, lectures and
courses 7; Other Activities 7: The Cedars at
Highclere Castle 7; Travellers to Greece 8;
Golden Boats on the Nile 8

BOOK REVIEWS 8 - 13

OTHER BOOKS ETC 13

Amelia Edwards and Matilda Bethune Edwards 13;
Travel Book and Map Auctions 13; Arabic Self-
Taught 14; The Author of Arabic Self-Taught 14;
More Arabic Self-Taught 14

NOTES AND QUERIES AND REPLIES 14

Who was Romano? 14; What is known of Signor
Castellare? 15; What Creature is this? 15; Who
was Mahmoud? 15; Early Guide Books 15; From
England to India via Egypt 15; Book Binding in
Arabic 15.

Replies: Wot no Gals? 16; The Pasha and the
Ladies 16; Another Flying Boat Traveller 17;
Napoleon's Mamluke 17; What creature is this?
17; Lady Franklin 17

RESEARCH RESOURCES 17

The John Murray Archive 17; Admiralty
Handbooks 18; Travellers' Graffiti 18; The
Homeward Mail from India, China and the East
18; Research Resources Index, Bulletins 24-28 18
Where are they Buried? 19: Death so Close 19;
The Convent of St George, Cairo 19; West
Country Memorials 19; Bayle St John 19; Dr R.R.
Madden 19

ARTICLES 20

Galilee and Nazareth 20; On the Way to Baghdad
– *Anat Vaturi* 20; Horse and Hound – *Tom Rees*
21; Vice Versa: A Traveller from Egypt – *Deborah
Manley* 22

FOOTPRINTS 23

Horses and Heroes 23; The Plague arrives in
Egypt 23; Teachers in Syria 23; Wonders of
Steam Navigation 23; A View of Lady Hester
24; An ABC of the Nile 24

MEMBERS OF THE ASTENE COMMITTEE

Honorary President	T.G.H. James CBE
Honorary Vice-President	Dr Jaromir Malek
Chairman	Dr Brian Taylor
Secretary	Dr Alix Wilkinson
Treasurer	Dr Diane Fortenberry
Events Organiser	Elisbeth Woodthorpe
Bulletin Editor	Deborah Manley
Bulletin Reviews Editor	Thomas Rees

Other committee members: Henrietta McCall, Dr
John Taylor, Dr Kathryn Ferry, Neil Cooke, Dr
Robert Morkot

Events Organiser: Tel. +44 (0) 207 622 3694;
Fax. +44 (0) 207 4151

Bulletin Editor: Deborah Manley
57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE
Tel/Fax: 01865 310284
E-mail: debmanley@beeb.net

Reviews Editor: Thomas Rees
The Old Manor, Bridgewater, Stanwell,
Somerset, TA7 9AE
E-mail tbrees@btinternet.com

ASTENE E-MAIL: astene@dsl.pipex.com
ASTENE Web-site: WWW.ASTENE.ORG.UK
ASTENE Charity number: 1067157
ISSN: 1461-4316

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Please send to ASTENE, 5 Kenmare Mansions,
Gondar Gardens, London NW6 1ET or to
astene@dsl.pipex.com

Membership:

Europe and North America: £20 (£25 for two
members at one address receiving one Bulletin);
Other areas and all students: £12

It is most helpful to the Treasurer if members pay
their membership by direct debit or for 3 years in
advance.

ASTENE Office: 26 Millington Road,
Cambridge CB3 9HP

BULLETIN 29

The deadline for the next Bulletin is 15
September. We welcome articles, queries,
replies and other related matters from members
– and others. Please send your contributions to
the Editor – the earlier the better.

ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2005-2006

On 16 July, 2005, following ASTENE's 7th Conference and the AGM at Hulme Hall, University of Manchester, I accepted the role of Chairman knowing that the outgoing Chairman, Professor Malcolm Wagstaff, would be a hard act to follow. However, I knew that I would be inheriting a very knowledgeable, experienced and dedicated committee who would endeavour to ensure you, the membership, that I did not (or could not) make too many cardinal errors in managing the Association's affairs. That having been said, I have very much enjoyed my first year in office and look forward to at least a couple more years at the helm, - and if the study day at Oxford on 15 October 2005 represents an indication of times ahead, then the Association can surely anticipate further successes.

Study Days and Visit

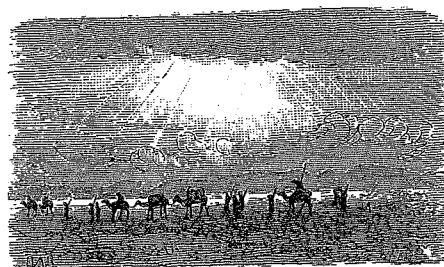
I refer to this event here and now because this study day and an earlier visit to the Bodleian Library to hear Dr Emilie Savage-Smith talk about the 9th century *Book of Curiosities* - were my first engagements as the Association's new Chairman. Dr Savage-Smith's account of this remarkable work was so interesting that I requested she give a similar presentation at the Southampton Conference in 2007 - to which she readily agreed.

The study day at Rewley House was much more personal as I chose both the topic (*Beyond the Grand Tour*) and the speakers and so the onus was very much on me. All three speakers (Professor John Revell, Dr Robert Morkot and Dr Kerry Bristol) set high standards of presentation and Enid Slatter's paper (which I gave on her behalf) was well received. Furthermore, the audio-visual facilities worked perfectly and so the 80 or so attendees (many of whom were not ASTENE members) were, I think, given an excellent introduction to a huge topic that could conceivably occupy several more study days...

This year's AGM has been preceded by a visit to Oxford's Islamic Studies Centre and a further study day, *Pilgrims and Travellers to St Katherine's Monastery, Sinai*. Earlier in the year ASTENE members visited the Royal Geographical Society (to view the new reading room) and the Prints and Drawings Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum. These visits were well attended and much enjoyed (see G. Skinner's account in Bulletin, 26).

Sinai Conference and Tour

At the latter end of my first year as your Chairman, I was delighted to preside over a conference at Nuweiba, Egypt that followed an extremely



successful visit to Sinai between 16 and 23 March. Papers (see Lorien Pilling's excellent account of both events in Bulletin, No. 27) were given on a wide range of topics, including several by overseas members. I have no wish to expand on Lorien's account of the trip itself but simply wish to extend my personal thanks to Elizabeth Woodthorpe (ASTENE's Events Organiser) and tour leader John Ruffle for a well-planned and well-organised tour that was full of surprises, not least of which were the numerous criss-crossing volcanic dykes that particularly appealed to me as a former geologist, so much so that I was induced to say something about them!

Committee Matters

Between the beginning and end of my first year as your Chairman, the Executive Committee has met four times, during the course of which various agenda items have received attention.

1. An ASTENE Journal

A proposal to inaugurate an ASTENE Journal was discussed last July, but the idea discounted because an editor would have to be found, the magazine would need to be peer reviewed and the anticipated costs would be too great for ASTENE's budget.

2. The Bulletin and Website

Four further issues have been published thanks mainly to the unstinting efforts of the Editor, Deborah Manley, and Reviews Editors, Edwin Aiken and now Tom Rees, and articles and reviews by many members. The Bulletin and the website represent our means of communicating news and forthcoming events (such as conferences, exhibitions etc) to members across the world, as well as containing articles, book reviews, notes and queries, etc. Our website is often our first contact with new members. It is therefore an important and indispensable pot-pourri that enables members to keep in touch with virtually anything (or anybody) related to the Association's aims and objectives, but is it still acceptable to members in its present form or should it be revamped and made to look more glossy? The pros and cons associated with any such changes are being discussed - not least of the discussion points being the additional production and mailing costs.

3. Future ASTENE publications

Discussions have taken place with Oxbow Books - who distribute ASTENE titles - about ASTENE's next publication based on papers (derived from past conference and study days) related to travellers and art and architecture. Publication is planned for

early 2007 to coincide with ASTENE's conference in Southampton.

4. Biennial Conference in Southampton

Discussions have taken place (with conference co-ordinator Pat Wagstaff in attendance) on a draft programme of papers and visits – the latter possibly to the Bankes' family home at Kingston Lacey and/or the Carnavon's country house, Highclere – two houses with important connotations for ASTENE members.

Conclusion

It has been another eventful year for ASTENE. Both study days, our conferences and other events have been well attended – and I believe enjoyed and the great strength of the organisation – the geographical and cultural range of its areas of interest and the different – and contrasting – backgrounds of its members are evident for all to see. Our membership of individuals and libraries remains steady, but it would be of very great help to our hard working Treasurer, Dr Diane Fortenberry, if more people had standing orders or make 3-year block payments for their membership.

Finally, may I extend my warmest thanks to my fellow committee members as well as to those who have helped in a variety of ways with ASTENE matters during the past year, and I look forward to working with you all again over the next twelve months.

Brian Taylor

ASTENE MEMBERSHIP AROUND WORLD

ASTENE's membership changes from year to year but remains at about 300 plus library membership. Most interestingly this membership is drawn from many countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Eire, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, USA and, of course, right across Britain.

New members joined last year and this from Australia, Belgium, China, France, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and America as well as several Brits.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased to announce that Paul Starkey, the first Chairman of ASTENE, has been awarded the first ever personal chair at Durham University.

VISIT TO SUDELEY CASTLE

At the invitation of Lady Ashcombe, representatives of ASTENE attended the launch of the 2006 season at Sudeley Castle on March 31. Beautifully situated in the Gloucestershire countryside, the castle (in fact, a fortified manor house dating from before Tudor times) boasts a rich and varied history.

In its museum, a special feature was the new exhibition, "Letters from Khartoum", a collection

of correspondence from Captain Johnny Brocklehurst to General Gordon during the siege of Khartoum. Brocklehurst was the nephew of Emma Dent, who presided over Sudeley Castle at the time, and directed the construction of much of the Castle's gardens. Brocklehurst participated in the relief/punitive expedition – it took eight years to organise – which culminated in the Battle of Omdurman. On September 2, 1898, 11,000 of the Khalifa's followers were killed by machine-gun and rifle-fire, and a further 16,000 were wounded, and, as Winston Churchill reports, were left in the desert to die. The 7,500 British and 12,500 Egyptian troops suffered only a handful of casualties.

The Castle's small theatre presents a short film as background to the Battle, introducing the main dramatis personae: General Gordon, Lord Kitchener as well as the Mahdi. A portrait of Brocklehurst, in Victorian imperial finery, pith helmet and all, conveys a sense of the spirit of the times as much as the items on display. The violence of the Battle of Omdurman drama still has resonances with us today. The continuing tragedy in the western Sudanese province of Dharfur, and as the script of the film indirectly suggests, the religious inspiration behind the Mahdist revolt are cases in point.

An added and unexpected bonus to Lady Ashcombe's gracious invitation was the opportunity to meet members of the Melik Society (www.melik.org.uk), dedicated to the restoration of the eponymous vessel which participated in the Kitchener expedition.

Many thanks to Lord and Lady Ashcombe for a delightful and informative day at Sudeley Castle.

We recommend a visit to Sudeley Castle and the exhibition: Coordinates: enquiries@sudeley.org.uk - (01242) 602308; Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5JD.

ASTENE member Jean Bray, Archivist at Sudeley Castle, publishes The Mysterious Captain Brocklehurst: General Gordon's Unknown Aide (Reardon Press) - a biography of Major-General John Fielden Brocklehurst this summer. Further information in the next Bulletin.

VISIT TO THE ISLAMIC CENTRE, OXFORD

The day before the Sinai Study Day described below ASTENE members were shown around the wonderful buildings of the grand new college of the Islamic Studies Centre being built on the edge of the city. It will be a graduate college for the study of Islam in the modern world, open to all regardless of race, creed or gender. Anjum Choudhry, the project manager, who took us around, is a structural engineer and so explained

both the complexities of creating a new set of buildings combining the Oxford college model – with mosque as ‘chapel’ – with modern Islamic architecture, and also described the philosophical intentions of the founders. We are very grateful to him and the Centre for this very special experience.

