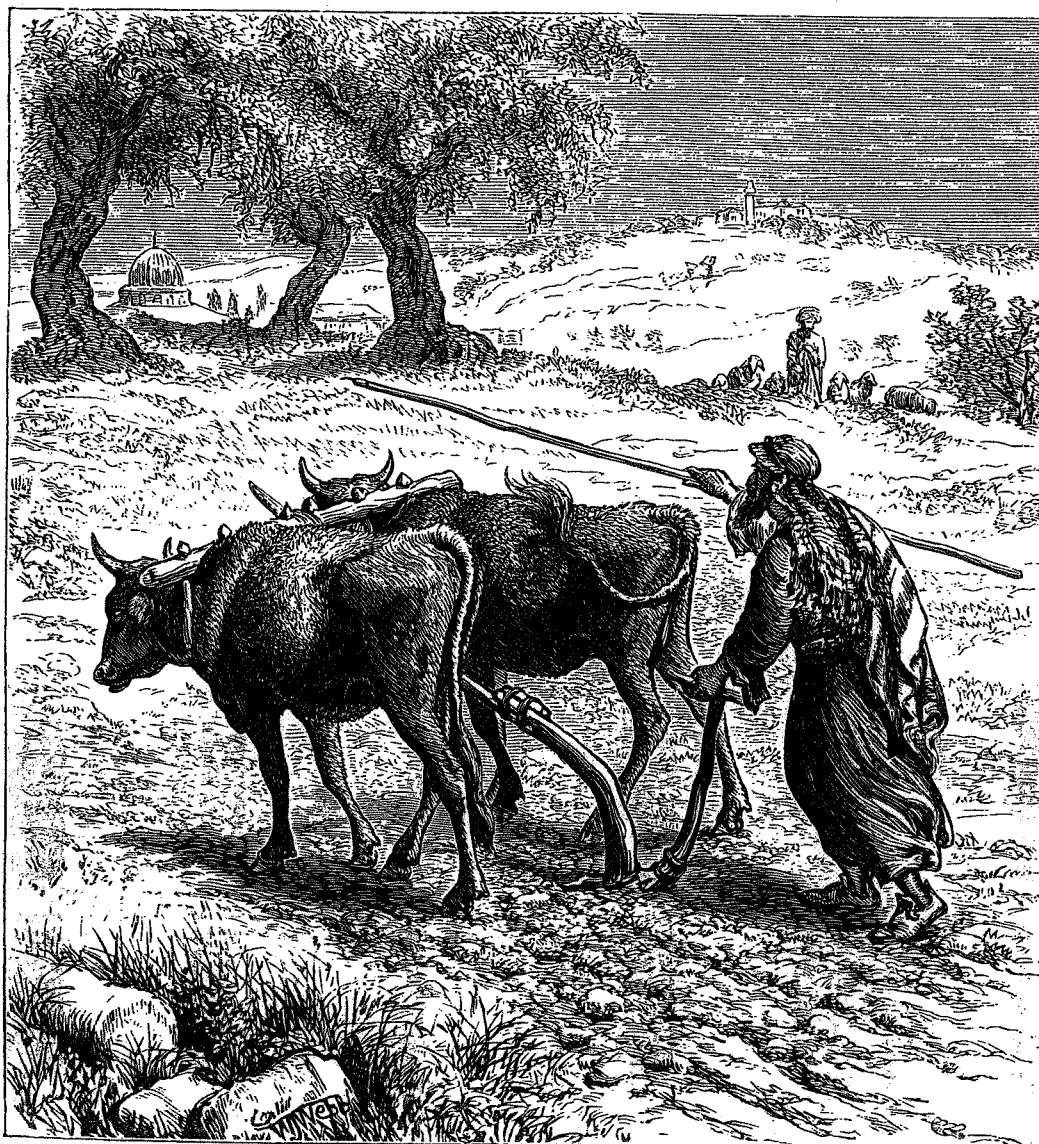


Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

No 31

Spring 2007



CONTENTS

ASTENE EVENTS, CONFERENCE AND AGM 3

The ASTENE Biennial Conference 3: Special Interest Session: Texts and Travel 3; Annual General Meeting 3; Conference visits 4; *Who Travels Sees More* 4; Arriving in Southampton, 1844 4; Lebanese Lunch and Leighton House 4; Lord Leighton 5; Maps of the ASTENE region 5

OTHER NEWS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES 5

News 5; The Melik Society 5; The Travellers Club 175th Anniversary 6; Exhibitions 6; Conferences, lectures etc 7; Exhibition Review: *Holy Image, Hallowed Ground* 7 Interior and Backdrop, 1865 8

BOOK REVIEWS 8

OTHER BOOKS ETC 12

Travel and Exploration Book Fair 12; Recent Publications 12; Murray's Word List, 1875 13; Three books chanced upon 13; A Note on Miss Edwards 13

RESEARCH RESOURCES 13

How much do we know? 13 ASTENE Journal Project 13

NOTES, QUERIES AND REPLIES 14

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED? 15

ARTICLES 15

Two Extraordinary Works *John Rodenbeck* 15
A Year Spent in Egypt by the Royal Danish Expedition 1761-2 *Nigel P. Hepper* 17

FOOTPRINTS 19

King Tutankhamun in 1922 19; The Enumeration of Cairo 19; The Waters of the Nile 19; Tongues Twisted 19; Coming to Damascus from the Desert 20



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF TRAVEL IN EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST

ASTENE COMMITTEE

President: T.G.H. James CBE
Vice-President: Dr Jaromir Malek

Chairman: Dr Brian Taylor
Secretary: Dr Alix Wilkinson
Treasurer: Dr Diane Fortenberry
Other Committee Members:
Dr Kathryn Ferry, Dr Henrietta McCall, Deborah Manley, Dr Robert Morkot, Lorien Pilling, Thomas Rees, Dr John Taylor, Elisabeth Woodthorpe,

Events Organiser: Elisabeth Woodthorpe,
Tel: +44 020 7622 3694
Fax: +44 020 7622 4151

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

Bulletin Reviews Editor: Dr Edwin Aiken, 1 Ulster Avenue, Annalong, Newry, County Down, BT 34 X47
E-mail: ej_aiken@hotmail.co.uk

ASTENE E-mail: astene@dsl.pipex.com
ASTENE website: www.ASTENE.ORG.UK
ASTENE Charity number: 1067157
ISSN: 1461-4316

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

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

Membership

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

It is most helpful to the Treasurer if you pay for three years in advance or pay by standing order.

ASTENE Office: 26 Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HP

Bulletin 32

The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin is 1st July. 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 EVENTS, CONFERENCE AND AGM

THE ASTENE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, SOUTHAMPTON Thursday 12 – Monday 16 July

There is a very varied programme already offered for the ASTENE conference. Papers are coming in steadily from people across the world. Papers already accepted include such diverse subjects as Collectors and collecting in Egypt – couriers in 17th century Mesopotamia – Greeks in 17th century Ottoman Greece – travellers and the plague in 18th century Syria – the pilgrimage of General Gordon to the Holy Land – Czech pilgrims – the creation of 19th century guidebooks – the impact of new 19th century technology on the *hajj* – the camel – 18th century balloonists over Egypt – the ‘Lady from New York’, 1836 – nurses in Turkey in 1854....
The deadline for submitting a 100 word abstract for a paper you propose giving is 1st June, but it is very helpful if papers can be submitted earlier to pa_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk (Note: pa_wagstaff)

RESEARCH RESOURCES

We plan to hold a session on Research Resources at the Conference to which we welcome contributions from everyone. We hope that the archivist of the P & O line – on which many travellers reached Egypt and the Red Sea from the late 19th century onwards – will be with us.

BOOK STALL

There will, of course, be a Book Stall – or two – which will include many books reviewed recently and others, including ASTENE’s own titles.

ASTENE IS 10 YEARS OLD

In 1997 at the Oxford Conference it was decided to form an Association to carry on the initiative from that conference and its predecessor at Durham University. This year ASTENE is ten years old. This will be celebrated with an exhibition about our activities and achievements, the bibliography of publications by ASTENE members and the after-dinner speech by Neil Cooke – who was involved from the start.

ASTENE’S AGM

On Sunday the ASTENE Annual General Meeting will be held. **Members not at the Conference are, of course, welcome to this meeting. The agenda is included in this Bulletin.**

ASTENE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Have you returned your entries for the 10-year bibliography of ASTENE members’ publications to Dr Diane Bergman, Griffith Librarian, at Sackler Library, 1 St John Street, Oxford OX1 2LG

e-mail to diane.bergman@saclib.ox.ac.uk ?

The necessary form was in the last Bulletin and is on the ASTENE website.

If not, please return your entry by 31 May if you want to be included in the bibliography.

TEXTS AND TRAVEL

This year there is a new special conference session on **Sunday 15th July**. This session will consider travellers’ writing as a genre. The Call for Papers for this session (below) is also on the ASTENE web-site. You may submit abstracts for papers in both this session and the main conference if you wish.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The travel writing session is planned to bring together people with a broad range of interests to engage in the discussion of travel texts. Papers might include matters of method and theme. For example:

- * How are travel journals approached differently from other texts?
- * What kinds of disciplinary tools or conceptual frameworks are appropriate, and why?
- * How is it best, best culturally and historically, to locate authors, concepts, ideologies and ideas?
- * Which specific historiographical techniques are most appropriate for travel writing?

Speakers should feel free to expand on these topics under the general theme of “Texts and Travel” in papers which are limited to *20 minutes*.

This session will run parallel to other sessions to allow 6-8 papers to be presented, followed by a break and a round-table discussion of the material presented, chaired by Dr Carl Thompson (Nottingham Trent University).

The session is being jointly organised by Paul Robertson (Westminster University, London) and Dr Edwin Aiken (Queen’s University, Belfast).

