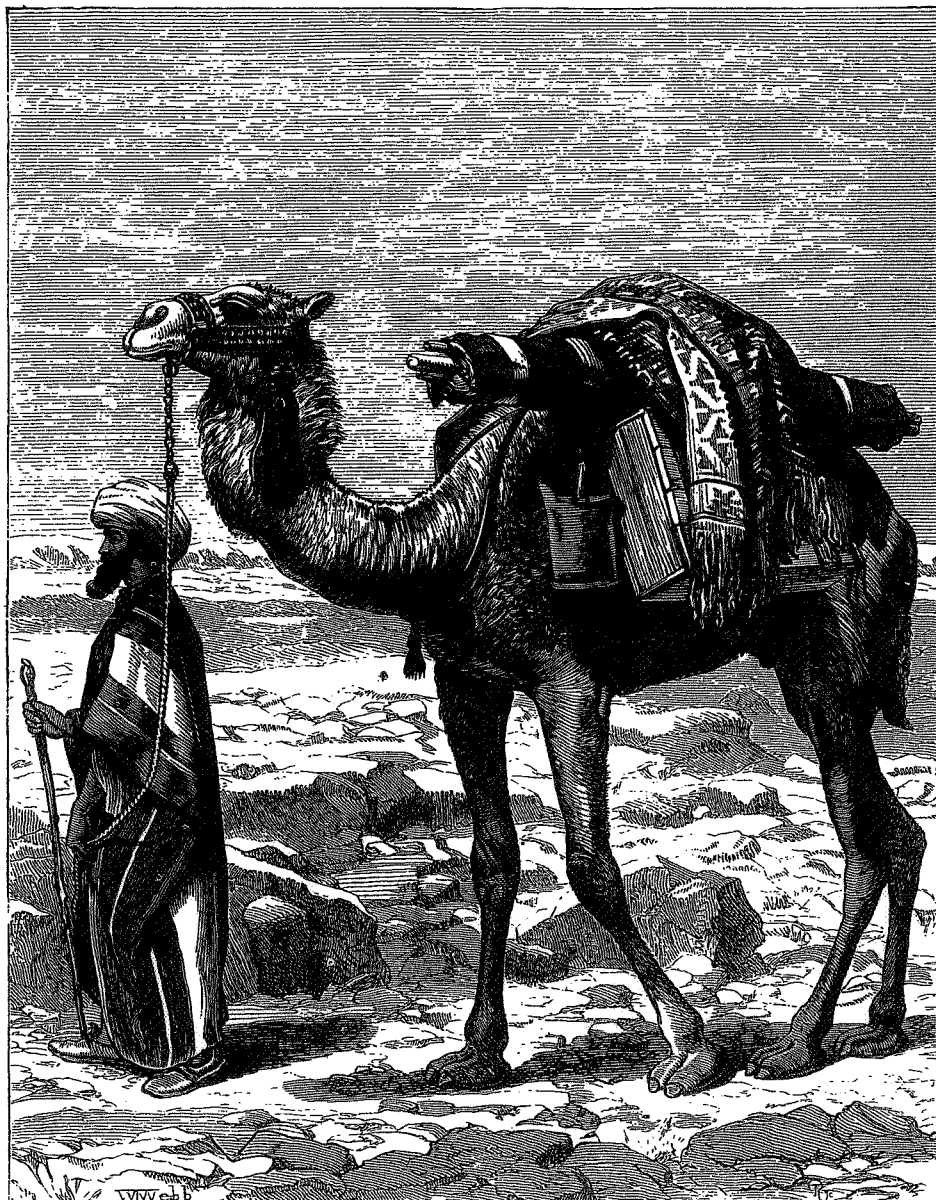


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No 30

Winter 2006-7



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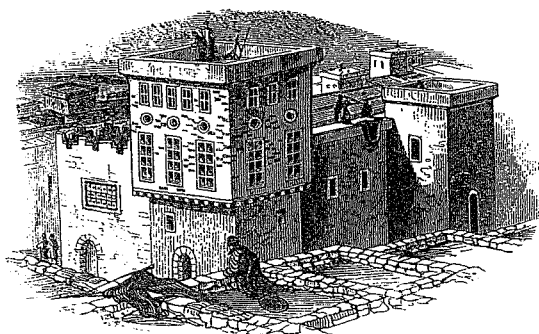
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Bulletin 31

The deadline for the next Bulletin is 15
March 2007. We welcome articles, queries
and replies, and other related matters from
members and others. Please send your
contributions to the Editor – the earlier the
better.

ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

SOUTHAMPTON CONFERENCE, 12 - 16 July, 2007

We are pleased with how many papers have already been proposed for the next conference. They cover the usual wide range of subjects that are of interest to ASTENE Members: from the 18th century French travellers, Sonnini and Conte, to women travellers at the time of the Crimean War, and the matter of very basic concern to many travellers: the characteristics of the camel. We look forward to many more abstracts coming in to create the usual full ASTENE programme.

We apologise that there was a printing error on the Call for Papers: the email address for abstracts should have read

pa_wagstaff@yahoo.com

It is correct on the ASTENE website. The postal address: 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE.

CONFERENCE BURSARIES

As in 2005, ASTENE has decided to offer a small number of bursaries to members who are coming to the biennial conference and offering a paper. These bursaries are in kind only: they do not cover travel expenses, but are in the form of a contribution towards conference costs. Bursars will be asked to work with the volunteer conference team on a variety of administrative activities during the conference.

Members wishing to apply for a Conference Bursary should apply to the Conference Organiser, Mrs Pat Wagstaff (email pa_wagstaff@yahoo.com or see ASTENE's Yellow Pages for her address). Briefly outline your interests and/or research and attach the title and *both a 100 and a 200 word abstract of the paper you offer*. **This application should arrive not later than 1 March, 2007.**

We will let applicants for bursaries know the decision as soon as possible after that date.

"TWO EXTRAORDINARY HOUSES": A VISIT TO THE ARAB HALL

The quote above is from the brochure for Leighton House (the house of ASTENE's visit) and Linley Sambourne House, also in Kensington.

The ASTENE visit on Wednesday, 14th February, 2007 is focused on Leighton House, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14, the home of Frederic, Lord Leighton (1820-96), the classical painter and President of the Royal Academy. From 1864 onwards he made his house into "a palace of art" in which the centre point of the visit is the Arab Hall with over 1000 of Leighton's ceramic tiles (mainly from Damascus) displayed around a murmuring fountain. There are other rich interiors in the house, some with tiles by William de Morgan

others with paintings by Leighton and his contemporaries.

We will have a guided tour by the Curator of the Museum, embellished by our own members' expertise. The visit will cost about £6.

We plan to meet at about noon for a Lebanese meal at noon on Wednesday, 14th February.

The other "extraordinary house" owned by the Kensington and Chelsea Council is that of the cartoonist and photographer Linley Sambourne at 18 Stafford Terrace, which is not open until later in the year.

In order not to be disappointed, book as soon as you can with Events Organiser Elisabeth Woodthorpe.. (People who had trouble contacting her in September or October may be interested to know that the incompetence of two telephone companies left her with no telephone, no fax and an ununlockable message box for six weeks! Did anyone put their name down for the Syria tour at this time? If so, please contact her again.)

A FURTHER LOOK AT LORD LEIGHTON

Lord Leighton's correspondence has been recently transcribed with support from the Friends of Leighton House – and must be a treasure house for some ASTENE members. Arrangements to visit the archive can be made through Leighton House, Holland Road, London W14 or consult www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhousemuseum.

REDISCOVERING EGYPT: THE ANCIENT AND THE ORIENTAL

A joint ASTENE-Egypt Exploration Society Study Day on Saturday, 21 April at St Loyes College, Topsham Road, Exeter. The fee of £35 includes a hot buffet lunch.

The day will examine British responses to Egypt in the 18-19th centuries:

Dr Brian Taylor: The travels of the disreputable Earl of Sandwich; Dr Robert Morkot: On Irby and Mangles and their encounters with Belzoni and Fuller; Briony Llewellyn: The Orientalist Painters David Roberts and Frederic Lewis; Chris Naughton (EES) Early Epigraphic work of the EES by artists such as Howard Carter.

(Dr Andrew Bednarski (EES) who was to speak on The Napoleonic Description of Egypt has been replaced as he has taken up a post in Cairo.)

St Loyes College is built around Fairfield, the Exeter home of Captain Mangles. For those coming to Exeter the day before there is a suggested programme of visits and a dinner (See p. 19 and the application form.)

For further details and booking contact r.g.morkot@ex.ac.uk. You can book on the form on the ASTENE website.

ASTENE TOUR OF SYRIA

Following the three successful ASTENE tours (to Cairo, Cyprus and St Catherine's Sinai) there will be a tour to Syria and conference October 17-25 2007. There are still a few places available. If you are interested please telephone the Events Organiser on telephone 020 7622 3694 or fax 020 7627 4151 as soon as possible.



A DECADE OF ASTENE PUBLICATION

As part of our celebrations of ten years of ASTENE we are proposing to produce a bibliography of books and articles relevant to the ASTENE region since 1997.

Dr Diane Bergman, Griffiths Librarian of Oxford University's Sackler Library, has devised a form for this (enclosed with this Bulletin). She has generously offered to collect and collate the bibliography. This will appear on the ASTENE website or will be available to members at cost and to all who attend the 2007 ASTENE Conference in Southampton.

Please can you complete the form as soon as possible – preferably o line – and return it to Diane by 1st March. Her address is Sackler Library, St John Street, Oxford OX1. Her email is on the form.

TRAVELLERS ON THE HAJJ STUDY DAY

Organised jointly with Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education, ASTENE's most recent day school on 18th November proved to be an extremely successful event that was 'topped and tailed' by former Association Chairman, Professor Malcolm Wagstaff. Four speakers (Dr Okasha El Daly, Anthony Sattin, Dr Carl Thompson and Paul Robertson – all ASTENE members) described and discussed one of the world's greatest religious gatherings from the point of view of the travellers, specifically one 12th century Arab traveller, Ibn Jubayr, two 19th century Europeans (Burckhardt and Burton) and one 19th century Egyptian, Muhammad Sardiq.

