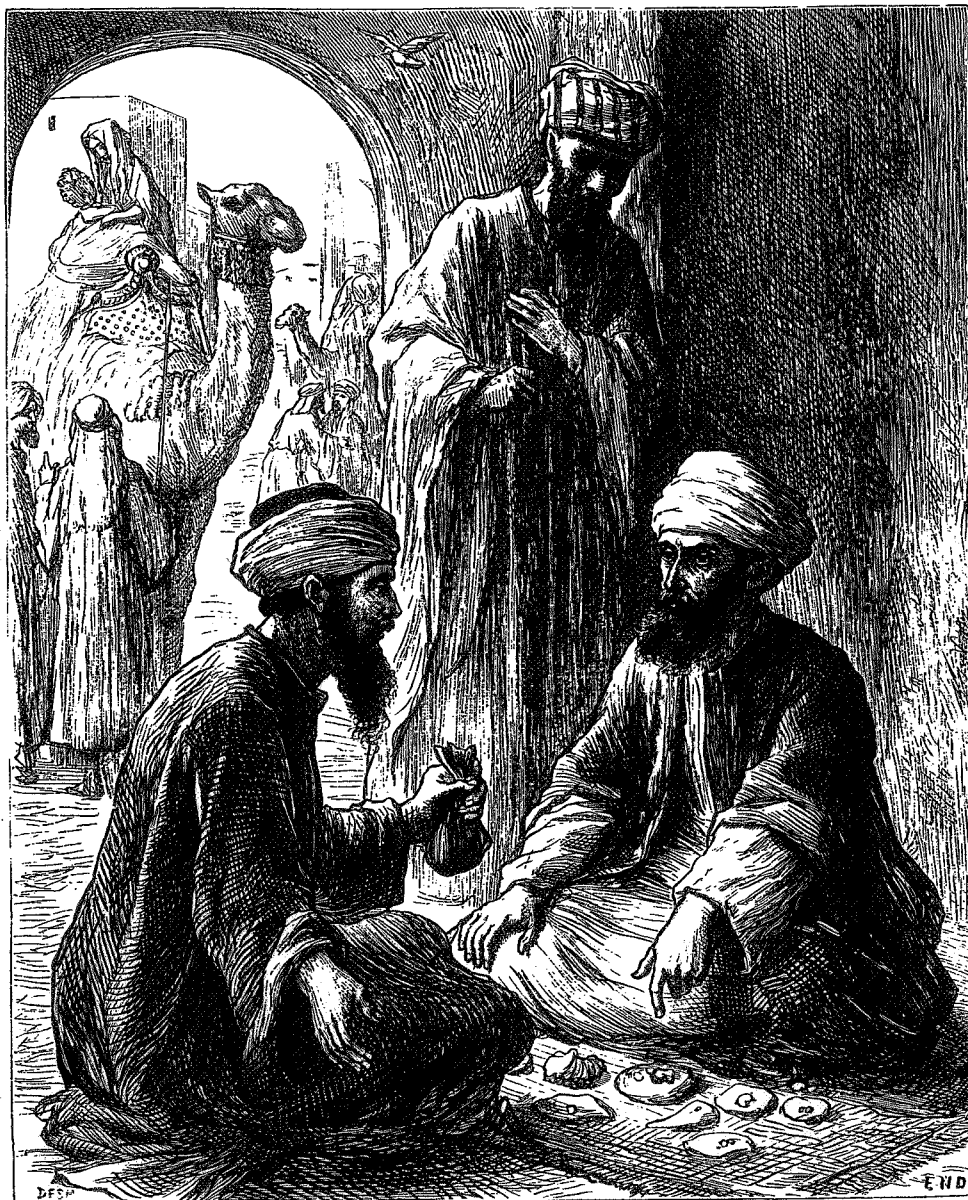


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No 29

Autumn 2006



THE PEARL MERCHANT.

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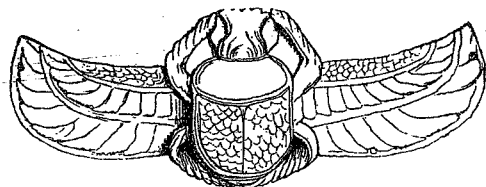
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"THE YELLOW PAGES"

This is the name given familiarly to the directory of members' names, addresses, contacts and interests. This can be downloaded by members. However, some members may prefer to have a paper copy. If you would like a paper copy please contact the Bulletin Editor.

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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.

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BULLETIN 30

The final deadline for the next Bulletin is 20 December AND NO MATERIAL SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE.

We welcome articles, queries, replies, news items, and other related matters from members. Please send your contribution to the Bulletin Editor – the earlier the better.

ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ASTENE'S FIRST DECADE

The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East was founded and received charitable status in 1997. Thus, in 2007, we are celebrating our 10th anniversary.

We are planning to celebrate this with various activities. One will be the compilation of a bibliography of books published by ASTENE members since 1997 on matters related to the region. We plan to issue this in an account of the first decade during 2007, and to have an exhibition of the titles published at the Southampton Conference in July.

In the Winter Bulletin there will be a form on which you can enter details of books you have written (or co-written or edited) and published on an ASTENE subject since 1997. Please will you send these bibliographic details in by the date given. This form will also appear on the website.

TRAVELLERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE HAJJ, Saturday 18th November

This is the second Study Day this year at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education, and will again be preceded by an evening occasion on Friday 17 November.

The programme of the Study Day – which was sent out with the booking form in the last Bulletin – is:

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

Should you wish to attend and do not have the registration form, and/or need accommodation at Rewley House, please ring the OUDCE (Rewley House, Oxford) on 01865 270368.

Queen's College Library

On Friday, 17 November we will have our usual pre-study day gathering. On this occasion Professor of Egyptology at Oxford University John Baines has offered to take a small group through the vast tomes of the *Description de l'Egypte* made after the Napoleonic period in Egypt. This occasion will be held at 6 p.m. at Queen's College, Oxford. There will have to be strict limits on

numbers, so please let the ASTENE Events Organiser, Elisabeth Woodthorpe know as soon as possible if you wish to come. It will, of course, be an excellent introduction for those planning to attend the ASTENE-EES Study Day in Exeter in April (see below). There will be dinner afterwards at a local restaurant (at about 7:30) and members who have not been to the presentation are welcome to join in. Again, please let Elisabeth Woodthorpe know if you want to come to dinner.

LONDON'S ARAB HALL, KENSINGTON

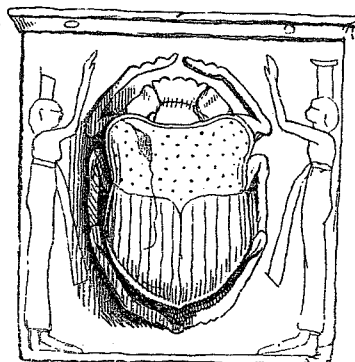
The artist, Lord Leighton, travelled widely in the Islamic world and fell in love with its architecture and atmosphere. He built an 'Arabian Hall' as part of his house in Kensington's Holland Park.

For some time we have thought about visiting Leighton House. On **Wednesday 14th February** we are meeting there at 2:30 after lunch in a nearby Lebanese Restaurant. The entrance fee with guided tour by the Curator will be £6.00.) Please let Elisabeth Woodthorpe, ASTENE Events Organiser, know if you are interested in coming to this occasion.

REDISCOVERING EGYPT: EARLY ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT

A joint ASTENE-Egypt Exploration Society Day School to be held on Saturday 21st April 2007 at St Loye's College, Topsham Road, Exeter. The speakers will include Dr Andrew Bednarski on "The Napoleonic Description de l'Egypte"; Dr Brian Taylor: "Lusting all his Life: The insatiable, incorrigible, incomparable 4th Earl of Sandwich (1718-92); Chris Naunton on "Early EES epigraphic work" and Dr Robert Morkot on "Irby, Mangles, Belzoni and Fuller". St Loye's College is built around Fairfield, the Exeter home of James Mangles.

There will be full details, a registration form and accommodation details in the next Bulletin or contact Dr Robert Morkot on r.g.morkot@ex.ac.uk.



ASTENE'S BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Thursday 12th July-Monday 16th July 2007

The 2007 Conference, which will celebrate ten years of ASTENE, will be held at the University of Southampton. The university facilities are in a quiet residential area of the city next to the original common land, now preserved as public parkland.

Three rooms in the hall of residence have been adapted for wheelchair users.

There will be two half-day excursions – to Kingston Lacy in Dorset, home of the 19th century traveller William John Bankes, and to Highclere Castle, the family seat of the Earls of Carnarvon. There is also the possibility of a visit to the Bankes archive at Dorchester.

While much of Southampton's medieval past survives, the city has good modern shopping facilities and art galleries set among extensive public parks. There are excellent road and rail links within the UK.. The city also has its own European airport and is a short drive from the continental ferries arriving at Portsmouth. Southampton is ideally situated for a holiday before or after the conference.

Further details of the conference and a copy of the registration form will be sent with the January 2007 Bulletin and will appear on the ASTENE website. The Conference Secretary is Mrs Pat Wagstaff, email: pa_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk

The **Call for Papers** for the conference is enclosed with this Bulletin and displayed on the website. **Please can you display it in your department, society, library or other place where other interested people will see it.**

ASTENE TOUR TO SYRIA, OCTOBER 2007

Plans are starting for an ASTENE tour to Syria, taking in Damascus, Palmyra and Aleppo in mid-October, 2007. A short conference will be included.