PILGRIMS AND TRAVELLERS TO MOUNT SINAI AND ST CATHERINE'S CONVENT

More than ninety people attended the latest day conference organised by Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education with ASTENE on 1 July, 2006. There was the usual ASTENE ‘buzz’ before the conference started as friends and colleagues greeted each other and chatted about their latest discoveries and adventures. It continued through lunch and during the tea and coffee breaks. But there was a healthy menu of high quality papers as well and these were informative, amusing and stimulating. Everyone kept to time so there were plenty of questions and discussion.

Historical geographer, Professor Robin Butlin, presided over the day and provided a valuable introduction to the subjects covered by the papers. As well as asking us to think of why people travelled to Sinai, what they found, how they interpreted and what we can do with their accounts, he opened up the subjects of cultural geographies of travel, mapping perspectives and photographic representation.

Canon John Wilkinson gave the first paper about the Spanish monastic, Egeria, who, during the fourth century, visited places associated with the Exodus account of the journey of the Children of Israel from Egypt towards the Promised Land. The various holy men of Sinai knew where all these were and were able to guide her not only to the summit of the mountain where the Law was given, but also to – for example – the places where the Golden Calf was worshipped and the Tabernacle was first raised, as well as to the Church of the Bush. John interwove Egeria's story with that of the empress saint, Helena, and revealed much about early Christian Jerusalem in the process.

Deborah Manley followed this with accounts of more recent explorer travellers. Her concern was to give us a description of how the 19th and early 20th century travellers got to Mount Sinai, what they found, how they were treated at the monastery, and what they did once there. They explored the monastery, apparently visiting the same buildings within the enclosure (the library, and the chapel of the Burning Bush, for example) and exploring the garden with the ossuary outside. Most travellers also ascended Mount Sinai (Jebel Musa) and at the summit were moved by the grand view of the



neighbouring mountains, as well as the profound silence.

After lunch, Dr Edwin Aiken took a different tack in an examination of the imagined geographies of two 19th century scholars, the American Presbyterian Edward Robinson and the Anglican Englishman Arthur Penrhyn Stanley. Robinson was a ‘Biblical inerrantist’ who believed that the Bible was literally ‘true’ but at the same time was a follower of the higher Biblical criticism, which he had encountered in Germany. Thus, his account of Sinai if ‘textually informed’, clear and scholarly. Stanley was very different. He was both a poet and also a liberal in his interpretation of scripture. While prepared to discuss alternatives to the traditional identification of Mount Sinai in a scholarly way, his imagination powered his descriptions. The two men, thus, presented their readers with very different imagined Sinais.

The final paper took us from these imaginings into another one, more overtly informed by science and the scientific method. Professor Colin Humphreys addressed the questions of where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and where their Mount Sinai was located. Starting from the Biblical texts, he used the results of scientific research and his own observations to argue the crossing of the Red (or should it be the Reed?) Sea was actually the traversing of a marsh at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba and that the holding back of the engulfing waters was the result of ‘wind set down’ forcing back the sea, a phenomenon known from elsewhere. Colin then argued that the Biblical accounts gave Mount Sinai seven attributes, which he showed were those of a volcano (blazing with fire, smoke and clouds on its summit, loud with the sound of explosions, trumpet blasts, trembling, melting rocks, and lightning flashing about the summit). There are no recently active volcanoes in Egypt, Sinai or Palestine, but there are some in the Hejaz district of Saudi Arabia. One of these was of the explosive variety, though it remains to be established how recently the latest eruption took place, and whether that coincided with the date which scholars now give to the Exodus, ie, the reign of Pharaoh Ramses III (1194-1163 BC). Not everyone was convinced and a lively discussion resulted.

The participants left feeling they had had a good, worthwhile day and promising to come to the next joint day conference. On 18th November, this time on the Hajj or the Great Pilgrimage to Mecca. Half a dozen people asked to join ASTENE. You can see why. Not only was the conference enjoyable, but ASTENE members also began their enjoyment on the previous day with a guided visit to the Islamic Centre (very impressive) and supper at a Lebanese restaurant. *Malcolm Wagstaff*

FORTHCOMING ASTENE EVENTS

Our next Study Day at Rewley House, Oxford on Saturday 18th November is entitled **Travellers on the Hajj**. The programme (and booking form) is enclosed with this Bulletin.

The programme:

Introduction by Professor Malcolm Wagstaff, Southampton University
Medieval Arab Pilgrims, the Hajj and Ancient Egypt by Dr Okasha Eldaly, Cairo
John Lewis Burckhardt: A Swiss Explorer in Mecca by Anthony Sattin, writer
Richard Burton – Hidden Traveller by Dr Carl Thompson, Nottingham Trent University
From Tradition to Modernity: The perceptions of a 19th century Egyptian traveller by Paul Robertson, University of Westminster

On the evening preceding this Study Day we plan to arrange a local visit and dinner. Details will be announced in the Autumn Bulletin.

OTHER EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Sinai and other landscapes by David Kennard: at Gallery 54, 54 Shepherd's Market, Piccadilly, London W1 from 25th July – 8 August. The exhibition includes the pictures David painted while on the ASTENE tour to Sinai in March. website: www.riskkennard.co.uk

Middle East Now, British Museum, London
The Museum are running a series of events on the contemporary Middle East during the summer.
Exhibitions: Word into Art: Artists of the Middle East until 3 September: A demonstration of how artists are using the calligraphy of the Arabic script; Gallery Talks 1, 15, 29 August.
Sculptures in the Great Court: The work of the Iraqi artist Dia al-Azawwi and other artists. **The Oldest Board Game in the World:** The Royal Game of Ur until 3 September – demonstrations and opportunities to play; Gallery talk 29 August.

Sense of Place: European Images of the Middle East until October in the John Addis Islamic Gallery. **Encounters: Travel and Money in the Byzantine World** until 7 January 2007.

Lectures: (held at 18:30) **21 July: 1001 Nights Now** – retelling through the lives of immigrants; **27 July: Corridor of Commerce: Archaeology and the lives of the people of the Gulf over 7000 years;** **10 August: Rosetta:** Barbara Ewing and Richard Parkinson in conversation about her novel of the tumultuous period of Napoleon in Egypt.
Films: Sufi Soul: the mystic music of Islam (20 July at 13.00); In the Battlefields – the civil war in Lebanon, with sub-titles, (28 July at 18:30); The Dreams of Sparrows – Iraqis search for the truths of the war (3 August at 18:30) £3, concessions £2.
Performance: Word into Dance – an evening of music, dance and art performances set among the stunning works of the exhibition Word into Art, 25 July 19:00 to 20:30. Must book.

Details: www.britishmuseum.ac.uk

Islamic Cairo and Photography and Video by Zbigniew Kosciuszko in Freiburg until late July. See www.zbigniewkosc.nl

No Place for a Lady at the Vancouver B.C. Museum until 1 October. Aspects of women's travel from visiting harems to climbing the Pyramids and much else.

Mummies at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California continues until April 2007. The exhibition covers embalming, coffins, sarcophagi, amulets and papyri together with much else about death and mummies.

Harpies, Mermaids and Tulips at the Textile Museum, Washington DC studies the embroidery of the Greek islands until 1 September.

Holy Image, Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai is a forthcoming exhibition of 53 objects from the Monastery of St Catherine, Mount Sinai at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles which runs from 14 November for 16 weeks. (Representatives of the Getty were at Sinai at the same time as ASTENE so we had advance knowledge. There will be further information in the Autumn Bulletin.)

Treasures from Olana is an exhibition of landscapes by Frederic Edwin Church of both Middle East and other places – the first time they have been displayed together outside his home, Olana. Portland (Maine) Museum of Art until 10 September; Huntington Library, San Marino, California 14 October to 3 January, 2007.

Petra - Lost City of Stone continues on its journey and will be at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Ottawa until 2 January, 2007.

The Road to Byzantium at Somerset House, London until 3 September displays objects of luxury, rather than icons, from the Hermitage, St Petersburg, the British Museum and the V & A.

Egypt Reborn: Art for Eternity at the Brooklyn Museum, New York is wide ranging in time and themes, and considers Egypt and its relationship to the rest of Africa.

Hatshepsut: from Queen to Pharaoh at Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth Texas from 27 August to 31 December.

Saladin and the Crusaders are the focus of this exhibition – highlighting Saladin and Richard the Lion Heart and the impact on East and West.

Artefacts of the time and models, paintings and photographs. Reiss-Engelhorn Museums, Mannheim, Germany until 5 November.

Beasts of the Nile explores animals of all shapes and sizes and their roles in ancient Egypt with objects from the British Museum. Swansea Museum 14 August to end-November.

Sovereign Threads displays the history of Palestinian embroidery from late 19th-early 20th centuries and their links to much earlier work. Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, until 15 September.

Art of being Tuareg looks outside the ASTENE region but this exhibition of art, clothing, bags and saddles and other highly decorated items shows the artefacts described by past travellers. UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, 13 October, 2006 – 25 February, 2007.

Venice and the Islamic World (828 – 1797) an exhibition examining how artistic and cultural ideas that originated in the Near East were drawn to Europe through trade, and exploring their influence on Venice's art and architecture. 27 March – 8 July, 2007.

Arts of the Islamic World Gallery houses a magnificent collection of tiles, textiles, jewellery and paintings reflecting secular and religious life. Honolulu Academy of Arts, Hawaii.

The Tradescant Collection goes home: During the redevelopment of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the original objects from the Museum Tradescantianum, which formed the core of the Ashmolean in 1683, returns to its original home, in the present Museum of the History of Science.

Items in that wildly eclectic collection were gathered in the Near East.

Nubian Gallery is a new permanent installation of artefacts including never-before exhibited works and 2000-year-old textiles. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.

CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND COURSES

Seminar for Arabian Studies at the British Museum, 27-29 July. Papers on the archaeology, history and languages of the Arabian peninsula.

Website: www.arabianseminar.org.uk

British Travellers to Greater Syria and Arabia, and Equestrian Enthusiasts, Wilfred Scawn Blunt, Lady Anne Blunt and Others is the title of

a conference *planned* for Friday 6th – Saturday 7th October at the University of Kent. Proposed speakers include Brigid Keenan (Travelling in Syria with Isabel Burton), Professor Donna Landry (The Oriental Thoroughbred and the Influence of Arab Culture), and ASTENE members Huw Owen Jones (Riding from Damascus to Palmyra in Ancestral Hoofprints, Spring 2006), Barnaby Rogerson (William Blunt, the Radical Traditionalist) and others. For further information contact Prof. Landry at macindetroit@hotmail.com.

Courses at Madingley Hall, Cambridge

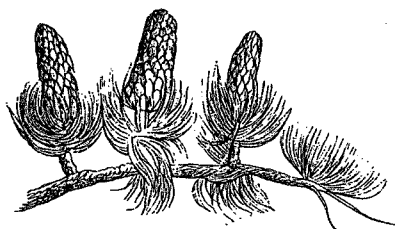
Egyptian Astronomy 24-26 November. Dr Sarah Symons explores how ancient Egyptians explained the motions of the stars and sun, looking at time-keeping and astronomy, relating this to modern science.

The Archaeology of Trade 11 – 13 May 2007

Dr Stephania Merio considers the origins of the Silk Road, sailing technologies, the transit of the Sahara, and explores the trade routes which encouraged goods and ideas to travel.

For further details www.cont.ed.cam.ac.uk or Courses Registrar, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB3 8AQ, Tel: 01954-280399.

Red Sea Project III: Cultural Connections of the Red Sea is the title of the Society for Arabian Studies' third international Red Sea conference at the British Museum – 27-28th October. Themes: maritime networks, sacred space, landscapes, ecological connections. More information from <http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org> and jcm.starkey@durham.ac.uk Tickets £28 - payable to Society for Arabian Studies, 16/4 Coniston Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6AH.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

THE CEDARS AT HIGHCLERE CASTLE

On a visit a couple of years ago I was told that the Cedars of Lebanon that flourish in the park of Lord Carnarvon's seat, Highclere Castle, near Newbury in Berkshire were a gift from his cousin. The beautifully presented Souvenir Guide gives a different – and more interesting – source, linking them closely to two well known early travellers.