In all four talks we heard about the nationalities of the travellers, the routes they took, their modes of travel, the sights they saw and how long it took them on the various legs of the journey. We also heard about the hazards they encountered (including the recurrent problems with over-loaded ships), the various disguises European travellers adopted, the rituals they recorded on the walk

between Mecca and Medina – and at Mecca and Medina itself. The three major caravans emanating from Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus (including estimates of numbers of pilgrims), the role of Egypt in the politics of the eastern Mediterranean and, in the case of Richard Burton, his support for Islam and for Islam's attitude to women were also referred to.

Arranged chronologically, the four talks and Professor Wagstaff's introduction and summation presented a kaleidoscopic view of a remarkable phenomenon, a huge mass movement of peoples that has hardly changed over a millennium although of course, it *is* possible to compare the new with the old or the traditional (even classical) image of the Hajj and the tension between that image and the enlightenment.

Always incurring huge technical and logistical problems, the Hajj has been (and continues to be) an occasion for the infusion of knowledge and ideas, a market for trade, and, also more importantly, perhaps, a powerful symbol for all believers in the truth of Islam.

The day school was preceded on 17th November by an evening visit to the Queen's College, where John Baines, Professor of Egyptology, showed members several tomes from amongst the library's special collection of Egyptology material, notably a volume of *Description de l'Egypte* and *Denkmaler aus Agypten und Athiopien*: the latter publication proved to be of particular interest to Yvonne Neville-Rolfe, a descendant of one of the expedition's draughtsmen, Joseph Bonomi.

Brian Taylor

What Richard Burton had to say

Dr Carl Thompson gave us quotes from Richard Burton's life to take home, and these lines from Burton's Personal Narrative, I, p. 280 seem to bring together something of the flavour of the pilgrim/travellers we considered.

"I now understood the full value of a phrase in the Moslem ritual, 'And when his (the pilgrim's) eyes shall fall upon the Trees of Al-Madinah, let him raise his Voice and bless the Apostle with the choicest of Blessings.' In all the fair view before us nothing was more striking, after the desolation through which we had passed, than the gardens and orchards about the town. It was impossible not to enter into the spirit of my companions, and truly I believe that for some minutes my enthusiasm rose as high as theirs. But presently, when we remounted, the traveller returned strongly upon me: I made a rough sketch of the town, put questions about the principal buildings, and in fact collected material for the next chapter."

ASTENE MEMBERS AND THE BULLETIN

At the end of each year we look back at how many members of the Association have contributed to the Bulletin. During 2006 it has been 80 people plus two members who assisted with getting the Bulletin ready for publication and distributed.

THE "YELLOW PAGES"

This invaluable list of members' contact points and interests is available online under Research Resources on the ASTENE website or you can request a paper copy from the Bulletin Editor.

OTHER EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND STUDY DAYS

Any reader who would like to draw our attention to exhibitions and other events and to submit a review of an exhibition which still has time to run is most welcome to do so to the Bulletin Editor.

EXHIBITIONS

The Past from Above at the British Museum until 11 February. A journey over the world's greatest archaeological sites. Daily with late opening until 8:30 on Thursdays and Fridays.

Discovering Tutankhamun at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until 19 April. An exhibition of the work of the archaeological photographer Harry Burton celebrating the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. Burton had been 'lent' by the Metropolitan Museum and recorded every stage of the excavation and the thousands of beautiful objects that were in the tomb.

Amarna: Ancient Egypt's Place in the Sun at the Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia until October 2007 tells the story of the rise and fall of a unique royal city founded by the Pharaoh Akhenaten - probable father of Tutankhamun - who introduced the heresy of a single deity. The exhibition includes much material from tombs and workshops shedding light on the role of Akhenaten in bringing religious change and the role of Tutankhamun in the eradication of that change. Anyone going to this exhibition (or not able to go) would enjoy Mary Chubb's wonderfully sensitive description of a dig there, xxxxxxxxxxxx, published by Libri, London.

Holy Image and Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai at the Getty Museum, Los Angeles until 4 March, 2007 Icons which the ASTENE group saw in St Catherine's Convent in Sinai in April are now on display in Los Angeles. (See Bulletin 29.)

Preparations for this exhibition were in full spate while we were there - Getty staff sitting at the next table at breakfast.

Our LA Member, Stephen Garrett, reported the exhibition as "absolutely stunning". He goes on to say "I think you will find it wonderful when you get to see it there. While nothing can quite compare with seeing the icons in the context of the monastery itself, I think you will find them extraordinary when one can see them close to and well lit." He had been at the press conference and wrote: "One of the delightful things about the events yesterday was that there were something like six monks from Sinai, in their black robes and black circular hats."

An article in the Sunday Telegraph of 26 November by Jori Finkel reported that Father Justin, who those who were in Sinai in April met and who attended the Nuweiba conference, spoke of the spiritual experience "for those who seek it" of being surrounded by the icons even in a museum setting. He is quoted as saying "objections to sending the icons out into the world were overcome by the feeling that we have an obligation to share our heritage with people."

There are accompanying talks and related publications. See www.getty.edu.



Treasures from Olana opens at Princeton (New Jersey) University Art Museum on 27 January. See Bulletins 28 and 29.

Venice and the East continues at Institut du Monde, Paris until 18 February

The exhibition (see Bulletin 29) then moves to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York from 27 March. In New York it is titled *Venice and the Islamic World 828-1797*. See below for a review of this exhibition.

Treasures of Ancient Egypt with 200 artefacts continues at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia into 2007.

Egyptian Antiquities from the Louvre: Journey to the After Life continues at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra until 25 February.

The exhibition includes sculptures, manuscripts, jewellery and ceramics among much else.

Overlapping Realms: Arts of the Islamic World and India 900-1900 at the Sackler Museum, Cambridge, Mass is on now. The exhibition considers how different people, different governances, different faiths influenced the visual artist and in many ways determined their opportunities and modes of expression.

Discovering Tutankhamun at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until 29 April. The photographic work of Harry Burton records and celebrates the discoveries of Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings.

Uncomfortable Truths: The Shadow of Slave Trading on Contemporary Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London from 20 February- 17 June. A century ago Britain abolished slavery and the rest of the world followed over the next decades. This uncomfortable memory is being widely considered in this centenary year. On 24-25 February there is an inter-disciplinary conference at the V & A titled: "From Cane-field to Tea-cup: the impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on Art and Design".

REVIEW: Venice and the Orient

Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris until 18 February (www.imarab.org); *Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 27 March to 8 July.* (www.metromuseum.org)

This rich exhibition highlights the commercial, cultural and political relations between the two worlds from 828 AD when the Venetians appropriated the relics of St Mark (see Book Reviews...), up to the fall of the Republic in 1797.

The scope of the exhibition is both chronological and thematic: two hundred works of art from Venetian collections and nearly 60 museums throughout the world illustrate the City of Doges' relation firstly with the Mamluks, and then with the Ottomans. In each section, the exchanges are represented thematically with paintings, glassware, ceramics, bindings, carpets and textiles, the emphasis being on the particularly close links at the height of the City's period of splendour from 14-16th centuries. The exhibition closes with the decline of Venetian power from the beginning of the 16th century, and we see the image of the Orient changing when Venice loses firstly its monopoly on its commercial exchanges and then, finally, its autonomy at its fall into Napoleon's hands.

Janet Rady



STUDY DAYS AND LECTURES

The Ancient Near East – study day Oxford Department of Continuing Education on Saturday, 24 February – looks at travel, trade and cultural interaction in the second millennium BC in Anatolia, Mesopotamia, the Levant and Eastern Mediterranean. Briefly, the topics are Traders in the Old Babylonian era (Stephen Dalley), The Ulu Burun shipwreck and globalism in late Bronze Age Mediterranean (Christopher Bachhuber), Death and Burial in the Near East (Jack Green), Canaan as a cultural construct (Jonathan Tubb) and Egypt and Canaan (Rachael Sparks). To register : 01865270368.

The Arabs and the Ancient Near East is a study morning at the British Museum starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday 10th March with Dr John Simpson and Dr Robert Hoyland. See the Museum website.

Green Travel Writing Dr Carl Thompson of Nottingham Trent University is organising the fifth travel writing colloquium at St John. College, Oxford on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 March, 2007. These are most interesting, thought provoking and informal occasions. This year the topic is "Green Travel Writing". For further information contact M.Dumic@surrey.ac.uk or Dr Carl Thompson.

British Travellers and Equestrian Enthusiasts in Greater Syria and Arabia: Wilfred Scawen Blunt, Lady Anne Blunt, and Others – an international conference at the University of Kent at Canterbury, 25-26 May, 2007, promises to introduce a whole new area of study of travel in the region. It will consider and assess too how the Blunts changed forever the breeding of the magnificent 'asil' Arabian horses. Topics will include Imagining the Great Anatolian Ride Dr Caroline Finkel and Andrew Byfield); Six Long Distance Equestrian Journeys (Robin Hanbury-Tenison), Travelling in Syria with Isabel Burton (Brigid Keenan), lady Anne Blunt and the Oriental Thoroughbred (Prof. Donna Landry) and Bloodstock Politics and the Cultures of the Desert and the Steppe (Jasper Winn). Further details and registration: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/syria.html> or telephone 01227 82 4745.