If you would like to receive details of this tour, please contact Elisabeth Woodthorpe, ASTENE's Events Organiser.



OTHER NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

The Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, Victoria and Albert Museum has re-opened after renovation with its many items beautifully displayed. The displays explain how Islamic art developed from the great days of the Islamic caliphate in the 8-9th centuries onwards. An article in this Bulletin by Janet Rady describes the gallery in more detail. Open museum hours. Free.

Sketches from the north Red Sea is an exhibition of work-in-progress sketches of David Martin's encounter with the Red Sea at the Arabian Studies conference on the Red Sea at the British Museum 27 – 28 October. He won the prestigious Alastair Salveson Travel Award and travelled from Cairo to Central Europe. Watch for the exhibition of his completed work at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in March 2007. For further information about the **Red Sea III conference** see <http://www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea>

Beyond the Palace Walls: Islamic art in a world context at the Royal Museum in Chambers' Street, Edinburgh until 5th November.

Brenda Moon reports that it displays many splendid artefacts from the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. The centrepiece, a magnificent embroidered 18th century Ottoman tent, never before on public display. The exhibition includes treasures from all over the Islamic world – reaching far beyond ASTENE's boundaries but with examples from the Eastern Mediterranean, especially from Egypt and Syria – dating from the 7th to the 19th centuries, and including ceramics, Bronzes, embroideries, manuscripts, etc.

"The exhibition is beautifully mounted," she writes, "with pleasant lighting filtering evocatively through lattices dividing the sections of the exhibition. There is an excellent catalogue (£25, or £19.99 from the Museum shop). Visitors receive for their admission fee (£6, £5 concessions) a useful leaflet containing a glossary which helps us to know the Fatimids and the Timurids from the Ilkhanids and the Safavids from the Sassaniands and the Seljucs. A visit to the exhibition is a dazzling and educational experience."

Holy Images, Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai at the Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles from 14th November until March 2007. The exhibition includes 43 icons - from small jewel-like panels to doors and house beams painted with saints' portraits and Biblical narratives – and half-a-dozen manuscripts. These objects are to be shown in a setting designed to emphasis their devotional roles. ASTENE members were fortunate enough to see these treasures within the Convent of St Catherine's

in Sinai in March. Still within the Convent are 2000 icons and 3500 manuscripts dating from the Convent's 6th century foundation.

Father Porphyrios of the Convent will be in Los Angeles during the period of the exhibition. Father Justin, Librarian of the Convent, is quoted as saying "Our responsibility is not only to preserve the collection, but also to share it" – as the Archbishop and monks did so kindly during our visit.

Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists and the Rediscovery of Egypt tells the story of the ill-fated bid to add Egypt to the growing French Empire. This exhibition at the Dahesh Museum of Art, 580 Madison Avenue, New York continues until the end of December 2006. It displays more than 90 engravings from the *Description de l'Egypte* (which ASTENE members will be shown at Queen's College, Oxford on 17th November) . There are public gallery talks on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:15.

Beasts of the Nile explores the varied creatures of ancient Egypt. The exhibits include mummies, bronzes , pottery and wooden sculptures from the British Museum. At Swansea Museum, Wales until 21 November.



Venice and the Islamic World (828-1797)

This exhibition, originated by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, runs at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris from 3 October 2006 to 18 February 2007 reflects many of ASTENE's interests. The exhibition examines how artistic and cultural ideas that originated in the Near East were drawn to Europe through trade, and explores their influence on Venice's art and architecture.

Art of being Tuareg exhibits art, clothing, bags and saddles and other highly decorated artefacts. UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles. October until 25 February 2007.

Treasures from Olana This exhibition of the landscapes of Frederic Edwin Church of the Middle East and other places has moved to the Huntington Library, San Marino, California from 14 October to 3 January, 2007.

Mummies at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California continues until April 2007. Through the displays Mummies explains such matters as embalming, coffins, sarcophagi, amulets and papyri, together with much else about death and mummies.

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibits 130 works from Egypt's National Museum and 50 spectacular items from the tomb of the young pharaoh and other tombs. The exhibition is twice the size of the great 'Tut'

exhibition over a quarter of a century ago. Field Museum, Chicago until 1 January 2007.

The Quest for Immortality dramatically illustrates the concept of the after-life through 143 objects and a life-sized reconstruction of a New Kingdom burial chamber. Many of the items on display have never been seen outside Egypt before. The Art Museum, Portland, Oregon from 5 November to 4 March, 2007.

Saladin and the Crusaders This exhibition of artefacts, models, painting and photographs continues until 5 November at Reiss-Engelhorn Museums, Mannheim, Germany.

Ancient Egyptians is an ongoing free exhibition featuring mummies and treasures at the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester.

CONFERENCES, COURSES ETC

Travellers to Greece – A day conference on Thursday 9th November sponsored by the Hellenic Society and the Classical Association in Room 336, North Block Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1 7HU.



The papers cover: "Expeditions to Greece in the 17th-18th centuries : What to pack, and how to travel" (Tony Brothers, University of Wales, Lampeter), "From Marble Arch to Mycenae: The travel journals of Mabel and Theodore Bent in the Cyclades" (Brenda Stones, Co-Editor of *The Travel Chronicles of Mrs Theodore Bent 1883- 1898*) and "Winifred Lamb: Searching for prehistory in Greece" (Dr David Gill, University of Wales, Lampeter). Followed by a buffet reception.

To book (£8.00) contact The Hellenic Society, 020-7862-8730 or office@hellenicsociety.org.uk. **Early booking is advised.**

North Africa Day - Barnaby Rogerson is organising another of his popular North Africa days. The date: Tuesday 21 November; the place is the Exmouth Centre, 26 Exmouth Market, Clerkenwell, London EC1.

The programme of events (from coffee at 9 a.m.) includes a screening of *Tangier: legend of a city* and *With the Nomads*, and papers on a range of subjects from 10:30 – 6 p.m. (with lunch purchased locally) and then at 6:30 a book launch party and charity book sale. The papers include: Michael

Haag on Ahmed Hassanein Bey (the Egyptian explorer), Arita Baaijens' Sudanese Travels, Anthony Sattin – 'Out of Timbuctoo', and other papers on the region.

To book send registration fee (£15 for the day or part day) to Barnaby Rogerson, Eland Publishing Ltd, 61 Exeter Market, London EC1R 4Q.

Tel: 020 7833 0762; Fax: 020 7833 4434.

Website: www.travelbooks.co.uk

Beyond the Grand Tour, 1750-1850: ASTENE's Chairman, Dr Brian Taylor, is giving Rutland WEA classes on the travellers who went beyond the boundaries of the Grand Tour into the Ottoman Empire. He will cover such topics pictorial and literary Orientalism and Turkomania, the importance of trade, collecting and transporting antiquities. The series has started but continues to the end of November. Contact WEA Enrolment Secretary, 35 Glebe Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6LX, Tel: 01572 757495, or email: omelton@wea.org.uk

Heavenly Gold: Early Christian and Medieval Mosaics in Rome, Ravenna and the East by Eileen Robery. A 10 week course at St Mark's Community Centre, Cambridge. For details and registration details ring 01223369463. This is a course run by Cambridge University's Department of Continuing Education.

The Ancient Near East: Trade and Cultural Identity in the 2nd Millennium BC A study day at Oxford University Department of Continuing Education on Saturday 24 February, 2007. Subjects to be introduced: Traders at Mari, Sippar and Susa; The Ulu Burun Shipwreck and globalism in the Late Bronze Age Mediterranean; Death and Burial in the Ancient Near East – ethnicity, migration and elite emulation; Canaan as a cultural construct; Egypt and Canaan: contact, adaptation and change. Contact: 01865 270368.

The International Congress of Egyptologists, 22 – 29 May, 2007 in Rhodes

The work of the Congress will be organised within themes such as Cultural Heritage, Egypt – Greece in antiquity, Archaeology and History of Art, Literature and Philology, Foreign Relations and Diplomacy. Intending participants are welcome to propose further themes.

Proposals for papers will be peer reviewed. For further details, see the Congress website: www.rhodes.aegean.gr/IOICE

British Travellers and Equestrian Enthusiasts in Syria and Arabia, 25-26 May, 2007: This conference will look at the travel accounts and ideas of Wilfred Scawen Blunt and Lady Anne Blunt in providing a unifying focus for 'asil' Arabian horses – a treasured economy appreciated by both East and West. The conference aims to assess the legacy of the Blunts' views in the making of the 'English' thoroughbred, and the much debated story of the origins of the breed.

The conference, to be held at the University of Kent at Canterbury, will bring together academics, independent scholars, authors, travellers and bloodstock experts, including Robin Hanbury-Tenison, H.V.F. Winstone, Brigid Keenan and ASTENE members Barnaby Rogerson and Conference Organiser, Professor Donna Landry.

There will be full details in the next Bulletin and before that on the ASTENE website. For further information contact Prof. Donna Landry, School of English, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NX or d.e.landry@kent.ac.uk

The Victorian and Edwardian Seaside might seem an unlikely subject for ASTENE, but Committee Member, Dr Kathryn Ferry (known to us for her knowledge of art and architecture in the Near East) is presenting her 'other' research – "Bathing Huts and Bungalows" at a Victorian Society conference on Saturday 11 November at the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London – a cheerful break in a wintry month? For further information contact the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT; Tel: 020 8894 1019, email admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

ASTENE TRAVELLERS BY POST

This summer the British Post office issued ten stamps of famous people. Three of them were travellers in the ASTENE region. The stamps commemorated Winston Churchill, Joshua Reynolds, T.S. Eliot, Emmeline Pankhurst, Sir Walter Scott, Mary Seacole, William Shakespeare, Dame Cicely Saunders, and Charles Darwin. Do you know which three of these were travellers to Egypt or the Near East?

