

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

No 36

Summer 2008



EASTERN GLEANERS.

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see the ASTENE website for application forms and
further details: www.astene.org.uk

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ASTENE News and Forthcoming Events

Chairman's Annual Report, 2007-8

With the start of ASTENE's second decade, the Association continues to fulfil its aims and objectives, notably in encouraging and promoting education and research into the history of travel and travellers in Egypt and the Near East.

Visits, conferences and study days

As part of its programme, ASTENE undertakes an annual tour to various parts of the Near East with a short conference, as well as holding study days in UK and conducting visits to appropriate institutions in the UK. Hence in October 2007, Elisabeth Woodthorpe, ASTENE Events Organiser, organised a tour of Syria led by John Ruffle, former Keeper of Durham University's Oriental Museum, and his Syrian counterpart, Fayez-Alass. The tour included a conference in Aleppo at which Paul Hetherington, Sonia Anderson, Maurice Bierbrier, Deborah Manley, Professor Malcolm Wagstaff and Dr Joahanna Holaubek presented excellent papers. For me, the tour offered a second opportunity to visit some of the country's most famous sites, notably Palmyra, so much associated with Robert Wood and his influential publication (*The Ruins of Palmyra*, 1753) which introduced Palmyrian decorative designs to some of Britain's most famous country houses.

A visit to the British Museum Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan was organised jointly by Elisabeth Woodthorpe and Dr John Taylor. The visit enabled ASTENE members to view some of the Department's archival material not normally seen by the general public. And, with help from John and Drs. Patricia Usick and Henrietta McCall, we saw some of the paper records (including papyri) as well as frescoes, sarcophagi, monumental pieces of statuary, ceramic and jewellery.

Executive Committee Meetings

Three meetings were convened at which your committee discussed: changes to the format of the Bulletin (still to be resolved), our non-financial support for the Melville Society's conference in Jerusalem in 2009, European Union University Collaboration (as originally outlined by our Czech colleague, Dr Hana Navratilova), the need to update our own 'Yellow Pages' members' list (maintained by Neil Cooke) and the question of retaining lapsing members, the 2009 biennial conference at Durham University, visits, study days and exhibitions together with publications (past, present and future), a proposed dahabeeyah cruise on the Nile, a proposed research project based on the travellers' books at St Catherine's Convent, Sinai,

for which we have unfortunately been unable to proceed, and, no less importantly, the Gournas Houses project (see below).

The Bulletin and Website

Four issues of the Bulletin (32-35) were published, thanks once more to the unstinting efforts of the Editor, Deborah Manley, and the Reviews Editor, Dr Edwin Aiken, together with reviews, news and articles by the membership. The spring issue was edited by Dr Robert Morkot.

The Bulletin and the Website represent our means of communicating news and forthcoming events to members across the world and enable them to be in touch and informed.

Study Days

Immediately before the 2008 Annual General Meeting we held a study day in Oxford's Department of Continuing Education on The Holy Mountains of the Near East, led by Professor Malcolm Wagstaff. Topics for future study days are under discussion: Orientalist artists at Leighton House in London; Travellers to the Monasteries of Egypt and the Levant, women travellers and travellers' reception of ancient sites are under discussion.

Gournas Houses Project, Luxor

Following a resolution proposed and adopted at last year's AGM (and subsequently supported by the Charity Commission), Dr John Taylor has sought to have "Yanni's house" at Gournas (Giovanni d'Athanasia 1798-1854) Greek excavator and collector) – possibly threatened with demolition – surveyed with a view to assessing its condition prior to restoration at some later date. The house is of considerable historical interest, having been used by early travellers and scholars intent on exploring the ancient Egyptian temples and tomb.

Unfortunately, while some progress has been made in contacting surveyors prepared to carry out the work (subject to an agreed budget), no final decision can be made until one of them submits a complete breakdown of expenses – and the ownership of the house and the adjacent land is known with certainty.

Committee Members

In September 2007, Paul Robertson was co-opted to the committee and agreed to oversee ASTENE's role in a European Union Universities Collaboration project. However, regrettably, Dr Kathryn Ferry and Thomas Rees and the Secretary, Lorien Pilling, will be leaving the committee after having made important contributions to the work and management of the Association.

Membership Leaflet

As a means of recruiting new members to ASTENE, a leaflet (designed by our Treasurer, Dr Diane Fortenberry) was proposed and adopted. This will be distributed to all members in this Bulletin. Please use it to recruit new ASTENE members.

Conclusion

I should like to thank all members of the Committee for their support and encouragement and for giving so much of their time and expertise on behalf of ASTENE. I should also like to thank Dr Diane Bergman of the Griffiths Institute, Oxford University for her work on the ASTENE Bibliography (a most valuable dossier covering the Association's members' ten years of publications) and the Association's web-master, Peter McConachie, for his continued work on our admired website which reaches out beyond the membership. *Brian Taylor, Chairman*

ASTENE Annual General Meeting, 5th July, 2008

Following another successful study day at Oxford University's Continuing Education Department - this time on the Holy Mountains of the Near East, the Annual General Meeting was held. Sadly, Dr Lorien Pilling has had to stand down as Secretary as he takes up a new job, but Angela Reid was elected to the committee as Secretary and Paul Robertson, who the committee co-opted during the year, has now fully joined the committee.