Offers of papers are welcome and should be submitted to pa_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk with a copy to p.robertson@westminster.ac.uk or ej_aiken@hotmail.co.uk.

Please note both Mrs Wagstaff and Dr Aiken have _ in their address. Abstracts by 1st June, please.

CONFERENCE VISITS

As you will have seen from the registration form (in your last Bulletin and on the website) there are two visits linked to the conference.

Friday, 13th July: Kingston Lacy, near Wimborne, Dorset, home of William John Bankes. - a house re-designed for him by the architect Charles Barry, who he met on the Nile.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see both Bankes' drawings and collection and, in the park surrounding the house, the obelisk he sent home from Philae.

Much of the William Bankes' manuscript and drawings collection is kept in the archive at the Dorchester History Centre. Dorchester is too far to make a visit, but the staff there and the National Trust (which owns the papers and Kingston Lacy) are allowing us to copy some of the more interesting images. These will be on display.

Monday, 16th July: Highclere Castle, another Charles Barry designed house, home of the Carnarvon family, whose name will always be linked with that of Tutankhamun and Howard Carter.

This visit is on the last day of the conference and will include a tour of the house and the Egyptian museum, and a farewell picnic in the park – under the Cedars of Lebanon should the weather be at all inclement.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

If you have not yet registered or have mislaid your form sent with the Winter Bulletin, it is on our website

WHO TRAVELS SEES MORE

A high point of the Conference will be the launch of ASTENE's new book edited by Dr Diane Fortenberry and titled (from an Arabic proverb) *Who Travels Sees More*, published by Oxbow from 14 papers given at ASTENE Conferences both in Britain and the ASTENE region.

Who Travels Sees More includes articles from people across the world:

Some Remarks on the Mesopotamian Travels of Robert Ker Porter; Sir Charles Fellows and the Xanthian Marbles; Harold Jones, Artist and Archaeologist; The Paradox of Cypriot Artistic Representation; Egypt discovered by 19th century American Artists; How James 'Athenian' Stuart became an Architect; Charles Barry's Travels in Egypt; Owen Jones and Architectural Theory; C.R. Ashbee and the Pro-Jerusalem Society; Revealing the Sphinx; Sadiq's photographs of the Prophet's Mosque; James Henry Breasted and the Stereoscope; The British Consulate House in Cairo; Travelling Journeymen in Cairo.

An order form will be in the next Bulletin.

ARRIVING IN SOUTHAMPTON, 1844

Mr Lutfullah arrived in England at Southampton from India in 1844. We assure ASTENE travellers that the natives of Southampton will be more welcoming this summer.

On the morning of 14 of May, at seven o'clock, we landed near the Custom House, whence our luggage passed without the difficulty and loss of time customary in India, and we put up in a very nice inn, called the Union Hotel, which commanded a view of both the sea and the town. Our party, it appears, was looked upon by the curious natives as one of the seven wonders of the world. Luckily for myself, I had purchased a Turkish dress at Cairo, and thereby found myself safe from being stared at. As for my companions, they, except for Mir Jafir, were impatient to go to the bazaar; and immediately after breakfast, they proceeded to the market places in their simple Indian dresses, where they were not only gazed at by all with curiosity but followed by a crowd. Being annoyed at this, they returned home without being able to buy anything, and with a mob at their heels. Before they entered the door of the hotel, they turned right about face, to see their unwelcome audience, and a shout of "Hurrah!" resounded from all directions.

"Over-curious white devils," exclaimed our doctor, Badru'd-din, very angrily to me, "they have no respect for caste or age; I have a great mind to pelt stones at them."

"Don't you do so, Hakim-Sahib," said I to the old doctor, "as you will ring evil upon yourself and the hotel; these people don't fear any one. It is true, they are over curious, but, after all, they have done you no harm; let, therefore well alone."

LEBANESE LUNCH AND LEIGHTON HOUSE

A group of twenty ASTENE members and friends met at Leighton House, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 on a sunny afternoon on 14th February after a splendid Lebanese lunch in Kensington High Street, arranged by Elisabeth Woodthorpe.

Our host, Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator at Leighton House, greeted us warmly. He has been at Leighton House for just over eight years and has seen changes at the House. He took us on a guided tour and, as we went, gave us an insight into the life of Frederic, Lord Leighton. He was born in Scarborough in 1830, the son of a doctor. His grandfather – James Leighton – also a doctor, had risen to become surgeon to their Imperial Majesties in St Petersburg, and also Physician-General to the Imperial Fleet. He was rewarded with a personal fortune.

All this had a bearing on the life of Frederic and his sisters. At eight, he and his family left Scarborough for the Continent, and spent time in Italy, Germany, Belgium and other countries. Frederic's European background gave him a wide outlook on life, with his grandfather's fortune providing for him comfortably.

He returned to London and wanted his own house. In Rome he had met George Aitchison, who was later to become not only a friend, but the designer of Leighton House. The house was completed in 1866, with further additions following in 1869 and 1877. The last addition was the Arab Hall – which had drawn us here. It is this Arab Hall which makes the house so exciting. Many of the Damascene tiles on its walls were collected by Frederic and by Richard Burton when he was Consul in Damascus.

To give a full account of the life of Frederic, Lord Leighton and his work as a traveller and artist could take up all the pages of this Bulletin and more. Suffice it to say that his house, a living museum, is well worth a visit for anyone interested in him as an artist, in his contemporaries, and in his eclectic collection of artefacts. We were lucky enough to be there when many of his oil sketches of his Middle Eastern travels were on display. They are about to move around the country over the next months.

The exhibition of paintings and drawings from Leighton House which we saw is moving on around Britain:

24 March – 3 June Scarborough Art Gallery

22 June – 2 September Bristol Museum

16 October – 6 January Russell-Cotes Art Gallery, Bournemouth

25 January, 2008-17

April Hunterian Museum, Glasgow

Lord Leighton

Those who recently visited Leighton House under ASTENE's auspices, will be interested to know that portraits of Leighton and others of his circle can currently be seen in the newly-opened Madejski Rooms in the Royal Academy.

This grand series of rooms with fine gilded ceilings is on the first floor. Apart from portraits of Academicians, it holds a large and languorous male nude statue, entitled *The Sluggard*, by Leighton, and in the current show there is an interesting painting of the RA selection committee for 1875, in which Leighton and Millais, among others, are scrutinising a contender for the forthcoming annual exhibition.

Tom Rees

MAPS OF THE ASTENE REGION

As Freya Stark once wrote: "a certain madness comes over one at the mere sight of a good map."

One of our original members, Norman Lewis, has decided to give away his collection of maps of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine/Israel.

This collection comprises two hundred or more sheets, in scales between 1/1million and 1/50,000. Most are of the 1940s or thereabouts in date, a few of the earlier 20th century and very few of recent date. Many show ample evidence of having been much used, but they provide a useful resource for any one interested in detailed information of the area. Anyone interested is welcome to telephone or write to Norman and afterwards to see the maps at his house.

(Norman Lewis, 35 Stanhope Road, Croydon, CRO 5NS. Telephone: 0208 688 7078)

OTHER NEWS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES

NEWS

The Melik Society

On 16 February a Memorandum of Agreement was signed at the Sudanese Embassy in London between the Melik Society (see Bulletin 30) and the Sudan National Corporation for Antiquities to set up the Nile Foundation for the purpose of restoring two historic vessels: the gunboat *Melik* and the armed steamer *Bordein* and giving them a new life as tourist attractions. It is planned that travellers will again sail down the Nile on the these boats, which were originally built on the Thames, shipped to Sudan and reassembled on the Nile well over a century ago.

www.atelieregypt.com

We apologise for giving a wrong website address for Atelier Egypt - a company running dahabeeyah voyages on the Nile – in the manner of ASTENE travellers. We give it correctly above. Karina Sutherland, an ASTENE member, plans to be at the Conference in Southampton to introduce us to the dahabeeyah journey.



The Travellers Club's 175th anniversary

Those members who have attended joint meetings at London's Travellers Club know the club-house designed by the architect-traveller Charles Barry. The Library's anniversary newsletter in discussing a visit to the Royal Academy reminded readers that in the artist Zoffany's famous painting *The Tribuna of the Uffizi*, the Scottish traveller James Bruce appears. Having returned from the Blue Nile, Bruce visited Marseilles, Paris, Rome, Bologna and Florence, arriving there just in time to be included in Zoffany's painting of the Tribuna – one of the most famous images of the Grand Tour.

EXHIBITIONS

There are many new exhibitions of interest to us worldwide and others which are continuing or moving to a new venue.

Istanbul: City of the Ottoman Sultans displays over 300 masterpieces of Ottoman art. There are portraits of the sultans, miniatures and paintings depicting important moments in history. There are tapestries, religious reliquaries, mystical objects, beautiful calligraphy, ceramics, and musical instruments – all brought together from the collections of various museums in Istanbul. These objects are laid out in ten spaces, representing a bazaar, a mosque, and so on. There is old and new film footage and intriguing music. All this is set in the majestic medieval Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam – until 15 April.

Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists and the Rediscovery of Egypt focuses on the great *Description de l'Égypte* with its magnificent illustrations which ASTENE members were shown in Oxford recently. Dahesh Museum, New York through 29 April.

Discovering Tutankhamun: The Photographs of Harry Burton The exhibition documents every phase in the discovery of the tomb and treasure and introduces the people – both foreign and Egyptian – who were present. A very moving exhibition, curated by Dr Susan Allen. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until 29 April. Try to take in the obelisk from Egypt in the park by the Museum while you are there.

East of Eden explores garden traditions across the 'East' from Turkey to Japan. Sackler Gallery, Washington DC until 13 May.

Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall displays – among much else – objects Tiffany collected from the Islamic world. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until 20th May.