Residential Courses at Madingley Hall, Cambridge

* Introduction to Minoan Civilisation: The First European Civilisation with Dr Anna Simandiraki, 5-10 August * Excavating Memories: Archaeology, Anthropology and the First World War with Dr Nicholas Saunders on 13-17 August * Crusader Cyprus (1191-1489) with James Petrie on 17-19 August * Pilgrimage and Death in the Middle Ages with Dr Judith Middleton Stewart and Gerald Randall on 20-24 August These courses cost about £200 residential and £123 non-residential. For more details see www.cont.ed.cam.ac.uk

OTHER NEWS

THE MELIK IN THE NEWS

We know of the 19th century gunboat, the *Melik*, from the late Dr David Dixon and other members of both ASTENE and the Melik Society. The Society has for a dozen years been campaigning to save this historic gunboat in the Sudan and for it to turn into a floating tourist attraction. A marine engineer's survey has recently confirmed the possibilities of the project, and we will up-date information about this project from time to time. An article of the Times of London of Saturday 25th November gives the details or you can turn to www.melik.org.uk

ATELIER EGYPT

In an earlier Bulletin we introduced a company specialising in Nile tours in Victorian dahabeeyahs. This company are now working in association with the heritage tour company Ancient World Tours (www.ancient.co.uk) and are combining the dahabeeyah tours with their specialist expert tours. They are themselves now known as Atelier Egypt. Their new contact details are are Atelier Egypt, Mailbox 167, 22 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JE. Their telephone: 0044 (0) 208 6913400 or 78868 10709; email: info@atelieregypt.com and their website: www.atelieregypt.com

We have invited Atelier Egypt to give a presentation to the ASTENE conference on the Thursday afternoon.



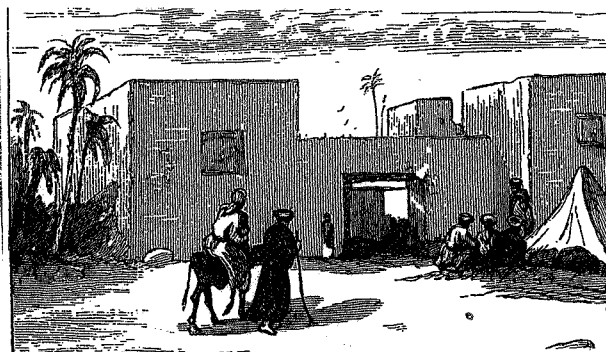
BOOK REVIEWS

As has happened before the Winter issue of the Bulletin seems to be a 'bumper book issue'. Tom Rees has brought together many titles – some by ASTENE members, others published by ASTENE members – and many people – mostly ASTENE members – to review them. He is now stepping down as Reviews Editor and Dr Edwin Aiken will be returning as Reviews Editor for the next Bulletin. We would like to thank Tom Rees for all his good work over the past year.. In future material for review should be sent to Dr Aiken at 1 Ulster Avenue, Annalong, Newry, Co. Downe, BT 34 47X, His e-mail is E.Aiken@qub.ac.uk

Croatia through Writers' Eyes by Peter Frankopan, Francis Gooding and Stephen Lavington, Eland Books, London, 2006 ISBN 0 907871 89 5, p/b 248 pp. + bibliography & map, £12.99

This volume is one of the first batch in the excellent new series launched by Eland Books this year. They provide rich historical and cultural background for the traveller, as well, of course, as pointers to further reading. Success in this kind of enterprise is entirely determined by the judicious selection of texts and of the extracts from them, and the Croatian* volume is exemplary. Different sections are headed Travel, People, Cities and War, the last of these illustrating only too clearly not only the destructive effects of the Ottoman conquest, but also, inevitably, the savage history of much of the past seven decades. Not all is grim, the extraordinary beauty of the Croatian coast is a leitmotiv which recurs again and again, and there is a surprising sunny account of his childhood by Josip Brod, the future President Tito. *Tom Rees*

* Sometimes we overlook the fact that ASTENE's boundaries encompass Greece and the Ottoman Balkans.



Syria through Writers' Eyes by Marius Kociejowski, Eland Books, London, 2006, ISBN 0 907871 84 4, p/b, 251 pp inc, bibliography, linocuts by Mungo McCosh, £12.99

The titles in the Through Writers' Eyes series are aimed at the armchair traveller – whether this is your own armchair at home, a plane seat en route to your destination, a seat on a bus or a chair in your hotel bedroom. Some pieces are best read on site; many invite the reader back to read the sources from which they came.

The pieces are chosen from literary sources and from travel accounts both ancient and modern. Many names are familiar to those who know the literature – the ubiquitous Ibn Battuta, Colin Thubron and Gertrude Bell; alongside T.E. Lawrence and Freya Stark. Some authors may be surprising to those who do not know the writer as a traveller: Alphonse de Lamartine and Edward Gibbon, for example.

I greatly look forward next October to being able to read the words of C.M. Doughty in Damascus,

Chasseboeuf Volney in the desert, Robert Wood and Lady Hester Stanhope at Palmyra, the Drs Russell. in Aleppo. and William Dalrymple at St Simeon - without having to haul along a trunkful of books which I can read in Britain.

Of course, we all have our favourite pieces – like Doughty's description of the Damascus Hajj caravan on the move – but we can't have everything and the poet and travel writer Marius Kociejowski has given us a great deal to start on – including poetry. *Deborah Manley*

***Cairo Illustrated* by Michael Haag, AUC Press, Cairo, ISBN 977-424-935-6, h/b. 96 pp + 150 colour illustrations, £15.95**

Among the covers of a bookstore window, an exquisitely beautiful picture catches the eye. As on all David Roberts' lithographs, warm and diffused light seem to radiate from the stones of the buildings in a vista of a medieval street. And as usually, at the foot of the monumental walls, tiny figures of people appear, busy with their affairs. But what are the electric spotlights and the tourist with his camera doing in the picture? It takes a second look to realise that this is not an old lithograph but a modern photograph. The cover is true to the spirit of Michael Haag's *Cairo Illustrated*: the book focuses on what Cairo has preserved of its past, but it presents the actuality of the present-day city.

There is a synopsis of Egypt and Cairo's history from 3000 BC till today, and the book is packed with historical information on people, buildings and events. But it is not a history textbook for those in search of in-depth knowledge of the city's past. Likewise, while there is plenty of useful practical information in the book, and good, easily legible overall plans, it was not meant to be another companion guidebook with which to navigate the alleys of Cairo. Instead, it provides an armchair traveller with answers to those crucial questions: why should one go to Cairo and what is there to see that makes the city important and unique? This is conveyed in the informative text, and true to the book's title – in the plenitude of carefully annotated photographs that form a parallel narrative complementing the main text. Many of them are very beautiful pictures, and while some are rather predictable images, many others are taken from interesting and unusual angles, and together they quite efficiently capture Cairo's complexity, variety and intensity.

Those who know the city well are bound to be surprised by finding new insights and details. Plus, the book makes a great gift! *Jaroslav Dobrowolski*

P.S. Contrary to what the book states, neither the Islamic Museum nor the sabil of Muhammad'Ali are yet open to the public at the time of writing.

***The Englishman, the Moor and the Holy City: The True Adventures of an Elizabethan Traveller* by Joan Taylor, Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2006, ISBN 0 7524 4009 8, 233 pp. + endnotes, bibl. and index, £20.00**

Henry Timberlake was an Elizabethan merchant seaman who, under the auspices of the Levant Company, took a large ship, capable of carrying 300 passengers and cargo, to Egypt in 1601. Leaving his ship in Alexandria, he took his merchandise to Cairo where, since trade was slow for seasonal reasons, he decided to go to the Holy Land. A Moor who had been a passenger on his ship and was in the pilgrim party, befriended him, came to his assistance when he was locked up by the authorities on his arrival in pilgrim garb in Jerusalem, and saved his bacon again on the journey back to Alexandria, only to lose his ship and most of his cargo during a storm in the port of Tripoli as he was returning to England.

A laconic account of his travels was published in London in 1603. From a manuscript version of this short and factual text, held in the British Library, and various subsequent versions, Joan Taylor has constructed a rich, if in large measure speculative, story, drawing on a variety of contemporaneous accounts of travel in the area, and on the history of relations between England, North Africa and the Ottoman Empire. Speculative does not mean fanciful, given her close reading of the (various) Timberlake texts and her wide knowledge of the relevant literature, although maybe her story might have been even better as a novel, since at the level of biography the original text buckles a bit under the weight of her inferences and speculations about her hero, his relations with his Moor, and his character and motivation. *Tom Rees*

***The Earl and his Butler in Constantinople: Introducing the Diary of Samuel Medley, Butler, 1733-36* by Nigel and Caroline Webb, Legini Press, Oakham, 2006, ISBN 0-9553311, ISBN 978-0-9553311-0-7, p/b 240 pp, 1 map + bibliography and annex, £11.99**

The Earl of Kinnoull, ambassador to the court of Ottoman sultans Ahmed III and Mahmud I could count himself a lucky man. His suspected Jacobite sympathies and financial irregularities made of him a controversial figure even before his appointment to Istanbul in 1729, and to have employed a butler who kept a diary could have proven to be his greatest misfortune. As it was, Samuel Medley, who wrote of life in Kinnoull's embassy between 1733 and 1736, was a model servant, who declined to relay any of the tittle-tattle which readers down the ages consume so avidly. His diary has remained in the hands of his descendants, of whom Nigel Webb is one, until the present day.

This volume falls into two parts. First of all the authors build up a picture of Kinnoull and his life at home and abroad from the usual archive sources, interspersed with Medley's observations, while the second part uses Medley's diary to reveal aspects of embassy life that are otherwise invisible. A chapter on early 18th century Istanbul sets the scene for Kinnoull's appearance, and an account of the matters that came within his purview. These ranged from routinely diplomatic to the commercial, and were enlivened by the establishment of a new regime following the deposition of Ahmed III in 1730 in the so-called Patrona Halil rebellion (which Kinnoull arrived just in time to witness), a taxing war against Iran, and an impending conflict with Russia. Kinnoull did not excel at either diplomacy or safeguarding trade interests, but it was the War of the Polish Succession that proved his undoing. He owed his recall in 1736 to his perceived partiality for the French who, contrary to British interests, were encouraging the Ottomans to attack Russia. Intrigue among his fellow ambassadors sealed his fate.

Below stairs things seem to have gone more smoothly. Despite Medley's discretion, his recollections greatly enrich the picture of embassy life to be gleaned from the usual sources. He writes, of course, of Kinnoull's social and official engagements, but he also tells of other members of the ambassadorial household, the excursions they made within Istanbul and in the vicinity of Kinnoull's rural retreat at Belgrade village, from where he used to walk to nearby villages to purchase provisions or to while away the time, and he rode in the forest around. Many named individuals flit across the pages of Medley's diary, providing a glimpse into the little known world of Britons abroad.