ASTENE Membership

With this Bulletin comes our new membership form (designed by our many-talented Treasurer, Diane Fortenberry). Please use it to encourage interested colleagues and friends to join us. Some members have given membership to friends for a special anniversary. We also hope that existing members who are paying annually will choose to use the form to set up a standing order for their membership, thus saving the Treasurer (and themselves) a lot of work. Some overseas members who find it difficult to set up standing orders, pay for three years at a time, which is also very helpful to the Treasurer.

During the year 2007-8 we published four editions of the Bulletin. In these there were 69 articles and entries by ASTENE members, including articles, queries and responses to queries, reports, book reviews and members sharing information, research resources and notes on little known books.

There are ASTENE members in all regions of Britain - 60 in London and the South East alone - and members in almost all European countries. There are also members in China, Australia, New

Zealand, Canada, Singapore and USA and more than a dozen members in Egypt and the Near East. If you are a member and would like to contact other members in your area, please contact the Secretary.

Orientalist Artists Study Day - ASTENE and Friends of Leighton House on Saturday 4th October

Following the exhibition at Tate Britain in the summer, Janet Rady has organised with Leighton House, Kensington (home of the 19th century artist Lord Leighton) a study day to consider the background and impact of the exhibition.

A booking form for the study day is enclosed with this Bulletin.

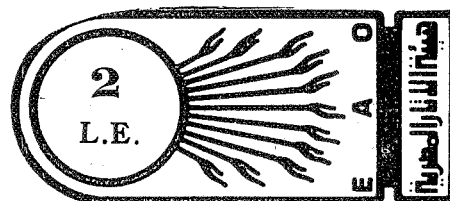
ASTENE Dahabeeyah journey and Cairo Conference, November, 2008

Anthony Sattin and ASTENE Events Organiser Elisabeth Woodthorpe are organising an ASTENE journey on the Nile by restored dahabeeyah.

On Saturday, 22 November those who have been on the tour will be staying in Cairo at the Nile Hilton and holding the usual short conference - of half-a-dozen 20 minute papers. - All ASTENE members living in Egypt are invited to contribute to the conference and then to dine together as ASTENE's guests. If any other members will be in Cairo at this time and would like to join us, please let Elisabeth Woodthorpe know.

If you want to offer a 20 minute conference paper, please send your title and an abstract (about 100 words) to Deborah Manley (deb@debmanley.com - note new address) not later than 1 September.

There are still a few places available on the dahabeeyah. If you would like to come aboard, please contact Elisabeth Woodthorpe.



The ASTENE Bibliography

Dr Diane Bergman, the Griffiths Librarian of the Sackler Library, Oxford University has over the past months been putting together a bibliography of the many, many publications by ASTENE members in the region of the eastern Mediterranean and Arabian Peninsula between 1997 and the present. It is a fascinating collection of material, showing the very varied, but still interlinked work of our members.

This bibliography will shortly go onto the ASTENE website – to be added to as members and ASTENE continue to research and to publish.

Should you wish to up-date your entry or you have not included your publications, contact Dr Bergman at dianebergman@saclib.ox.ac.uk or write to her at the Sackler Library, St John Street, Oxford OX1.

ASTENE Conference, Durham University 10 – 13 July 2009

We have booked Collingwood Hall at Durham University (the site of the very first pre-ASTENE conference in 1995 - from which the whole organisation grew) for the 2009 conference.

The Conference Organiser is Janet Starkey who can be contacted at j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk. She is arranging special access for ASTENE to the wonderful Sudan Archive of Durham University. The next Bulletin will include more information about this Archive and the Call for Papers for the Conference..

ASTENE members are already planning the papers they propose to give at the conference. Among the proposals being considered are the travels of Emperor Hadrian (perhaps linked to a visit to the Wall); a 14th century royal pilgrimage to Jerusalem. We will welcome papers on desert travel and accounts of the oases. For example, J.C. Ewald Falls and the Kauffmann expedition, or Sir Archibald Edmonstone and his companions in the western desert in 1819. Papers on travellers' observations of flora and fauna will be welcome.

We would be pleased to receive advance information on your plans – although, of course, you may not be able to fulfil them. Such plans help us to begin to consider the programme emphases, and to plan the Call for Papers which will be issued with the Autumn Bulletin.

If any group want to propose a special session please let the Conference Organiser, Janet Starkey, know.



Travellers in the Near East

The selection of papers from ASTENE's Edinburgh Conference edited by Charles Foster and published by Stacey International is available again (see Reviews) from all good booksellers (£18.99) and at ASTENE events. ISBN 1900988 712.