James 'Athenian' Stuart runs until 24 June at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. A traveller in Greece, Stuart is widely acknowledged for his central role in the development of Neoclassical architecture and design. This is the first exhibition

of Stuart's career. For places to see his work and details of the related study day, see the V & A website.

Treasures of the Ashmolean Antiquities, Eastern Art, Coins and Casts runs from 24 May until the end of 2008, While the Museum is undergoing a massive £50 million rebuild – mainly at the back behind the Cockerel Building which is open as usual, as is the Egyptian gallery and the art galleries. The Museum is staging this exhibition to bring together 200 of the most significant objects of these collections – thus allowing the key work of the collection to remain on show.

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs 150 works from the Egyptian National Museum in an exhibition more than twice the size of the 1979 'Tut' exhibition, with later finds which place his tomb into context. Franklin Institute, Philadelphia until 30 September.

Amarna: Ancient Egypt's Place in the Sun offers a rare insight into this unique royal centre which flourished and vanished so quickly. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology until October.

The Jazira: A cultural landscape between the Euphrates and the Tigris presents the arts and culture of the petty princes of the region in 12-13th centuries. Pergamonmuseum, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin until 2 September.

Gardens in Asia explores gardening traditions practised in India, China, Japan, Turkey and Persia and other countries as seen through works of art: painted screens, hanging scrolls, ceramics and gold-inlaid metalwork. Sackler Gallery, Washington, DC until 20 May.

Cosmophilia: Islamic Art from the David Collection, Copenhagen: An exploration of the toles decoration plays in the visual arts of Islamic lands. Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago until 20th May.

Venice and the Islamic World 828-1797 reflects the interplay of ideas in the Eastern Mediterranean will be at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until 8 July.

Treasures from Olana This exhibition, which has moved around the States (see earlier Bulletins). is at the Princeton New Jersey Art Museum until 10 July.

Egyptian Antiquities from the Louvre: Journey to the Afterlife gives Australians an opportunity to see a wide range of artefacts illuminating ancient Egypt's concern with the afterlife. Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide until 1 July and then Art Gallery of West Australia, Perth until 28 October.

Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th-17th centuries brings together 300 extraordinary objects from Portugal's world commercial empire: paintings, manuscripts, maps, sculpture and other objects. Sackler Gallery, Washington DC, 23 June – 16 September.

Lear's View of Jerusalem at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. In 1858 the writer and artist, Edward Lear (1813-88) visited Palestine – achieving a lifetime ambition. There he made careful studies of Jerusalem from the surrounding hills. These were the basis of five paintings of which the largest and most magnificent (1865) was allocated by H.M. Government in 2006 to the Museum from the estates of Captain and Mrs Walthall.

Overlapping Realms brings together the arts of the Islamic world and India, 900-1900 produced by the various peoples of the region. Sackler Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Impressed by Light : Photography from Paper Negatives 1840-1860 shows how paper negatives gave artists advantages for travel photography especially in hot climates. There is a focus on calotypes in Britain and abroad. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York from 25th September to the last day of 2007.

The Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art: If you have not yet seen the newly opened gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, try to be sure you make time for it.

CONFERENCES, LECTURES ETC

Colloquium: Recent Archaeological Fieldwork in Sudan A Sudan Archaeological Research Society event in the Stevenson lecture theatre of the British Museum on Tuesday 15 May. Contact Derek Welsby 0207 323 8500.

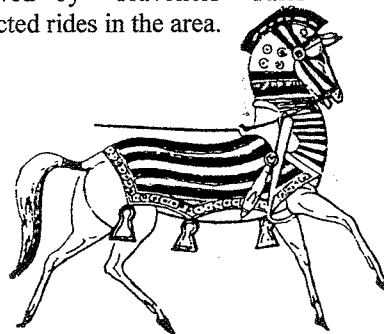
The Great Pyramid revisited (Egypt Exploration Society lecture) John Romer (whose new book will be reviewed in the next Bulletin) will speak at the Brunei Lecture Gallery, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1. Tickets £10-15 from 020 7242 1903 or Karen.excel@ees.ac.uk. See www.ees.ac.uk

10TH International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan at George Washington University, Washington, DC 23-28 May.

British Travellers and Equestrian Enthusiasts in Greater Syria and Arabia: Wilfred Scawen Blunt, Lady Anne Blunt and Others at the University of Kent at Canterbury, 25-26th May. The travels, accounts and ideas of the Blunts provide a unifying focus within a broader discussion regarding travels to the region, past and present, and representations of Eastern travel in various media. For further information and to register, see <http://kent.ac.uk/english/syria.html>

The conference opens on Friday 25th May with a panel on Western Travellers to Greater Syria with Marius Kociejowski: "European Travellers to Syria and the Question of Orientalism", Gerald Maclean on 18th century Desert Travel; Glen Bowman on "Authenticity on Approaches to the Holy Land", followed by papers on approaches to the study of

the horse and history. On Saturday the day starts with papers on "The Blunts and the Arabian Horse". and "Bloodstock Politics". This is followed by "Travellers' Tales" – recent and projected rides in the area.



Greek Revival: Discovering Antiquity is the title of a study day on Saturday 9 June (10:30-4:30) at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The Greek Revival of the later 18th – early 19th centuries was a pioneering international movement. Few had made a serious study of ancient Greek ruins before the journey to Greece in 1751 of James 'Athenian' Stuart and Nicholas Revett. Soon Greek style became fashionable. By the mid-19th century it was seen across much of the world as the most appropriate style for the expression of civic virtues in public buildings. This day links to the 'Athenian' Stuart exhibition (above) and precedes an exhibition titled 'Thomas Hope, Regency Patron: a Passion for the Antique' which runs 23 February – 29 June 2008. You must book (£39; £33 for concessions, £12 for students) on 020 7942 2211 or on www.vam.ac.uk/tickets. See also the website: <http://www.vam.ac.uk>

Exploration in Egypt is the title of a week-long summer school organised by Oxford's Department of Continuing Education. The week is organised by Dr Joanne Rowland who has been working in the Nile Delta since 1998 partly with the Egypt Exploration Society. She will focus on the period from Flinders Petrie ("the father of modern archaeology") onwards.

For details see www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oussa, ring 01865 270396 or write to 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA for the brochure of this and other courses 7 July to 4 August.

EXHIBITION REVIEW

An Illuminated Manuscript of the Heavenly Ladder: Spiritual Ascents through Art

Those of us who visited the Holy Monastery of St Catherine's at Sinai in 2006 will remember the delightful icon of a ladder, upon which some monks climb upwards, while others fall from grace into the power of etiolated but lively black devils. The inspiration for this icon was the representation by St John Climacus, a sixth century Abbott of Sinai,

of the spiritual ascent to heaven as a ladder of thirty rungs, each a sin that must be renounced.

To complement the exhibition at the Getty Centre, Los Angeles, 'Holy Image, Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai' (see Bulletin 30), on 6 February, Father Justin Sinaites, Librarian of the monastery, used another work of art, a 12th century manuscript, to illustrate St John's theme. Each sin was pictured simply and lucidly, in sumptuous gold leaf and tints of red and blue.

Reflecting the great success of the exhibition, there had been such a demand for reservations for Father Justin's talk, that the venue had to be changed to a larger hall – and that was all but full.

Father Justin also spoke of the decision taken by the last two Abbots of Sinai that the wonderful sacred art of the monastery, previously unseen by any but those who penetrated to this remote place, should be opened up to the world.

Of the greatest advantage to the survival of the art at Sinai was this very inaccessibility, for it was spared not only the early iconoclasts, but also those of the early restorers. Now, new, less invasive techniques and more humble attitudes prevail among restorers. The unique collection of manuscripts is to be recorded in high resolution digital photography, so that scholars need not handle (and slowly destroy) the originals, the most fragile of which can be sealed away in boxes from light and (in contrast to most places) the lack of humidity at Sinai.

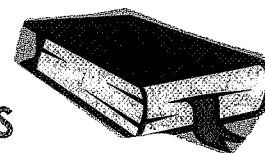
An inevitable result of the new open attitude is the influx not only of pilgrims but of more tourists like us. Even the three hours a day the monastery opens its doors – and its new gallery of sacred art – to them has to compromise the calm and solitude the monks have sought. We must indeed be grateful to their generosity.

Peta Ree

Interior and Backdrop, 1865 by E.H. Palmer

One of the travellers to the monastery in the 19th century wrote of his impressions.

The whole effect of the interior of the convent is peaceful and picturesque, and the background is simply magnificent. On the left is Jebel el Deir, with its rugged, pathless sides, and upon a ledge, where the green markings of the smooth surface of the rocks indicate the presence of water, there springs up from a heap of stones (the ruined convent of St Episteme) a solitary cypress, anywhere else this would look an imposing tree, but here it seems a mere dark-green thread against the glowing grey of the mountain-side. On the right rises the shoulder of the Jebel Musa block, stern and gigantic as its neighbour, and in the opening between these wondrous walls the green round summit of Jebel Moneijah stands out in bold relief against the sky.



BOOK REVIEWS

Dr Edwin Aiken has taken over as the Bulletin Reviews Editor. We are most grateful to Tom Rees for his contributions to the Bulletins, and hope we will continue to share his thinking in these columns. Edwin Aiken can be reached on ej_hotmail.com. His postal address is 1 Ulster Avenue, Annalong, Co. Down, BT 34 xxxxxx.

***The Arabian Chest* by Sheila Unwin, Arabian Publishing, London, 2006, ISBN 978 09544 79268, illustrated, h/b £25.**

Fate seems to have arranged for the first meeting between Sheila Unwin and her subject. Newly married and recuperating from an illness acquired in late 1940s East Africa, the author recounts her enchanting encounter with a 'bright and resplendent' Arab chest. So begins a love affair that has borne fruit in this fine book.