“Specimen trees were planted by the 2nd Earl, including cedars grown from seeds brought back from the Lebanon by two great 18th century collectors, Edward Pocock (Lord Pembroke's chaplain at Wilton) and Richard Pococke (grandson of the Rev. Isaac Miles, rector of Highclere).”

Reverend Richard Pococke (1704 – 1765) was born in Southampton and visited Egypt in 1737-38, returning the following year. He went up the Nile to Philae and visited Sinai; he visited Greece in 1739-40, and published accounts of his travels: *A Description of the East and some other countries* in two volumes in 1743-5. A manuscript journal of these travels is in the British Library. He is buried in Christ Church, Oxford.

A further connection is that Charles Barry – who travelled in the East in 1819 - re-modelled the Castle in 1838-50.

We plan that during the Southampton Conference there will be a visit to Highclere – and its many, many cedars.

Highclere is open on weekdays from 1 June to 31 August. Entrance is £7.50 for adults; £6 for seniors; £4 for children and there are group rates. Website: www.highclerecastle.co.uk

TRAVELLERS TO GREECE

The Hellenic Society with the Classical Association, the British School at Athens and the Friends of the British School at Athens are jointly sponsoring an evening at Senate House, London at 5:30 on Thursday 9th November. There will be three papers: Tony Brothers of the University of Wales, Lampeter on *Expeditions to Greece in the 17th and 18th centuries: What to pack and how to travel without flight tickets, travellers' cheques and insurance*; Brenda Stones, co-editor of *The Travel Chronicles of Mrs Theodore Bent, 1883-98, on From Marble Arch to Mycenae: The Travel Journals of Mabel and Theodore Bent in the Cyclades*; Dr David Gill of the University of Wales, Swansea on *Winifred Lamb: Searching for Pre-history in Greece*.

The talks will be followed with a reception at 7p.m. To book tickets ring the Hellenic Society on 020-7 862 – 8730 or e-mail office@hellenicsociety.org.uk

GOLDEN BOATS ON THE NILE

With Vintage Egypt one can sail the Nile old style – in a dahabeeyah – like our travellers. Vintage Egypt is a web site (www.vintage-egypt.com), but I asked for their printed version and pass some of what I learned on to others who prefer traditional reading.

“Dahabeeyah” I learned comes from an Arabic word meaning “golden boat” – the boat of kings and Victorians. Earlier travellers had adapted cargo boats to living quarters (Mrs Lushington gives a wonderful description of the transformation by a thorough-going memsahib in her travel account c. 1828.). Through Thomas Cook's entrepreneurship Egypt offered ever more luxurious conversions until the boats became small luxury floating hotels

with – if you were lucky – a piano, and of course a dragoman.

There were, it is estimated 2-300 such boats on the Nile in a season – and then in the 1860s the steamship came. For a few more decades the dahabeeyahs survived, but recently only a handful were left.

Now a few have been revived. One of the largest is Vintage Egypt's *Giraffa*. She carries 18 passengers and a crew of eight. The saloon looks just as it should with long divans, candles and pictures on the walls. Amelia Edwards would have added sun hats behind the door and flowers picked along the Nile bank.

The tours between Luxor and Aswan are not cheap at about £200 a day plus fares, but such special treats seldom come cheap.

The website related links offer tempting topics such as the history of the Old Cataract Hotel, Daraw camel market, the last Nile flood, Maspero's Egypt, Howard Carter's diaries; Ahdaf Souef and *Map of Love*. It looks like a whole evening or more of site-reading.



BOOK REVIEWS

The Reviews Editor is Thomas Rees and books for review and reviews should be sent to him at the Old Manor House, Stawell, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 9AE; Tel: 00 44 (0) 1278 722190; Fax: 00 44 (0) 1278 723273; e-mail: tbrees@btinternet.com.

The Egyptians: An Introduction by Robert Morkot, Routledge, London and New York, 2005; pb is + 230 pp. 24 illus. and maps, ISBN 0-41527104-5, £13.99

It is sometimes said that the historian's task is not so much to provide the answers about the past as to establish which questions we may reasonably ask of the evidence. In this book, Robert Morkot has drawn on his experience of presenting introductory courses on ancient Egypt to produce a survey which aims to break through the 'accepted lies of [the] discipline' as concisely as possible.

The core of the book addresses familiar topics - geography, topography, history, society, economy, religion – but it adopts a fresh approach. 'Academic Egyptology' is treated as the senior authority, but there is a recognition that alternative

Egyptologists (a possibility which the author is fully aware of), but the book is neither a polemic nor a discussion: a proper balance is always maintained and the reader can feel confident of obtaining a reliable synthesis of current thinking.

The reader is taken on a tour of Egypt as seen through the eyes of the ancient inhabitants, beginning at the first cataract and following the Nile northwards to the Delta and the Mediterranean. The ancient territorial divisions (nomes) are each described in turn, with their settlements, their changing names, their role in the history and economy, and their monuments. Egypt's history and the process of reconstructing it are treated at length, but the popular topics of death, mummification and funerary ritual are covered more briefly than in most other introductions.

The book clearly owes its form to the seminar room and lecture theatre. Sections deal with fundamental questions such as 'Who were the Egyptians?' or 'What was it like to be a Pharaoh?' Through this approach the author connects effectively with his audience and also highlights issues which today's Egyptologists are concerned with: was there truly an Egyptian 'middle class'? Were elite women literate? The book is a fresh and stimulating new look at an old topic; it is very much to be recommended.

John H. Taylor

The Discovery of Egypt: Vivant Denon's Travels with Napoleon's Army by Terence M. Russell, Sutton Publishing, 2005, h/b xxi+266 pp., numerous illustrations, £20, ISBN 0-7509-4145-6
The Napoleonic invasion of Egypt in 1798 is generally credited with the opening up of that country to the modern Egyptian world, although this appreciation was rather delayed until the publication of the scientific studies by the scholars who accompanied the expedition appeared in the *Description de l'Égypte* from 1809 onwards. A pivotal role in the dissemination of the knowledge of Egypt gleaned from the campaign was played by Vivant Denon, who was to become an *eminence grise* of the French cultural scene. Following his return to France, he himself published an account of his adventure in 1802, which was followed by an English edition in 1803. This book is basically a retelling in the author's words of Denon's story, profusely illustrated with the original engravings plus added material from the *Description* and elsewhere. The book begins and ends with a brief account of Denon's biography before and after his original publication. Russell tells the story well and is probably more readable than Denon's original account. Of course, he writes with the knowledge, which Denon lacked, of the identification and history of the monuments he recorded.

Denon was insatiably curious about all aspects of Egyptian life, so the book ranges over the military history of the period, descriptions of antiquities,

and anthropological observations on Egyptian life of the period. Unlike many of the scholars who accompanied Napoleon and remained firmly entrenched in Cairo, Denon went out and about, traversing the country and making the hazardous journey to Thebes and Aswan and across the Red Sea. Denon was the first to bring both ancient and modern Egypt to the wider notice of the European public in the nineteenth century. Now, apart from specialists, his account and his career are largely forgotten, and Russell's resurrection of this important and perspicacious scholar and traveller is to be strongly recommended.

Morris Bierbrier



EASTERN PLOUGHING WITH OX AND ASS.

The Tomb of Agamemnon: Mycenae and the Search for a Hero by Cathy Gere, Profile Books, London, 2006, ISBN 1-86197-617-8, £15.99

Does one tackle this book before or after visiting the site? There are some guide book type comments but overall it seems more an evening's read in recollection. It is one of an interesting series, 'Wonders of the World'. Many will have read Mary Beard's authoritative account of the Parthenon. Though less comprehensive, this is just as good a read. ASTENE members may regret that she chooses to assert 19th and 20th century ideas by philosophers rather than visitors and travellers, those working on the site will feel that she over-estimates the extent of the settlement at Mycenae in the early Iron Age; this is still a period about which we know far too little and it is crucial for the development of the Homeric myth. But don't let this put you off. This is a fun book though badly let down by the poor quality reproduction of the illustrations.

Lisa French

Wilfred Thesiger: the Life of the Great Explorer by Alexander Maitland, London: Harper Collins, 2006, pp 528, ISBN 0-00255 608 1, h/b £25

Anyone who ever met Sir Wilfred Thesiger, KBE, DSO (1910-2003) could not fail to be impressed by the tall, quiet, reserved and scholarly gentleman, one who is counted among the last of the great explorers in the Middle East and North East Africa. We once invited him to Durham in his later years

and I have abiding personal memories of him, frail but dignified, sitting and chatting long into the evening surrounded by a circle of fascinated students.

Alexander Maitland has produced an excellent survey of Thesiger's life and times based on many discussions with Sir Wilfred about his life and journeys. The book recounts in detail Thesiger's journeys and his paradoxical character. Maitland is uniquely qualified to produce the biography as he has already edited the anthology *Wilfred Thesiger: my life and travels* and compiled and wrote *Wilfred Thesiger: a life in pictures*. Sir Wilfred wrote his own autobiography: *The Life of My Choice* (Collins, 1987). Maitland also draws on other travel accounts, James Bruce of Kinnaird's *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile* (1790) and Colonel Rey's *The Real Abyssinia* (1924) for example.

There are so many amazing journeys made by Thesiger, so many friends from ambassadors to tribesmen around the region and all the many associations and journeys are carefully documented by Maitland. For example, Thesiger travelled in Abyssinia, the Empty Quarter of Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, the Hindu Kush and Karakoram mountains, in Nuristan, Afghanistan and north India as well as in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, and in Yemen. Thesiger visited East Africa in 1961, and returned to make his home among its pastoral peoples in 1968.

Maitland's 'Epilogue' is particularly poignant, documenting Thesiger's final years from 1992 to 2003 in Britain. Maitland's biography is extremely well-researched and comprehensive, with appropriate maps, a thorough bibliography and a useful family tree. Maitland was given unrestricted access to his archives of diaries, letters, manuscripts and notebooks and many of his friends and acquaintances provided generous assistance with its preparation. Readable, fascinatingly separating myth from fact and thoroughly researched, it is a volume that is "authentic and irresistibly revealing."

Janet Starkey

***Subjects of the Sultan, Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire* by Suraiya Faroqhi, I. B. Tauris, London and New York, 2006, ISBN 1 85043 760 2**

This is a translation from German of a book originally published in 1995. Suraiya Faroqhi is professor of Ottoman Studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich. She commands skills in the major European languages and also in Ottoman Turkish which gives her access to precious archival sources, and has already published widely on such intriguing topics as house ownership in Ankara and Kayseri and mohair manufacture and workshops in 17th century Ankara. She has produced here an impressive and thoughtful study of Ottoman social culture,

acknowledging other well-respected scholars, and including a chronology of relevant cultural events, and a superb bibliography of English, French, German and Turkish publications. Her text is additionally supported by a full range of references. The book is, however, densely written, and at times would have benefited from an editor's red pencil, but the subject is complex and multi-stranded, which may excuse a certain awkwardness of expression.

Faroqhi's aim is to question and understand Ottoman social culture through an examination of the splendid achievements of architecture and decorative arts, in terms of the activities which they involved, such as ceremonies and festivals, and the reactions of the people who used them – in other words the relationships between patron, artist and audience. This is a fresh and unusual approach which both breaks away from yet enriches the traditional analysis based on cataloguing the provenance, date, history of a building or object, identity of craftsman, materials and design.

Studies of material culture need abundant and good illustrations, which Faroqhi does not provide, as much a publisher's decision as personal choice. Fourteen blurred reproductions of Ottoman miniature paintings do not do justice either to their subject matter, their composition and glowing colour. In this context the most helpful approach to the book is to read it with a collection of catalogues of Ottoman decorative arts at hand. *Jennifer Scarce*

***A Dead Man in Istanbul* by Michael Pearce, Constable, London, 2005, ISBN 1-84529-131-X**

A British embassy official has been shot after swimming the Dardanelles. A London policeman travels out to investigate. Embassy staff introduce him to their Istanbul of 1911; his growing Turkish acquaintance introduce him to back streets and markets, village and theatre life, and much else, often watched by a continuous belt of little boys who see and tell. There are cabaret hostesses from "somewhere around the Mediterranean", the impressive *terjiman*, the Turkish investigator, musicians, links to the heart of the Palace and an over-all air of end of Empire.