It includes the following articles:

A Tale of Two Ciceros: Travels in Asia Minor in the late Roman Republic by Marcha B. McCoy;

Mercantile Gentlemen and Inquisitive Travellers: Constructing the Natural History of Aleppo by Janet Starkey;

Jean-Baptiste Adanson (1732-1804): A French Dragoman in Egypt and the Near East by Jen Kimpton;

The Journey of the Comte Forbin in the Near East and Egypt, 1817-18 by Pascale Linant de Bellefonds

Travellers, Tribesmen and Troubles: Journeys to Petra, 1812-1914 by Norman Lewis

Surveying the Morea: The French Expedition, 1828-1832 by Malcolm Wagstaff

Le Mission Scientifique de Moree: Captain Peytier's Contribution by Elizabeth French

Christian Rassam (18018-1872): Translator, Interpreter, Diplomat and Liar by Geoffrey Roper
Mr and Mrs Smith in Greece, Egypt and the Levant by Brenda Moon

Robert Murdoch Smith and the Mausoleum: Excavations at Halicarnassus (Bodrum) 1856-59 by Jennifer Scarce

Listening to the Sound of Running History: Sir George Adam Smith, 1856-1942 by Rev Iain Campbell

Politics and Travel of Gertrude Bell by Richard Long

Other Forthcoming Events

Exhibitions

The Lure of the East: British Orientalist Painting 1830-1925 An exhibition of especial interest to ASTENE members with artists such as Holman Hunt, David Wilkie, John Singer Sargent, J.F. Lewis and Edward Lear working in the Near East. Their work has been gathered from across Britain and the world. Tate Britain. London until 31 August. (ASTENE's Study Day at Leighton House in London on 4 October (see above) is a follow on from this exhibition.) The exhibition then moves to Istanbul (23 September – 4 January, 2009) and to Sharjah Art Museum in February and April 2009. See the commentary on the exhibition and its catalogue below.

National Museum, Athens: the Egyptian Collection

The National Archaeological Museum in Athens, long famous for its world-class collections of Mycenaean gold and Classical sculpture, now adds to its glister with a new permanent exhibition. For only the second time since WW2, its virtually unknown collection of Egyptian antiquities reappeared to public view on 14th May, in a remarkable and remarkably in-depth exhibition of 1125 of its total 8350 artefacts, ranging from the

Predynastic through the Roman periods. The short-lived earlier exhibition displayed only 310 objects.

Although small, the NMA collection is choice. Its majority stems from the donations of two discerning expatriate Greek collectors: Ioannis Demetriou of Alexandria in 1880 and Alexandros Rostovich of Cairo in 1904, , supplemented by several Ptolemaic coffins presented by the Egyptian government in 1894 and other smaller donations over the years.

Many artefacts are virtually unknown in the literature and some are unique: a nearly half-metre long Predynastic granite statue of a hippopotamus, an almost metre-long Dynasty V wooden statue of a servant-woman grinding grain (a single piece of sycamore), a pair of Middle Kingdom copper-alloy ships, mast finials, and solid sheet-gold Ptolemaic mummy trappings. The Greek press' favourite is a bread-loaf dating to the New Kingdom – with a single bite gone. Whilst many objects have no provenance beyond 'Egypt', others derive from specific and sometimes well-known locations such as the Dynasty 19 tomb of the artist Sennedjem at Deir el-Medineh.

ASTENE members will be interested also in the related biographical research of Vassilis Chryso-kopoulos documenting the lives and travels of some 80 early Greek collectors and Egyptologists, most previously unrecorded. I am trying to persuade him to present a paper on Demetriou and Rostovich at next year's ASTENE conference in Durham. *Jacke Phillips*

The Ancient Egyptian Gallery, Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow re-opened last year after extensive restoration and redisplay. Much of the material was excavated in the 1890s.

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs includes 130 works from the Egyptian National Museum including 50 spectacular objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun, exhibited in a most impressive way. Other objects are chosen to give context to these. The exhibition focuses on the astonishing workmanship of ancient Egyptian craftsmen. 02, (the 'Dome' to most of us), London until the end of August.

Tutankhamun and the World of the Pharaohs contains 140 treasures from the pharaoh's tomb and other sites. Some are very personal to the young pharaoh. Museum für Volkerkunde, Vienna to 28 September.

Zagreb Archaeological Museum, Croatia has a newly opened Egyptian collection including the renowned 'Zagreb mummy'.

Impressed by Light: Photographs from Paper Negatives 1840-1860 an exhibition with many examples from the Near East at the Musée d'Orsay. Paris through September.

Babylon A fascinating interpretation of the history and legend of the ancient city in about 2300

BC and to evaluate its influence on later ages. Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin from late June.

Hadrian: Emperor and Conflict focuses on the Roman Emperor whose travels stretched from northern Britain where, in c.122 AD 'Hadrian's Wall' was constructed for nearly 80 miles across the country (not far from Durham where the 2009 ASTENE conference is to be, and which we hope will include a visit to 'the wall'), to the Nile - where in c. AD 125 his graffito was carved on the northern statue of the Colossi of Memnon. British Museum 24 July to 26 October. Booking in advance advised.

Overlapping Realms: Arts of the Islamic World and India, 900-1900 The works displayed emphasise the influences of shifting kingdoms and empires. Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University until winter 2008.

For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen weaving includes rugs and tent trappings from the museum's world class collection. de Young Museum, San Francisco until 7 September.

In Palaces and Tents: The Islamic World from China to Europe describes Muslim contacts with other cultures through more than 300 objects. State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg until 7 September.

Ancient Cyprus a new permanent display at the A.G. Leventis Gallery of the Danish National Museum, Copenhagen.

Magic in Ancient Egypt: Image, Word and Reality explores how ancient Egyptians addressed the unknown forces of the universe, and the connections between magic and medicine and the use of magic after death. Brooklyn (New York) Museum until 28 September.