Wooden chests, traditionally given by groom to bride at time of marriage, those primarily used by travelling merchants and others for family and personal possessions would be prominently displayed in the finely decorated homes of the wealthiest traders around the coasts of Oman, Yemen, the Gulf, the trading ports of East Africa and the Red Sea. The author sets about describing the ebb and flow of control and influence in this region over the centuries, with players including Persia, Oman, India, Portugal, the Dutch, Germany, France and Britain, a history of commerce and power, influenced until recent times by the trade winds of the Indian Ocean, describing neatly the connections between the maritime routes and the commodities exchanged.

The reader is then led through a detailed description of the design, material, manufacture, fine ornamentation and provenance of the three principal categories into which the author has divided the chests. Great care has been undertaken with research by visits to many of the towns and regions described in this absorbing book.

Comparing the design of Arab chest and locks with those found on European versions adds to the obvious difficulties in classifying the subject; however, the type and origin of the wood used in their construction and the design of the ornamentation helps clarify this for the reader.

This is both a personal story and a carefully researched history, woven together with fine illustrations and a useful bibliography which will, no doubt, become indispensable to anyone with an interest in the Arab chest and will be enjoyed by anyone familiar with the regions described.

Robin Start

***The Copts and the West, 1439-1822: the European Discovery of the Coptic Church* by Alistair Hamilton, OUP, Oxford, 2006; ISBN 0199288779, h/b 234 pp + bibl. & index, £85.00, \$150**

This is a most interesting account of Europe's discovery of the ancient Christian Church of Egypt, and what Europeans were seeking by greater knowledge of the Copts. It is also the tale of those travellers who went to Egypt to learn about them.

The Church of Egypt had been estranged from Rome and Constantinople by 541, accused of monophysitism: of holding that the human nature of Christ had been fully absorbed by his divinity. The reality was more complex, and the heresy of the Copts and their Armenian, Ethiopian and Jacobite Syrian allies was more a matter of disaffection with Byzantine imperial rule than with duophysite orthodoxy, but the breach was made. With the Muslim conquest of Egypt in 640 it strengthened and the Arabization of Egypt began. By the 12th and 13th centuries, the Qibt, as the Arabs called the Aegyptoi, the Egyptians, were having a remarkable renaissance of letters under Muslim toleration, both in Arabic and in their own Egyptian language, written in a hellenizing alphabet since the 13th century CE.

During the Crusades, in a familiar pattern, Copts were treated harshly by the Franks, and persecuted by Muslims for being probably allies of the enemy. It did not help Copts to trust Western Christians.

In 1439 the Council of Florence, convened by Pope Eugenius from 1438-45, succeeded in a Proclamation of Union with the Church of Constantinople, under increasing threat from the Ottoman Turks. Encouraged by this, the Pope moved to seek union with the other churches of the east, and a deputation of Copts was sent by their Patriarch to Florence, where in 1442 a proclamation of union with the Armenians and the Copts ensued. The 'union' proved transitory: the ancient Churches of the East could not easily repudiate a millennium of sacred tradition, and in any case could barely understand the language of the theological frames of reference of the Latins. Nonetheless, the way had been opened for over 400 years of contacts. Their fascinating history, in which the Jesuits and then the Franciscans, played major roles, furnishes much of the material of this book.

While the Church of Rome came to understand the Copts as schismatics rather than heretics, and was thus eager to establish their similarities, the Protestants who followed them to Egypt sought to demonstrate that the Copts differed as much as possible from Catholic theology. Both proved eager to strip the Coptic monasteries of their manuscripts, and both created schisms in the Church of Alexandria.

Only over a long period of time did the Western Christians come to understand that Coptic was in

fact the ancient language of the Nile Valley, and the key to not only understanding much of Christian history, but unlocking the mystery of the hieroglyphs.

The book furnishes a wealth of detail and analysis, as well as an excellent scholarly apparatus. It is recommended for Church historians as well as Egyptologists and those interested in the history of European travellers to the East.

John Williams

***Journal of Comparative Poetics: Alif 26, 2006: Wanderlust: Travel literature of Egypt and the Middle East*, ISBN 0977 4160118; ISSN 1110-8673; p/b \$20.**

It is always a pleasure to welcome *festschriften*, and all the more when they mark a long and noteworthy career. This special issue of *Alif* is dedicated to John Rodenbeck and is filled with fine scholarship on Travel Literature themes. The twenty articles in Arabic, French and English are by leading figures in the field, many of them familiar to every ASTENE member, and the writing covers topics as diverse as an analysis of Ibn Fadlan's epistle, the opinions of William Golding on Egypt and how an 18th century Moroccan viewed Europe.

The collection is tightly woven and rich in scope and detail and it will provide scholars with much material for years to come.

Edwin James Aiken

***Howard Carter and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun* by H.V.F. Winstone, Barzan, Manchester, 2006, ISBN 1-905 521 057 and 1-905-521-049; 438 pp. (including notes, bibliography and index), h/b £19.95, p/b £ 9.95**

As the excavator of Tutankhamun's tomb, Howard Carter is one of the few Egyptologists whose name is widely recognised outside the 'industry'. But for many people, I suspect, their knowledge of the man is limited to the events of that 'one more season' of digging in 1922/23.

Winstone's biography seeks to correct this imbalance with a full account of the other sixty-odd years of Carter's life and achievements. This is not a new book, having first been published in 1991, but rather a revised edition. It now includes extra colour plates of Carter's watercolours and an additional, short chapter on Almina Wombwell, whose dowry upon marrying Lord Carnarvon seemingly bankrolled his Egyptian excavations. The 1991 edition was billed as the first published biography of Carter and, even now, it remains one of the surprisingly few works dedicated to the Egyptologist (Hoving (1979) covers Carter's formative years in just a handful of pages). This dearth is perhaps a reflection of what Henrietta McCall describes, in her foreword to the new edition, as the 'academic contempt' that Carter has attracted.

ASTENE members may already be familiar with Winstone's biographies of the travellers Gertrude Bell and Lady Anne Blunt. The wider context of this work on Carter, however, is more the history of Egyptology's development rather than travel in the region, although it does include a section describing a trip up the Nile in 1894/95 based on a diary kept by Alicia Amherst (later Baroness Rockley).

Whilst readers with a special interest in Howard Carter will surely have devoured this book long ago, the new edition is an excellent starting point for those wanting to know more about him. Winstone draws upon primary sources extensively both to reveal Carter's character and to capture the emotions surrounding his great discovery.

Reference: Hoving, Thomas *Tutankhamun: the untold story*, Hamish Hamilton,, London, 1979.

Lorien Pilling

Additional note: The Swaffham Museum in Swaffham, Norfolk (where Carter spent his childhood) is due to reopen in Spring 2007 after extensive refurbishment. The museum includes a permanent display room dedicated to the achievements of the town's most famous sons.

<http://www.swaffhammuseum.co.uk> Lorien Pilling

Traveling through Sinai: from the fourth to the twenty-first century edited by Deborah Manley and Sahar Abdel-Hakim, (American University in Cairo Press, Cairo and New York, 2006), 257 pp., ISBN 1- 977 416 022 3; 13- 978 977 416 022 6, E£ 20

The Sinai Peninsula, though largely desert, and only sparsely inhabited, has nevertheless figured in the accounts of an impressive number of travelers since the fourth century. Selections from the writings of some 75 of them have been collected for this volume, and appropriately decorated with illustrations from the works of W.H. Bartlett, selections from whose writings are also included.

The main goal of these travelers was almost universally St Catherine's Convent at the foot of Mt Sinai, and they approached it, often as pilgrims, from Jerusalem or from Cairo, so their routes and experiences have much in common. Thus the reader does not have the virtual experience of one particular occasion, related by one traveler; an amalgam of experiences is presented, related by a diversity of voices, arising from several occasions. The scenery is shown: sandy valleys whose tortuous course lengthens the toilsome path, the stupendous cliffs that they wind among, exhibiting the 'ghastly and fantastic grin' of nature in place of the 'smile' to which the travelers (mostly Europeans) are more used. The rocks are clothed in 'fantastic colours' – almost any hue rather than the green for which, in its absence, the traveler quickly begins to lust.

The accounts, of course, comment on unusual events rather than the daily round, but they typically comment on the Bedouin on whom they all depend: 'shifty and suspicious' for some, but admired for their resoluteness and versatility by others, and generally respected for their honesty and the trustworthiness of their word. Camels and the hazards of riding them are also widely canvassed; few comment on the tedium of their steady progress for a foreigner used to more stimulus, but many no doubt might have exclaimed. "Oh! how eagerly I watch the driver's lengthening shadow growing, growing, growing, till it slants twenty feet surely across the sand."

However the eventual halt ends such travail with the relief and relaxation of the evening meal, and you can compare the feelings aroused by the pleasures of a gorgeously decorated tent and a most comfortable camp bed with the 'delightful and romantic' experience of sleeping around the fire wrapped in a cloak 'under the calm and glorious sky, the stars shining with a brilliancy you have no conception of in our climate.'

The history of the Convent of St Catherine is presented, and the life of its monks, carried on virtually unchanged since its foundation by Justinian. You can participate in the experience of the visitors: their joy at arrival, their hesitant reverence at a service in the Basilica, despite the initial distaste for the Orthodox decoration and the ritual felt by many Protestants, their more immediate reverence in the chapel of the burning bush, and their hunger after sharing the Spartan diet of the monks.

You can visit with them the neighbouring holy places, starting for most with the ascent of the mountain, even if they had to be 'dragged up the largest rocks by the Bedaween by means of two straps', feel the release from fatigue on the top, and enjoy their celebratory meal there, or simply remain at the convent and enjoy the surrounding scenery 'almost too grand for description'. Finally you share the leave-taking from the monks, with gratitude for hospitality and exchanges of pledges of friendship, and set out on the return journey, which was *deja vue* and unimportant for most.