The answer is Winston Churchill in Egypt in the 1880s; Mary Seacole, the Jamaican who went to help British soldiers in the Crimea, and Sir Walter Scott who, when an elderly invalid, was taken by his family to Malta.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

This section appears only in the Bulletin and is not transferred to the ASTENE web site.

THE SUDAN ARCHIVE, DURHAM UNIVERSITY

On a recent visit to Durham we were fortunate to be introduced to the Sudan Archive by Jane Hogan, who has worked on it for several years – and was at the first pre-ASTENE conference in Durham. What a treasure house for ASTENE members the Archive is!

Founded in 1957, the year after Sudan's independence, to bring together and preserve the papers of those who worked there, it comprises over 300 individual collections. Many of them are,

of course, late for ASTENE (although what is fifty years or so in our time period?). Much of it is not about travel but about anything from agriculture to obstetrics, religion to irrigation...

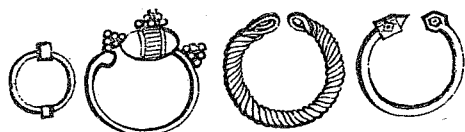
The Archive is made up of more than 800 boxes of papers, 46,000 photographs, 136 cine-films, 1000 plus maps, many museum objects and much related printed material. Although the material concentrates on Sudan, it flows out into eastern Africa and Egypt and across the Near East and beyond.

The material is copyright. Thus there is no website from which it can be taken directly, although a website exists for information and description (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/>) and material can be accessed within the University. There are Summary Guides and Handlists that are regularly up-dated and can be ordered by post and this material is also on line, where it is kept constantly up to date.. Subject lists cover such topics of especial interest as the Darfur Campaign, General Gordon, slavery, and countries other than Sudan.

The 2005 Guide includes such mouth-watering material as trek notes for different branches of the public service, accounts of surveys of different parts of the area, letters home from the Sudan and elsewhere (e.g. Mesopotamia), short stories, about the people of Sudan (1904-26), the account of an American doctor, C.M. Brownell's journey through Egypt and Sudan in 1862 and Government Gazettes from 1899-1925.

The publications mentioned and others are available at the Sudan Archive, Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN. The Summary Guide costs £5.00 plus 70-pence postage and packing in UK.

Contacts: Jane Hogan at the address above or by e-mail at pg.libray@durham.ac.uk.



ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

A number of ASTENE members across UK assisted in this project to report on travellers' papers in British and some American archives. In this and future Bulletins their reports will be published. This material will not be entered on the ASTENE website and thus will be available only to members and Bulletin readers. Copies of the detailed individual reports are available to ASTENE members from the Bulletin Editor and summaries will be given in future Bulletins..

We continue to welcome members willing to conduct further research on these archives. Please contact the Bulletin Editor for further information. We are looking especially for people who can report on London-based material.

Sir Mark Sykes (1879-1919)

Archive: Brynmor Jones Library, Hull University, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX. Tel: 01482 465 265. Visit by appointment only. On-line search facility/catalogue.

Material: Journal of visits in Egypt, and numerous travels in Near East 1899-1918. Library archive reference: DDSY (2) (Various).

Brief description: Notebooks and numerous (approx. 400) illustrated hand-written letters to his wife, Edith, et al.

An example of this material is DDSY (2) 4/10 A Journey to Egypt (1910) A visit to the convent of St Antony - '5 days ride over the desert beside the Red Sea'. Description of monastery, monks' worship and services.

Among the letters is an account in 1903 of the recently excavated Baalback (sic). In 1906 Mark Sykes gives his opinions of Gertrude Bell - "She leaves every place she visits in an uproar."

Reported by Lorien Pilling

Emily Anne Smythe, Viscountess Strangford (nee Beaufort - daughter of Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort)

Archive: Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108, USA Tel: 626 905-2190. Application for reading privileges must be made to the Readers Services Department - and will take up to 3 weeks to complete.

Material: 3 quarto exercise books 1876-7

Brief description: Travels in Bulgaria (within Ottoman empire). MSS PB Box 35 in Papers of Sir Francis Beaufort, mss FB1-1920.

Note: Sir Francis Beaufort was also a traveller in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Reported by Peta Ree*

H.H.W., Mr H.H. Woods

Archive: Hampshire County Council Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester SO23 8 TH. website: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/recordoffice> Tel: 01962 846154. Open 9 - 7 Monday-Friday and 9 - 4 Saturday.

Material: Archive ref.: 4M51/396. Quarto loose-leaf sheets (218 pp. unbound), probably fair copy of original. Journal of a 13 months tour in 1842-3, mainly in Europe and through Greece to Smyrna and Constantinople. *Reported by Malcolm Wagstaff*

Lord Marmaduke Constable Maxwell Herries (1837-1908)

Archive: University of Hull Archives, Brynmor Jones Library, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 4 RX website: www.hull.ac.uk/arc. Telephone: 01482 465265. Open: Mon - Thurs 9 - 1; 2 - 5 pm.

Material: Archive reference: ODEV/61/33. Journal of Lord Herries. Travel journal in 1863 to Egypt, up and down Nile, to the Holy Land and Palestine,

to Athens and Constantinople from 18 January, 1863 to 29 June, 1863.

Comment: A detailed and interesting account, recording both the state of the remains and giving brief glimpses of everyday life in Egypt, for example he witnessed the dervishes dancing and praying, and watched wedding festivities at Siout. Was travelling as part of a group, but mentions no names. *Reported by Lorien Pilling*

The Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Worsley, 7th Bart. of Appuldurcombe, Isle of Wight.

Archive: Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln LN2 5AB. website: lincolnshire:archive@Lincolnshire.gov.uk. Tel: 01522 525158. Open: Tuesday – Friday 9 – 5.

Material: Archive ref: Worsley 23/24/38 Two journals 5 January 1785 – 4 April 1787 (Rome back to Rome) each about 300 pp.. Route: Malta, Crete, Greece (May 1785), Greek islands, Egypt (26 July 1785), Smyrna, Turkey, Russia, Rome. Mentions various people, mainly merchants. Companion from Rome Willey Revelly (d. 1799) whose journal should be in RIBA Library. See Dictionary of National Biography for both Worsley and Revelly.

Reported by Peta Ree

WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN EGYPT

I was recently reminded by Dr Patricia Usick that the two-volume *Voyageurs et Ecrivains en Egypte* by Jean-Marie Carre, published in Cairo in 1932, is a most useful resource for anyone researching French travellers. Not only does it provide in effect a historical account of French painters and writers in Egypt with their biographies, but it also includes in Volume II some interesting Appendices.

One of these Appendices is a list of the French guests invited to the inauguration of the Suez Canal. Some of these guests were also invited on a tour of Upper Egypt. The list of these privileged men – and they were almost entirely men (with an occasional wife) – reads like a replay of Napoleon's *savants*.

There were 3 chemists, 2 anthropologists, 1 physiologist, 5 physicians, 1 surgeon, 1 astronomer, 13 artists, architects, sculptors (including Gerome, Hector Horeau and Fromentin), 3 lawyers, and 28 writers and editors.

Other guests who did not make the journey to Upper Egypt, but were only invited to the celebrations at Ismailia, included the suite of the Empress Eugenie (including various Bonaparte princesses) and officers of the Imperial yacht, and, of course, the functionaries of the Compagnie du Canal de Suez. Ferdinand de Lesseps himself had three dozen personal guests, including a number of aristocrats, and, almost last on the list, M. Edmond Lavallay – parent of the engineer of the Canal.



WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

Sometimes a tombstone tells much about a person. If you come across an interesting travellers' grave or information about where they are buried, please let the Editor know

Howard Carter (1874-1939) died in London after protracted illnesses on 2 March 1939 and is buried in Putney Vale cemetery.

Reverend Richard Pococke (1704-1765) (see article on cedars at Highclere) was born in Southampton, died in Ireland and is buried in Christ Church, Oxford.

Peter Lee (d. 1825) who was Levant Company Consul in Alexandria for several years, and very welcoming to many travellers, had this obituary in the *Malta Government Gazette* dated 27.10.1825, p. 4115:

The lamented death of Mr Peter Lee, the late British Consul at Alexandria, is confirmed by official advices; and Mr Salt, the Consul General, has taken upon himself the duties of the Consulate of that port for the present. This loss is universally regretted by all classes of Europeans in Egypt, and particularly by the merchants of the Levant Company, who as a mark of respect for Mr Lee's public character and private virtues have determined to erect a monument to his memory.

Does any reader know whether this monument was erected, and if so, where and what did it record? Please let the Editor of the Bulletin know.

Sir Robert Ker Porter Dr Robert Morkot reports that there is a large marble memorial to the family of Sir Robert Ker Porter in Bristol Cathedral: in a short passage from the cloister to an outside door. It names: Sir Robert Ker Porter, d. St Petersburg 4 May 1842 aged 65; William Ogilvie Porter MD, d. Portland Square, 1850 aet 76; Col John Porter d. 1810 aet 38; Jane Porter d. 1850 aet 74; Anna Maria Porter d. 1832 aet 52. It was erected by their devoted friend Mrs Cole Booth d. 23 Dec 1851.