Carefully researched and engagingly written, this book breathes life into the dry bones of ambassadorial history. The full text of Medley's diary is available on www.leginipress.co.uk

Sarah Searight

***The Lost Tomb of Alexander the Great* by Andrew Michael Chugg, Periplus Publishing Ltd. London, 2004-5. ISBN 1-902699-62-9, 276 pp. + biblio & index, numerous illustrations. For price, see below.**

Following a handy *dramatis personae* of authors, and after the briefest reminder of Alexander's life, Andrew Chugg begins his search with the events surrounding Alexander's death in Babylon in 323 BC. He details possible causes of death; the slow progress of the body towards Macedon, and Ptolemy's intervention and removal of the body to Egypt.

Chugg suggests that Ptolemy entombed the body in the temple of Nectanebo adjacent to the

Serapeum at Saqqara. Alexander's body was moved to Alexandria by Ptolemy II and the celebrated – and much-visited – tomb, the Soma, constructed at the heart of the city by Ptolemy.

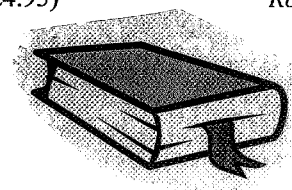
Chugg goes on to discuss the accounts of Medieval and early modern travellers to Alexandria, and the traditions of the location of the Soma. Particularly significant is the evidence that a small chapel attached to the Attarine mosque was traditionally associated with the tomb. It was here that Vivant Denon found the empty sarcophagus of Nectanebo II that was acquired along with the Rosetta Stone by Edward Daniel Clarke in 1802, and is now in the British Museum. Clarke's published account also records the Alexander connection. Chugg then examines, and discounts, the tradition that identifies the Soma with the Nabi Daniel mosque.

Before proceeding to his conclusion, Chugg reviews evidence for the layout of ancient Alexandria. He points out that a 16th century map shows the Church of St Mark, from where the saint's body was stolen by the Venetians in 828 AD, as lying near the medieval Rosetta/Cairo gate, and that it was not therefore beneath the 19th century Cathedral (as many thought).

This ancient church of St Mark lies close to the author's location of the Soma, and his most daring proposition is that the body taken by the Venetians was in fact that of Alexander that had been placed in the church at the time of the destruction of pagan monuments. In support, he points out the sources that suggest St Mark's body was never actually preserved – and certainly not in the mummified state that is implicit in accounts of the theft. He concludes that the remains today venerated in St Mark's, Venice, may be those of Alexander himself! This is one point where uncertainty comes in as the remains were probably destroyed by fire along with the first Basilica.

Overall, this is a well written and constructed argument. The suggestion for the Saqqara burial place is plausible and the discussions of the layout of Alexandria and the position of the Soma valuable. The proposition equating Alexander's body with St Mark's is also tempting. Altogether, this is a serious, but readable, and thought-provoking study that highlights the importance of medieval and early modern travellers and map makers. It is also a very attractive production with maps and engravings from many of the cited works. Indeed, it may be the generous nature of the production that caused the publisher to 'go under'; as a consequence the book is available from Oxbow at the remainder price of £8.00 (but with exorbitant postage of £4.95)

Robert Morkot



Six Months in the Hijaz: Journeys to Makkah and Madinah 1877-1878 by John Keane, Foreword by William Facey, Barzan Publishing Ltd, Manchester, 2006, h/b ISBN 1905521-08-1, 512 pp., £19.95

By chance I had come across John F.T. Keane (1854-1937) not long before I met William Facey who wrote the preface to this reprint of Keane's two books*. The review copy arrived only days before ASTENE's study day Travellers on the Hajj.

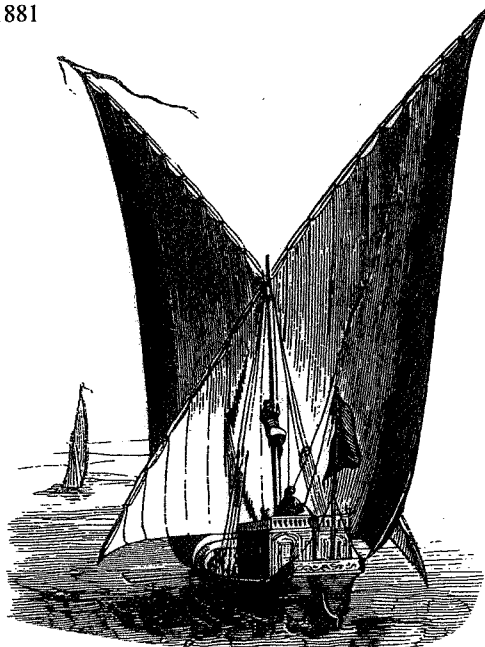
Barzan have published replicas from the originals – in their wonderful clear Victorian print. William Facey has sought out the all but forgotten Keane, son of a Whitby rector, whose achievements tended to be neglected by lofty Victorian reviewers (more accustomed to gentlemen travellers of more mature years – for whom Keane showed little enthusiasm.)

Keane's early life reminded me of another young wanderer: Nathaniel Pearce who eventually settled down to spend 14 years of his life as confidant to the Ras of Tigre from 1805. At twelve, Keane's despairing father sent him off to sea, and to tutors in remote Yorkshire and Madras. He returned to the sea and had seen much of the world by his mid-twenties, had written two books about his life at sea.* He also spent a short period in the Ottoman army and then their navy. He did not really explain how he came to go on the Hajj in the suite of an Indian Amir.

Facey points out that Keane's pilgrimage was near-contemporary with that of the photographer army officer, Colonel Muhammad Sadiq, of whom ASTENE members know from Paul Robertson.

Facey's introduction made me eagerly hungry for Keane's two books – and what more can one ask from a preface? I was not disappointed. Keane is indeed "a gifted writer", ... "highly skilled at conjuring up the life around him in the holy cities. At one extreme he can make us laugh out loud ... and on the other move us to awe." *Deborah Manley*

* *Six Months in Meccah and My Journey to Medina*, 1881



Sons of Sindbad: an account of sailing with the Arabs in their dhows in the Red Sea, round the coasts of Arabia, and to Zanzibar and Tanganyika; pearling in the Persian Gulf; and the life of the shipmasters and the mariners of Kuwait by Alan Villiers with an introduction by William Facey, Yacoub al-Hiji and Grace Pundyk, Arabian Publishing, London, 2006, ISBN-10: 0 9544792 3 8; ISBN-13978 0 9544792 3 7.

The title says it all: this is the seafaring equivalent of Wilfred Thesiger on land. As with *Arabian Sands* a prosaic title disguises the extraordinary fascination of the account. The reader is ensnared by an excellent introduction by Will Facey and his two helpers, then over to Villiers. At first, early in 1939, he's on a small coasting *zarouk* from Aden up the Red Sea but then more ambitiously on board a Kuwaiti *boum*, *The Triumph of Righteousness* ("an upstanding handsome thoroughbred of a ship" crammed with dates, fish and passengers, racing before the north-east monsoon along the Arabian coast, across to the Somali coast to awful Haifun and Mogadishu, on to beautiful Lamu and wonderful Mombasa. This is the biggest port on the East African coast, the harbour stuffed with boats of every description – boums, kotias, baggalas, sambuks – from every corner of the Indian Ocean. Oarties, singing, dancing, smuggling: the Sons of Sindbad (chapter heading) are endearing rogues. On to Zanzibar, then to awful Rufigi "of misery" ... "if there is a worse place than the Rufigi Delta, I hope I never find it."

Then home to Kuwait with the south-west monsoon, coasting all the way but stopping at unlovable Mutrah and Muscat, round into the Persian Gulf, excitement growing with every mile sailed. And then, would you believe it, having reached Kuwait, Villiers is off again on a brief visit to the pearling banks just off the Bahrain coast.

It is a remarkable account (and well illustrated with Villiers photographs), as appealing to landlubbers as to the salts among us and a most delicious treat for the devotees of Indian Ocean ramifications. *Sarah Seairight*

The Accidental Tourist: Wilfred Scawen Blunt and the British Invasion of Egypt in 1882 by Michael D. Berdine, Routledge New York and London, 2006, ISBN 9-780-41594644-5 and 10:0-415-94644-1, h/b. 305 pp, £50/ \$80.

Interest in Wilfred Scawen Blunt both as a traveller and political activist has grown noticeably in the last five years. (1) Michael Berdine's specialist study – evidently a PhD dissertation converted into a monograph – is an intensively researched, welcome addition to the list. Focussing not merely – as his title suggests – on the invasion of 1882,

the author spends considerable time (the first three chapters) establishing Blunt's background interests and relationship to events, including his experience as a traveller to Arabia in the 1870s, and his interest in Islam, the Caliphate and the Arabs, which he incorporated into a series of articles, *The Future of Islam*, published in the *Fortnightly Review* in 1881 and published the next year as a book. The remainder of the study (chapters 4-9) largely relates the events leading up to and including the British invasion, with the interest of situating Blunt within them. Anyone who has read Blunt's *Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt* will find this territory very familiar, since Berdine mainly fleshes out Blunt's own account with other sources of the period. Although some of his material is well known to the specialist, the author includes hitherto unprinted extracts from the Blunt Papers which effectively amplify what we already know about Blunt's motivation.

Berdine's declared purpose is to foreground the significant part Blunt played in events (even though he shows how his intervention in defence of Egypt's national party can be said to have had the opposite effect to that intended) and (b) that Blunt's account of the course of events and the figures involved is often significant and credible, in spite of the lack of respect paid him by subsequent historians and commentators. In the reviewer's opinion, these aims are successfully acquitted, although his conclusion that Blunt "helped bring about disaster for his [nationalist] friends", though in one sense correct, also underestimates the larger forces in play.

ASTENE members will find the earlier chapters on the Blunts' Arabian journeys well-documented and especially illuminating on Wilfred's rather unfair denigration of Gifford Palgrave's account of his earlier traversal of the same Arabian terrain.