Catastrophe! The looting and destruction of Iraq's Past is an exhibition exploring the looting of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad and the ongoing looting on archaeological sites – and the routes by which articles meet the art markets. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago to the end of the year.

Babylon is the title of another – and extensive – exhibition: considering the unexpectedly close connection between the ancient Near East and Europe over several millennia. Museum of the Ancient Near East, Pergamonmuseum, Berlin until 5 October.



Three Faces of Monotheism considers the similarities and contrasts of the shared symbols of Christianity, Islam and Judaism represented in antiquities and the development of monotheism in the ancient world. Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem.

Faces of Ancient Arabia draws upon a recent gift of third century BC – third century AD works of Yemeni alabaster sculpture to focus on the importance and splendour of the kingdoms of southern Arabia - the land of the Queen of Sheba – which prospered from travel and trade in the region. Walters Art Museum, Baltimore until 7 September.

The Archaeological Museum, Bologna has reorganised the Greek section of its collections. Among much else part of the collection was assembled by the artist Pelagio Pelagi (1755-1860). **Roman Ships** In 1989 Roman ships were discovered almost intact near Pisa. Following restoration they can now be visited by appointment three days a week at the Centro del Restauro del Legno Bagnato. See www.navipisa.it.

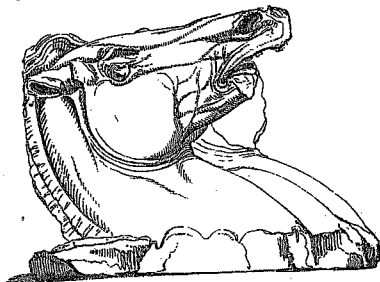
Mission to Egypt: the tomb of Monthemhat is an exhibition of photographs from the Theban tomb (at present closed) showing the results of work to date. Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, Barcelona, until the end of September.

Living under the Crescent Moon: domestic culture in the Arab world demonstrates the diversity of domestic life from North Africa to Syria, and provides opportunities to experience various building types. There are numerous photographs and films to support these experiences. Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany until the end of August.

Lost Kingdom of the Nile: Nubian Treasures from the Museum of Fine Art, Boston provides a very special insight into ancient Nubia. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia until the end of August.

Wonderful Things: the Harry Burton photographs and the Discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun offers more than 1400 black-and-white images documenting the finds in the Valley of the Kings. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia until late November.

The Horse shows how the long relationship between horses and humans has changed warfare, transport, trade, agriculture, sport and many other facets of culture. American Museum of Natural History, New York until 4 January, 2009.



The Greeks exhibits nearly 200 artefacts that shed light on the imprint left by the Greeks on the world. The sections cover antiquity, the Byzantine period, the Greeks in the Ottoman Empire, and the creation of modern Greece. Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Quebec until the end of September.

Beyond Boundaries: Islamic Art across Cultures is the opening exhibition of Qatar's new Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar until 22 November. **The Mathaf Gallery**, 24 Motcomb Street, London SW1 which offers a range of modern and historical paintings on the ASTENE region now offers its exhibition catalogues on line at www.mathafgallery.com

The Lure of the East at the Tate Gallery

This is just what ASTENE members have been waiting for. The exhibition brings together portraits of travellers: one lady is represented with her compass and her pistol. Then we have a view of life in the streets and the home: through the eyes of David Wilkie, John Frederick Lewis, David Roberts and many more, familiar to ASTENE through presentations by members.

The main purpose of many of the artists' presence in Egypt – namely to record the antiquities, is almost ignored. So this exhibition is about the 'life' as recorded by the travellers. A helpful section is devoted to maps.

Comments on Orientalism, gender studies, et cetera appear on the walls and in "Audio-points" where you can listen to recordings and music. There will be study days, films and gallery talks. For the full programme go to www.tate.org.uk.

Alix Wilkinson

ASTENE and Leighton House Museum, Kensington are organising a study day – see enclosed leaflet.

Lectures, study days, conferences etc

Egypt Undead: A walk through Kensal Green Cemetery The Petrie Museum is organising a fascinating journey on 16th July (2-4 pm): a walk through Kensal Green Cemetery in west London to explore the influence of Ancient Egypt therein. There are numerous 'Egyptianising' monuments in London's first (1833) garden cemetery: the Cemetery of All Souls.

There is a royal mausoleum in the 'Egyptian style' and more 'off the peg' examples. Tombs were commissioned by aristocrats, artists, politicians, soldiers, engineers and leaders of industry.

Booking through d.challis@ucl.ac.uk or through the Petrie Museum (020 7679 4138). The cost is £5.00 and the Friends of Kensal Green Museum are offering tea. Meet at the Main Entrance on Harrow Road, W9 (not the Crematorium entrance).

Cleopatra's Needle: the Journey at the Petrie Museum, London on Saturday, 19th July 12 noon – 2 p.m. A talk on this London monument which came from Heliopolis in Egypt and dates from 1450 BCE. After the talk there will be a short journey by public transport to finish at the 'Needle' on the Thames Embankment. Free.