But why, Robert asks, is this memorial in Bristol Cathedral? Replies please to him or to the Bulletin Editor.

More about Irby and Mangles

In Bulletin 28 Dr Robert Morkot wrote about the monument in Torquay's Greek Orthodox church of St Andrew (formerly St Saviour's) to Charles Irby,

and the memorial in St Luke's Chapel, County Wear, Exeter to Captain Mangles. Robert's source for this information were omitted, and he provides it now.

Both memorials are recorded on the website of the National Maritime Museum: www.nmm.ac.uk/memorials/ or you can enter through their homepage. The collection of memorials can be searched through topics (such as cause of death), event (e.g War of Greek Independence) or by advanced search through surname. Obviously the collection is not complete! But it a valuable resource for ASTENE members searching for any naval burials.

NOTES AND QUERIES AND REPLIES

These queries appear both in the Bulletin and on the ASTENE web site: www.ASTENE.com; the replies appear only in the Bulletin for the use of members. Please send your queries to the Bulletin Editor. Sometimes we send queries direct to those members who we know have a specialist knowledge of the subject, who may be able to respond immediately.

WHO WAS THE MUMMY SNATCHER?

The Egyptological Electronic Forum referred S.J. Wolfe to us. She asks if anyone can identify an Alexander Grant travelling in Egypt and 'excavating' (the word used in her document is 'ransacking') the ruins of Thebes some time before 1824. Grant had travelled to South America before going to Egypt. He recovered at least one mummy and various artefacts which he sold to a Captain Larkin Thorndike Lee in Livorno (Leghorn) around April 1824. Lee took the artefacts back to America and exhibited the mummy. In the related brochure Grant is described as "the celebrated traveller, Alexander Grant". Ms Wolfe is writing a history of the Egyptian mummies in 19th century America.

Does any reader know anything further of Alexander Grant? Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.

WHO WAS AT THIS LUNCHEON PARTY AT THEBES, 1843?

We had not heard the sound of any European voice but for our own for nearly two months, when, turning into one of these sepulchres, we met a large party exploring like ourselves. We invited them to 'our tomb', where Mahmoud was preparing coffee, and, as their commissariat had been neglected, they were too happy to be our guests. Mahmoud was startled at first, at the unexpected increase of our party, but soon set himself vigorously about preparing dinner for nine out of a luncheon for two. Our new acquaintances consisted of a handsome young Russian Prince, an antiquary, who was

residing at Thebes, named Castellari*, a German traveller, two Italians, and two Frenchmen ... Prince K's wolf-skin, added to our carpets, afforded sitting room for the whole party, who now gathered round in a circle, comparing their various impressions in as many different languages: German, French, Russian, Italian, Arabic, and English, Babelled our sentiments in that singular conversazione. (Eliot Warburton, *The Crescent and the Cross*, Vol. 1, p. 362, 1845.)

* Andrea Castellari (d. c. 1848) was also mentioned in Bulletin 28, p.15, by that strange coincidence that so often occurs in research. He is in the invaluable *Who was Who in Egyptology* edited by Morris Bierbrier, Egypt Exploration Society, 1995. He was an Italian dealer in antiquities, well known in Luxor, who lived in a hut on top of Luxor temple; his researches would appear to have been of a more commercially-based nature than Warburton seems to have realised. *Can anyone identify any of the other guests? Please reply to Peta Ree or the Bulletin Editor.*

SEARCHING FOR PROSPER D'OSMA

Dr Andrea Tonni (andreatonni@libere.it) says, "I am an Italian passionate researcher about the early history of the Thoroughbred horse." The Italian Thoroughbred Breeders' Association have asked her to track down the 16th century original of the Neapolitan Prospero Osma's report in *Italian* relating to horses sent by the Dukes of Mantua to Henry VIII in England and about the studs at Tutbury and Malmesbury. The report was dedicated to Robert Dudley. "It is, perhaps," she writes, "the first important document of the Thoroughbred's history." Dr Tonni has read the English translation of this document in Charles Matthew Prior's *Royal Studs of the 16th and 17th Centuries* and knows the Italian original was sold at auction in New York in about 1945 by its then American owner Alfred Maclay. After that nothing is known of it....

Does anyone know the present whereabouts of this document and how Dr Tonni may access it? Please reply to her (andreatonni@libero.it) and to the Bulletin Editor. This very important point of East-West contact is new to ASTENE and we look forward to learning more.



REPLIES

WHO WAS LADY MOON?

In the last Bulletin Ellen Morris of Wake-Forest University, North Carolina, a palaeontologist working in the Western desert of Egypt asked about a British woman, Lady Moon, who travelled to Siwa c. 1915-20 and donated a number of fossils from Siwa to London's Natural History Museum in 1920.

By chance, while looking for something else, I came upon this in the acknowledgements of Ahmed Hassanein's The Lost Oases (1925, re-issued by AUC Press this year): "Dr Hume and the late Mr Moon of the Geological Survey of Egypt classified the geological specimens which I brought back." D.M.

BOOK REVIEWS

The ASTENE Book Reviews Editor is Thomas Rees. Notice of books for review should be sent to him at the address on page 2.

More Usefully Employed, Amelia B. Edwards, writer, traveller and campaigner for ancient Egypt by Dr Brenda Moon, Egypt Exploration Society, London, 2006, h/b xi + 368 pp (inc. appendices) & bibliography, 38 illustrations, ISBN 0-85698-1699, £35 (discount to ASTENE members for orders direct to the EES.)

Matilda Betham-Edwards, Novelist, Travel Writer and Francophile by Professor Joan Rees, Hastings Press, Hastings, 2006, p/b 137 pp + select bibliography and index, ISBN 1-904-109-812, £9.99 (+ £ 1.20 post free)

It is unusual to review two complementing biographies – the two women were cousins – presented in such differing physical forms. The EES's publication is an impressive volume, a handsome tribute to Amelia Edwards, the originator and most committed of the Society's founders, with elegant type, spacious pages, numerous textual illustrations, plates (some coloured) and appendices, but unfortunately no bibliography of published sources and an inadequate index. Joan Rees's biography of Matilda Edwards is a contrasting publisher's product: soft back, short, the text compressed and dense, a cover and other illustrations; there is a sparse chronological list of Matilda's writings, a select bibliography, another inadequate index. The two books have much in common: biographies of two talented women, self-made, without social position or moneyed background, who were successful in their chosen fields and in pursuing their own particular interests.

Amelia Edwards is presented fully in the text and in three detailed appendices, chronologies of her

life and her writings, the third analysing and summarising her novels, revealing the richness of her talents, her charm, her energy and her self-discipline. Yet Amelia remains elusive: the complexities of her character are apparent in the changing phases of her life, but little evidence is provided for the understanding of those changes. They were considerable: the brilliant young girl, looking to follow a career as a musician, artist, and then settling for writing; to journalist, the novelist, the travel writer, winning praise with her venture into the Dolomites. With her visit to Egypt in 1873-4, and her book, *One thousand Miles up the Nile*, published in 1877, came the major change: she had found her goal, to save the antiquities of Egypt, and this campaign occupied her in social isolation until her death in 1892. She worked all day, sometimes through the night; in one year she wrote more than four thousand letters. The campaign was a success, and her contributions to Egyptology, set out in her will, are enduring. But it is difficult to warm to Amelia, and she, apparently, had little interest in people in general. It seems a true reflection of her character that her life's work was the preservation of objects.

Matilda Edwards, five years younger than Amelia, was very different, without the brilliance and self-absorption, gregarious, diligent in her writing, she was willing to engage actively in campaigns where she felt there was inequality, prejudice or intolerance. Between 1857-1919 Matilda wrote more than forty publications, including novels, - her major source of income – poems, autobiographical notes, biographies (including essays on Amelia). She developed an enthusiasm for France which determined her special 'campaign' as a Francophile, and writing of her experiences of living and travelling in France and French Africa, she sought to ameliorate long held British views on the country and its society.

There could be no greater contrast in the personalities of the two cousins: Amelia, with planned objective and positive achievement, and Matilda, pursuing a campaign which could have no obvious goal, only recognition that she had helped to bring about change (her rewards, medals from the French and British governments).

Both books are impressive in the research that the authors have undertaken, in their care in presenting topics and personalities, and the two books complement each other. *Dorothy Anderson*

An Intrepid Scot: William Lithgow of Lanark's Travels in the Ottoman Lands, North Africa and Central Asia, 1609-21 by Clifford Edmund Bosworth, Ashgate, 2006, xxiii + 193 pp., 9 ills., 5 maps, ISBN 0 7546 5708 6, h/b £45.00

William Lithgow's "The Total Discourse of the Rare Adventures, and painefull Peregrinations..." is aptly titled. For nineteen years this staunch

Protestant journeyed throughout Britain and Europe, to North Africa, and across the Ottoman Empire. When he died, he was intending to visit Russia. Lithgow first set out in 1609-12 when he visited Ottoman Greece and Istanbul, and once his pilgrimage to the Holy Land was completed, continued overland to Egypt. In 1613 he was in the Maghrib, from where, after dallying in Italy, he returned home by way of Ottoman Hungary, Transylvania and Moldavia. 1619 found him in the Spanish maelstrom.

Preferring to go on foot, and alone, Lithgow was five times stripped naked, but came closest to death at the hands of the Inquisition in Malaga, where he was accused of being an English spy and sustained injuries that plagued him for the rest of his life.