The book ends with a brief note giving salient information on each of the travelers represented. Surprisingly, this does not identify the works from which the selections are taken, nor provide a reference so that the curious can locate the passages in their original context.

The editors (both ASTENE members) have organised their selections topically, and interspersed them with explanatory notes from time to time. Selections from early guides such as those of Murray and Baedeker are also included, to supplement the advice of the travelers on the country, the route, and the equipment required. Thus you can learn from this book a good deal

about the geology, the geography, and history of a little-known part of the world, and travel it with amusing companions, or, simply lose yourself in a trackless desert, where the only remarkable sound is silence. A valuable book, for which the editors are to be thanked.

John Revell

Constantinople by Edmondo de Amicis, translated by Stephen Parkin with a foreword by Umberto Eco, (Hesperus Press, London, 2006); ISBN 1-843-911-183; illustrated ; p/b £9.99

At first I thought it inappropriate for me to review a travel book on a city I had never visited, but after a few pages I found myself transported there, no longer a stranger, with beautiful word pictures and so skilfully written (and translated) I could even imagine the smells of the various districts described.

Edmondo de Amicis (1848-1908) was an Italian poet, novelist and travel writer, though he is evidently best remembered in his native country as a writer of children's books. Maybe this explains the lucidity of his text and the almost childlike enthusiasm in the way he describes so many aspects of his stay in Constantinople in 1874.

I found I could only read a chapter at a time, not through boredom or incomprehension, but because I wanted to savour many sentences and read them over and again with added delight. De Amicis describes the topography and the sites but is at his best with his observation of the customs and the people. A tiny sample: "It is amusing to look down at the passing feet and see all the footwear of the world go by, from that of Adam down to the latest fashion in Parisian boots – yellow Turkish babouches, red shoes for Armenians, turquoise for Greeks and black for Jews; sandals, great boots, from Turkistan, Albanian gaiters ... slippers embroidered with gold thread ... shoes made of satin, rope, rags, wood ..." And so it goes on, hats, clothes, manners, temperaments of the multi-ethnic scene that was Constantinople at the time.

An essential book for any researcher into travelling to this city and the Near East in the 19th century, and a book to be savoured by all who enjoy dreaming of travel to exotic places and by those who love superb prose.

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein

Istanbul: A Traveller's Guide by Sue Rollin and Jane Streetly, (Garnet Publishing, London), 2005, ISBN 1-859 641-512; maps, colour photographs, index; p/b £12.95

Uniform with and a companion volume on Petra, this delightful guide contains a phrase list, suggestions for further reading, plans of noteworthy buildings in the city, lists of architectural terms and a lively historical introduction. It is sure to prove valuable to many travellers.



Travellers in Libya selected and edited by John Wright, Society for Libyan Studies, ISBN 1900971038, 255 pp, £10

John Wright is one of that diminishing breed who can still lay just claim to the title of 'scholar', and who, thankfully for Libyan-lovers, has delved deep into his profound scholarship of Libya to select and edit a collection of the most fascinating and at times amusing passages from the writings of some fifty explorers and travellers in Libya between the time of Leo Africanus (born in the late 15th century) and the invasion of Italian soldiers in 1911.

All the well-known and famous travellers to Libya are there: Leo Africanus, Philip Gell, Miss Tully, Friedrich Hornemann, the officers and crew of the *Philadelphia* (in the days before Ronald Regan when the US really did go to war with Libya (1803) – or at least sent a squadron of warships to the Mediterranean to assert American interests, with the unfortunate *Philadelphia* running aground in Tripoli harbour), Captain George Lyon, Lieutenant Hugh Clapperton. Consul Warrington, James Richardson, Heinrich Barth, Henri Duveyrier, Gustav Nachtigal and more than a couple of dozen others.

The beauty of passages selected by John Wright is that they not only capture perfectly the essence of each traveller and their period, but they take the reader into almost every nook and cranny of Libya over the past 500 or so years.

If there is anything you want to know about pre-1911 Libya, there is a very good chance you will find it in this book.

Jeremy Keenan

This book takes us beyond the borders of the ASTENE region but some of the travellers continued to or from the region.

Gatty's Tale by Kevin Crossley-Holland, Orion Children's Books, London, 2006, ISBN 13; 978 1 84255 273 5; 10: 1 84255 273 2, 388 pp. inc. word-list, £12.99

A book in which the character list includes a Turkish astronomer, an Egyptian slave in Crete, a conjuror in Acre, a Knight Hospitaller, a Crusader and his Saracen wife and Bedouin horsemen must

and his Saracen wife and Bedouin horsemen must be meant for ASTENE – or in this case, for ASTENE’s children – but I too found it very readable.

The author has been writing for children for three decades and the Gatty of the title is the heroine of his recent 13th century novels. In this book she, with the devout Lady Gwyneth and her people, goes on pilgrimage from Wales to Jerusalem. The author has drawn on historical material describing such detail as how pilgrims prepared for this great adventure – including, however lowly they were, making a will before they walked out of their homes into this great adventure.

Their long and hazardous journey and their many adventures and even tragedies, and the people they meet as they wend across Europe to Venice and by sea to Palestine reflect many real contemporary travellers’ experiences. The author shows the mutual prejudice of both Christians and Muslims and how they begin to realise that there are good and bad amongst each.

“Some people say that the whole point of a journey is to reach your destination,” says Kit the trader. “But some clever people,” added his brother Raven, “say the whole point of a journey is the journey.” This conclusion almost at the end of Gatty’s pilgrimage sums up the fascination of historic travel very nicely. *Deborah Manley*

Although this book was recommended for 9-11 year olds, I would think it more suitable for a slightly older age group because of certain events in it. DM

Apologies: My sincere apologies to Caroline Finkel who reviewed two books, wrongly acknowledged to Sarah Searight; and also apologies to Sarah Searight (who reviewed The Sons of Sindbad) for wrongly using her name. The Editor

CLASSICS REVISITED

While it is important to keep the Bulletin’s readership abreast of recent publications of interest in ASTENE’s research areas, at times it is also rewarding to spread the news of not-so-new publications. Over the next few Bulletins we will be considering books now out of print (recently and for more than a century – or two!) that are of value in our researches.

If you have any suggestions for this list, please forward them to the Review Editor, who can be contacted at ej_aiken@hotmail.co.uk

OTHER BOOKS ETC

TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION BOOK FAIR

This annual book fair will be held at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 on Sunday 1st April. The fair is open from 11 am to 5pm; there is a £2 entrance fee. Other book fairs are held throughout England and Scotland through the year. See the website www.pbfa.org

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The following books came to our attention too late to review in this issue.

Odalisques & Arabesques: Orientalist Photographs 1839-1925 by Ken Jacobson was published too late for this Bulletin, but we carry a flyer describing it and there will be a review in the next issue. It is a comprehensive survey of 19th-early 20th century photographs of the Middle East and North Africa with over 500 illustrations in 308 pp., h/b £60. ISBN 978-0-9550852-5-3

Tom Rees has drawn to our attention Chasleton Travel’s recent release *A Traveller’s History of Egypt* by Harry Ades with a foreword by Penelope Lively. (ISBN 1-905214-01-4, paperback £9.99) This is the latest in an extensive series which includes volumes on Athens, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

The Sphinx Revealed: A Forgotten Record of Pioneering Excavations by Patricia Usick and Deborah Manley (British Museum Research Publication 14) is a careful study of research at the Sphinx in 1817 – never before published. To be reviewed in the next issue. (British Museum Press, London), 2007, ISBN 13: 978 086 159 1640, 80 pp p/b with many illustrations, £25.

Meetings with Remarkable Muslims This book, edited by Barnaby Rogerson and Rose Baring, which we reviewed when it came out last year, has now been re-issued in paperback (Eland, £12.99). The *Guardian* described it as “a collection of exquisite travel writing.”

Prince Michael of Greece has recently published a historical novel: *Le Rajah de Bourbon*, tracing the swash-buckling activities in the mid-16th century of a Jean de Bourbon, nephew of the first Bourbon French King Henry IV. Jean’s adventures included an assassination attempt, capture by pirates, his sale in an Egyptian slave market, service in the Egyptian army and possible eventual life in India, where Mr Bourbon of Bhopal told the *Guardian* (3 March 2007): “From the day I was born, I was made to

understand that I belonged to the family of the Bourbons." Could he be the descendant of an ASTENE traveller?

MURRAY'S WORD LIST

The first words of the Editor of Murray's *Handbook to Syria and Palestine*, 1875, (J.L. Porter) are memorable: "The Bible is the best Handbook for Palestine; the present work is only intended to be a companion to it."

This is in some ways reflected in a very brief vocabulary which follows here. Very few of these words would not have been found in the Bible – but would be needed by a 19th century traveller – I counted perhaps a dozen.

Abn, father.
Ain, pl. *'Ayān*, fountain.
Arā, plain.
Bāb, door, gate.
Bahr, sea.
Bakrah, tank.
Balad, village.
Bard, cold.
Bakshāsh, present.
Barūd, gunpowder.
Barūdeh, gun.
Beit, pl. *Buyūt*, house.
Belād, district.
Bint, pl. *Benāt*, daughter, maid.
Bir, well.
Birkeh, pl. *Burāk*, pool.
Dār, court, house.
Deir, convent.
Derb, road.
Emir, pl. *Umarā*, prince.
Furas, pl. *Fursān*, horse, mare.
Heḥan, horse.
Ibn, pl. *Beni*, son.
Jāmi'a, mosque.
Jazīrah, island.
Jebel, pl. *Jibāl*, mountain.
Jisr, bridge.
Jubb, pit.
Kā'a, plain.
Kabr, pl. *Kubūr*, sepulchre,
kādy, judge.
Kofr, village.
Kalb, pl. *Kilāb*, dog.
Khān, caravansary.
Khānṣr, hog.
Khubz, bread.
Khurbeh, a ruin.
Kubbek, a dome.
Khaimek, pl. *Khām*, a tent.
Kurn, pl. *Kurān*, a horn.