Seminar for Arabian Studies

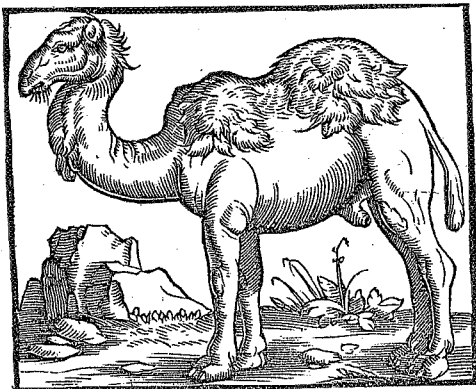
This conference will be held in the BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum. 24-26 July. For information email: seminar.arab@durham.ac.uk

Conference Red Sea IV: Connected Hinterlands: exploring themes of connection and communication across and along the Red Sea.

E-mail redsea@soton.ac.uk to be held at Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Avenue Campus, Southampton University, 25-26 September.

Archaeology of the Holy Land: The contribution of British scholars

A study day at Oxford University Department of Continuing Education on Saturday 24 January 2009. In brief: Explorations of Warren and Conder in Jerusalem; Kathleen Kenyon at Samaria; John Garstang at Jericho; the contribution of P.L.O. Guy and K.M. Kenyon at Jericho and Jerusalem. To book: telephone 01865 270368; or e-mail ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk



Residential courses at Madingley Hall, Cambridge

Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education runs a large programme of study days and longer courses. To receive their full programme: Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ; 01954 280280.

www.cont-ed.ac.uk. Here are some courses of special relevance to ASTENE.

2008

21-25 July The Ottoman Empire
15-17 August Crusader Cyprus (1191-1489)
22-24 August The city of Athens
1 – 3 September Mansions of the gods: the temple in ancient Egypt

3-5 October Deciphering Latin inscriptions
24-26 October Luxor: ruins and religion
14-16 November The architecture of Islam – the first 1000 years (course full, so repeat in January)

2009

16-18 January The architecture of Islam – the first 1000 years
13-15 February Architecture of the Eastern Adriatic
13-15 March Alexander the Great

There are many other courses at Madingley Hall right through to summer 2009, but not of especial relevance to our readers.

Melville and the Mediterranean

With this Bulletin comes a Call for Papers for a conference in East Jerusalem 17-20 June 2009: "Melville and the Mediterranean".

Many of us, I admit, knew little or nothing about Herman Melville as a traveller in the eastern Mediterranean and the Holy Land – Jonah and the whale seemed the only connection. Melville went to the Holy Land and wrote his epic poem *Clarel: A Poem and Pilgrimage in the Holy Land* after the publication of *Moby Dick*.

Using *Clarel* as a starting point the conference will open up discussion on travel, literature and other humanities and scientific studies.

The conference organisers suggest a wide range of perspectives and invite 200-400 word proposals for papers, round table discussions and panels.

These should reach the organisers by 1 September 2008. (to basem48@yahoo.com).

Other News

The Danish Institute in Damascus

The Danish Institute in Damascus was established in 1996 to preserve and develop cultural links between Denmark and Arab and Islamic countries. Its aim is to stimulate research, education and the promotion of culture, classical as well as modern. The Institute carries out these objectives by supporting Danish artists and scholars engaged in archaeology, history, literature, architecture and other areas. The Institute supports and initiates publication of such subjects.

The Institute at the beautiful, late 15th century 'Aqqud-house, a short distance from the Omayyad Mosque, has rooms for visiting scholars and areas for lectures and meetings. The library has been transferred from the Danish Palestine Exploration Fund at Aarhus. For further information, including pictures of the beautifully restored 'Aqqud-house see www.damaskus.dk. The address is P.O. Box 1262, Damascus.

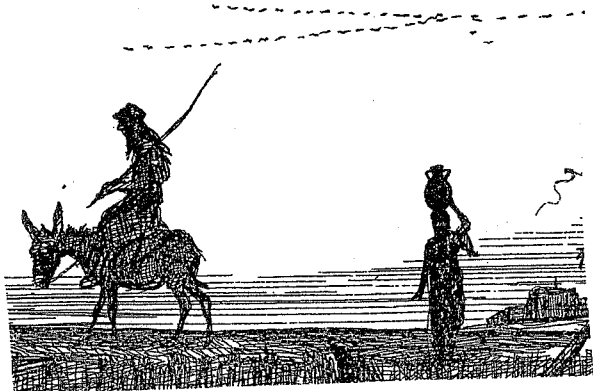
Circassia to London?

Among the remarked upon but seldom recorded travellers of the Near East were the Circassians of the northern Caucasus. In the 19th century it is reckoned that half a million of them lived in Turkey, and many of the women – renowned and highly valued for their blonde beauty – became slaves of Turks across the Near East. For many years they were highly valued but by the mid-19th century their value had dropped to only £5 according to the London *Post* of 1856.

These slave girls edged into the election of the London Mayor, when Boris Johnson revealed a family story that his great-great-grandmother was such a slave, freed when she married his Turkish ancestor. Thus, his blond head probably came from a Circassian slave girl ... (Source: *Observer*, Sunday 9th March, 2008).

The ancient ass

New Scientist in March 2008 had an interesting brief report of research on the donkeys of Egypt – a form of travel for many centuries. A study of 5000-year-old skeletons from ancient burial sites indicate that modern day donkeys are descended from domesticated African wild asses. These bones resemble the modern day, larger Nubian and Somali wild asses. The researcher, Fiona Marshall of Washington University, St Louis, Missouri is quoted: “The engine of the Egyptian state ... was the donkey.” (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0709692105).