In his usual whirl of long elusive converse and local colour, Michael Pearce has brought a worthy successor to his earlier *Mamur Zapt* books set in Edwardian Egypt. *Deborah Manley*

Francis Frith's Egypt and the Holy Land: The Pioneering Photographic Expeditions to the Middle East. with an Introduction and notes by Richard Lunn and additional modern photographs. The Francis Frith Collection, 2005. 234 pp. ISBN 1-85937-793-9, £24.99

An exceptional subject attracts or creates its outstanding exponents and practitioners and so we find that the number of first-class professional

photographers who worked in Egypt in the second half of the 19th century is astounding. Among those who used glass negatives and the wet collodion technique (following its invention by Frederick Scott Archer in 1851), Francis Frith may – contestably – have been the greatest.

The first part of the book consists of essays on Frith and the technical aspects of his photographs, and an illustrated account of a modern journey in his footsteps. Contemporary comparisons and experiences are interesting, but I hope that the author will not be upset if I say that his colour pictures only underline the consummate artistry of Frith's black and white photography.

Frith made three trips to the Middle East between 1857 and 1860. They were inspired by his interest in biblical stories (he was a devout Quaker) and his realisation that the camera held a distinct advantage over painting and drawing because of its ability to convey the feeling of unvarnished reality and the immediacy. He had three of them: a stereo camera, a whole-plate camera, and another which used mammoth-size plates, 20 by 10 inches or 50.8 by 40.6 cm.

Frith was a man with a clearly explicit mission to bring the Holy Land and Egypt to the attention of the general public. Nonetheless, most of the Egyptian monuments which he photographed had only a tenuous connection with the Bible, and some, such as the Islamic buildings of Cairo, had none.

The second part includes Frith's own explanation of the motives for his photographic trips to the Middle East. His pictures are accompanied by descriptions by him or by Sophia and Reginald Poole (sometimes introduced in facsimiles of the original edition) as well as by modern commentary and photographs.

The Appendices include an all too brief and sketchy biography of Frith.

This is a good, well researched and interestingly written introduction to one of the greatest Victorian photographers. Frith's photographs are reproduced well but it would be unkind to compare them with his original prints.

Jaromir Malik

For Lust of Knowing: The Orientalists and their Enemies by Robert Irwin, Allen Lane, London, 2006, 376 pp*Index, ISBN 0-713-99415-0, h/b £25.

Re-orienting the Renaissance: Cultural Exchanges with the East edited by Gerald Maclean, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2005, xxiii + 174 pp + Index, 4 ills., ISBN 1-403-99233-9, h/b £19.99.

Many ASTENE members will recognise Robert Irwin's title as an allusion to Flecker's posthumously produced play: *Hassan* (1922):

We travel not for trafficking alone;

By hotter winds our fiery hearts are fanned:

For lust of knowing what should not be known

We take the Golden Road to Samarkand.

Wonderfully entertaining though it is to read, *For Lust of Knowing* has no such vague, distant or romantic aim, however, but rather one that is clear, immediate and practical. Irwin would never have written this substantial book, he remarks in his introduction, except for Edward W. Said's *Orientalism*, to which it is intended as a definitively crushing rejoinder. For better or worse, the ghost of the late Edward W. Said stalks through many books these days. I knew this charming man and agree wholeheartedly with Irwin, who says, "I have no significant disagreement with what Said has written about Palestine, Israel, Kipling's *Kim*, or Glen Gould's piano playing." Like Irwin also, however, I see Said's *Orientalism* as a polemic based upon a preposterous over-estimation of the power of literature – Orientalists have never had more than a few readers and the current influence enjoyed by the scholar-propagandist Bernard Lewis is a unique fluke – which has led in turn to the idea that any verbal representation of something is of more value and import than the thing itself. The influence of this polemic has been malign, Irwin observes, and the present situation, when an entire tradition of scholarship has been discredited and a whole generation of Arabists has been not only dispirited but placed under suspicion, cries out for redress.

Irwin's first chapter deals briefly but critically with Said's notion that what he monolithically styles "The West" has been perennially and viscerally anti-Middle-Eastern since classical times, the days of Herodotus or of Sophocles, Aeschylus, and Euripides. The next chapter takes up the period from the foundation of Islam to the birth of Petrarch at the dawn of the 14th century, an era notable much less for the transmission of Greek science and technology via Arabic writings put into bad Latin than for the acquisition of knowledge and skills relevant among the Persians and Arabs themselves by the likes of Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazm), al-Khwarizmi (Algoritmi), Ibn Rushd (Averroes), and Ibn Sina (Avicenna). Capable European Arabists included William of Tripoli, Ricoldo da Monte Croce, and, of course, Raymond Lull, all of whom were Christian missionaries. The Councils of Vienne (1311-12) and Basle (1341) decreed that chairs of Arabic should be established at Avignon, Bologna, Oxford, Paris and Salamanca, but by that time the medieval vogue for Arabic had passed and in fact these decrees came to nothing.

In the third chapter, "Renaissance Orientalism", Irwin begins with Petrarch, who may justly be said to have founded the Renaissance – as the term was originally understood – an examination of the significance of Petrarch's attack on Averroism. For interested readers, Gerald Maclean's collection of essays, *Re-orienting the Renaissance: Cultural*

Exchanges with the East, offers a delightfully extended version of these few pages, including a discussion of whether or not Petrarch actually knew any Arabic or read Arabic poetry, as has sometimes been alleged.

Irwin ascribes the beginnings of Orientalism to another figure of the period, Guillaume Postel (1510-81), who held the first chair of Arabic in Paris (1539) and whose career coincided not only with the rise of travel and travel literature, but also with much diplomatic activity surrounding the long enduring naval and military alliance between France and the Ottoman Empire.

Other essays, in *Reorienting Renaissance*, become relevant here: Philip Mansel's 'The French Renaissance in Search of the Ottoman Empire', a survey of the vast body of French travel literature in this period that was concerned with the Empire and with Turkish affairs; Deborah Howard's 'The Status of the Oriental Traveller in Renaissance Venice', Barnaby Rogerson's 'A Double Perspective and a Lost Rivalry: Ogier de Busbecq and Melchior Lorck in Istanbul' and Caroline Finkel's 'The Treacherous Cleverness of Hindsight: Myths of Ottoman Decay'.

All these essays are intended to make the Ottoman Empire bulk more significantly in our historical consciousness – a worthy aim, but one unlikely to be achieved. Irwin notes (p.110) that the lack of Orientalists specialised in Turkish studies persisted into the 20th century. Neither Irwin nor the essayist in Maclean's book mention the great Ottomanologist, Stanford Shaw, though, whose works have all remained standard, suggesting they are rarely read, and the myths to which Caroline Finkel refers continue to ride high, as exemplified in what is still purveyed about the massive defeat of the Ottoman navy by the Holy League at Lepanto in 1571.

The remaining chapters of Irwin's book, after a discussion of the term 'Renaissance', provide a meticulous history of Orientalism as it arose out of 16th century France, the men (there have been no women, with the arguable exception of Gertrude Bell), institutions, and projects (e.g. *The Encyclopedia of Islam* and Brocklemann's *Geschichte der Arabischen Literatur*) contained within it. In each chapter Irwin makes the necessary corrections to Said's narrative, which frequently elevated the unimportant (e.g. Flaubert) to prime status while ignoring vast entire schools of Orientalist learning, most notably the Germans, who dominated the field for more than a century, but also the Russians and Italians. Many of the personalities connected with Orientalism have been colourful, eccentric at least, and often demonstrably mad - always well worth reading about. Scrupulously fair-minded, however, he concludes with the stern but just critique made of Orientalism by Muhsin Mahdi, former professor

at Harvard, and my friend and neighbour in western Languedoc.

John Rodenbeck

Alexandria: A City and a Myth by Niall Finneran, Stroud, Temous, 2005), pp. 158, ISBN 9-780752-433417, p/b £17.99. Available from www.tempus-publishing.com

Alexandria, one of the most important and vibrant cities of the Eastern Mediterranean, has been a port of entry for many travellers to Egypt over the centuries and at ASTENE conferences there have been a sequence of fascinating papers on travellers' reports of the city and its urban space over the centuries. This book, as the author states, is a 'manifesto of ideas' and indeed includes many stimulating up-to-date approaches to the study of urban social space and landscape: aspects of identity, landscape, social space and cosmopolitanism. There are four main chapters that form an 'archaeological biography of the city'. The first sites Alexandria within various historical, geographical and theoretical contexts; the second focuses on Egyptian space, the concept of space in Greek tradition and on the 'pagan' city; the third reviews Alexandria's Christian past and its cosmopolitanism; whilst the final chapter explores Islamic Alexandria and beyond.

The book could well have been effectively illuminated through appropriate travellers' accounts. As far as travellers and literary figures are concerned, there are references to Cavafy, Lawrence Durrell and to E.M. Forster's *Alexandria: A history and a guide* (1922, reprint. 1961). Forster's excellent travel guide is rather apologetically introduced as "a source that is neither 'academic' – in the strictest sense of the word – nor is it particularly 'state-of-art', yet as an invocation of the place and its spirit..." (p.14)

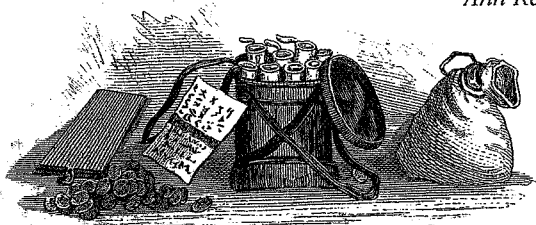
The book has no bibliography. I was also disappointed not to find any reference to *Alexandria 1860-1960: the brief life of a cosmopolitan community* by Robert Elbert and Ilios Yannakattis (1997), nor was there any reference to Michael Haag's classic study, *Alexandria: City of memory* (2004). This is curious, particularly as he finishes the book by writing: "The thread and melange of social and cultural memory is strong in a place like Alexandria." (p. 141). Janet Starkey

A Taste of Thyme: Culinary Cultures of the Middle East edited by Sami Zubaida and Richard Tapper, foreword by Claudia Roden, 1994, re-issued 2005, I.B. Tauris, p/b, ISBN 1 86064603 4

A scholarly and often fascinating collection of essays using food and cooking as the basis for sociological and anthropological studies of the Middle East. The contributors discuss, among other things, culinary cultures and their shaping of regional political areas, foods as markers of social

boundaries, food as a semiotic code in Arabic literature. There are also interesting chapters on such things as the history of baklava, tracing it back to ancient central Asia and the lack of ovens, drink in the Middle East, or cuisine and class in Mecca. The chapter on rice supports many of its premises by references to travellers such as Edward Lane and James Morier. A new look at an old necessity.

Ann Revel



James Morier published *The Adventures of Haji Baba in Ispahan*. (1895). Here, on rice, page 75:

He (the traveller) then groped up, from the deep folds of his riding trowsers, a pocket-handkerchief, in which were wrapped several lumps of cold boiled rice, and three or four flaps of bread, which he spread before us, and then added some sour curds, which he poured from a small bag that hung at his saddle-bow. From these same trowsers ... he drew half-a-dozen raw onions, which he added to the feast, and we ate with such appetite, that very soon we were reduced to the melancholy dessert of sucking our fingers.

OTHER BOOKS ETC

More Usefully Employed: Amelia B. Edwards, writer, traveller and campaigner for ancient Egypt by Dr Brenda Moon, Egypt Exploration Society, 3 Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG, 2006, ISBN 0 85698 1699, h/b £35 (discount to ASTENE members)

Dr Moon's eagerly awaited definitive biography of a most important traveller came too late to be reviewed in this Bulletin, so she and her cousin's lives will be considered together in October.

Matilda Bethune Edwards 1816-1919, travel writer and Francophile by Professor Joan Rees, The Hastings Press, 2006, ISBN 1904 109,071, £9.90, (hastings.press.virgin.net)

The prolific novelist, Amelia Edwards' cousin, was a figure of influence in promoting better understanding between the French and the English. As with her cousin, her life provides insights into women's struggles for independent careers. She too was widely travelled. Our review of Professor Rees' book will appear in the next Bulletin.