Geoffrey Nash

(1) See Al Behdad, *Belated Travelers* (1994); R. Nourallah, ed., *Wilfred Scawen Blunt, The Future of Islam* (2002); G. Nash, *From Empire to Orient* (2005)

***Daughter of the Desert: the remarkable life of Gertrude Bell* by Georgina Howell, Macmillan, Basingstoke and Oxford, 2006. ISBN -13: 978-1-4050-4587-2, ISBN-10: 1-4050-4587-6, h/b, xvii + 519 (inc. end-notes, bibliography, chronology, + index), 3 maps, 35 photographs on 16 plates, £20**

Gertrude Lowthian Bell (1868-1926), Iraq's celebrated 'Miss Bell', was a remarkable woman. Her successes and failures are extensively documented in her letters, journals, papers and books, and by official and unofficial records. This book describes her life in detail, and many quotations reflect her personality.

Bell's family were rich and supported her devotedly. As a young woman indifferent to social frivolity, intellectually brilliant but frustrated in love, she saw the world, translated Hafiz and climbed mountains. During 1900-14 she spent long periods travelling in the Ottoman empire. Besides observing the people and the land, she photographed and published descriptions of innumerable monuments, mainly early Christian and Islamic. As an expert on Arabia, she went in 1915 to Cairo and in 1916 to Basra. She played a crucial role in the evolution of British policy, the creation of an independent Iraq, and the foundation of the Iraq Museum.

Several accounts of Bell's life exist. Most notably, a new edition of Victor Winstone's *Gertrude Bell* was issued in 2004 (Barzan Publishing). While the Winstone and Howell biographies are both enjoyable reading, Winstone's is authoritative, using a comprehensive array of sources and displaying much deeper knowledge and understanding of the theme. Nonetheless Howell's approach will appeal to many readers. For instance, she includes a wonderful list of all the equipment, including silver candlesticks required for an Arabian expedition in 1913. She tells us far more than Winstone about climbing the Alps and about Bell's impressive work for the Red Cross in 1914-5. She ferrets like a gossip through the evidence for emotional relationships, in ways Bell herself would surely have detested. She speculates on an unlikely sentimental journey to Gallipoli in 1915, and discovers even more unlikely exploits described in a 1927 edition of *Everybody's Weekly*.

It is symptomatic that, while both books end with helpful chronological charts, Winstone mainly chooses events in the history of Iraq, and Howell those involving the Bell family and Gertrude herself. The latter would, however, have been puzzled by Howell's maps, which suppress the name of Palestine and show a railway from Aleppo to Baghdad running along the Euphrates rather than the Tigris.

Julian Reade

***The Lost Oases* by A.M. Hassanein Bey introduced by Michael Haag, American University in Cairo Press, 2006, 311 pp. + Index, ISBN 9 774 249 801, h/b \$29.50, p/b \$19.50/c. £15**

***The Lost Oases* by A.M. Hassanein Bey, Long Riders' Guild Press, 2006, 363 pp. ISBN 1590481461, p/b \$19.99/£14.99**

Ahmed Hassanein's eight-month 2000-mile camel expedition in 1923 through the Libyan Desert, north to south from Sollum (Salum) by way of Kufra to El Fasher in central Darfur was the last important desert venture to be unmotorized. In many ways it was also the most productive ever undertaken in the Eastern

Sahara. His discovery of the Oases of Arkenu and Oweimat were sensational enough; his sighting and photographing of the carved depiction of animals at the latter literally changed human history, and the geographical and geological data he gathered were what made subsequent exploration possible. In 1924 he was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society and published major articles in both the *Geographical Journal* and the *National Geographic Magazine*.

His classic long account of his explorations was published as a book in English in 1925; the Arabic version a year later. After decades of patiently waiting for a new edition of the English version to appear we are now overwhelmed with two reprint editions at once: one published by the Long Riders' Guild Press in January 2006; the other by AUC Press in March. The texts are identical, but the AUC Press version uses bigger pages and the pagination of the two editions therefore does not match. This fact means that future citations of either will be inaccurate unless they include information about the publisher.

One of the great personalities of the Egyptian *ancien regime*, Hassanein was a Balliol man and his crisp, thoughtful and unadorned English is a delight to read in either edition. The AUC Press version has the advantage, however, of an introduction by Michael Haag, who is married to one of Hassanein's granddaughters and who is an expert on his subject. In the matter of illustrative photo-graphs, on the other hand, the Long Riders' Guild Press may have the advantage: it offers 89 photographs, the AUC Press only 35, though they are better printed and on more appropriate paper, with the original borders left in. *John Rodenbeck*

this might be the last time they would shake hands with their friends. There was even a pitying look on the faces of some of those who came to bid us God-speed as to doomed men, yet being Bedouin they also felt: "It is decreed that they should go thus."
Ahmed Hassanein

From Stonehenge to Samarkand: an anthology of archaeological travel writing
edited by Brian Fagan, Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-019-516091-8, £19.99/\$35

Remarkable for its sheer scope and diversity this anthology is a welcome addition to the corpus of collated travel writings with which recent years have provided us.

While not exclusively of material to interest ASTENE, much of its contents is relevant: the collection covers everything from Herodotus at the pyramids, to Champollion on the Nile, to the antics of many at Palmyra and Petra. Snippets are also taken from such worthies as Stanhope, Layard, Flaubert, Niebuhr and John Lloyd Stephens.

The extracts are loosely arranged thematically, with a little continuity material from Fagan, which the book could often manage without. Fagan's words are in normal size texts and the extracts are a little smaller - at times too small even for even young eyes like mine to deal with comfortably.

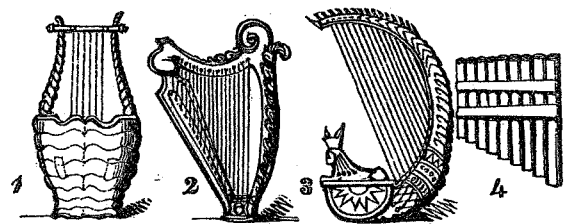
As a whole the work is ambitious, and the extracts are chosen and presented with a view to inspiring further travel among the readership, while Fagan enthuses that: "I believe that the only limit to your enjoyment as a traveler (US spelling) seeking the past is your imagination." (p. xxiii)

Perhaps, as a book, its reach slightly exceeds its grasp, nevertheless, it's a fine book to sit at the fire with.
Edwin Aiken

THE TRAVELLERS' FAREWELL

My men were greeted by their friends as though this was to be their last meeting. It was the most touching farewell of the whole journey. "May God make safety your companion ... what is decreed is decreed and that will happen. May God guide you to the true road and protect your from evil."

There was little about this parting of that sense of assurance which attends both those who go and those who stay behind when it is a case of starting for a holiday with some certitude of safe arrival. There were a few quivers in the last phrases of farewell, and knowing what had passed in the preceding days and the intimidation to which the men had been subjected, I could guess what was in their minds. Whereas I was excited by thoughts of the 'lost' oases and taking the unexplored road and going into the unknown, they were thinking that



Who Owns Objects? The Ethics and Politics of Collecting Cultural Artefacts edited F. Robson, L. Treadwell, C. Gosden, Oxbow Books, Oxford, 2006, ISBN 1 84217 233 6, £24

This book is the publication of a series of lectures followed by a workshop discussion that took place in 2004, organised in reaction to the disasters that afflicted the sites and museums of Iraq after the invasion. Most of the original lecturers or

discussants have contributed, those that have not are summarised by the editors in the introduction – though in many ways this is the least satisfactory and least well edited part of the book. A wide range of opinions is represented and the various viewpoints clearly stated, though the underlying animosity between the various approaches is not hidden. There is also a great deal of useful citing of regulations and suggestions for best practice.

The basic question concerns how we view a “Cultural Artefact”. Has it any intrinsic value if dissociated from its history and context? This is an issue that has been much discussed elsewhere recently, e.g. in connection with the “Resonance and Wonder” Exhibition at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester where the differing perspectives of a single object are considered.

I, personally, was brought up in the “rescue what objects and all the information possible even from dealers” school of thought, which was well defended here too. A major problem is the lack of facilities in many museums for adequate cataloguing of the collections. The objects stolen from Corinth would never have been recovered but for the catalogue by the American excavators and yet Boardman can complain that this was the first time those photographs had been seen. The internet can help here and many museums are now making use of this possibility.

Travellers were specifically mentioned by only one author. But there is a means here where ASTENE members can help. We need to record every mention of a traveller obtaining an object that we come across in reading archival material.* The objects in private collections have so often become dissociated from their collectors and thus from their origins and sources. An archival reference could serve to authenticate the origin of an object from a private collection otherwise being sold with only a dubious provenance. We need to realise that mentions of what our people bought or were given form another very important aspect of our work, one that recent events has brought into focus.

Lisa French

* To this might be added appropriate references in less well known travel accounts and biographies. D.M.

***The Mysterious Captain Brocklehurst, General Gordon's Unknown Aide* by Jean Bray, Reardon Publishing, Cheltenham, 2006, p/b 188 pp + biblio and index, ISBN 1 873877 77 3 and 9781873877777, £9.99 inc. uk p & p.**

The Captain Brocklehurst of the title is probably known, if at all, to ASTENE readers as the brother of Marianne Brocklehurst, who, with her life-long companion, Mary Booth, spent time venturing upon the Nile with Amelia Edwards in 1874. Three years later the ‘M.B.s’ and John Brocklehurst were in Cairo again, where they met Charles Gordon, newly

appointed Governor-General of the Sudan. Gordon took an immense shine to Brocklehurst, a tall, personable young officer in the ‘Blues’, and persuaded him to join him on a mission to Eritrea. However, official permission for a twelve-month attachment to Gordon was not forthcoming, and Brocklehurst had to cut his journey short, surviving a fiery shipwreck on the way home. The young soldier, rich, fashionable and well-connected (though with Radical roots) had in his turn fallen under the sway of Gordon’s charm and fervent, if quietist religion and became one of his great advocates back in Britain.