Book Reviews

The Bulletin Reviews Editor for a number of years, Dr Edwin Aiken, has stepped down. We are very grateful to him for his imaginative service to the *Bulletin*.

We welcome a founder member of ASTENE, Ashley Jones as his replacement. Some know him from his years at the Museum Bookshop in London. He can be contacted at ashleyjones40@hotmail.com or through the 'Yellow Pages', and welcomes suggestions for books to review.

***Islam and the Victorians* by Shahin Kuli Khan Khattak. London: Taurus Academic Studies, 2008. 9781845114299. £47.50.**

Islam and the Victorians examines both British perceptions of Islam and the various cultural artefacts which embodied and promoted them during the period 1840-1900. Central to the author's analysis of the literary, dramatic and scholarly output surveyed is her characterisation of the material as 'faction', a genre which combines 'an ill-informed assimilation of facts' about Islam and Muslims with 'a desire for sensationalism' (p. 11). And whilst this may sound like just another application of Edward Said's ideas, Khattak does chart her own, very distinctive course through the Islam as Other debate.

The section on travellers and their writings forms a relatively small part of the material surveyed and the treatment of travel generally is disappointingly cursory. However, there is much in this book that will be of interest to ASTENE members, who may be able to spot where some of the views and misunderstandings represented in the literature, art and drama of the period originally came from. Of particular interest to me was Khattak's account of a play performed in Drury Lane in 1847, which presents the 'Grand Mosque' at Mecca lit up by the lamps of the 'Shrine of the Prophet' at Medina without worrying about the rather large distance separating the two towns or, indeed, that two distinct locations were involved.

Khattak's response to this kind of artistic licence is framed in terms of the impact 'the bewildering violation of historical facts' (p. 83) has on the image and self-image of Islam as a religion. Yet a strictly theological perspective on orientalism is not a productive position one can maintain for very long, or not at least without going into a lot more detail. The categories of general misconceptions collated in the final chapter of the book cover all the usual suspects, *jihad* included. But without a broader awareness of the complex ways in which these concepts themselves have been constructed and reconstructed at different points in time and place in Islamic history, Khattak's brief notes on them are not a firm reference point from which to approach and interpret some of the more fantastical representations of Islam and Muslims dreamed up by the British at this time. *Paul Robertson*

***Figs, Dates, Laurel and Myrrh: plants of the Bible and the Quran* by Lytton J. Musselman. Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2008. 9780881928556. £20.00.**

The author and I have studied plants together in many field locations as well as in various herbaria. We have similar interests in botany as well as in plants of the Bible and we have both written books on the subject which makes it a pleasure to review his recently published book for ASTENE. It is a

popular work that should have a wide readership; it is an unusual book in aiming to cater Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The text is non-technical, designed for the general reader, and complimented by beautiful photographs, which will bring back many memories of Near Eastern scenes. However, as well as an aesthetically appealing work if it also a reference text, to be dipped into when necessary. Many of the plants are, of course, well known in cultivation and in cooking. Spices and herbs are more popular than ever in today's kitchen and exotic fruits are now a commonplace part of all our diets. However, behind the popular appeal of the work's content there is a lot of scholarship by linguists, theologians and scientists working to identify some of the plants mentioned in the scriptures and despite this work differences of opinions continue to exist.

F. Nigel Hepper

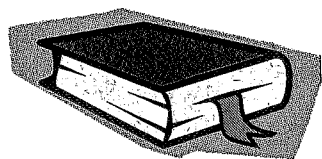
***Istanbul: a collection of the poetry of place* by Ates Orga, foreword by Jason Goodwin. London: Eland Press, 2007. 9780955010590. £5.99.**

This is a simply delightful little book. Which of us has not felt moved to poetry by our experiences of Istanbul? Which of us has not, on a dreary winter day, dreamt of spiriting ourselves off to Byzantium and enjoying the warmth, scenes, smells and textures of that Queen among cities? Now this is possible. As the poet said, 'Say Istanbul and a seagull comes to mind / Half silver and half foam, half fish and half bird.' The reader is permitted to explore this and dozens of other imagined geographies of Istanbul in a selection of poetry arranged chronologically. Throughout helpful biographies giving just the *right* amount of detail to fill in the context of a particular verse. On the whole we are left with a gloriously and deliciously complete portrayal of the place. Lines familiar to us all from our schooldays are balanced neatly by stanzas from poets of whose fame I was previously innocent.

Because this book is pocket-sized you can use it in two different ways at once: I am currently using it to fill odd moments at bus stations and recommending it to my students studying the effects of geographical location on creative writers.

Is it too early to consider stocking-fillers? I think not.

Edwin Aiken



***Geography and Vision* by Denis E. Cosgrove. London: I. B. Tauris, 2008. International Library of Human Geography, Vol. 12. 9781850438465 hbk. / 9781850438472 pbk. £45.00 / £16.99.**

The late Professor Cosgrove provided as his final work a scholarly masterpiece dealing with his life-long interests of landscape, cartography and vision. This book is a collection of essays, each dealing with a different aspect of how people have represented the geography around them at different times and in different places. The essays treat matters as diverse as 'Extra terrestrial geography', 'Mapping Arcadia', 'Ruskin's European visions' and 'Seeing the equator'. They provide focussed studies of these broad but thematically-united topics. The idea of geographical vision is played out at a variety of spatial scales and concepts (the garden, the wilderness, the nation, the continent, the global feature) and through the analysis of differing modes of pictorial, literary and cartographic representation. Cosgrove's analysis is, as ever, insightful, and his elegant writing skilfully captures the reader's interest and carries it along on his tide of obvious enthusiasm. As well as its work of theoretical analysis each chapter notes how the particular ideas that it contains can be related to contemporary geographies, and this important addition will ensure that this book has lasting value.