***A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*, edited by William Smith with a new introduction by Christopher Stray, I.B. Taurus, London, November 2006, 2 volume set, 2518 pp + maps, illustrated throughout. £295 (possible discount for advance orders). ISBN: 1 845 11 0005**

Christopher Spray's introduction describes this dictionary thus: "Although the Dictionary is now 150 years old, it has not aged." The flyer tells us that the facts are assembled in concise, lucid English. "An hour's reading in Smith provides relief from what can only be called modern obscurantism. ... Undergraduates in classics or senior professors can only learn from these books," Was Sir William Smith (1813-1893) an ASTENE traveller or a stay-at-home scholar?

TRAVEL BOOK AND MAP AUCTIONS

Many of us have built up libraries – some small, some quite large – of books about travel. Thus it can be interesting to see the values put on such books at auction – and perhaps to add to your library. At the Sotheby's travel book auction in May many titles about our region fetched comfortably above the recommended prices. Increasingly photographic collections come up for auction. At the same sale item 255 was "a highly important and extensive archive of fine early photographic, manuscript and printed material relating to Makkah and Madinah (1904-8), and photographic equipment belonging to the photographer Muhammed Ali Efendi Sa'oudi. The archive included glass stereoscopic slides and photographs, a manuscript translation of Burckhardt's *Travels in Arabia* (1829), and other significant manuscripts. The collection's asking price was £40,000 – 60,000. It went for £210,000.

Even if you can't get to these sales, the catalogues are fascinating bibliographical material and usually beautifully illustrated. The Sotheby's catalogues also provide links to the literature related to some titles. Such catalogues cost about £15.

Future travel book auctions include:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 September | Maps and Atlases at Bloomsbury Auctions |
| 12 October | Travel and Natural History at Bloomsbury Auctions |

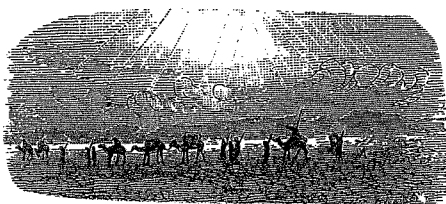


ARABIC SELF-TAUGHT

The vocabulary for this Bulletin – and the last in the series – moves us on in time and provides the terms for modern travel.

Aviation, Cycling, Motoring (et-ṭayarân fi-l-hawâ wa-rukûb eddarraga wa-l-otomobil).

Accumulator	magma' el-kahrabâ aw ezzioot
aeroplane	tayyârat, markabat hawâiyat
airship	safinat hawâiyat (yumken qiadatha, -ḍabtuha)
aviator	râkeb et-ṭayyârat
battery	'iddat, ṭaqm adawât
bell	garas, pl. agrâs
bicycle	darrâgat, pl. darrâgât
biplane	ṭayyarat bi-saṭhain
caution	ikhṭâr, indthâr, tanbîh
chain	ganzîr, pl. ganâzîr
charge (with elec- chauffeur [tricity], to	mala', yamla' el-kahrabâ
cross-roads	sâyeq, shauffeur
cycle-shop	mafraḡ-ṭariḡ, pl. mafâreḡ
cyclist	dukkân ed-darragât râkeb ed-darrâgat



THE AUTHOR OF ARABIC SELF-TAUGHT

Henry Keown-Boyd has found in "VCs and DSOs" published by Standard Art Book Co, London, in 1924 in the biographies of those awarded Distinguished Service Orders, details of the career of Captain Reginald Marriott, who prepared Arabic Self-Taught, from which we have been publishing excerpts.

Reginald Adams Marriott DSO was born in 1857 and joined the Royal Marine Artillery in 1875. When the DSO was instituted in 1886, Marriott was selected to recognise his services before and during the events of the 1882 Arabi Rebellion in Egypt, and with the organisation of the Egyptian Camel Corps for the Gordon Relief Expedition. He joined the Egyptian Army from the day of its formation.

He received his medal from Queen Victoria on the first investiture of the order. With others he then breakfasted with the Queen at Osborne (her home on the Isle of Wight) and signed his name in her birthday-book.

He spent the next five years in Naval Intelligence. Retiring in 1891, he joined the Prison Service, but served in the Intelligence Service at the Admiralty during the First War. He was a distinguished linguist and writer on natural sciences – his main interest being climate change...

MORE ARABIC SELF-TAUGHT

In 1881 Sarah Palmer (who we met in Petra in Bulletin 26) decided before she left England for Egypt and the Levant to take lessons in Arabic. On the dahabeeyah she worked diligently at her Arabic studies.

She reported in her letters home that she could "read and write and have to content myself with picking up such patois as I can, enough for practical use." She continued: "No one on board can help me, as none can read and write it. One delightful Arabic little kind of execration is: 'May all the fleas bite you!'"

This picking up of patois was not without its dangers. In Cairo she and Edith had crowed over the rest of their party because of their superior success in persuading their donkeys to quicken their pace by calling out to them magic words taught them by their donkey-boys. This continued until an unlucky day, when one of their friends, a resident of Cairo, felt it his duty to inform them that they were making the foulest Egyptian Billingsgate that he had ever heard in his life; and they therefore reluctantly had to relinquish their valuable verbal spurs.

(Sophia Matilda Palmer, Comtesse de Franqueville, 1852-1915 by her sister Lady Ridding, 1919, pp.94-95)

NOTES AND QUERIES

Anyone can place a query in the Bulletin by sending it to the Editor. These are placed on the ASTENE web-site. However replies are only published in the Bulletin and not on the web-site. Sometimes replies still come in months or even years after their first publication.

WHO WAS ROMANO?

In September 1982 Michel Azim of Lyon, France, having climbed to the summit of the west 'mole' of the pylon of the temple of Luxor saw the graffiti:

ROMANO 1605

He asks if there is any information about this traveller, probably one of the first westerners to have reached Upper Egypt.

Please reply to the Bulletin Editor and to M. Azim at michel.azim@neuf.fr

We referred this query to Roger De keersmaecker, ASTENE's graffiti expert.

He replied that he too had seen this graffiti. He noted the date as 16?2 – the third figure was almost illegible. This figure was at first a zero and then changed to another figure. The last figure he read as 2 not 5, and thus he recorded the date as 16?2. However, he too does not know who 'Romano' was.

This matter being solved, Michel asks would somebody have information about this traveller in Upper Egypt in the 17th century?

Please reply to the Bulletin Editor and to M. Azim at michel.azim@neuf.fr

WHAT IS KNOWN OF SIGNOR CASTELLARE?

In 1846 the writer and political economist, Harriet Martineau, was journeying in the East. One night at Luxor, she and two companions strolled to the ruins of the temple. A man accosted them, pointing up some steps, and saying apparently something about a castle. They had no interpreter, but he spoke to them in French, and they followed him. And found "an elderly gentleman on his daweem enjoying his chibbouque.. They took coffee with him, and when they departed Mr E. said to Miss Martineau, "Well, now, who is this that we have been seeing?"

They discovered he was Signor Castellare (*Who was who in Egyptology* records him as Castellari and that he was Italian and died in 1848). Miss Martineau had heard of him "as having settled himself at Thebes, to discover antiquities ... and to sell specimens to such as have money enough to pay his very high prices for them. It is," reported Miss Martineau, "only by connivance that he does these things, for the Pasha's pleasure is that none of the antiquities shall leave the country." (*Eastern Life, Present and Past*, Philadelphia, 1848, pp. 159)

Who was who in *Egyptology* records A. Harris, J. Arden and I. Romer as mentioning him. Is anything else known of him? Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.

WHAT CREATURE IS THIS?

The Swedish scientist and student of Linnaeus, Frederick Hasselquist, spent the years 1749 until his early death in 1752 in the Levant, Cyprus and Egypt, recording the flora and fauna of the region in great detail. Having described one creature scientifically, he went on to say:

If one should follow the method of the ancients in describing the animal, we might say it had a head like a Hare, whiskers like a Squirrel, the snout of a Hog, a body, ears and forelegs like a Mouse, hind legs like a Bird, with the tail of a Lion.

What a monstrous animal this seems to be! And had it been delineated 2000 years ago, it would at this day have been accounted a monster. To this manner of describing do most monstrous animals owe their origin, as Griffons, Unicorns, etc. For instance, when the parts of a new-discovered animal are compared to those of other animals already well known, painters, from this method of describing, receive an idea of a form of nature, which they always draw out of character.

This matter, Hasselquist concluded, certainly merits a farther enquiry. What animal was described by this 'ancient' account? For the answer, see later. (Frederick Hasselquist, Voyages and Travels in the Levant 1749-52: Observations of Natural History, Physick, Agriculture and Commerce. English translation 1746.)

WHO WAS MAHMOUD?

Peta Ree would like to know who was Lord Prudhoe's dragoman who accompanied him on both his tours up the Nile in the late 1820s ("into the interior of Africa"). She had always thought he was probably Giovanni Finati (known as 'Mahomet'). However, Eliot Warburton in about 1840 employed this man who he calls Mahmoud and describes as "very intelligent, handsome and known to everybody up and down the Nile from Cairo to the Sudan." (*The Crescent and the Cross*) He was definitely Prudhoe's dragoman – but was he Finati?

Please reply direct to Peta Ree or to the Bulletin Editor.

FROM INDIA TO ENGLAND VIA EGYPT

In March 1844 Mr Lutfullah, an Indian Muslim of good family, was asked to accompany the nawab of Surat, Mir Jafir Ali Khan, as interpreter in a case to be taken up in London. He wrote an account of his travels with a refreshingly new view of all he saw including 'Bahr I Kulzum' – "by the English called the Red Sea", being laughed at by his Muslim companions for suggesting that, "by the mariner's compass,...the Kaba...began to incline to the East", and being surprised at discovering that in Cairo "donkey-riding is considered no disgrace here." When Mir Ali Jafir Khan met the Pasha, Mehemet Ali, "three heads and tongues were employed to interpret" – into English, into French and then to Turkish, and back again. He commented, "The fact is that the more you proceed on towards England, the more you find the English people endowed with politeness and civility." (p.398, *Autobiography of Lutfullah, a Mohammedan Gentleman and his Transactions with his Fellow-Creatures* edited by E.B. Eastwick., London, 1857).

Does anyone know of any reports of how these travellers were received in England? Please let the Bulletin Editor know.

BOOK BINDINGS IN ARABIC

Marina Gervasini is a student at the Catholic University of Milan. She is studying a collection of books about journeys and travels to Italy and Malta. The Vittorio Foassati-Bellani collection is preserved in the Ambrosiana Library of Milan. It has over 5000 monographs of travels. She found within it four 16-17th century books about Venice and Rome, written in Italian but bound with fragments of parchment manuscripts in Arabic.



She asks if any member or reader has heard or read about similar examples of Arabic manuscripts recycled as wrap-round book bindings and what they can tell her about them. Please respond to the Bulletin Editor. We referred her query to two members of ASTENE expert in Arabic manuscripts and will report further in the next Bulletin, but we also welcome contributions from others.

EARLY GUIDE BOOKS

Paul Robertson asks: When did Western guide books start to appear in Egypt? What kind of information did they present? How was it presented on a typical page? And in what European languages were these early guide books available?

The reason for Paul Robertson's question is that he is trying to work out whether Western guide book literature might have had any impact on the way 19th century Egyptian pilgrims to Mecca wrote and published their hajj accounts. He has found at least one instance where the writer of a pilgrim account also wrote an account of a separate journey to Istanbul (probably between 1880 and 1890), presenting it in the guise of a tourist trip, and the unusual use of the word 'tourism' (Ar. *siyahah*) in the title suggests some Western influence on the way it and possibly other kinds of journey were concerned.

Please reply to the Bulletin Editor or Paul Robertson.

REPLIES

WOT NO GALS?