Jean Bray, drawing on unpublished letters and papers in the Sudeley Castle archive (see Spring Bulletin) paints a sympathetic portrait of a conventional hunting-and-shooting cavalry officer, who distinguished himself in the unsuccessful expedition to relieve Gordon and in the Boer War, and rose without apparent effort or ambition to become a favourite of Queen Victoria and other members of the royal family through many decades, and to a peerage and a Lord Lieutenancy. She describes but does not fully explain the paradox that this archetypal Tory was a life-long friend and ally of the campaigning radical journalist, W.T. Stead, and apparently a bosom pal of the reforming admiral, Jackie Fisher. Money, charm and imposing height – not to mention a splendid cavalry moustache – don’t seem quite enough to explain the high regard in which he seems to have been widely held. This, for me, is the mystery of Captain Brocklehurst. But, to quote Belloc’s cautionary verse about The Statesman:

“I know a man who used to say
Not once but twenty times a day
That in the turmoil and the strife
(His very words) of Public Life
The thing of ultimate effect

Was character, not intellect. *Tom Rees*

***Egypt's Belle Epoque, Cairo and the Age of the Hedonists* by Trevor Mostyn, Tauris
Paperback, 2006, 202pp, ISBN 1 84511240 7
£10.99**

Although not strictly a history or travel to Egypt and certainly not one of significant primary research, this book is so inherently linked with the travellers’ experiences, that it makes it essential background reading.

Mostyn charts the rise and fall of the Ottoman state and its incestuous ties with the West, particularly those of France. All the familiar protagonists and events leading up to the book’s focal point, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, appear: we follow Napoleon’s Egyptian campaign and the lasting impression he made on Muhammad Ali Pasha; the granting of the Khedive Said of the concession to de Lesseps in 1856 to build the

Canal; the Khedive Ismael's infatuation with Emperor Louis Napoleon's wife, Princess Eugenie, and his desire, following his visit to the Exposition Universelle in 1867, to emulate the magnificence of Hausmann's Paris, building countless palaces and idyllic gardens and entertaining society figures of Europe with a reckless generosity.

Mostyn's underlining theme, however, is the quasi-schizophrenic temperaments of Muhammad Ali and later Ismael, both of who had taken to Western technology without showing a proportionate curiosity about the moral evolution of Europe. Whilst outwardly appearing sophisticated and enlightened, both were brutish, both were cruel, both kept harems controlled by despotic princesses and, in their quest for greatness, both squeezed every last ounce of ruthlessly imposed toil from their subjects.

After a wonderfully flamboyant description of Ismael's crowning moments of glory during the celebrations at the opening of the Canal in 1869, likened to those encountered in the court of Louis XIV, the author highlights the price of two main protagonists (Eugenie and Ismael) had to pay for their mutual appreciation.

Whilst Eugenie fled Paris for England one year later during the Prussian invasion of Paris, in 1879 the Khedive Ismael had no choice but to abdicate when crippling debts, brought on by the excesses of his public expenditure, forced the country into bankruptcy. With the change in the fortunes of Egypt, however, came a different period of low life and high life. Whereas previously France had dominated the scene, now Britain came into play and the age of the Thomas Cook traveller, the Shepherd's Hotel, and exclusive clubland was born, prescienting a more sober time of two world wars.

The book ends on the realistic, if somewhat negative note, with a description of Cairo's modern concrete apartments and office blocks which replace and leave little trace of the former glories of a past age of harems, palaces and the seductive delights of gardens of Egypt's belle epoque.

Janet Rady



OTHER BOOKS ETC

HOW TO GARDEN IN A VICTORIAN CITY

Those coming to the Day School at St Loye's College, Exeter in April can visit a garden originally created by the naval captain and traveller, James Mangles. He also wrote a little book for "the many persons in London and other large towns who would like to cultivate a small garden but face problems that are great and almost irremediable."

The Bodleian Library's copy of *The Floral Calendar, Monthly and Daily with Miscellaneous Details relative to Plants and Flowers, Gardens and Greenhouses, Horticulture and Botany, Aviaries etc. etc. compiled by James Mangles, Commander RN* was printed for private distribution in 1839 (he and Irby also self-published their travel account). One copy was presented to J. Pyle Esq with the kind regards of James Mangles on August 29, 1839. It has now become the Bodleian's copy of this work.

Mangles was at the time living at 66 Cambridge Terrace, Victoria Gate, Hyde Park and despairing of ever growing plants successfully in London. For a man who had been involved in opening the great temple at Abu Simbel the depressed preface stands in sharp contrast to those toils.

To a gardener of the day or anyone now interested in the history of gardening *The Floral Calendar* is a gem.

St Loye's College is a little way out of the centre of Exeter. James Mangles lived here from 1852 until his death. Mangles and his brother were leading plant collectors and some of the trees at St Loyes appear to date back to his time. Mangles is buried in the church nearby.

Dr Robert Morkot is arranging a visit for ASTENE members to the garden (and possibly part of Fairfield House) on the afternoon of Friday 20th April. This visit will be followed by dinner at a local restaurant. See page 3 for contacting him.

Any early arrivals may also like to visit the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Queen Street, which has part of its collection of Egyptian antiquities on display.

REPRINTS OF THE TRAVELLERS

Judging by the books being published, interest in historic travel in Egypt and the Near East seems to be increasing all the time. It seems therefore appropriate to draw members attention to the list of one of our members, Barnaby Rogerson's company Eland. The latest catalogue includes the series "Through Writers Eyes" (see above). The back list includes such titles as *The Caravan Moves On: Three Weeks among Turkish Nomads* (Irfan

Orga), Fawn Brodie's life of Sir Richard Burton (*The Devil Drives*), the fascinating *Sultan in Oman* about Jan Morris's travels through the country with the then Sultan in 1955, and the 16th century *Turkish Letters* of Ogier de Busbecq. For these and further titles covering other parts of the world, see www.travelbooks.co.uk

MUSLIMS OF GREAT BRITAIN: A BRIEF HISTORY

This pamphlet is published by the Islamic Society of Britain and the Young Muslims UK. To those interested in travel and communication between the Near East and the world this pamphlet contains some fascinating research.

* The English knight, Robert of St Albans, a Knight Templar who travelled on crusade to Jerusalem in 1185 embraced Islam. He married the great-grand-daughter of Salahuddin.

* During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I there were more Englishmen living in North Africa than in all the American colonies – some 5000 English converts were said to be in Algiers alone.

* By the end of the 17th century trade with Turkey accounted for one quarter of all England's commercial activity.

* In 1606, Benjamin Bishop, British Consul in Egypt became a Muslim – “and disappeared from the public records.”

* In 1948 there were some 850 Muslims – mainly from Yemen and of seafaring stock – living in Tyneside and there they had set up two Zawiyahs or small mosques.

* Sheik Abdullah Quilliam, father of the British Consul General in Turkey, had converted to Islam in 1887 in Morocco and the Sultan of Turkey confirmed this title upon him for his work in Liverpool.

THE MONUMENTS OF HISTORIC CAIRO

Some of us have known of Nicholas Warner's great research project on historic Cairo for a time. It will be reviewed at length in the next Bulletin, but in the meantime we draw your attention to American University Press' *The Monuments of Historic Cairo* and Oxford University Press' *The True Description of Cairo: A Sixteenth Century Venetian View*.



ROMAN COINS.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The Bulletin welcomes queries from members and others which are published in the Bulletin and on the ASTENE website. The replies however are only published in the Bulletin. Please send Queries and Replies to the Bulletin Editor.

ASTENE AND TREE RINGS

At a conference this autumn at Cornell entitled “Tree-Rings: Kings and Old World Archaeology and Environment” which was held in honour of an old colleague of mine from when we both worked in Turkey, I met two scholars who would be grateful for our famous ASTENE input.

1. Dr Cemal Pulak, Institute of National Archaeology, Texas A & M University [pulak@tamu.edu] is researching the Imperial Ottoman Barge preserved in the Naval Museum in Istanbul. There is some doubt concerning which Sultan commissioned her and the exact form of the original. He has found one early artist's impression of this vessel but would welcome further references and illustrations.

2. Dr Ramzi Touchan, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona [rtouchan] is working on the evidence for climatology in the Near East and eastern Mediterranean region. He would be interested in adding to his files of recorded data concerning unusual climatic conditions, particularly in Jordan.

Both would be glad to be in contact with anyone with potential sources of information. *Lisa French*

WHAT IS KNOWN OF ADOLPHE ROUARGUE?

Many of us are familiar with the topographical works on the Near East of W.H. Bartlett and Reverend Samuel Manning. Recently I came across reference to a French artist-traveller, one Adolphe Rouargue. The Bodleian Library (and therefore Oxford University) does not seem to possess a copy of his *Notes of Travel in Jerusalem and the Holy Land* (1841).

What do readers know of Rouargue's work and travels? *Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.*

ANY NEWS OF PROSPER D'OSMA'S MANUSCRIPT?

We offer apologies to Andrea Tonnini is, he points out, a man. “Andrea is in Italian,” as he says, “not a name for ladies” as we indicated in Bulletin 29 (p.9). We apologise and now welcome him as an ASTENE member. Andrea is urgently searching for the 16th century original of the report in Italian relating to horses sent to Henry VIII.

Can any reader help him? His e-mail is andreatonnini@libero.it

REPLIES TO QUERIES

FICTIONAL TRAVELLERS TO THE NEAR EAST

In response to a query about fictional travellers, Briony Llewellyn drew our attention to two other fictional travellers. Daniel Deronda at the end of George Eliott's novel is setting off to the East in search of his Jewish roots. "We assume," she writes, "that he and Mirah actually went despite her brother's death." There is also Bedwin Sands in William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* Briony has theories about who he was based upon.

Ann Revell added Josephine Tey's posthumously published novel *The Singing Sands* (1952) which includes two traveller-explorers – Kinsey Hewitt and Heron Lloyd and a discovery in the Empty Quarter. On of them is not only a traveller but also a murderer...

WHY IS THE PORTER FAMILY EPITAPH IN BRISTOL?

Kai Kamiuth of Munich replied to Dr Robert Morkot's query in Bulletin 29 about the epitaph to the Porter family in Bristol Cathedral.