With this book ASTENE members can see how their ideas about the way in which their travellers represented the world around them fits into a bigger picture of geographical and landscape representation.

This book will deservedly make its way into both research libraries and private collections.

Edwin Aiken

***Women on the Nile: Writings of Harriet Martineau, Florence Nightingale and Amelia Edwards* by Professor Joan Rees, Rubicon Press, Stacey International, London, 2008, ISBN 978-0-948695-74-2, h/b. 196 pp, b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, £18.95**

It is good to have this book by Professor Joan Rees back in print, and so well presented. As she says this is not a book about Egypt but about reactions to Egypt by Harriet Martineau in 1846, Florence Nightingale in 1849 and Amelia Edwards in 1873, with the addition of Lucy Duff Gordon from 1862.

Professor Rees stresses that – more than most male travellers of the period – they were observant of and sympathetic with local people. She suggests that maybe the ancient religion of Egypt appealed to them in contrast to the patriarchal Victorian church. Her analysis of these women – on and off the Egyptian stage – makes one wish to turn back again to the original accounts – with new insight.

She describes Martineau's *Eastern Life Past and Present* as "packed with all the basic ingredients of

the conventional travel book”, but enlivened by anecdotes descriptions and information and the unique insights of this remarkable woman. Miss Martineau’s experience of Petra, where few Europeans had then penetrated, is of especial interest.

Florence Nightingale was on the brink of escaping from Victorian family life into a new existence, as her struggle between loyalty and need against the background of Egypt, made her able to become that amazing Miss Nightingale who, at the age of 34, carried her lamp through the wards of Scutari and revolutionised British nursing. One needs Professor Rees’ book to truly understand Florence’s *Letters*, although I would have liked to have more insights into her relationship with her friends, Selina Bracebridge and her husband, Charles, who took her to Egypt, accompanied her to her first real nursing experience in Germany and became her significant support in Turkey.

Amelia Edwards’ *A Thousand Miles up the Nile* has been again available – since Virago re-issued it – but she had been largely forgotten. Professor Rees enables us to see Amelia against her background with its imperial overtones. It was this, her only visit to Egypt, which led her to help found the Egyptian Exploration Society, shocked by her observation of the fate of every Egyptian monument: tourists carving their names and the date of their visit, students of Egyptology using harmful processes in their eagerness to take copies; Arabs stealing on behalf of collectors – “and “No one to prevent it; no one to discourage it.”

Professor Rees looks also at a fourth ‘woman on the Nile’: Lucy Duff Gordon, there from 1862 for her health, but even Egypt’s climate could not save her and she was buried in Cairo in 1869. For those years she lived mainly high in Luxor temple and received and visited the local and international gentry. Her *Letters from Egypt* is a ‘visitors’ book of the Nile, but she admitted adding little to thinking on ancient Egypt – “to try to add more knowledge would for her be a waste of time”, - her pleasure was “to sit with perfect gentlemen in places inferior to our cow-sheds”, convinced that custom and education are “the only real difference between one set of men and another.”

As Professor Rees says of these women “their accounts of Egypt rest on deep foundations and they stand the test of time.” Her book will encourage her readers to return to them with greater understanding.

Deborah Manley



***Pilgrimage to Mecca* by Lady Evelyn Cobbold, Arabian Publishing Ltd, London, 352 pp. + 32 pp. black and white photographs, map, Notes, Appendix, Bibliography and Index, ISBN 978-0-9644792-8-2, h/b, jacketed, £25.00**

In 1933, at the age of 65, the Mayfair socialite and aristocrat, Lady Evelyn Cobbold, became the first British-born Muslim woman to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, and published an account of her journey.. Yet her adoption of Islam, her contribution to the literature of the Hajj, and her place as a female traveller have been inexplicably overlooked. I recommend this beautifully presented and thoroughly researched book. The full review will appear in the next Bulletin.

***The Lure of the East: British Orientalist Painting* edited by Nicholas Tromans with essays by Rana Kabbani, Fatema Mernissi, Christine Riding and Emily M. Weeks, Tate Publishing, London, 2008. 224 quarto pages, full colour illustrations throughout. ISBN 978 1 85437 733 3; £24.99**

The generously illustrated catalogue of this important exhibition first introduced the exhibition at the Centre for British Art, Newhaven and is now available at Tate Britain in London until the end of August. The exhibition then moves to Istanbul (23 September – 4 January 2009) and on to the Sharjah Art Museum (February – April, 2009).

The essays in the catalogue cover a range of related subjects including “Cultures crossed: John Frederick Lewis and the Art of Orientalist Painting” by Emile Weeks (a long standing ASTENE member), and “Regarding Orientalist Painting Today”. Of prime interest to ASTENE members will be “Travellers and Sitters: The Orientalist Portrait” by Christine Riding to which I return.