Dr Alix Wilkinson, who is writing a book about the gardens of Egypt, responded to the comments by John Kinnear about Cairo gardens in Bulletin 27. John Kinnear may have lamented the fact that there were no ladies in the gardens at Shubra, but George Jones (1800-1870), Chaplain on board the *USS Delaware*, which was on a diplomatic mission to Mohammed Ali in 1834, found the answer: bring your own! He and his party which included the wife and daughters of Commodore Patterson of the *Delaware*, were accompanied by the Misses Seguiras, daughters of the Spanish Colonel in charge of Mohammed Ali's artillery school, who serenaded them with their guitars in the romantic surroundings. *

Emmeline Lott, governess to the Khedive Ismael's five-year-old son, Ibrahim, between 1863 and 1864, commented that the ladies of the harem did not walk in the gardens at Gezira: "Strange to state, their Highnesses the Princesses ... refrained from roaming about this almost earthly paradise ...

I strongly surmise that one of the chief reasons was their Highnesses' dislike to be attended by any suite, especially their guardians the eunuchs." **

But, by 1870, this aversion had been overcome, and the royal ladies did wander in the garden at Gezira, in spite of being followed by the eunuchs, as Senator Seward's daughter reports. *** Amy Fullerton and her party, while waiting in one of the garden kiosks to view the palace in the following year, met the ladies by accident. They apparently made this kiosk their chosen destination, since they were joined by a "frightful old Bey" who sat down with them, and then led them off to look at a grotto. **** Alix Wilkinson

* B. Bowers, *State-sponsored Tourism: The cruise of the USS Delaware in the Mediterranean, 1833-6, and the diplomatic role of the US Navy, Pueblo, Colorado, 2004.*

** George Jones, *Excursions to Cairo, Jerusalem, Damascus and Baalbec, New York, 1836, p. 115*

*** Emmeline Lott, *The English Governess in Egypt: Harem Life in Egypt and Constantinople. London, 1865, vol. 1, p.109* (The pagination varies between the different editions of this work even within the same year).

**** Amy Fullerton, *A Lady's ride through Palestine and Syria, London, 1872, p.51.*

THE PASHA AND THE LADIES

Mrs Charles Lushington, passed through Egypt with her East India Office husband in 1828, and visited the Pasha's gardens at Shubra on the Nile. She contributes another view.

The gardens of Shoobra (sic), with their golden fruit and aromatic flowers, having already been described by former travellers, I shall pass on to the magnificent pavilion, which constitutes the chief embellishment of the place, and which was completed only a few weeks before my visit. The pavilion is about two hundred and fifty feet long by two hundred broad. On the sides run four galleries, or colonnades, composed of elegant pillars of the finest white marble (of an order resembling the Composite), surrounding a sunken court of six feet deep, paved throughout with the same beautiful material. At each corner of the colonnade is a terrace, over which water passes into the court below in a murmuring cascade, having on its ledges figures of fish, sculptured so true to nature that, with the flowing stream, they appear to move. The whole supply of water rises again through a fountain in the centre, and reappears in a beautiful jet-d'eau, lofty, sparkling and abundant. ...

In fine weather, the Pasha occasionally resorts to this splendid fountain with the ladies of his harem, who row about in the flooded court for the amusement of his highness, while he is seated in the colonnade. Great is the commotion when the ladies descend into the garden. A signal is given, and the gardeners vanish in an instant. (*Narrative of a Journey from Calcutta to Europe by way of Egypt, 1827-8, London, 1829, pages 119-121*)

LADY FRANKLIN

In reply to a query about Lady Franklin, Nora Liassis in Cyprus reminded me of her paper, "Lady Jane Franklin: without vanity, trifling or idleness" at the ASTENE conference in Cyprus in 2004. .

NAPOLEON'S MAMLUKE

Dr Alix Wilkinson reports that 'Napoleon's Egyptian' (who has been asked about in earlier Bulletins) is illustrated galloping along in Napoleon's entourage near the Grand Trianon at Versailles in a painting by Jean-Joseph Bedaoui and Carle Vernet, 1810, reproduced in Pierre Andre Labiaude's *The Gardens of Versailles*, Zwemmer, 1995.

ANOTHER FLYING BOAT TRAVELLER

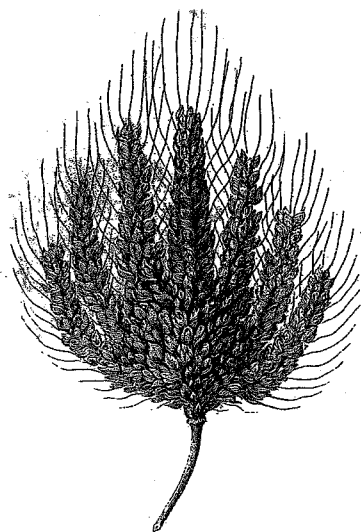
Henry Keown-Boyd remembers flying to Cairo with his brother by flying boat in 1946 or '47. He thinks it was a Short Sunderland (much used by Coastal Command during the war) operated by QANTAS.

We left London by bus at dawn and stopped for breakfast at the Hog's Back Hotel. I suppose we left Poole Harbour at about mid-day and remember spending the first night in an extremely grotty hotel – more an inn really – at a place called Biscarosse south of Bordeaux. Next day we flew to Augusta in Sicily and landed on the Nile at Cairo on the third day, which was either Christmas Eve or Christmas itself. That evening there was a party at our house in Zamalek to which the entire QANTAS crew were invited. Next day they continued their journey to Sydney.

Henry Keown-Boyd wonders if anybody knows the route they took. Aden, Karachi, Colombo, Singapore, Darwin perhaps? Do any of our Australian contacts know of people flying from Sydney to Cairo by flying boat at this time?

WHAT CREATURE IS THIS?

The answer: Mus Jaculus or the Jumping Mouse.



RESEARCH RESOURCES

The articles in this section of the Bulletin appear only in these pages for our members and are not entered on the website.

THE JOHN MURRAY ARCHIVE

The proposed sale of the John Murray Archive has been drawn to the attention of ASTENE in previous Bulletins, and it is generally known that the National Library of Scotland wished from the start to secure for the nation this highly significant archive. The publishing firm of John Murray was founded in 1768 by the Edinburgh-born John Murray, who at the age of 31 used the £60 inherited from his father to purchase the publishing and bookselling business of William Sandby of London. Subsequent generations of John Murrays attracted many of the contemporary writers in the fields of literature, exploration and science who played distinguished roles in the cultural life of Britain. The Archive is much more than a business archive, though its business records are themselves a valuable part. It also contains manuscripts and correspondence with many leading writers over the years to 1920.

Hitherto the Archive was housed in the Murray's house in Albemarle Street, London, where scholars were generously given access by the family. In 2002 the National Library of Scotland commissioned a formal valuation of the Archive's worth at over £45 million. After initially offering the Archive to the Library at £33.2 million in 2004, John Murray reduced the price to £31.2 million to give last-minute impetus to the Library's Heritage Lottery Fund bid. A further £2 million will be needed to create adequate public access facilities, and a public exhibition space. These funds will go to the newly established John R. Murray Charitable Trust, rather than to any individual.

The Trust is prepared to endow the Archive with £3 million to cover its running costs. It will also give support to conservation, cataloguing, digitisation, exhibition and widening access to the Archive, and will make possible the acquisition of complementary material.

The Archive is now sited in the National Library, and is already being used by one or two researchers who had consulted it in London. The National Library has announced (see their website: www.nls.uk) that until 30 September this year material can be consulted by making an appointment.

The future of the Archive is, however, by no means secure. The Scottish Executive has made a grant of £8.3 million towards the purchase price, and the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £17.7

million, the largest grant it has yet made in Scotland. The National Library is left with £6.5 million still to find. Anyone involved in a major fund-raising exercise will know the difficulty of the task, but if this money is not found the public grants already promised would be recalled. The National Library's current public fund raising appeal is therefore crucial.

What is in the Archive for ASTENE?

Many treasures! For example, correspondence from Thomas Cook and others on Murray's Handbooks; letters from Robert Curzon on his *Visit to the Monasteries of the Levant and Armenia*; letters from Robert Oliphant, some-time secretary to Lord Elgin; from Cairo, Haifa and Constantinople; letters from Giovanni Belzoni on his excavations at Abu Simbel and Giza; and from Sir Augustus Callcott on Charles Barry's and his own views of Petra, Ararat and Palestine; working papers of Sir Arthur Henry Layard, for Nineveh; letters from David Roberts about his drawings for his book on Palestine – and a drawing by him of the temple of Kalabshe, Nubia; over a hundred letters with occasional sketches of Sir Garner and Lady Wilkinson about his *Modern Egypt* and other works; and not least, several hundred letters of Isabella Bird.

It would be tragic if access to such tempting resources were not secured.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the John Murray Archive Project, please contact Giles Dove, Director of Development, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW. Tel: (0) 131 632 3731; e-mail: development@nls.uk. A leaflet about this appeal is enclosed with this Bulletin.

Brenda Moon

ADMIRALTY HANDBOOKS

Professor Robin Butlin has provided sources of further information about the Admiralty Handbooks introduced in Bulletin 26.

There is an article by Hugh Clout and Cyril Gosme (who wrote a Sorbonne Master's thesis on the subject) : The Naval Intelligence Handbooks, "a monument in geographical writing", *Progress in Human Geography*, 27, (2003), pp. 153-173.

There is also an article by M. Hefferman, "Geography, cartography and military intelligence, the Royal Geographical Society and the First World War", *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 21, (1996) pp. 504 –533.

There are references also in R.F. Johnston and M. Williams (eds): "A Century of British Geography, Oxford University Press, 2003, (pp. 175, 250-1, 256-9, 390-1).

How the Middle Eastern Handbooks were compiled could perhaps make good material for an ASTENE paper...

TRAVELLERS' GRAFFITI: ROBERT WOOD 1854 AND I.R. INGLEDREW 1854

Roger De Keersmaecker brings to our attention two travellers at Philae who carved their names on the Kiosk of Trajan in 1854 (recorded as Inside wall (11); Record: RDK 557).

ROBERT WOOD 1854
I.R. INGLEDREW NEWCASTLE. 1854

Roger had no bibliographical information about these travellers (nor any other graffiti for Ingelaw) when he published *Travellers' Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan, Volume III*. He had recorded at Gebel el Silsila RDK 348 Rock:

ROBERT
WOOD
1854

He thought it possible that the two had travelled together. Now he reports:

John Pybus Ingledeu was born 31 October 1832, died 31 December 1915, Newcastle upon Tyne. He visited Egypt between December 1853 and May 1854. Accompanied by Robert Wood (the son of his former landlord), he visited the island of Philae on Thursday 19 January 1854 and returned to visit Philae on Sunday, 22 January. The unpublished Egyptian diary of John Pybus Ingledeu consists of 54 pages on: <http://www.ingledew.family.name/egypt.htm>

Roger acknowledges with thanks Michael Schwarz of Nogales, Arizona, USA.

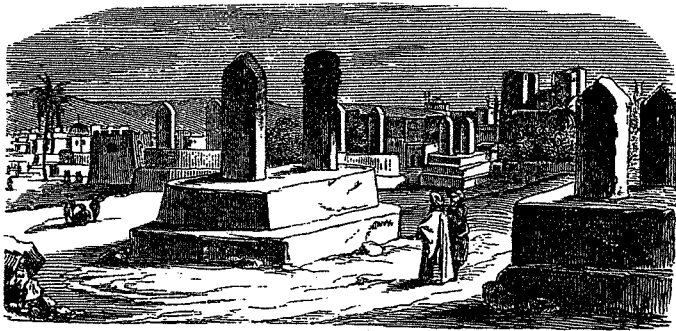
THE HOMEWARD MAIL FROM INDIA, CHINA AND THE EAST

On the arrival of each Overland Mail from India via the Red Sea and Egypt in the 1850s, this 32-page "semi-monthly news" appeared. It carried news and views, social occurrences, *the arrival of passengers*, appointments, births, marriages and deaths, commerce and much else. A useful resource it might seem. Has anyone read it recently?