Kul'ah, castle.
Kusr, castle.
Alā, vulg. *moi*, water.
Makām, station.
Mār, saint.
Merj, pl. *Murūj*, meadow.
Modāneh, city.
Maer'aḥ, farm.
Mihrah, prayer-niche.
Mīh, salt.
Mukāry, pl. *Mukariyeh*, muleteer.
Muslem, Mohammedan.
Nahr, pl. *Anhur*, river.
Nakhleh, pl. *Nukhl*, palm-tree.
Nār, fire.
Naby, prophet.
Neb'a, fountain.
Nuḥb, pass.
Nuḥrāny, pl. *Nuḥrā*, Christian.
Rāhib, pl. *Ruhbān*, monk.
Rās, head, cape.
Sahil, plain.
Selām, peace.
Sheikh, pl. *Shuyūkh*, chief, elder.
Shuk, a rent.
Sudr, breast.
Suṭāh, pl. *Sutūh*, terrace.
Tāsh, cup.
Tarbūsh, fez, cap.
Tell, pl. *Tulūl*, dimin. *Tuleil*, hill.
Thelj, snow.
Tin, fig.
Tūr, mountain.
Tufa, tamarisk.
Um, mother.
Wādī, valley, watercourse.
Waly, saint's tomb.
Wardah, pl. *Ward*, a rose.
Zarūr, hawthorn.

THREE BOOKS CHANCED UPON

The great advantage of having an open access library is the serendipity of discoveries along the shelves. Here are two books recently chanced upon.

The Great Desert Caravan Route to India by Douglas Caruthers (Hakluyt Society, London, 1929)

In this book Caruthers presented four travellers' journals (1745-51) of journeys across the deserts to India. Curiously, we have had few ASTENE, ASTENE presentations on this important route. Caruthers openly acknowledges that "to possess this Indo-Syrian trade route has been the desire of the Great Powers, for the region it traverses is the pivot of European domination in Asia."

The travellers he included in his book were William Beawes (1745), Gaylord Roberts (1748), Bartholomew Plaisted (1750) and John Carmichael (1751). He also provided in the book a formidable bibliography.

Not Package Travel, please

Miss Ellen E. Miller went to Egypt with a friend in the 1880s, caught the travel bug and went on, on her own, without tents, to travel in Palestine, where she rejected the services of a Thomas Cook: "Excellent as their arrangements for the convenience of tourists are in that country ... yet, to not a few persons, it will be uncongenial to visit the hallowed scenes in some haste and in company with strangers, so that, unless a small private party can be arranged, the independent line will probably commend itself to many, and I can testify from experience that it need not prove a more expensive way than the other of seeing the Holy Land."

Miss Miller published her account of her travels in 1891 as *Alone through Syria* and dedicated it to "Mrs Lane, the kind friend who urged me to publish".

This kind Mrs Lane cannot have been Afrisa, the young Greek girl, who Edward Lane married. Who was it likely to have been?

A Note on Amelia Blandford Edwards (1831-1892)

This well presented short biographical introduction to Miss Edwards is available free at Bristol's City Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol 8.



RESEARCH RESOURCES

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW?

A new ASTENE member who was corresponding through us with a member as a result of a past copy of the Bulletin on the ASTENE website, summed up succinctly one of the basic functions of ASTENE.

She was looking at the movements of that group of young men (including Parke, Catherwood and Scoles) who were in Egypt in 1825. She commented: "It is sometimes astonishing how much we know on one hand and how little on the other. But that's what makes life interesting, isn't it?"

ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

In Bulletin 29 we included some of the material collected from this project in which members report on the material in archives near them. This material is reported only in the Bulletin to members, and does not appear on the website. We are still looking for people willing to report on archive material in their area. We provide the information on such material. If you are interested, please contact the Bulletin Editor.

This time we include three reports from Hampshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Somerset.

Sir Mervyn Medicott of Ven House, Milborne Port (1837-1908)

Records held at Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU, email archives@somerset.gov.uk

Medicott, when he was very young, made several naval journeys from Gibraltar to ports of the Eastern Mediterranean via Malta, including Turkey and the Black Sea during the Crimea War (1852-4), recorded in three journals. Particularly interesting during 1853-4 both in battle and on sorties ashore. (Reference: DD/MDL C/966, Box 12 (Reported by Tom Rees))

John Norcliffe's Diary 1832-3

Records held at East Riding Archive Service, The Chapel, Lord Roberts Road, Beverley (Postal address: County Hall, Beverley HU17 9BA, email: archives.service@eastriding.gov.uk)

Norcliffe travelled mainly in Europe, then to Malta and North Africa. Thus only the Maltese reports (22/1 - 23/3, 1833) are within the ASTENE area, and there he mixed almost entirely with military personnel or took in the usual tourist sights.

(Reference: DDHV/74/16) (Reported by Lorien Pilling)

Reverend R.M. Master, *Journal of a Tour in Egypt, Palestine and Greece in 1818-19*

Record held at the British Library. BM Add MS 51313 (Moffit Collection)

Robert Master accompanied Sir Archibald Edmonstone and Captain Henry Hoghton up the Nile and into the Western desert. The journal was transcribed by his son in 1884 with the original illustrations. It is annotated by Warren Dawson and the many travellers met along their route in that busy year of travel are identified. These included Henry Salt, William Jowett, Colonel Drovetti and Samuel Briggs among others. (Reported by Deborah Manley)

Please contact the Bulletin Editor if you can offer time checking such journals in your area. It would be particularly useful if you live near London or Oxford.

NOTES, QUERIES AND REPLIES

Queries are addressed to Bulletin readers and readers of our website. Replies only appear in the printed form of the Bulletin which goes to members and a number of libraries.

Please send your query to the Bulletin Editor, and your reply to the address given. Sometimes it takes a year or even two before all the answers come back; sometimes they come by return

Who was W.H. Bartlett's acquaintance?

When W.H. Bartlett, the topographical artist and travel writer, arrived in Alexandria in 1845, he recognised a former fellow-traveller and old acquaintance: "A tall, gaunt figure, more than 6 foot high" with whom he had shared the old Lazaret of Syra - "a barrack swarming with rats" -. This man, "after having battered about from place to place in the Levant" had now contrived to find a quiet haven in the city of Alexandria. (*The Nile Boat, 1850, pp. 20-21*)

Who might this friend have been? Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.

Who was Mr Anderson of Keneh?

What do we know from the travellers about the French-speaking Mr Anderson who lived at Keneh on the Nile in 1819 and had lived in Upper Egypt since about 1806, and acted partly as agent to Consul General Henry Salt?

Please reply to the Bulletin Editor.

Did the hippo reach Vienna?

On Friday October 30, 1818 the young architect Charles Barry, in Rosetta on his way to Cairo, noted in his diary; "Heard of a remarkably large hippopotamus being shot by the Arabs near the 2nd Cataract. It was now going by ship to Rosetta, as a gift to the Emperor of Austria from the Pasha."

Did the large hippopotamus reach Vienna - and was it dead or alive? Reply to the Bulletin Editor.

REPLIES

FICTIONAL TRAVELLERS

Mrs Rikki Breem wrote in reply to the query regarding Josephine Tey's novel The Singing Sands:

While cruising along the coast of Oman several years ago, Swan Hellenic offered a short tour north from Salalah with a night in the desert. This proved to be in the Empty Quarter and included a visit to Uaba - the Lost City of the Arabs - discovered in the 1980's, many years after Miss Tey wrote about it. Having always enjoyed that book, I was thrilled to see it at last.

Apologies to new ASTENE member Andrea Touni for giving his e-mail incorrectly. The correct email is andreatouni@libero.it If you have information for Andrea, please send it to this address.

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

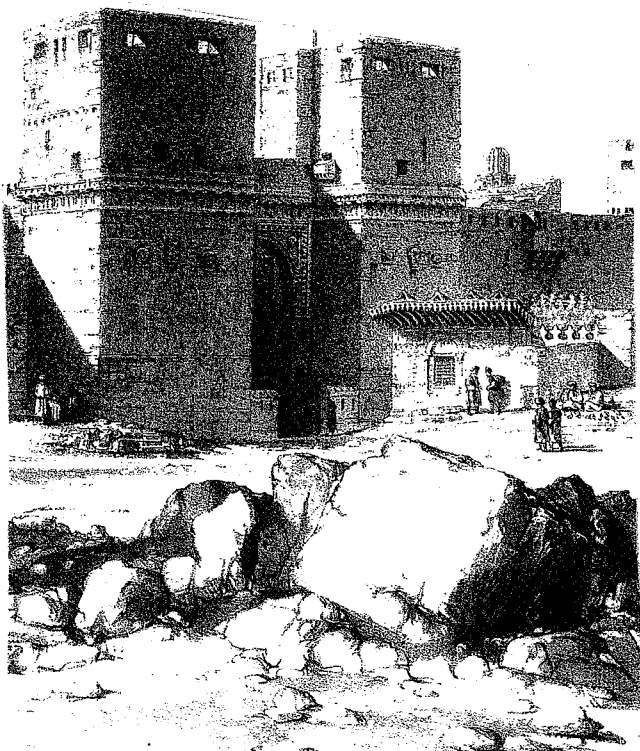
When travellers died abroad their death is often marked by a memorial plaque in a church or cathedral rather than by their grave. I always pass my eyes along the such plaques as I did recently in Winchester Cathedral. This plaque on the north wall says more about the Crimean War than it can about this young traveller.

Lieutenant Arthur Francis Maine – who having been mercifully preserved at the Battles of Alma and Inkerman died in the camp of the Light Division before Sebastopol, on the 21st day of November, 1854 of dysentery and fever brought on by exposure in the trenches – in the 23rd year of his age.