The Bristol connection of the family goes back to William Ogilvie Porter, a surgeon who opened a practice in Bristol around 1810 and lived there until he died in 1850 at 29 Portland Square. Both Jane Porter (1850) and Anne Marie Porter (1832) died while staying at his house and were buried in St Paul's church.

This does not explain, of course, why the memorial was set up in the Cathedral. It may simply have been considered a more appropriate place than St Paul's church. (Source ODNB)

ANDREA CASTELLARI

There is always a frisson of excitement when there is a response to a query from descendants of a traveller. In Bulletins 28 and 29 there were queries about Andrea Castellari (d. c.1848).

Mr Parkinson of Victoria, Australia wrote: "In fact he was my great-great-grandfather." Family records are fairly slim, but show that Andrea's son, Robert, joined the British army through the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, went to India at the time of the Indian Mutiny (c. 1857) and eventually died there. Robert had three boys and a girl, Katherine. She was Mr Parkinson's grandmother.

From India and back to England the family has spread out, but Mr Parkinson knows of none who returned to Egypt as far as he is aware.

ASTENE's query has stimulated family curiosity. Mr Parkinson was always told Andrea "dealt in Egyptian antiquities", but they know very little about his Italian background.

Can any reader provide Mr Parkinson with further information?

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Ancestors and Travellers

The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) has two programmes of interest to ASTENE this spring.

An Indian Album. 12 – 16 March: Not of direct interest to most but worth visiting if you are in London, this is an exhibition of the photographs of Cecil Beaton at the Nehru Centre. A selection of rural scenes and cityscapes from his time in India during the Second World War. See www.nehrucentre.org

"ancestersonboard.com" is described as "the most exciting launch of the year". A website called my.past.com in association with The National Archives presents this vast new database tracing travellers on long distance journeys from UK ports from 1890 to 1960. We will be interested to hear members' reports on how useful this might prove.

ARTICLES

Richard Pococke, Southampton and Highclere

Richard Pococke (1704-1765) was one of the earlier travellers to the Near East. He came from a Hampshire family and was born in Southampton. In advance of the ASTENE Conference in July, it seems appropriate to look at his links with Southampton and Highclere.

Richard Pococke's family were very much a part of Southampton and Hampshire life. His great-uncle William had been town clerk and sheriff of Southampton in the second half of the 17th century, and his grandfather, Richard, held the living of a Hampshire village, Colmer (between Alton and Petersfield) until his death in 1718/19. This Richard's first wife, Constance, was a Newlin, a prominent family in Prior's Dean not far from Colmer. Richard and Constance had six children, and their eldest son, another Richard, who was born in 1666, became a notable Headmaster of King Edward VI School in Southampton, then a 'Free school', now a large mixed independent, fee-paying grammar school.

Richard married, first, Anne Clutterbuck, the daughter of the rector of St Mary's, Southampton who was also Archdeacon of Winchester. Anne died after only a year of marriage, and in 1698 Richard married Elizabeth Milles, daughter of Isaac Milles, the rector of Highclere. They had two children, Richard and Elizabeth. This boy was Richard the traveller.

The children were born in West Hall, Bugle Street, inside the medieval walls of Southampton. On his appointment as Master of King Edward School, Richard had moved the school from its earlier premises near God's House to West Hall. As well as being Headmaster, Richard was rector of All Saints, also within the old city. But when he died of smallpox in 1710, he was buried in Holyrood. West Hall and All Saints no longer exist, but Bugle Street is still there and what remains of Holyrood Church – hit by a bomb in the Second World War, stands in Southampton High Street. St Mary's is still the city church and gave its name to the Southampton football team – 'the Saints'.

Young Richard was only six when his father died and his mother returned with the two children to live with her father in Highclere. Isaac Milles and his family were to have a great influence on Richard's life. Reverend Milles also ran a small school, and alongside Richard sat the children of the Earl of Pembroke, then the owner of Highclere. Elisabeth was the youngest of four children; Isaac's three other children were boys, Thomas, Jeremiah and Isaac.

Isaac died in 1720, and was buried in Highclere Church. There are two memorials to him there: both mention that his daughter Elizabeth was married to Richard Pococke. His son, Isaac junior, took over the school and later became Rector of Litchfield, not far from Highclere. Jeremiah held the rectory of Duloe in Cornwall, and his son, also Jeremiah, became the close friend of his cousin Richard. But it was Thomas, Richard's eldest uncle, who was to have most impact on Richard's life.

Thomas Milles went to Ireland in 1707 as chaplain to the new Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Pembroke, and in the following year he was installed as Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. He probably supported Richard financially through his time at Corpus Christi College, Oxford until he graduated in 1725. Soon after his graduation Richard was ordained and through his uncle's patronage was appointed precentor of Lismore Cathedral. In 1734 he became vicar-general of Waterford and Lismore.

Thomas was equally generous to Jeremiah, the son of his younger brother, Jeremiah. He paid for his education also, first at Eton, then at Oxford. Jeremiah later became Treasurer of Lismore Cathedral and then precentor of Waterford. Richard was ten years older than his cousin Jeremiah, but the two men set out on their travels to Europe together in 1736.

ASTENE's 2007 Conference will include a visit to Highclere Castle and it is planned that there will be an opportunity to explore medieval Southampton and the places associated with Richard Pococke.

Patricia Wagstaff

By happy chance we received the most interesting article which follows for the Bulletin from Michel Azim, giving an interesting account of Pococke's travels. This will appear in the ASTENE web site in French as well as English.

Dr Richard Pococke and Time

The future Bishop of Ossory and Meath set out on a long journey in June 1736 towards the Levant, which took him around Europe for more than a year, until he embarked at Leghorn on a ship for Alexandria on 18 September 1737. He arrived there on the evening of 10 October, and disembarked the next day for a sojourn in the country of the Nile until 21 March 1738. He then took himself to Jerusalem and Damascus. From there he visited Cyprus, where he met Charles Perry* and returned with him to Egypt.

The travellers landed at Damietta on 4 January 1739. Pococke's aim, on his second journey, was to see the Pyramids and the Fayoum, after which he went on to Mount Sinai, which he was not able to do on his first journey. Perry set out to sail up the Nile at the end of 1739. For his part Pococke finally left the country on 14 July 1739 and, before he reached Britain on 9 September 1741, journeyed through Crete, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

It was during the winter of 1737-8 – more precisely between 18 December 1737 and 10 March 1738 – that Pococke sailed up the Nile into Upper Egypt as far as Philae. The account of his voyage, *A Description of the East and some other Countries*, published in London in 1743, became, for those who followed him, a basic work. The second edition of 1748 would, we know, be translated into French in 1772-3.

All the dates of the movements of Pococke cited here are different from those which appear in this account of his journey, but there is an explanation for this. During his journey Pococke regularly related his adventures, day by day, in letters addressed to his mother and these, intended to prepare his publication, constitute today two manuscripts in the British Museum (Add.Mss. 22997 and 22998), the crossing from Leghorn to Alexandria and general considerations on Africa, Egypt and Alexandria, are the subject of a third manuscript (Add Ms 22995). It is on these letters that I have based the present note, because the dates which are given correct those of the printed account. Thus, when we read in the latter, for example: *Having embarked at Leghorn on the seventh of September, one thousand seven hundred thirty-seven, old style, we arrived at Alexandria on the twenty-ninth of the same month.*”, Pococke specifies in one of his letters: *“On Tuesday, September 6th old stile (sic) 17th new stile 1737 in the Evening I embark'd aboard an English ship, the Mary Galley, Captain Thomas Parkins bound*

for Alexandria in Egypt, the next morning the 7th-18th we sail'd from the port into the road where meeting with some delays we proceeded on our voyage about ten in the morning." His ship sailed on the 18th, not the 7th September, and arrived at Alexandria on 10th October 1737, at sunset, and not 29th September as reported in the second account.

If I have drawn attention to the details of the printed account it is because they make all the difference, it is for the following reason. In the account of Pococke's voyage published in 1743, all the dates are based on the Julian calendar which was enforced until 1752 in England, whereas, on the continent, they had been replaced by the Gregorian calendar of 1582. In France, ten days were thus removed: the new calendar was adopted on Sunday 9th December 1582, and thus the following day was the 20th December. Great Britain did not align itself until 1752: thus Wednesday, 2nd September was followed by Thursday 14th (at the moment of Pococke's voyage the difference between the two systems had become eleven days, because one had been added in 1700).

The Julian and Gregorian calendars have been called Julian *ancien style* (or *old style*) and Julian *new style*. In the letters to his mother, Pococke, from his arrival in France, each day gave the two notations, in the form "Calais, May 24th o.s [old style] June 4th [new style]., but, in the *Description of the East...*, published in England before the reform, you only have the old style dates, which deceived a certain number of writers and were repeated in the French edition of 1772. In future we must take account only of the new style dates, notably in order to compare them with Frederic Norden's account, the latter having been directly based on the Gregorian calendar – the change in Denmark having been adopted in 1700 – and to add 11 days to the dates provided in *Description of the East* which express them erroneously.

Michel Azim

* Charles Perry (d.1780), traveller and medical writer, travelled in the Near East (Egypt, Palestine and Greece) 1739-42. He published medical works and an account of his travels, *View of the Levant*, 1743. He is buried in Norwich Cathedral.



FOOTPRINTS

CHRISTMAS-DAY IN TURKEY

The writer, 'A Lady Volunteer' (Frances Taylor) had arrived in Turkey in 1854 and spent her first Christmas at Therapia waiting to go to nurse at the Barrack Hospital, Scutari during the Crimean War.

On Christmas-day there was no English service. The chaplain being indisposed, prayers were read at home, and we adorned the rooms with green, sang carols, and tried to make ourselves believe it was really Christmas-day.

Lady Stratford (wife of the British Ambassador), with her well-known kindness, sent up mince pies and plum-pudding, with kind Christmas wishes. We were very grateful for her kind remembrance of us, but our Christmas was a dreary one. The joyous sound of English Christmases were ringing in our ears, and it was an oppressive thought to remember that through the length and breadth of that fair land, save from the few bodies of strangers who dwelt in it for a time, there went up no sounds of rejoicing for the glad tidings of great joy. No bells rang out to welcome the birthday of the King of Kings.*

* She noted that the Greek Church celebrates Christmas twelve days later.