RESEARCH RESOURCES INDEX FOR BULLETINS 24 – 28

Admiralty Handbooks, see Naval Intelligence
ASTENE annual report, 28.2,
ASTENE Journal Project, 25.10
ASTENE's Research Data Base, 25.9
BANE, 24.13
Bodleian, Google and ASTENE, 24.7
British Institute at Ankara, 27.7
County Archive Research Network (CARN), 24.7
Dates and Days, 25.10
DNB Online, 26.11
First Egyptian Society, 26.13

Griffith Institute website, 25.11
 Homeward Mail from India, 28.18
 Ionian Bank Collection, 27.6
 Leeds Library, 24.6
 Naval Intelligence Handbooks, 26.12, 28.17,
 New York Public Library Digital Gallery, 27.7
 Palestine Exploration Fund, 27.7
 Project Gutenberg, 27.7
 RIBA British Architectural Library Drawings and
 Archive Collections, 24.13
 Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 24.13
 Skilliter Centre for Islamic Studies, 25.10
 Society for Arabian Studies, 25.11
 Travellers' Graffiti, 28.18
 Where are they buried?, 24.7, 25.11, 26.14, 27.7,
 28.18
 1901 Census Online, 26.11



BURCHARDT'S TOMB AT CAIRO.

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

Death so close...

This section of the Bulletin, though important for historical research can seem gloomy – not without reason as this excerpt from William Beamont's To Sinai and Syene and Back (1860) (p. 331) shows:
 When I mounted my camel in the Uzbekieh to set out for Sinai, the last person to shake hands with me and wish me a good journey was a young acquaintance in full health, who was going up the Nile; and when, a few weeks afterwards, I made the same journey and arrived at Assouan, the first intelligence that met me was the sad news that he had been drowned that morning in the cataract of the Nile. At Esna I met a mourning father on his way up the Nile for the second time this season, who, after losing his son at Philae, was now returning thither, having buried his son at Cairo. One boat lying off Philae had a sick gentleman on board, who was too ill to bear the motion of the boat down the river; and another had just lost its mistress, the wife of an artist, who had died there, and been buried within site of its beautiful island. Two other boats – one of them derisively carrying “a crinoline” as its ensign – had been shipwrecked on the first cataract, and their owners had with difficulty saved their lives. Neat Beni Souef an American boat took fire in the night, and the owner and his two daughters, roused from sleep by the flames, had only time to reach the shore in safety

before the boat and its contents went down, with the loss of everything on board.

But worst and saddest of all was the case of an English gentleman travelling with his wife and son and a lady-friend of his wife. In his boat the smallpox made its appearance and first attacked him; upon which he sent ashore his son and the friend of his wife, while the latter remained to nurse him. Her care and heaven's blessing upon it restored him; but when the disease afterwards attacked her she had not strength to resist it, and she sank under it. The precautions to preserve the son from infection also proved ineffectual, for he was seized with the disease on shore and fell a victim to its virulence!

Is any reader able to identify the travellers from these sad tales – or know where they are buried?

THE CONVENT OF ST GEORGE, OLD CAIRO

Peta Ree asks: When Lord Valentia visited the Pyramids in February 1806, he slept the night before his visit in the Convent of St George, which stood within the walls of the Citadel of Old Cairo, and was within walking distance of the Nilometer. “The church,” he wrote, “is neat and clean, and, as it is dedicated to the Patron saint of the English, a corner is reserved for the sepulchre of such of that nation as die here.” Is this burial place still known?
Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.

West Country Memorials

Dr Robert Morkot reports::

There is a monument at St Saviour's, now the Greek Orthodox church of St Andrew's, Torquay, Devon. The inscription reads:

Sacred to the memory of Captain the Honourable Cha[rles] Leonard Irby RN who departed this life on 3rd December 1845 aged 56 also to the memory of James Mangles Cap RN who died at Fairfield near Exeter November 18th 1867 in the 82 year of his age.

However, there is also a memorial to Mangles at St Luke's Chapel, Countess Wear, Exeter:

Sacred to the memory of Capt'n Mangles RN, who died at Fairfield House 18th 1867 in the 82nd year of his age ... this tablet is erected by his nieces and friends at Fairfield in affectionate remembrance.

Irby was presumably buried at Torquay and Mangles at Exeter. It is rather intriguing that both are named on the Torquay monument, and Frances Irby is omitted.

Bayle St John (1822 – 1859)

The traveller and writer of four books on the Near East, Bayle St John, son of the travellers James Augustus St John, died of consumption at 13

Grove End Road, in north London. He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery on 16 August 1859.

Dr Richard Robert Madden MD (1798-1886)

That great traveller and supporter of human rights around the world from Egypt to Jamaica, West Africa and Australia, and his home country, Ireland, Dr Madden died at 3 Vernon Terrace, Booterstown, Dublin and is buried in Donnybrook graveyard.

ARTICLES



GALILEE AND NAZARETH, 1876

A continuation of excerpts from the letters of Mary Home Renshaw (nee Stoddard) so kindly made available to us by Margaret Bellamy. Mrs Renshaw's account provides a very good example of how closely travellers at that time linked what they saw to their biblical readings, and how aware they were of the increasing historical geography of the region.

3rd April, 1876

We spent (the day) most pleasantly rowing on the Sea of Galilee – we found a clumsy fishing boat ... and we rowed to the N. End to visit the ruins of Capernaum. We saw where the Jordan enters the lake and then coasted along the shore to Tel Hemo where there are the remains of some ancient magnificence – pillars and capitals laid low in the dust and covered with grass and shrubs only removed in places. This is supposed by some authorities to be the site of Capernaum – and by others to be the ancient Chorazin. We also saw the 2nd disputed site of the former place – situated in the pleasant and fertile plain of Genezareth, watered by springs which bubble up out of the rock. The coast of the lake is here very beautiful – the rocks covered with grasses – oleanders and willows – come down to the water's edge and the shore of the little plain is a pebbly beach mingled with shells. The plain ... is very fertile – and yet almost uncultivated – a few fields of barley etc. sown haphazardly by the Bedouin – is all the care it gets and yet it might yield almost anything – the climate

is so warm and delicious, the soil so good and water plentiful.

4th April

The present day brought us from our little dream at Tiberias into the hills again and finds us now at Nazareth – where Jesus spent so much of his earthly life – we are encamped near the well, or rather fountain, where Mary it is said must have gone to draw water. This evening as we stood round it – the girls and women were coming in great numbers to fill their large black earthen jars at the two spouts. Several dozen must have been waiting and many would have to wait for long as the water ran slowly owing to the excessively dry season.

Margaret Bellamy found as she read her ancestor's journal for the first time that she had painted from the very same spot where her forebear had written her journal over a century before.

ON THE WAY TO BAGHDAD

Anat Vaturi of Tel Aviv University's School of History was helped in her research by information gleaned through her membership of ASTENE. She has allowed us to reproduce a slightly abbreviated excerpt from her thesis: On the way to Baghdad: Practical aspects of travelling in the Ottoman Empire as described by Europeans (1573-1605) describing the 'Road khans'.

The waste spaces that stretched between Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean were undeveloped areas with no more than some "villages not worth naming" (1) and city-khans were rarely seen. Still, the area ... was covered with caravan tracks, thanks to the network of desert stopping places known as non-urban khans, route khans, highway khans, or caravanserais. Relatively close to the road, these places allowed travellers and their animals a short rest from the difficulties they encountered on their journey, such as the lack of good water sources, searing heat followed by freezing nights, heavy rains, strong winds, long distances, muddy wadis, dangerous insects and animals, and angry robbers.

Thanks to road khans, the desert region, which offered the shortest way between Orient and Occident, became more passable and therefore more attractive to traders, and, in turn, also became more important to the state. Knowing "there would be no routes if there were no stopping places", (2) the Ottoman rulers contributed not only to the establishment and maintenance of caravan highways, but also of road khans, which performed several functions. The first function was "to ensure safe lodging and protection from robbery in regions where nomad and hill-bandits – posed a threat to security. (3) Therefore, quadrangular in shape and "as strong in walls as castles", (4) they usually had

and “as strong in walls as castles”, (4) they usually had a fortified outer wall, supported by buttresses and with small windows at the corners of the exterior walls. What distinguished such a khan from a fortress was a spacious gateway, high and wide enough to allow the passage of a loaded camel, and furnished with heavy “double doors of wood covered with iron plates secured with huge-headed nails” (5) (and further guarded from within by massive iron chains, drawn across at night). ... Open to every traveller from the early morning prayer till late evening, the gate was guarded by a porter appointed by the local authority ... lodged in quarters in a vestibule next to the gate, on either side of which were sometimes small shops offering the barest necessities.

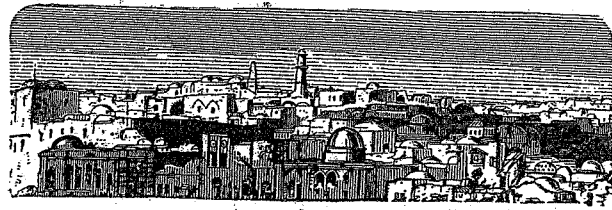
Desert-khans provided lodgings for travellers and their animals, and storage for their merchandise. The khans had a square courtyard surrounded by storerooms and lodgings. However, only the central road khans had two storeys with the travellers’ lodgings on the second floor, reached by an internal stairway. In luxurious khans, where important people and state officials lodged, there were even private rooms on the upper floor. In simple khans travellers usually slept in a communal hall on raised platforms, or lay upon the lower wall running around the sides of the khan.

The khans had, in the centre of their courtyards, a well with a fountain basin or water cistern next to it, which were used for drinking and for ritual ablution.

In city khans, European travellers, expecting to find services resembling those provided by European inns, were more eager to find food than water. At road khans, Europeans’ hierarchy of expectations did not change drastically, and after quenching their initial thirst, they still expected to find ready a nutritious meal and drink other than water. Yet they found “neither meat nor drink”. (6) The diet of local travellers seemed to some Europeans “very scanty, foul, and irregular” (7), and they usually supplemented it with biscuits, and longed for an occasion for a more nourishing meal. The road khans, however, did not present such an occasion, since, as in many of their city equivalents, cooking was done by travellers themselves in corners of the courtyard, using provisions and utensils they themselves had brought.

Road khans were usually established at intervals of twenty to thirty kilometres – the approximate distance of a one-day journey. Still, there were many khans that did not follow this rule, and were situated according to water sources and in areas requiring special security.

After drinking and resting in a safe place, a traveller needed somewhere to change his mounts. Therefore, among their other functions, road khans



assisted desert transport by providing a kind of “animal market”, in cooperation with surrounding villages or nomad tribes. Many khans had animals for sale, hire or exchange. Travellers could exchange their tired beasts for fresh camels, or hire or buy different animals in accordance with the character of the area they were planning to cross.

In providing staging posts, wells, lodgings, basic provisions and means of transport, the road khans indeed helped develop the desert roads and trans-desert trade – both important to the Ottoman Empire.

- 1 Cartwright, ‘On the way from Aleppo to the banks of the Euphrates in *Purchas his Pilgrims*’ re-issue, New York, 1965, p. 482
- 2 C. Phelps Grant, *The Syrian Desert*, London, 1937, p.4
- 3 N. Elisseeff, ‘Khan’, *Encyclopedia of Islam*, Leiden, 1990, p. 1010
- 4 Rauwolffe in John Ray’s *A Collection of Curious Travels*, London, 1738
- 5 Raphaela Lewis, *Everyday Life*, p.179
- 6 Rauwolff, op cit, p. 44
- 7 Teixeira, *The Travels of Pedro Teixeira*, Nedeln/Liechtenstein, 1967

HORSE AND HOUND

Two recently issued books testify to the quintessentially British cultural interest in Egypt and the Near East, which has survived the football age. *The Byerley Turk* by Jeremy James is a ‘true’ fictional story of the first of the great ‘Arab’ – in this case Turkish – stallions that were ancestors of all the world’s thoroughbred racehorses. In 1687, booty from the siege of Buda, this Turkish warhorse was acquired by Captain Robert Byerley and took part in the Williamite campaign in Ireland, before being put out to grass in Yorkshire.

Though the prose is often a shade of deep purple, this is a rattling good yarn, full of the most detailed and erudite lore on the Turkish and Arab strains of horse. The author is well qualified, a Turkish speaker and seasoned horseman, he spent some time in the 1990s as manager of the Bosnian State stud. The book is also replete with closely researched detail on the 17th century Turkish army, its cavalry and its style of warfare. The Blunts would have been fascinated. It should be said that the most vivid characters in the novel are horses, with men second, and women a poor third.