Many of the early voyagers to the Near East wrote of their adventures, and Bosworth's efforts enable Lithgow's account to take its place among the number that have received critical scrutiny. He leads us through Lithgow's text, relating the many alien practices and institutions noticed by his hero, of which he wrote with lack of humour and unshakeable opinion. Bosworth enables the modern reader to better understand the man and his times by enhancing his retelling with a wealth of background information on each situation in which Lithgow found himself. Lithgow's polemical anti-Catholicism, dislike of Jews, as well as his resourcefulness, shine through.

Exaggerated, embroidered and prejudiced though Lithgow's narrative may be, and although relying on earlier sources for classical and biblical references, there are tangible delights in this book for historians of the Ottoman Empire and beyond. One such, as in Lithgow's own text, are the curious woodcuts of him in local dress, his preferred costume. On his visit to Troy, for instance, his sumptuous get-up is that of an Ottoman of upper rank, while in the Libyan desert he seems to have borrowed his outfit from the wolf sitting disconsolately behind him in a cave. His 'tragically sufferings' as a victim of the Inquisition show him in irons, fully clad and behatted. The excerpts of Lithgow's poetry will appeal to fans of William McGonagall.

Lithgow's narrative is to be prized for what it tells us about one man's reaction to unfamiliar climes, and the possibilities of interaction between the British and the Ottoman worlds in the early years of the seventeenth century. Bosworth, in his turn, has furnished an invaluable vademecum to the writings of the man himself. *Caroline Finkel*

***Egyptian Palaces and Villas* by Shirley Johnston with Sherif Sonbol, Abrams, New York, 2006, ISBN 0-8109-5538-5, h/b 174 colour photos, 208 pp. US\$50**

Conservation is a bout preserving what is beautiful, interesting, or has associations with something or

someone of importance. But in order to make sure buildings and landscapes are preserved, we need to know they are there. In Egypt, European travellers came upon the remains of the Pharaonic civilisation, marvelled and wanted to find out more. The Christian and Arab remains were to an extent discounted. Then people started to appreciate the Islamic architecture and decided that it must be recorded, preserved and understood. Now is the turn of the 19th century. Marvels of design and construction, which had been part of the furniture of Egyptian cities, are now recognised as of value too, worthy of being recorded, explained, and preserved as part of a rich and varied heritage.

This new book by Shirley Johnston does just this. An array of brilliant photographs leads the reader through the palace of Mohammed Ali on the Citadel of Cairo, to his Kushk at Shubra, now newly restored, to the Khedive Ismael's palace on the island of Boulak, and his hunting lodge at Mena House. There are splendid photographs of Manial Palace on Roda Island, currently being restored. Particularly interesting are the excursions into the countryside to the Abd el Nour villa at Girge (1902-6). Greiss Palace at Mir (1922-4) and el-Chennaoui House at Mansora (1928).

Sumptuous villas in and around Cairo and Alexandria have surprisingly survived wars and revolution. Johnston tells a brief story about the occupants of each one at a particular time, situating its tale in its historical context, and brings the owners' alive in an engaging manner. Much of the book is late for ASTENE readers, but they cannot fail to be amused and instructed by its contents.

Dr Alix Wilkinson

***A Family in Egypt* by Mary Rowlatt with a foreword by Penelope Lively, Hornbill Press, New York, 2004, p/b 247 pp + index, illus & photographs, ISBN: 0-9706407-1-4, £ 12,00**

***Out of Egypt, a Memoir* by Andre Aciman, Tauris Parke Paperbacks, London, 2006, p/b 340 pp, ISBN: 10-1 84511 149 4, £10.99**

By an agreeable coincidence two very different and highly readable personal memoirs of pre-Suez Egypt have recently been re-published. Mary Rowlatt, to whom I have a distant family connection, was from a British merchant family which settled in Egypt under Mohammed Ali. Her father was governor of the Bank of Egypt. Unusually, by the standards of British haute bourgeoisie, she, like her mother before her, was brought up with a real sympathy for the Egyptian people, read and spoke fluent Arabic, and loved the land, the flowers and the birds, of which there are many descriptions. Her book is more than the chronicle of a family from the governing British caste – though it is that as well – it is an unusual record of life for the Europeans in Egypt in pre-1882 days, when her grandparents' summer retreat

in Alexandria, from which her grandfather went daily to the office, was a tent on the sand-dunes at Ramleh, with Bedouins for neighbours. It was also an uncondescending and sympathetic, though now inevitably dated, introduction for the British reader of the 1950s and '60s to the land, people and history of Egypt, and even though the Egyptians in this book are for the most part princes or servants, they are drawn with life.

Andre Aciman, whose parents were contemporaries of Mary's, writes with a novelist's flair (and licence) of a different world, the relatively closed milieu of Jewish Alexandria. The dazzling dialogue, the psychological penetration and the author's powerful sense of place bring this Alexandria to life with humour and pathos. His great-uncle Vili, a Sephardic Turkish Jew by background, Italian war-hero, admirer of Mussolini, spy for Great Britain during the Second World War, swindler, entrepreneur and super-alpha male, is a monster sacre to set alongside Anthony Powell's Widmerpool or any of Evelyn Waugh's creations. Aciman's account of him would raise a smile in the terminally depressed, just as his account of his days at Victory – formerly Victoria – College would cause the stoutest heart to sink. Though Aciman's Egypt is empty of natural history, the politics, the sociology and the love of landscape which one finds in Mary Rowlett, it says more about the old pre-Nasserite Alexandria and its tapestry of cultures than a hundred formal histories. It is also a story of a community always under pressure, always on the move or preparing for such a possibility, and ready to adopt any camouflage, learn any language, befriend any culture, to avoid another deracination or temper the harshness of another exile. *Tom Rees*

***Syria: A Historical and Architectural Guide* by Warwick Ball. London, Melisende, 2006, 231 pp. + maps and illus., appendices and index, ISBN (10) 1 901764 X, ISBN (13) 97 81907 64 468, p/b £14.95**

That Syria "has remained almost undiscovered by mass tourism" was certainly true in the not so distant past and good old days when Warwick Ball's guide was first published in 1994; but sadly and regrettably this is no longer so, unless yet another Middle Eastern crisis has cleared the country of the coach loads of camera touting German, French, Italian and occasional English groups. However it is true that Syria does have "a wealth of historical splendours matched by few other countries"; and although I have travelled there regularly since 1965, reading Ball's guide I realise that there still remains much that I have not yet seen.

Ball, an Australian-born archaeologist, first summarises the historical and architectural background of Syria, followed by detailed descriptions of Damascus and of the various

regions of the country, finishing with Palmyra. There is much useful information here, especially on the Roman and Byzantine sites in the Hauran and the Dead Cities in the north-west; but there is also a lot missing, especially for the average tourist: there is only one map of Syria, with the main sites but no roads, nor even is Syria's third city, Homs, marked. Little is said of the museums, particularly the two main ones in Damascus and Aleppo, with no mention of the important Sumerian statues from Mari, nor of the ivories and alphabetical tablet from Ugarit, and also not of the relatively new local museum in Idlib, where many of the finds from Ebla are shown, including a large collection of the Eblaite cuneiform tablets.

Unavoidably one compares Ball's guide to that of his fellow Australian Ross Burns' *Monuments of Syria*, first published two years earlier in 1992 and re-issued in 1999. This is arranged differently, with the cities described in alphabetical order and not by region; but it does include many excellent maps, the roads marked; the museums are fully described; and there is an excellent account of Damascus where Burns lived for several years. If possible one should take both guides to Syria... *Geoffrey Turner*

***Sexual Encounters in the Middle East, the British, the French and the Arabs* by Derek Hopwood, Ithaca Press, London, 2006, ISBN 13: 978 0 86372 313 1; and 0 86372 313 6, p/b 287 pp + bibliography and index, £19.99**

One of the best things about this book is the attention-grabbing title, but ASTENE readers should be aware that this also encompasses European travellers to Algeria and North Africa as well as the Near East, and a good part of it involves the experiences of Arab writers in Europe. Basically it is a discussion of what the author considers were the sexual perceptions of the travellers concerned. Extracts from novels are even included as evidence of how European and Arabic writers regard the sexual mores of the other race.

There is good writing here, and the scholarship one expects from a respected Arabist, especially in the introductory chapters which cover the broth of Islam. But elsewhere the narrative is not so sure-footed, chiefly, I suspect, because single biographies were consulted as the main source of reference on some travellers about whom far better works have appeared. Mollie Izzard's controversial biography of Freya Stark is used, for example, when Caroline Moorehead's briefer portrait is regarded, by people who knew Freya, as being far more accurate.

The point is well made that travel to the Near East by 18-19th century travellers gave them a freedom to behave in a manner they could not have adopted in their own country (although British travellers behaved similarly on their grand tours of Europe for exactly the same reasons). This led to

misconceptions by other races of the norms of behaviour – much as some Arab men today consider that Western women are immoral because of the spread of sexually explicit Western movies.