ARTICLES

TWO EXTRAORDINARY WORKS

We have long awaited Nicholas Warner's great works on Cairo and decided to treat John Rodenbeck's splendid reviews of them as a review-article.



The Monuments of Historic Cairo: A Map and Descriptive Catalogue by Nicholas Warner, American University Press, Cairo, 2005, 241 pp. + map in 31 rectangular sections. 23 x 33 cms. ISBN 977-424-841-4, £36.50.

The True Description of Cairo: Sixteenth Century Venetian View by Nicholas Warner, The Arcadian Library, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2006. Vol. I: 216 pp. 23.5 x 32 cm; Vol. II: 237 pp. + topographic key, 23.5 x 32 cm; Vol. III: 1 map, 126 x 215 cm, ISBN 978-0-19-74406-1, £185

In 1964, when I moved to Cairo, the only available published resources for actually seeing the medieval city and its monuments were used copies of the works of Henriette Devonshire – *Rambles in Cairo* (1917), *Some Mosques and their Founders* (1921), *Quatre-vingt mosques et autres monuments musulmans de Cairo* (1925) – or Dorothea Russell's recent *Medieval Cairo* (1962). The latter had to be supplemented by the English or Arabic versions of the 1:5000 maps of the Historic Zone and their Arabic or English index. produced by the Survey of Egypt between 1912 and 1950, but rarely available and now, in any case, long since outdated. On particular Muslim monuments additional reading was required in specialized articles and in the volumes produced by such luminaries as Max Herz Bey, Max van Berchem, Louis Hautecoeur and Gaston Wiet, and, of course, K.A.C. Creswell, whose research in particular has not only had permanent value, but has provided the underpinning of the study of Islamic architecture as a discipline.

This situation changed somewhat in 1974 when the paperback *Islamic Monuments in Cairo: A Practical Guide* appeared. Originally compiled by the gifted and enterprising diplomat Richard Parker and his collaborator, Robin Sabin, it was published by the American University Press in Cairo Press (which has since become the most important producer in the world of titles in English relevant to Egypt and the Arab World: the latest catalogue runs to over 100 pages of specialised titles). Onward from the third edition, when at Parker's invitation she took charge of the book, Caroline Williams has made constant additions and improvements. The serious visitor to Cairo – or resident, for that matter – must find Caroline's book, now approaching its sixth edition, indispensable.

Nicholas Warner's stupendous *Monuments of Historic Cairo* is not a guidebook, but something much more and therefore of course a great deal less portable. The result of a mapping project begun on his initiative a decade ago, it offers as complete a survey of what is currently known about the monuments of the city's historic zone as we are ever likely to have.

The Introduction, "Cartography, Architecture and Urbanism in Cairo, AD 500-2000", is invaluable, offering what Warner calls "a genealogy of visual

representation of the city of Cairo.” It traces historically the evolution of cartographic techniques and ideals employed in mapping the early-modern metropolis that has become the present-day city’s Historic Zone, from Pietro del Massaio (ca. 1470) to the most recent productions of the *Surveys of Egypt*, which are now standard. Samples of all the important maps of Cairo are shown (most of them courtesy of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library of the American University, which holds the richest collection of travellers’ texts and such related materials in the city, (a useful fact sometimes ignored, by ASTENE).

Modes of rendering architecture in two dimensions are treated in the same historic fashion, again with major examples, including some very early ones, then the work of Pococke, Norden, Niebuhr, Cassas, Luigi Meyer, the *Description*, Hay, Roberts, Coste, Prisse d’Avennes and such Orientalist painters as Frank Dillon and Gerome.

The final section, on urbanism, summarises the familiar story of the city’s growth, then goes on to examine in detail some of the work of the Comite de Conservation des Monuments de l’Art Arabe - founded in 1882 - earlier than any similarly official and duly empowered organisation in Europe or America.

A major value of Warner’s *Monuments*, however, is that it is an archive of the present condition of the Historic Zone. This archive is provided in the material that was the original rationale for the project, which includes:

- * 1. A Descriptive Catalogue of all the surviving buildings of the 619 originally listed in the Index of monuments, detailing their history and condition and adducing virtually all published references.
- * 2: A continuation of this Catalogue listing, numbering, and describing 136 buildings that are either unindexed altogether or were irregularly indexed after 1950. Both this list and the foregoing one are keyed for the 31 section-maps that conclude the book.
- * 3. A glossary of the Arabic terms needed for understanding Cairene architecture.
- * 4. An extensive bibliography.
- * 5. An index by number of all buildings described, with dates of construction, an index by name, and an index by date, all keyed to the Descriptive Catalogue, which is keyed in turn to the section-maps.

The section-maps have been beautifully drawn by hand, then reduced. Their scale as printed is 1:1250, which means that, unlike the Survey of Egypt maps, they can also include a plan of the most significant level of each building listed and described.

Warner’s *Monuments* tells us directly about Cairene actualities and is an astonishing work. His *True description of Cairo*, on the other hand, begins with traditional European visions of the city

– in some ways more or less accurate, but in many others quite fanciful – then moves on to an analysis that evokes with unparalleled thoroughness the physical and historical reality of the city as it was near the end of the Mamluk era. Already described by no less a critic than Robert Irwin as “fit for the shelves of scholar princes”, these three elegant volumes rest on the story of one particular map of Cairo, “the first great surviving representation of the city of Cairo in the Renaissance tradition of the aerial oblique view”.

This map, *Lavera Descrizione de la Gran Cita del Caiero* (sic), which survives in only two impressions, was drawn on wood blocks by Giovanni Domenico Zorzi of Madone and published by Matteo Pagano with an accompanying commentary in or before 1549, but it apparently drew upon material dating back as far as the 1490s. The author of the commentary, Guillaume Postel (1510-1581), identified by Robert Irwin as the first Orientalist, probably never visited Cairo and thus likewise drew upon earlier material.

The first volume contains:

- * A chapter surveying all the surviving and known images of Cairo from the early 14th century to the mid- or late-seventeenth, with an illustration of each.
- * A chapter on Pagano, Zorzi, and Postel, their sources and aims, and the technique of producing such a vast piece of work.
- * A chapter on the cultural and economic context of 16th century Venice, which had both commercial and cultural ties with the East stretching back over several centuries.
- * An Appendix demonstrating the subsequent persistence of Pagano’s image of Cairo throughout the following century and a half.
- * An Appendix consisting of extracts from the famous letter by Pellegrino Brocado of Liguria, painter, musician, traveller and priest, describing Cairo as he saw it in 1566. Addressed to Antonio Gigante da Fossombone, secretary to Ludovico Beccadelli, Bishop of Ragusa, who became Brocado’s patron, it is dated 1557. In these extracts Brocado describes having seen such major public festivals as the opening of the dam at the head of the Khalij al-Misri during the annual flood of the Nile and the departure of the caravan bearing the Mahmal to Mecca, with its enormous escort of Ottoman troops. (A sketch and a watercolour painting by Brocado from the vantage point of the Muqattam are reproduced in Chapter 1.)
- * A bibliography of relevant works in English, French, Italian, German and Latin.

The second volume consists of

- * A facsimile of *Descriptio Alcahirae*, Postel’s three chapter Latin commentary on the map followed by Warner’s detailed commentary on Postel.

* A series of 32 addenda taking up items in the map ranging from Pagano's business address to the map's treatment of individual monuments, date palms and camels. Of the three chapters in Postel's *Descriptio*, the first and second are generally deluded, wrong or negligible; and it is well to remember that he spent the last 19 years of his life in a mad house.

The third, however, containing Postel's Latin commentary on the 34 legends printed in Venetian Italian on the map, owes something to sounder sources, such as Leo Africanus, riveting under Warner's analysis. He brings to bear here all the available scholarship and solves many mysteries. His addenda, which follow immediately, continue in the same vein and provide a wonderful collection of accurate and detailed historical knowledge attached to real physical objects, many of them still extant.

The map itself, finally, on heavy paper constitutes the third volume and comes boxed and folded. It does somehow succeed in giving an impression of the majesty of Cairo, the Mamluks' imperial capital, and though there are omissions and mistakes, there are also many touches of authenticity. Not one Christian church is shown, for example, though there were – and are – many; the Aqueduct is in the wrong place, a major error copied repeatedly by plagiarists. Unlike earlier images, on the other hand, Pergano's map shows Cairene houses correctly as flat-roofed; and the city's mosques, which are identified as Cairene even down to this day by their pairing of dome and minaret, have all been supplied with these characteristic features.

Pergano's map has an overall flavour that is familiar and curiously right. Nicholas Warner and the Arcadian Library should be celebrated, Mamluk style: with lights, music, and feats of horsemanship.

John Rodenbeck



EASTERN WINDOWS AND LATTICES.

A YEAR SPENT IN EGYPT BY THE ROYAL DANISH EXPEDITION 1761-1762

Although the Royal Danish Expedition was destined for Arabia Felix – present day Yemen – and the members intended to pass through Egypt and Sinai before sailing along the Red Sea to Yemen, the Expedition had an enforced stay of more than a year. Why? Regrettably because of friction between members, as we shall see. In Egypt, some members did a lot of work – others very little, although this was a high profile, well prepared and expensive expedition paid by the King of Denmark himself.

Five of the members had set out from Copenhagen in January 1761. They were joined at Marseilles by the philologist, Freidrich Christian von Haven. He immediately had a violent and public political argument with the naturalist and political activist, Pehr Forsskal. The atmosphere of antagonism was added to as von Haven considered he should have been made leader and treasurer rather than Carsten Niebuhr, the astronomer.