The hound in question is the hunting hound of Egypt, the ‘tjesm’, first identifiable, according to the author, Michael Rice, in a painting in pre-dynastic tomb at Abydos of c. 3300 BC. *Swifter*

than the Arrow traces the frequent reappearance of this tall golden hound with powerful shoulders, high pointed ears, and curly tail, in tomb paintings from the 1st Dynasty onwards.

One recognises a characteristically British judgement that there was something especially likeable about a people which was “the first in history not only to take dogs into their community on terms of affection and mutual dependence, but also to record the names, often affectionate and engagingly silly, that they conferred upon them.” Rice takes a scholarly look at the place of the dog in ancient Egyptian society and religion, and cautiously suggests possible connections between the ‘tjesm’ and modern-day breeds, such as the Pharaoh hound, the Ibizan hound, and the Cirneco dell’Etna, the Sicilian hound. A must for Egyptological dog-lovers!

Tom Rees

Jeremy James: The Byerley Turk, the True Story of the First Thoroughbred, h/b, 338 pp + appendices and bibliography, Merlin Umwin Books, Ludlow, 2005, ISBN 1-873674-76-7, £20.00

Michael Rice, Swifter than the Arrow, the Golden Hunting Hounds of Ancient Egypt, h/b, 193 pp., + glossary, notes and bibliography, 38 illustrations, I.B. Tauris, London, 2006, ISBN 10-1-84511-116-8 and 12.978-1-84511-116-8, no price given.

VICE VERSA: A TRAVELLER FROM EGYPT

Only very occasionally does one glimpse an account in English of an ordinary Egyptian’s experience of travel abroad before the end of the 19th century. The Egyptians who travelled to Europe, like Ismael Gibraltar from the 1810s or ‘Hippopotamus Johnny’ who accompanied a baby hippo thither in the 1840s, or Linant de Bellefonds’ Ethiopian wife in the 1820s, are seen through European eyes. However in Sir Richard Phillips’ *New Voyages and Travels*, 11, vol. ix, is “The Narrative of a Journey from Egypt to the west coast of Africa’ by Mahomed Misrah in about 1820. His account was collected in several interviews by an officer serving at Fort Thornton in Sierra Leone. and written up in April, 1921.

Mahomed Misrah was a “Mahommedan priest” born in Alexandria in about 1776. As a young man he remembered an army of white people taking possession of his country (the French invasion of 1798), who about three years afterwards were beaten in a battle with other white people, who spoke a different language (Aboukir Bay, 1801). Mahomed had heard the guns, but had not seen the engagement.

A few years later, “feeling himself conscientiously impelled to propagate his belief”, he set out westwards along the shores of the Mediterranean. He travelled to Fez where,

“ finding an insurmountable barrier in the great desert of the Sahara ... he turned his face towards the rising sun and returned to Alexandria. To use his own expression, he “sat down there for some time, uncertain to my future intentions.”

At length, but still not following any fixed or determinate plan, he departed southwards. He reached Sennar in 23 days, finding it “a low sandy country, abounding with camels, horses and cattle.” The Nile here he described as about a mile in breadth, “and slow and majestic in its progress.” Turning west to the frontier of Kordofan, he had to wait for a caravan to make the 11-day journey across the desert in the wet season. In 15 days more he reached Warra, a warlike kingdom whose troops “maintain desperate conflicts with the spear, an instrument which they direct with much precision and handle with great dexterity.” Many were great travellers and “traded to countries far distant.” Two days further he reached Lake Belala, fed by a large river rising in small mountains on the confines of Kordofan.

In 1820, when the true course of both the Niger and the Nile were as yet unknown, Mahomed Misrah’s information was of great significance, and the anonymous officer who passed on his account commented on its implications for the region.

A further three days travel brought Misrah to Bournu Brinee, principal town of “the extensive kingdom of that name”. He found it large and populous with merchandise conveyed thither by camel and horse, “there being no river of consequence within ten days march.” Much of the land was more fertile than any he had met: “with an abundance of vegetable provision and plenty of fine corn, and extensive pasturage crowded with cattle.” Ten days later he reached Kano (in what is now northern Nigeria), whose people were “amazingly adventurous and persevering” – trading as far as Timbuctu and along the banks of the Niger.

It took Misrah 10 more days to reach the Niger, further from its source than Boussa where Mungo Park had met his death in 1806. He passed on for 16 days through a bad, barren country where he understood people ate one another. Along the road to Degumba, following the line of the mountains of Kong, numbers of women had booths “in which travellers may repose, and be regaled with milk, fruit and other refreshment in exchange for kolas and cowries.” Misrah described the produce of the country as the “much-prized kola nut and corn, “which grows luxuriantly in most of the interior regions.”

A further three weeks and Misrah reached Segou (Segou in Mali), the capital of the kingdom of Bamarrans in the country well known to European travellers, so his recorder confirmed the facts of Misrah’s journey rather than just detailing them.

Misrah supposed his day’s journey might average about 20 miles, so the whole made the

journey 2720 miles to Segou. As Segou is about 200 miles from Sierra Leone, his total journey was about 3020 miles as the crow flies. The straight measurement on a map of that time was – very satisfactorily - 2925 miles. “He could hardly have accounted for his ground more correctly had he instruments and knowledge to do so.”

Misrah’s other evidence was also important. He appeared “quite positive that the Nile is a continuation of the Niger, and that Bahar el Abeed (the White Nile) is the link of connexion.” His recorder, however, was not convinced “if there does exist one objection, let it be ever so trifling, the hypothesis cannot be valid. *Deborah Manley*

FOOTPRINTS

HORSES AND HEROES

Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of the poet, travelled in post-independence Greece in 1832-3 and wrote about it in his Athens and Attica (1836), but, in a private collection, there are also unpublished notebooks with material he would later work up into his book. This extract comes from these.

February 1833: All the horses of Epidaurus have been preoccupied by the party of Capitani, who precede us. But mules are to be had. And very honourable animals they are. The donkey which Augustus met before the battle of Actium, and whose name cheered him so much, was called Nicon. Our beasts are no less distinguished. One bears the heroic name of Marco Bazzari (Botzaris); the other is no less proud of that of the brave and unfortunate Kamiska. The history of the late Greek Revolution is written on everything in Greece.

THE PLAGUE ARRIVES IN EGYPT

Cairo, November the 9th. An express arrived from the governor of Alexandria with an account of the arrival of a French ship from Constantinople, with the plague on board; that the captains and four sailors had died in the voyage; and that six others of the crew were now sick, who, on examination, were infected with the plague: this has caused the Europeans in that city to shut up their houses, an example the inhabitants of this place are preparing to follow, should the plague unhappily break out.

Abraham Parsons, Travels in Asia and Africa, London, 1808, p. 325

Is anyone doing work on the impact of the plague season on Egypt and the Near East and its diagnosis and treatment?

TEACHERS IN SYRIA

Russian Cultural Penetration of Syria-Palestine in the 19th Century by A.L. Tibawi, Royal Central Asian Society, 1965 provides this interesting item:

There was in Damascus a resident Russian inspector of schools, and a physician who dispensed free medical advice and medicines. But the most colourful of the Russians were three mistresses who came to teach in the girls’ school in the city. The three ladies must have been accorded an honour reserved to consuls and high ecclesiastical dignitaries. According to the British consul, they walked in the streets preceded by a *kavass*, a native escort wearing a gold-embroidered uniform and carrying a silver-topped rod. (p.28)

Any other sightings?

WONDERS OF STEAM NAVIGATION

As our next ASTENE Conference will be at the great sea port of Southampton, shipping will undoubtedly play a part in its themes. Here the American traveller, John Lloyd Stephens, wrote enthusiastically about the impact of steam travel in 1839 in his Incidents of Travel in the Russian and Turkish Empires.

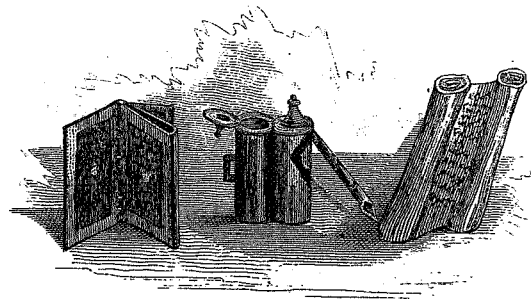
Now the Mediterranean is admirably suited to the use of steamboats; indeed, the whole of these inland waters, the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Archipelago, the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus, and the Black Sea, from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Sea of Azoff, offer every facility that can be desired for steam navigation; and when we consider that the most interesting cities in the world are on the shores of these waters, I cannot but believe that in a very few years they will be, to a certain extent, covered with steamboats. At all events, I have no doubt that in two or three years you will be able to go from Paris to Constantinople in fifteen or twenty days; and, when that comes, it will throw such numbers of Europeans into the East as will have a sensible effect upon the manners and customs of the people. These eastern countries will be invaded by all classes of people, travellers, merchants, and mechanics, gentlemen of elegant leisure, and blacksmiths, tinkers and tailors, nay, even mantuamakers, milliners, and bandboxes, the last being an incident in civilized life as yet unknown in Turkey, Indeed, wonderful as the effects of steamboats have been under our own eyes, we are yet to see them far more wonderful in bringing into close alliance, commercial and social, people from distant countries, of different languages and habits; in removing national prejudices, and in breaking down the great characteristic distinctions of nations. Nous verrons, twenty years hence, what steamboats have done in this part of the world! (pp. 218-219)

A VIEW OF LADY HESTER

Lieutenant Raymond Welstred of the Indian Navy spoke fluent Arabic – and so learnt much that other travellers missed.

A group of Bedaween were disputing respecting the sanity of Lady Esther Stanhope; one party strenuously maintained that it was impossible for a lady so charitable, so munificent, could be other wise than in full possession of her faculties. Their opponents alleged that her assimilating herself in the Virgin Mary, her anticipated entry into our Saviour into Jerusalem, and other vagaries attributed to her, were proofs to the contrary. An old man with a white bird called for silence (a call from the aged amidst the Arab seldom made in vain). "She is mad," said he; and lowering his voice to a whisper, as if fearful of such an outrage against established custom should spread beyond his circle, he added: "for she puts sugar in her coffee." This was conclusive.*

* Lieut. J.R. Wellsted FRS, *Travels in Arabia*, London, 1838, p. 69.



ABOUDI'S ABC OF THE NILE

- A .for Aboudi, Chief of the guides and friend of the Nile.
- B stands for Baksheesh - one needs a great pile.
- C for the Camel, so surly and proud,
- D for the Donkey, galloping not allowed.
- E stands for Edfu, so stately and grand.
- F for Fly-whisk, always at hand.
- G stands for Gizeh where Pyramids rise.
- H stands for Horus, a hawk in disguise.
- I stands for Isis, a Goddess of fame.
- J for the Jackal, Anubis by name.
- K for Kom Ombo, the house of Sobek
- L for the Lotus, now out of stock.
- M stands for Memphis, the tomb of the bull.
- N for the Nile which is not full.
- O for Osiris, the judge of the dead.
- P for Prisoners, cutting their heads.
- Q for the Queens, of which there were many,
- R stands for Ramses, six for a penny.
- S for the Sandbanks, which everywhere lie.
- T for the Tomb of old Queen Tye.
- U for Ushabti, the Underworld slave.
- V for the Vulture, protecting the brave.
- W for Wap-Wat, the God of Assiut.
- X stands for Xerxes a Persian brute.
- Y stands for Yeba, the Assuan of old.
- Z stands for Zoser, our tale in now told.

ASTENE'S YELLOW PAGES DIRECTORY

The 'Yellow Pages' is the directory of names, addresses and interests of ASTENE members, and is a very important means of linking members together. It was originally available to all members by post. It is now available to be downloaded or accessed from ASTENE's website. Any members who would prefer that the Yellow Pages be posted to them, please apply to the Editor of the Bulletin.

Mohamed Aboudi from *Egypt: Aboudi's Guide Book*, Luxor, 1963