Mary S. Lovell

A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage by Abdallah Hammoudi, Polity Press., Cambridge, 2006, ISBN 10:0 7456 3789 2, ISBN 13: 978 07456 3789 1, p/b 293 pp, £12.99

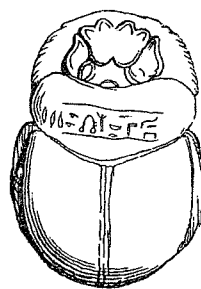
Hammoudi's book offers a personal account of the *hajj* written by a Muslim anthropologist, an account in which he assumes the role of protagonist, narrator and reflective academic observer. This is a complex combination of roles, made no easier by the author's ambivalent attitude towards his own motivations for pursuing what is, in the final analysis, an uncertain goal. The book, written with a western audience in mind, may usefully be compared with Michael Wolfe's (*The Hadj: an American pilgrimage to Mecca*, New York: Grove Press, 1998) account of the *hajj*, which is a humbler but ultimately more satisfying work for having no pretensions to resolve the pervasive uncertainty that punctuates every step of Hammoudi's way/

This uncertainty is expressed primarily through the endless rhetorical questions that litter the narrative, reinforcing the sense that this pilgrim's academic training has interfered with the insider's perceptiveness that the book promises but fails to deliver. Unanswered, and probably unanswerable, each of these questions articulates the same sense of uncertainty and fear about Muslim identity in the post-colonial diaspora and the irrationality of belief in the modern world.

This intellectual divide, which also separates the memories of the author's Moroccan past from the imagination of a future transformation that is endlessly constrained, is never bridged. Lacking the security that a resolution to his personal narrative might bring, Hammoudi finally seeks refuge in some unconvincing word play, with the *hajj* providing the semantic territory for the endless transformations of this journey and all the other stories he might tell, but chooses not to explore.

This book is thus not the narrative of the *hajj* that the title suggests; it is a tale of conflicting identity in the modern world, a tale in which ritual and tradition – any ritual, any tradition – opens up the forgotten territory of the modern self and questions all its intellectual supports. In thus manipulating the structures of the *hajj* to his own ends, Hammoudi may reveal much about his academic persona, but fails to answer many of the broader questions about Islam's fifth and final pillar that a western audience might raise. Paul Robertson

Paul Robertson will be speaking at the Study Day 'Travellers on the Hajj' at Rewley House, Oxford on Saturday, 18th November.



Holding Egypt: tracing the reception of the Description de l'Egypte in nineteenth century Great Britain by Andrew Bednarski, Golden House Publications, London, 2006, ISBN 0 9550256 0 5, p/b 106 pp, £22.00

Andrew Bednarski's study of the *Description de l'Egypte* is notable for questioning the common assumption that it was a seminal work in the development of Egyptology as an academic discipline. There is of course good evidence that eminent figures such as Sir Joseph Banks, Sir John Soane and Henry Salt owned copies. We may also assume its presence in the libraries of other wealthy and titled patrons and in private subscription libraries (although Bednarski's investigations do not extend this far). He has made a thorough study of serious contemporary periodicals and journals and of the early specialist archaeological literature, where he finds rather few references to the *Description* compared to more frequent references to Denon's *Voyage* and Belzoni's narrative. The same holds for contemporary works on Egypt, such as Prichard's *Analysis of Egyptian Mythology*, Upham's *Rameses*, and Gardner Wilkinson's *Manners and Customs*. The extraordinarily slow publication and delivery of the volumes seems mainly to blame. He concludes that the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt, which certainly did place a *real* Egypt in the western European consciousness, has been merged and to some extent confused with the ultimate production of the *Description* as the beginning of Egyptology.

This perhaps counter-intuitive but useful finding is complemented by an interesting discussion of the intellectual background of 18th century France along with the revolutionary upheavals and the purpose of the expedition – political and 'civilizing'. We now tend to emphasise the archaeological and Egyptological aspects, which were not the prime motives. Valuable too is his discussion of contemporary responses to Denon and Belzoni.

Golden House Publications is a new venture by William Grajetski, intending to make academic study (mostly Egyptology) available at a reasonable price. The illustrations are limited in number, the reproduction is adequate, but not particularly good. The publication is simple, and the volume is generally pleasing. Robert Morkot

Professor John Baines will be introducing ASTENE members to the Queens College copy of the *Description* on Friday 17th November. Andrew Bednarski will be speaking on the subject of the *Description de l'Egypte* at the ASTENE/EES Study Day in Exeter on 21 April, 2007.

River in the Desert: a modern traveller in ancient Egypt by P.W. Roberts, London, Tauris Parke Paperbacks, 1-84511-181-8, 394 pp. inc. index, £9.99; ***Journey of the Magi: Travels in search of the birth of Jesus*** by P.W. Roberts, London, Tauris Parke Paperbacks, 1-84511-242-3, 398 pp. inc. index, £9.99

As the result of the recent resurgence of interest in our region, these books have been republished in new editions. *River in the Desert* was first published in 1993 and *Journey of the Magi* in 1995. Already rave reviews have been received for both works from noted travel authors and critics and so they must merit at least some attention from ASTENE.

Roberts set out in the 1990s on a series of journeys through Egypt, the stories of which are combined to provide the narrative for *River in the Desert*. The stories are told graphically and in detail, with a seasoning of quotations from those who have gone before. Roberts' use of these sources is perhaps a little naïve in places. The text is emotively and polemically written but despite its overtly opinionated nature, the writing is always provocative and never drags.

Journey of the Magi represents the culmination of a different project. Baffled by the conflicting biblical accounts of the Nativity and the characters associated with it, Roberts tasked himself with discovering just who the Biblical Wise Men were and retraced their steps to Bethlehem, arriving, by design, on 24 December. Even in 1992, journeying from central Iran to Bethlehem was by no means simple, and much of Roberts' trip was conducted in what could be described as awkward conditions, which he recounts with as much good humour as his predecessors two thousand years ago doubtless employed.

If they survive the ravages of the future, Roberts' work will provide incisive angles on just what motivated people to travel and write in our region at the turn of the twenty-first century. In a more immediate frame, Paul William Roberts has provided witty and entertaining accounts of his journeys and, while not intended for the serious scholar, these books are nevertheless a fun read and might make fine seasonal gifts for someone with a taste for popular travel literature. *Edwin Aiken*



OTHER BOOKS ETC

www.Elibron.com

Are you one of those readers who underline, highlight, turn down page corners and generally give your books a 'lived in' feel? Well, I'll not judge, as I've done all of that myself, but let me give you some news: the chances are you no longer need to destroy an original edition.

For years some brave publishers have been reprinting books that ASTENE members are interested in, but it seems that things have moved up a gear. Adamant Media Corporation is to expand the project of producing high quality print-on-demand facsimiles of just the sort of material that interests us all in ASTENE. The books are competitively priced, the coverage is incredibly broad and in many areas quite detailed. The scope is not limited to books in the English language either: books in 13 languages are reprinted, including Arabic, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish.

Elibron claims to stock more than 60, 000 titles, and to add hundreds to the list every week. These are a few that I thought might interest ASTENERS.

John Gardner Wilkinson, *Topography of Thebes*, reprint of 1835 edition, originally published by John Murray, \$32.99

William G. Browne, *Travels in Africa, Egypt and Syria from the year 1792 to 1798*. Reprint of 1799 edition originally published by Caddell Junior and Davies, \$29.99

William Ramsay, *The Historical Geography of Asia Minor*. Reprint of 1890 edition, originally published by John Murray, \$25.99

Frederick Londonderry (Viscount Castlereagh), *A Journey to Damascus through Egypt, Nubia, Arabia Petrea, Palestine and Syria*. Reprint of 1847 edition, originally published by Henry Colburn, in two volumes, each \$ \$15.99

George Bethune English, *A Narrative of the Expedition to Dongola and Senaar*, reprint of the 1822 edition, published by John Murray, \$23.99



To check the quality of the reprint, the site allows you to view and/or print three pages of the book before you buy it. If they do not currently stock the book you need, an 'Arrivals Alert' email service is

provided to keep you up to date with newly available reprints of books meeting keywords of your choice.

The books are paper-bound, usually with redesigned covers (some of which show a little naivety) and tend to be attractive. When a book contains maps, these can usually be viewed online and printed out without purchasing the printed volume.

Elibron dispatches internationally, and payment can be online with credit card or through Paypal, or by cheque or money order in US dollars. The books can even be gift-wrapped, and I will gladly accept them at my usual address. *Edwin Aiken*

Festschrift for John Rodenbeck

The current number of *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics*, 26, 2006 is called "Wanderlust: Travel Literature of Egypt and the Middle East" – and is dedicated to John Rodenbeck as a Festschrift on his 70th birthday this summer. It contains an interview with John and 21 articles in English, French and Arabic – some by other ASTENE members. Alif's website is <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academic/alif>

Women Travellers and the Harem

An article has been drawn to our attention by Nicolas Hawkes which will be of interest to some readers. It is a paper by Dr Shirley Foster of Sheffield University in the Yearbook of English Studies, Vol. 34 entitled "Colonialism and Gender in the East: Representations of the Harem in the writings of women travellers".

A Description of the East, 1743

Norman Lewis drew our attention to this description by an author about his own book:

From R. Pococke, A Description of the East, 1743, Vol. I, Preface iv

(The writer) hopes those will excuse what they think trifling, who are pleased only with antiquities. And such as delight only in reading travels, and the history of the several little accidents that happen, may pass over, with a transient view, the dry descriptions of places, buildings and statues, which other may esteem the most valuable part of this book

Great Expectations

When the complexities and entanglements of the life of Pip in Charles Dickens' novel *Great Expectations* were coming to their end, Pip's friend Herbert suggested that he should go to Cairo to work for him as a clerk in a business with which he was associated there. Pip went and stayed in Cairo for eleven years, becoming a partner in the firm before returning to England and marrying his childhood love Estella.