From *Eastern Hospitals and English Nurses*, by 'A Lady Volunteer' Vol. I, pp.41-2, London, 1856.

DINING WITH MADAME BENEDETTI

H.J. Ross (consul, businessman, traveller and later son-in-law of Lady Lucie Duff Gordon) was in Constantinople at the end of 1854. He wrote to his sister Mary that he dined with Madame Benedetti at Pera. Janet Ross who edited his letters (*Letters from the East*, 1902) added an interesting footnote. To which we have added explanatory footnotes.

Mad. Benedetti's story is a romantic one. She, with many other small children, was brought from Schio, on the occasion of the massacre during the rising in Greece, by the Turkish soldiers (*meaning Egyptian soldiers of the Ottoman army*) and exposed for sale in the Square in Alexandria. M. d'Anastasy*, a rich Greek merchant who was Swedish Consul-General in Egypt, bought two of the little girls for a few dollars as companions for his two daughters, who died a few years afterwards, when he adopted the little Greek girls. One married a French engineer in the service of Mohammed Ali Pasha, the other, by far the handsomest, M. Benedetti**, who began life as "Jeune de langue" in the French Consulate in Alexandria.

* M. de Anastasy (1780-1860) was a Greek merchant, son of a Damascus merchant who moved to Egypt about 1797. He became one of the most considerable of the

foreign businessmen in Egypt. He was Swedish-Norwegian Consul General in Egypt and also made a large collection of antiquities.

** Vicomte Vincent Benedetti (1817-1900) was a Corsican lawyer who became French Consul in Alexandria in 1840, Consul in Cairo in 1845, and left Egypt in 1848 to become French Consul in Palermo. (Source: *Who was Who in Egyptology*)



SO MUCH TO SEE IN DAMASCUS!

In 1384 thirteen Tuscan gentlemen undertook a journey to the Holy Land. On their return Leonardo Frescobaldi, Simone Sigoli and Giorgio Gucci independently wrote accounts of their journeys. In 1948 Fathers T. Bellorini and E. Hoade translated their accounts from the Italian and published them together (with illustrations) through the Franciscan Press, Jerusalem as "Visit to the Holy Places of Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Syria in 1384". Here is part of Gucci's account. The book also includes Gucci's accounts of their expenses - much of it sounds curiously familiar.

Then on the IX day of the said month, about noon, we were in Damascus: which is a huge and beautiful city of notable and marvellous things, and in almost everything excels all the others subject to the Sultan; and to say Damascus is like saying Paris for us. First, half a mile from Damascus is where Christ struck St Paul saying: 'Saule, Saule, cur me persequeris? (Acts 9, 4) Then there is also on the wall of Damascus a window, whence he fled when the Jews had taken him and placed him in prison; and then St Paul went to Jerusalem to find St Peter. And there is in the said Damascus the house of Ananias, to whom God told St Paul to go, when he struck him as already related, and Ananias baptised him. And about two stone throws from the wall of Damascus there is a field where the majority of the Christians are buried, who in the city die, be they our Christians or Greek or Armenians or Christians of the Girdle; and in the middle of this field and these tombs there is a square stone, more than a braccio on every side, and it is a stone of white marble, and it is said that it was on this stone that St George was beheaded.

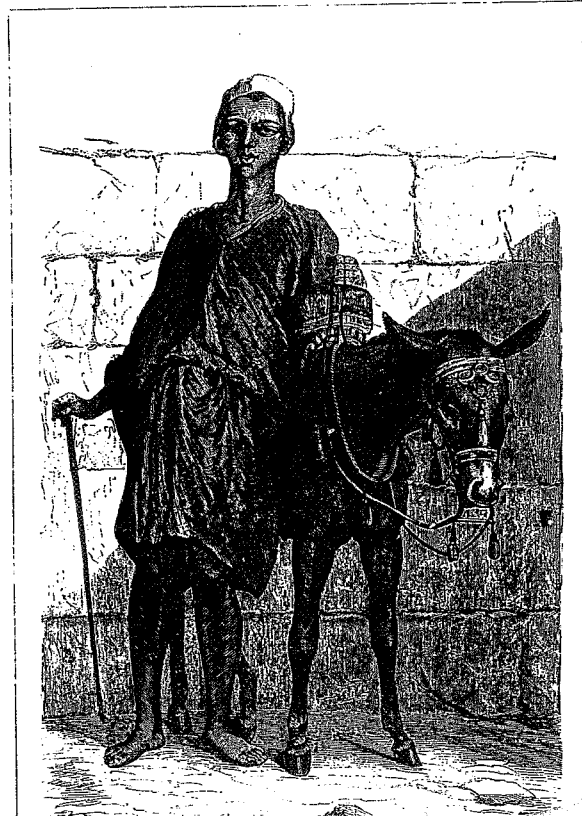
... And it is said that Job was born in the said city of Damascus, on a slope V miles from Damascus and visible from every part of Damascus and likewise near the road outside Damascus there is a field, where, they say, Cain killed Abel.

DATES IN ARABIA

John Keane was a little known early 19th century traveller to Arabia - and very different from others, being young, and a merchant sailor. His accounts of his travels in the Near East in the 1870s have very recently been brought back into print.

I suppose I should be doing something unprecedented were I to write a book, however small, on Arabia and say nothing about dates; and I admit myself rather puzzled to think of something to say about them that everybody does not know. Dates are the staple article of food in Meccah, though bread runs them very close. Still I have scarcely ever seen bread eaten without dates, but I have often seen dates eaten without bread; so dates may be allowed to be the staff of life here. There are many kinds; but of whatever quality, they are a trifle dearer than the same would be in London.

At times, and in places, the streets of Meccah are almost laid with date-stones. Painful-looking old women and miserable Hindi beggars gather these and sell them, for they have, in quantities, a considerably value, being about the most nutritious fodder the country affords for milch-camels or sheep; a few hours' soaking in water softening them so as to be easily masticated. The larger and best-coloured stones are carefully sorted out and sold to be turned on the lathe into rather pretty beads. Meccah producing nothing itself, depends on external sources even for its dates.



STOP PRESS!

Just as this Bulletin was about to go to press some further information came in.

A QUERY

Cassandra Vivian emailed from Egypt where she is working on a revision of her book on the Western Desert. *She would like answers to her query urgently if possible.*

She has come across a 19th century controversy about Lake Qarum and Lake Moeris in the Fayoum – that they are in fact two separate lakes. This belief raised much discussion with European countries taking sides: French and German on one side, English on another, and a lone American voice believing Moeris spilled into Wadt Raiyan. Wallis Budge was on the one lake side and won the argument.

Who, Cassandra asks, were the other Brits? And how have we ended up ignoring this incredible argument? Or does anyone know of any research on this question?

She is aware of the work of Mr Cope Whitehouse and Dr Schweinfurth's comment on his researches.

Please email Cassandra on

STUDY SESSION, LECTURES AND A CONFERENCE

Thurs. 8 February: The Rescue of the Monuments in Nubia – Martin Davies at 6:45 at the Egyptian Education and Culture Bureau, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1. All welcome.

Sat. 24 February: Study Session in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum: David Roberts in Egypt – George Hart. 2-4:30 Tickets £15 020 7323 8181 or boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

Friday 9 March: Petrie and seven hydraulic wonders of ancient Egypt – Eric Uphill 18:30 at G6 Institute of Archaeology, 31 Gordon Square, London WC1. Friends of Petrie Museum lecture – all welcome.

Thursday 5th April: Forgotten Egyptians who excavated in Egypt: Petrie's workforce – Stephen Quirke 18:45 at the Egyptian Education and Culture Bureau (see above). All welcome.

Thursday 12 April, 6 pm: Egypt and Palestine in the First World War: Memoirs of a British army officer Julian Bowsher in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum. Palestine Exploration Fund Lecture. All welcome.

CONFERENCE

The Role of the Donkey and the Mule in the Culture of the Mediterranean Call for Papers. This Hydra Donkey Conference II will be held on

the island of Hydra, near Athens, Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October. The Call points out that the island of Hydra has a special place in Europe as a developed economy where a large percentage of personal transport and transportation of goods is done by mule and donkey. There are no cars. "We are proud of our mule and donkey culture." Suggested topics include the economics of rearing and maintaining livestock, the shaping of the Mediterranean landscape, and will take in literature and philosophy en route. Issues such as the working conditions of animals, gender issues in donkey use, donkeys in leisure activities will be addressed.

To learn more, register or offer a paper see <http://www.geocities.com/DonkeyConference> or email ed.emery@britishlibrary.net or write to Ed Emery [Hydra Donkey Conference], Peterhouse, Cambridge CB2 1RD, UK.

If anyone going to this conference would like to offer a report to the Bulletin, please contact the Bulletin Editor.

LATE NEWS ON BOOKS

Two new books by ASTENE members were published too late to be reviewed in this Bulletin. Reviews will appear in the Spring.

Wonderful Things! The discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Susan Allen introduced by James P. Allen coincides with the beautiful exhibition of the photographs of Harry Burton now running at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York. Published by Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2006. 104 pp., 107 diatone illustrations.

Traveling through Sinai from the fourth to the twenty-first centuries edited by Deborah Manley and Sahar Abdel-Hakim appears this month from the American University in Cairo Press. It is a new anthology to which the finishing preparations were made this spring actually in the shadow of Mount Sinai during the ASTENE tour there. Accounts come from Joseph Wolff, Paul Lenoir, Egeria, Sir Flinders Petrie, Richard Lepsius, Edward Robinson, Alexandre Dumas, Harriet Martineau, Isabella Bird, E.H. Palmer and John Lloyd Stephens to name but a few of the travellers.

257 pp, illustrations by W.H. Bartlett. Dar el Katub No. 2258/06; ISBN-10 977 416 0223; ISBN-13 978 977 416 0226. Price varies between Cairo, UK and USA.