In Constantinople the Danish Ambassador, von Gahler, tried to bring the parties together by making them publicly apologise to each other. But von Haven's antagonism to Forsskal remained unchanged and he threatened to do away with him, and the expedition doctor, Karl Cramer, observed him buying a considerable quantity of arsenic and feared it was bought with bad intent.

They sailed for Egypt on 8 September in a Turkish ship carrying female slaves to Alexandria. In Rhodes, Cramer showed Niebuhr, Baurenfeind, the artist, and Forsskal the arsenic. Immediately they wrote a long letter dated 21 September to von Gahler requesting permission to separate von Haven from the others. In a letter to Gahler's secretary Niebuhr even offered to shoot von Haven if he had to! Von Gahler decided to refer the matter to Copenhagen and it was not until the following summer that Niebuhr received the unsatisfactory decision: nothing was to be changed and the expedition was to continue as planned.

When they docked at Alexandria on 29 September 1761 a new enthusiasm had gripped the expedition. Everything was different and exciting. They spent several weeks learning Arabic, meeting local expatriates and carrying out their researches.

Forsskal set about making herbarium specimens from the exotic flora. He divided the birds he saw into two groups: resident and migratory. Niebuhr and Forsskal sought out the antiquities reported on by Norden in 1737. At 'Pompey's Pillar' and elsewhere the curious Egyptian residents were appalled to look through Niebuhr's astrolabe to see the buildings inverted. This gave rise to rumours that these foreign Christians were about to turn their city upside down!



Pehr Forsskal, the naturalist

On 31 October they continued their journey to Cairo by river. Forsskal continued his botanical and zoological studies. Baurenfeind took the opportunity to draw some of these plants and animals. Niebuhr noted the place-names along the Rosetta branch as they passed, just as Norden had done before him. Arrived at Cairo, they dispersed to their lodgings.

Forsskal's researches

Forsskal was a compulsive note-taker – making not merely rough notes but finished ones suitable for publication. Did he take this precaution in case he died before he was able to finalise his field notes? If so, he was well advised for he died on 13 July 1763 in Yemen, and his papers and specimens eventually reached Denmark for publication by Niebuhr – the only survivor of the expedition. Forsskal's observations extended to cultivated as well as wild plants. From Cairo he made many trips into the country which, although desert, yielded its own specialised flora, and the irrigated farmland provided many more weeds.

In the 18th century the distinction between botanist and zoologist was barely recognised since such biologists were termed 'natural philosophers'. Forsskal, like his mentor Linnaeus, studied all organisms with equal enthusiasm and knowledge. He recorded fish and jellyfish, sea-shells and fossils, birds and mammals with their vernacular names as well as Latin names when known.

Niebuhr's astronomical and surveying studies in Egypt

The Pyramids had not been surveyed except by Norden. Niebuhr and Forsskal checked Norden's measurement, confirming that the sides were aligned north-south and east-west to a fraction of a degree. They made the hazardous climbs to the summits and by triangulation calculated their heights – Cheops Great Pyramid being 138.09m. Then Niebuhr took a boat along the eastern branch of the Nile to Damietta to record the village names. The map of the Delta showing both Nile branches was published in his memoir.

Von Haven's Studies

Von Haven had been instructed to copy inscriptions and to travel to St Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai. But the social life in Cairo distracted him until the end of August. On 28 August the expedition joined a Suez caravan in preparation of their Red Sea voyage to Arabia Felix. On 7 September Von Haven and Niebuhr set out for Sinai. They visited Djebel el-Mokateb, one of the main objects of the expedition – reputed to have important rock-cut inscriptions by Moses himself, but failed to be allowed to copy them. On their return journey Niebuhr returned and managed to make precise drawings of the hieroglyphic inscriptions.

At the Monastery the monks refused them entry as their letter of introduction was not signed by the Greek archbishop! They determined to climb to the summit of Djebel Musa, but von Haven had a bad foot, and Niebuhr went on his own. Then they retreated to Suez. There Forsskal had studied the sea-fish (which he dried as herbarium specimens) and collected sea-shells. His expeditions for plants in the area proved disappointing, and he had to satisfy himself with watching the ship-builders at Suez and finding out how the ships were constructed.

Once more the expedition set sail in a Turkish boat, now heading for Arabia Felix, where sadly one by one they perished. Only Niebuhr survived and eventually returned to Copenhagen in November 1767. Certainly Niebuhr earned himself a top place in the annals of exploration, but the other members, especially Pehr Forsskal, should be accorded a better place in history.

References: Hansen, T., *Arabia Felix*, English translation, Collins, London, 1964; Hepper F.N. and Friis, I. ; *The Plants of Pehr Forsskal's Flora Aegyptiaco-Arabica*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1994.



An Egyptian plant drawn by Beurenfeind.
The above article (based on an ASTENE paper) is a precursor to a longer article by Nigel Hepper to be published elsewhere.

FOOTPRINTS

KING TUTANKHAMUN IN 1922

Winifred Browne now lives in Oxford, but she grew up in Toledo, Ohio. One day she was in the street and heard a shouting voice.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Extra! Extra!"

"What's happened! What's happened!" thought the eight-year-old me in alarm.

"Extra! Extra! King Tut's tomb found! Read all about it! Extra!"

But who was King Tut? I had heard of Henry VIII, but not King Tut. There it was splashed out on the front page of the extra newspaper in bold letters:

KING TUT'S TOMB FOUND!

AN ENUMERATION OF CAIRO

In the 15th century the Arab scholar Makrizy (according to Stanley Lane Poole in his Cairo in the Medieval Towns series published by J.M. Dent and Co in 1902) enumerated and described:

37 *haras* or quarters, 30 districts (*kbuti*), 65 streets (*darb*), 21 by-streets and alleys (*zusak* and *khawkha*), 49 squares or places (*rabba*), 50 markets (*souk*), 23 great markets (*kaysariya*), 11 hostleries, (*khan*, *funduk*, *wekela*), 55 famous palaces and mansions (*kasr*, *dar*), 44 public baths (*hammam*), 28 closes and gardens (*bakar*, *bastan*), 11 racecourses (*meydan*) and numerous pleasure houses or belvederes (*manzara*). (page 271)

It would be interesting to compare this list with such a contemporary list for London or Paris or Rome.

THE WATERS OF THE NILE

It is said that "He who drinks of the Nile is destined to taste its sweetness again." Few writers actually describe this "sweetness", but here is Sir William Armstrong, the Newcastle industrialist in 1872.

The water is never very clear, but is always wholesome and pleasant to drink, except for a short time at the commencement of the flood. The well water in Egypt is merely river water, which has percolated through the porous soil of the valley; but this water, though clear, is not nearly so good as the muddy water taken direct from the river. Even the use of a domestic filter does not improve it, but rather the reverse. The brightest spring water we get in England is not more agreeable than the discoloured water of the Nile, and no treatment seems to improve it.

A Visit to Egypt in 1872, Sir W.G. Armstrong, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1874

TONGUES TWISTED, 1819

Sir Archibald Edmonstone in his A Journey to two of the Oases of Upper Egypt (1822) wrote (page 16):

Lord Bacon has observed, "that he that travelleth into a country before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school and not to travel." This ignorance is common to nearly every European who visits Egypt, or the Levant. The grammatical Arabic differs so materially from the colloquial, that even should they previously have studied it, few have either time or inclination to remain in these countries long enough to acquire a facility in conversing; an inconvenience which is most sensibly felt by all travellers, and sufficiently accounts for the mistakes frequently found in their journals.

Nor does the assistance of an interpreter essentially obviate this difficulty. It is certainly true that good ones are to be found; but, for the most part, any native or resident who has acquired a smattering of French, or the lingua Franca, the Levantine Italian, considers himself perfectly qualified to undertake the important and lucrative office of dragoman.* Ours at this period was a Cypriot by birth, of the name of Luigi Giorgi. He was conversant enough with the common dialect of Egypt, but was not a little puzzled with the occasional differences with that of the Bedouins; and, from the few words we had been able to pick up, we more than once detected him, either ignorantly or wilfully, giving a wrong interpretations. Added to this, he was so eminently deficient in French, the language in which he chose to make his communications to us, that we constantly experienced much difficulty in understanding him. The consequence is, I feel much diffidence in vouching for the correctness of information obtained through such a medium.



COMING TO DAMASCUS FROM THE DESERT

An hour's gallop brought me to the suburban gates of (Damascus) and thenceforth I rode on through streets, or rather lanes, of pleasant shadow. For many an hour we had seen no water: now it gushed, and gleamed, and sparkled all around us; from aqueduct above, and rivulet below, and marble fountain in the walls – everywhere it poured forth its rich abundance; and my horse and I soon quenched our burning thirst in the stream of Abana and Pharphar.

On we went, among gardens, and fountains, and odours, and cool shade, absorbed in sensations of delight, like the knights of old who had just passed from some ordeal to its reward. Fruits of every delicate shape and hue bended the boughs hospitably over our heads; flowers hung in canopy upon the trees, and lay in variegated carpet on the ground; the lanes through which we went were long arcades of arching boughs; At length I entered the city, and thenceforth lost the sun while I remained there. The luxurious people of Damascus exclude all sun from their bazaars by awnings of thick mat, wherever vine-trellises or vaulted roofs do not render this precaution unnecessary.

(The Crescent and the Cross or Romance and Reality of Eastern Travel, Eliot Warburton, 17th edition, 1865, p. 239)

LAST MINUTE NEWS

Just as I was about to send this Bulletin to the printers this item of news came in:

“Sacred: Discover what we Share” is the title of an exhibition at the British Library (96 Euston Road, London NW1) which is open from 27 April until 23 September. The exhibition brings together for the first time some of the most important Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy books, including the Codex London, one of the oldest surviving manuscripts of the Torah, the British Library's portion of the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest surviving manuscript of the Old Testament, and the Ma'il Koran, one of the earliest known Korans, dating from the 8th century.