In what other fictional accounts do characters become travellers to the East?

Handbook to the Antiquities of the British Museum

This book by W.S.W. Vaux was published by John Murray in 1851 alongside their travel guides at a time when the discoveries and acquisitions of the Museum were frequent news. Mr Vaux had problems because of "the numerous changes taking place, arising from the recent alterations and rebuilding of the rooms." Problems present curators will appreciate.

The book has many beautifully clear illustrations and Vaux provides an interesting commentary including the contributions of such travellers as the Marquis de Nointel and Jacques Carrey (in 1674), Sir George Wheler and Dr Spon (in 1676) and records of the Venetian siege of 1687 in Greece. He devoted a chapter to the sculptures procured by Charles Townley between 1765 and his death in 1805.

Vaux was interested to link the pieces and the travellers who reported on them and provided the provenance for them. For example, the tablet of Abydos (giving a chronological succession of the Egyptian Monarchs) was found by W.J. Bankes when he cleared away the sand in 1818. Frederic Cailliaud then examined it in 1822 and sent a drawing to Champollion, who published it. Henry Salt, Dr Young, James Burton and Sir Gardner Wilkinson all commented on it. It was removed by M. J.F. Mainaut, the French Consul, and purchased by the British Museum in 1837.

If you have not read this book and have access to an academic library, I recommend it.

Deborah Manley



ARTICLES

The Cultivation of Cedars of Lebanon in English parks and gardens

*Nigel Hepper offers more detailed histories of the links with the cedars of Lebanon in the parks ASTENE plans to visit during the July 2007 conference and the travellers who brought them to England. This article is modified from F. Nigel Hepper, "The Cultivation of Cedar of Lebanon in various European parks and gardens from the 17th to the 19th century", *Arbicultural Journal* vol. 25, pp. 197-219, (2001)*



Highclere Castle

Dr Richard Pococke's name* crops up repeatedly in connection with cedar trees since it was during his extensive travels in the Near East from 1737 to 1744 that he visited Mount Lebanon and collected cedar seeds in 1739.

Richard Pococke's mother, Elizabeth Milles, was the daughter of the Reverend Isaac Milles who was the rector of Highclere. Richard had been educated by his grandfather Milles who ran a school in the Highclere rectory. Hence it is no surprise that some of the cedars grown at Lord Carnarvon's Highclere Castle emanated from Richard's collected seeds sown there in 1739. Two of the trees seem to be the ones smashed in 1990 and their stumps remain in front of the castle.

Other cedars at Highclere were raised from seeds sent by the Earl of Pembroke of Wilton House in 1772. Strangely enough, these emanated from another traveller named Pococke: Edward Pococke** - so by coincidence the cedars of both Pocockes - a century apart - grew together on the Highclere lawns!

Incidentally, the cedar at Wilton raised from seed collected by Edward Pococke was felled in 1874 and the annual rings carefully counted: there were 236 rings, which would give a planting date of 1638 - perhaps suspiciously exact. However, during a visit to Wilton House, I noticed in the upper cloisters a painting by Richard Wilson (1714-82) which shows Inigo Jones' stables with a well-grown cedar beside the river. The cedar must be the one grown from Edward Pococke's seeds. The plan of the park and garden drawn by J. Roque in 1752, in the Bodleian Library, also shows cedars. Young Edward, a less renowned Arabic scholar, became chaplain to the Earl of Pembroke - from whom some Highclere cedars came.

Kingston Lacy

By the turn of the 18th century travel was steadily becoming more accessible to those with wealth and daring, such as William John Bankes of Kingston Lacy in Dorset. The history of the cedars at Kingston Lacy near Poole, is especially interesting since their introduction had repercussions in other estates. In 1812, while still a young man, Bankes (d. 1855) set off on what became an extended tour of Egypt and the Near East.

On 17th June 1816 Bankes wrote a letter (now in the Wellcome Institute) to Lady Hester Stanhope, who lived in Lebanon, asking her to despatch his cedar cones to England. However, Norman Lewis tells me that "Lady Hester got into a rage with Bankes and did not do what he asked in the letter. But she told her doctor, Charles Meryon, to send the cones and lots of other things belonging to Bankes to Latakia, which he did, and they and most of the other things reached Kingston Lacy." Bankes' mother sowed her son's cedar seeds and grew many of them successfully, as a letter (now in the Dorchester Record Office) from London dated 22nd September 1822 to his father says, "I hope that my mother will not forget that I have yet 18 cedars for which proper places are to be found, but if not planted this season they should be shifted into larger Pots." This implies that they were sizeable and some had already been planted out, yet there were still eighteen more. Some of these seedlings may have been sent to Exbury or else Bankes' seeds were grown there during the ownership of Exbury House by William Mitford (1744-1827) as they are the origin of some magnificent specimens still in the Exbury Gardens.

F. Nigel Hepper

* Reverend Richard Pococke (1704-65) visited Egypt in 1737-8, ascending the Nile to Philae, then travelling in Palestine and Asia Minor and returned to Egypt in 1738-9 and visited Sinai and Greece in 1739-40. He published *A Description of Egypt and some other countries*, 2 volumes in 1743-5. He was a member of the first Egyptian Society.

** Reverend Edward Pococke (sometimes Pocock) (1604-1691), oriental scholar, was appointed as Levant Company chaplain to Aleppo. There he absorbed oriental languages and collected manuscripts. He returned to Oxford and was appointed professor of Arabic. He went back to the East and lived in Constantinople (1637-40) with John Greaves (whose interest was astronomical research). In 1642 he became rector of Childrey in Berkshire (now Oxfordshire) (where a cedar still flourishes in the garden). He married and had a son - also Edward (1648-1726), also an Arabic scholar (though less renowned) and an Eastern traveller. Edward junior became chaplain in 1675 to the Earl of Pembroke - from whom some Highclere cedars came.

An article on the early life of Richard Pococke in and around Southampton will appear in the next Bulletin.

THE JAMEEL GALLERY OF ISLAMIC ART AT THE V & A

On 26th July 2006 the new Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London – the V & A. The three year renovation and redesign of the Islamic Gallery had been made possible by the generosity of Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel in memory of Abdul Latif Jameel and his wife Nafisa of Saudi Arabia.

The V & A is particularly strong in its holdings of Islamic art, comprising over 10,000 objects, of which 400 are now on display, and include ceramics, textiles, carpets, metalwork, glass and woodwork, dating from the early days of the Islamic caliphate of the 8th and 9th centuries to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The region covered stretches from Spain in the west to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in the east.

The creation of the V & A Museum was a result of the enormous success of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and gave new prominence to British industrial design, which had become a subject of concern since the 1830s. The art critic and architect Owen Jones linked the improvement of industrial design to an appreciation of Islamic ornament, following his travels in Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Spain in the 1830s. In 1856 he produced his immensely influential book, *The Grammar of Ornament*, which became a source-book for students at the schools of design and, in 1853, the Museum of Ornamental Art was established under the direction of one of the organisers of the Great Exhibition, Henry Cole, and the official Reporter, Richard Redgrave.

In 1857 the Museum moved to its current site in London and became the South Kensington Museum. Here there was an even greater emphasis on applied art and several important examples of Islamic art were acquired for aesthetic reasons. They were admired for their harmony of ornament and form and their use of pattern. Reflecting the arrangement of Owen Jones' *Grammar of Ornament*, the Middle Eastern objects which entered the Museum were classified by region or country of origin rather than by religious or cultural context.

The Museum benefited from public funding and continued acquiring items from the series of international exhibitions which took place 1862-1900, as well as sending a Museum employee, Caspar Purdon Clarke, and scholars, such as Stanley Lane-Poole (Edward Lane's nephew) on collecting missions to Damascus and Egypt.

The most celebrated work in the Jameel Gallery, the Ardebil carpet, was originally one of a pair commissioned in 1539-40 by the Safavid ruler Shah Tahmasp for the shrine of his ancestor, Shayk Safi

al-Din. It was acquired from the dealer Vincent Robinson in 1893 for £2500 specifically on the recommendation of William Morris, who described it as a design of 'singular perfection'. Having languished hanging on the wall since the 1950s when the first Islamic Gallery of Art was created at the Museum, today it forms the centrepiece of the Jameel Gallery, lying harmoniously at floor level in a near transparent glass case.

Whilst continuing the collection's didactic role (multi-media interactive displays abound), it is clear that the curators have chosen to match objects of outstanding beauty for the new Gallery with a similarly high quality of the displays. Designed significantly by a firm of architects, on thematic, broadly chronological principles, one is struck by the aesthetic appeal of the Gallery as a whole, in contrast to its rather gloomy antecedent.

Janet Rady

FOOTPRINTS

SLEEPLESS AT SEA, 1854

Most travellers wrote little about their long sea voyage to the East, perhaps preferring to put it behind them, but in 1854 J.W. Clayton of the Light Dragoons wrote of the discomforts of the voyage to a friend in England.

We are again at the mercy of the waves, steaming along those lonely seas, where no land appears for three days and nights. The ship is crowded with passengers, chiefly on their way to India, - cadets, missionaries, engineers, tourists, and young ladies in search of husbands. I know not by what miraculous agency they are all stowed away, but I am painfully aware of my own situation in a cabin about the size of a sensible dog-kennel, with three companions beside myself; and what with the small allowance of air, and the strenuous exertions of the three gentlemen to keep one another awake, little sleep approaches.

One person underneath me snores all night, and wakes up in fits and starts; another at my feet coughs all night; and the remaining agreeable gentleman pitches himself about like a porpoise, and enters into a dissertation, about 3 a.m., upon the rise and fall of the Roman Empire: when morning arrives, and sleep at last gradually begins through utter exhaustion, to steal over the senses, they all three simultaneously leap up, and loudly demand the steward, who of course is nowhere to be found, and the floor is knee-deep in luggage and the bed-clothes of the restless gentlemen. (*Letters from the Nile* by J.W. Clayton, London, 1854.)

SCENE AT THE KHAN IN ACRE, 1823

The excerpt in Bulletin 28 from Anat Vaturi's thesis on Khans, led me to read this comment by Reverend William Jowett who was travelling in the Eastern Mediterranean in the service of the Church Missionary Society. He wrote two reports from his travels, combining essential religious assessments with less serious matters of everyday life. Here, from Christian Researches in Syria and the Holy Land in 1823-4 (London, 1825). (p. 146)

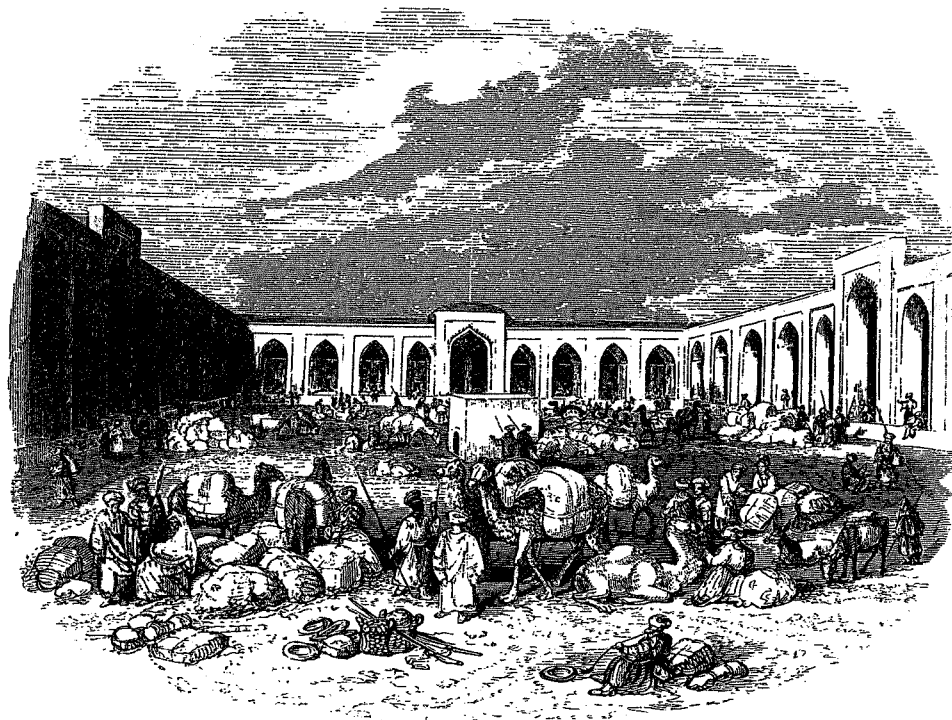
Monday, Nov, 3, 1823. Looking out of our window upon the large open Quadrangular Court of the Khan, we beheld a scene very much as would illustrate the 'Arabian Night's Entertainment'. In the centre, is a spacious fountain – or reservoir – the first care of every builder of great houses or cities in the East. On one side, is a row of camels, each tied by the slenderest cord, to which a small bell is appended, so that by the slightest motion they keep up each other's attention, and the attention also of the inmates of the Khan, that of weary travellers especially, by a constant jingle. On another side, horses and mules are waiting for orders, while asses breaking loose, biting one another, and throwing up their heels give variety to the scene. Goats, geese, poultry etc are on free quarters. In the midst of all these sights and sounds, the groom, the muleteer, the merchant, the pedlar, the passers-by and the by-standers, most of them wretchedly dressed, though in coats of many colours, all looking like idlers, whatever they may have to do, contriving to make themselves audible, generally lifting up their voices to the pitch of the debate, and very often much higher.

And by contrast..., 22nd January, 1930.

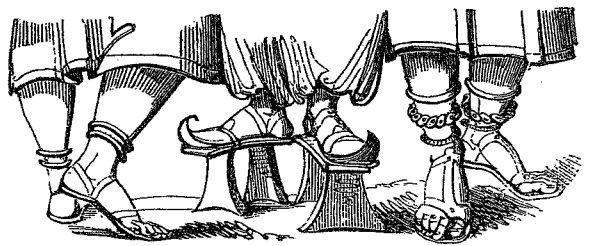
HOTELS IN LUXOR IN THE 1930S

A friend discovered and gave me Letters from Egypt by Mildred Alice Oliver privately published by her husband after her death in 1932. Her description of Luxor contrasts strongly with the description of the khan at Acre.

About 8 a.m. we drew into Luxor and found our station bus among great crowds of dragomans, vendors of curios, beggars and every sort of touting peasant – each one more picturesque than the last. The little town of today is very crowded and picturesque, composed of mud houses chiefly, narrow streets and most quaint little shops. As you get nearer the Nile bank you find much finer houses and some large hotels. Ours, the Luxor, is a well established old one, rather low and like a big Indian bungalow with modern (higher) additions. It stands in a garden full of tropical trees and plants, and in part of this immense garden stands (out by the edge of the river) the palatial Winter Palace Hotel, which is all under the same management. Personally I should have preferred to be there, for as you know I don't mind gaiety and there was a jolly little orchestra and heaps of most varied tourists to watch. A great terrace paved with marble on each side leads down to the Nile on one side and into the lovely hotel gardens on the other. Both terraces are used for tea and sitting out and have cane chairs, bright umbrella awnings and every sort of gay luxury. At the foot of the river steps is a pretty bit of garden in which the motors and donkeys and dragomans assemble and then a further flight leads to the water.

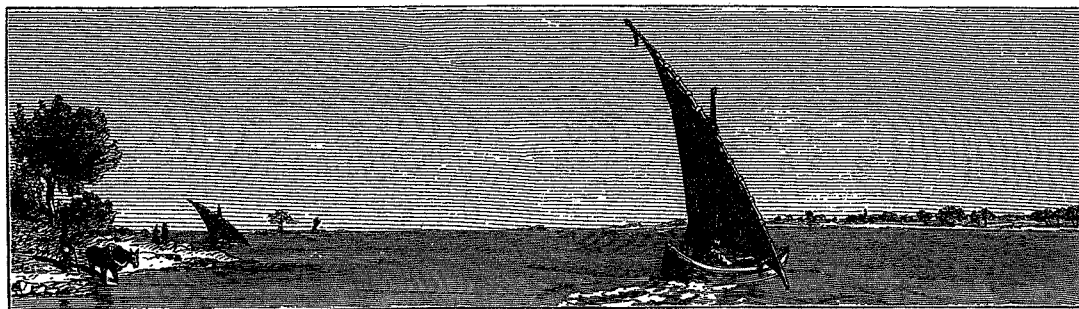


INTERIOR OF A LARGE CARAVANSERAI.



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF TRAVEL IN
EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY 12 – 16 JULY 2007**

CALL FOR PAPERS



The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE) was formally established in 1997. The Association encourages and promotes learning with particular reference to the history of travel and travellers from earliest times to Egypt and the Near East including Turkey, Greece and the Ottoman Balkans. ASTENE brings together anyone interested in the subject, whether a professional academic or not, across a wide spectrum of nations and subject areas.

In 2007 ASTENE is holding its seventh biennial conference at Southampton University Thursday, 12 – Monday 16 July. This is the first call for papers for this conference. Among the many subjects upon which we look forward to receiving papers are:

As Southampton is an important sea port we will especially welcome papers on travel modes: by sail and steam, by river transport, by rail, by camel and on foot – through the Cataracts of the Nile and beyond – The Red Sea – The Suez Canal – The Overland Route to India - Early Travel Guides – Travel in Classical times – Muslim, Christian and other Pilgrims – The travels of Biblical historians – Visiting the monasteries - The travels of Crusaders – Experiences of the Hajj – Missionary travellers - The Levant Company and travel - Traders and merchants – Scientific travellers: zoologists, botanists, astronomers, palaeontologists, anthropologists etc - Napoleon's 'savants' - Travellers' diseases and remedies - Egyptologists and archaeologists – Collectors' attitudes and activities - Artists and architects and writers as travellers – The literature of travel - Engineers and surveyors – Early photographers and their records - Travellers in the Fayoum – Travellers in Syria – Travellers to Constantinople or Athens and the Greek islands - Dragomans and guides or other related subjects – Travellers within the region or travellers from the region to the rest of the world.

Some individual travellers on whom we would welcome papers are Frederic Hasselquist – Reverend Richard Pococke - Pere Claude Sicard – Comte de Volney – Admiral Beaufort in Turkey - Frederic Cailliaud - Sarah Haight – Sarah Lushington - Luther Bradish – Reverends Waddington and Hanbury – Dr Richard Lepsius – M. Champollion – M. Ampere – John Mason Cook - Archduke Maximilian of Austria or other royal or aristocratic travellers

Papers will be grouped by theme and should be no more than 25-30 minutes (about 2500-3000 words). Please send your title and an abstract (no more than 100 words) to pa.wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk or to ASTENE, 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE. For further information about ASTENE and the conference see www.astene.com