The final pages of the catalogue provide useful background information: some key political events 1792-1923: the establishment by Sultan Selim III of permanent diplomatic representation in Europe to the Declaration of the Turkish Republic and the move of the capital from Istanbul to Ankara. There are short biographies of artists – a useful aide – and the list of exhibited works provides a useful reminder of where the paintings are now displayed and can normally be seen.

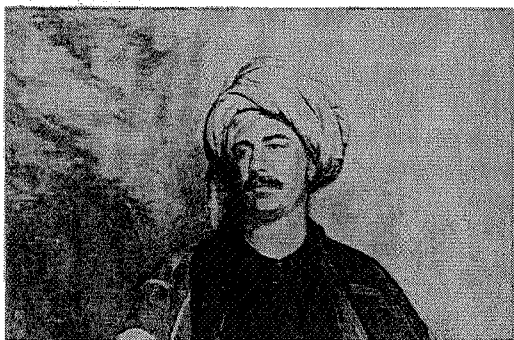
The list of artists is dominated by Richard Dadd, William Holman Hunt (mainly included only in the London exhibition), Edward Lear, Lord Leighton (in whose Kensington mansion ASTENE will hold a study day on Saturday 4 October), John Frederick Lewis, Arthur Melville (whose wonderful *The Arab Interior* of 1881 adorns the catalogue cover), William James Muller, David Roberts, and David Wilkie. Surprisingly perhaps works by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Stanley Spencer are included.

The paintings have been gathered together from many collections across Britain and the world, so

we can see, for example, Jean-Leon Gerome's "For Sale: Slaves at Cairo" (c.1871).

In the section on Travellers are portraits of such figures as Richard Pococke, painted with 'sombre grandeur' by Liotard in 1740 and normally displayed in the Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva. The familiar features of Edward Wortley Montague (1775) by George Romney are more usually seen in the Sheffield Galleries.

"David Roberts in the dress he wore in Palestine" by Robert Scott Lauder, 1840, we know from the Scottish Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.



The tender portrait of "James Silk Buckingham and his wife in Arab costume, Baghdad" by H.W. Pickersgill some members were fortunate enough to see in its usual setting of the Royal Geographical Society last year. Sir Joshua Reynolds' portrait of the beautiful Mrs xxxxxxx is part of the collection from Compton Verney. (see Bulletin 34). Byron in Albanian dress by Thomas Phillips comes to the Tate from the British Embassy in Athens.

Two portraits of the Near Eastern leaders Mehemet Ali and Sultan Abdul, both by David Wilkie, come together in this exhibition from the Tate and the Royal Collection. The powerful portraits by Augustus John in 1919 of Emir Feisal (from the Ashmolean, Oxford) and Colonel T.E. Lawrence (from the Tate) are linked by Christine Riding's comment on the impact of Lawrence as a traveller – and in its way brings the account right up to the present.

This, for ASTENE members, is a very special exhibition and the catalogue a resource to which one will return often. Don't miss them!

Deborah Manley

Anastasius: Memoirs of a Greek written at the close of the Eighteenth Century by Thomas Hope, re-issued by Long Riders' Guild Press, Glasgow, Kentucky, 2008. ISBN 1-594048-282-4

Coincidentally with the big exhibition of the life and works of Thomas Hope (1769-1831) at the Victoria and Albert Museum, there is a new edition of Hope's great novel.

In addition to Hope's text, including the map that accompanied it, this edition contains an

introduction and an appendix by Jerry Nolan, a lengthy foreword and an appendix by John Rodenbeck and an appendix by Ludmilla Kostova, the Bulgarian literary scholar.

Hope was one of the great travellers of the Romantic era – the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Born in Holland, a scion of the Hope banking family, he began a Grand Tour in 1787 that lasted until 1795, then continued in forays that included a year or so spent in Constantinople. He not only formed superb collections, now sadly dispersed, (the Hope Collection was sold at Christie's 23 July 1917. ed.) and made or commissioned many meticulous drawings, some of which survived to make their way into his well known books on household furnishing and costume, but also apparently kept careful written records, which were shown to a few intimates and upon which his novel is based.

Anastasius, his eponymous narrator, born in 1762, is a Greek whose ambition carries him, usually in military roles, throughout the eastern portions of the Ottoman Empire. These wanderings are enormously furthered by his conversion to Islam, which clearly interested Hope himself, and which allows Anastasius to observe the intimate working of various kinds and levels of Eastern society, which Hope records with a great deal more verve and fidelity than most travellers of the time.

John Rodenbeck

From the Harpy Tomb to the Wonders of Ephesus: British Archaeologists in the Ottoman Empire 1840-1880 by Debbie Challis, Duckworth, London, 2008, 210 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978 0 7156 3757 9, paperback. This is an exploration of the collection of - and collectors of - antiquities from the Ottoman empire between 1840 and 1880. It has interesting contemporary illustrations from the *London Illustrated News* and elsewhere.

A full review will appear in the next Bulletin.

Past Reviews

Many of the travellers' books were very fully reviewed in the journals of their day, and these reviews give us a useful insight into how their travel accounts were received in their day. Here, two reviews brought to our attention by Peta Ree.

In the review of Giovanni Belzoni's *Narrative in The Monthly Review* for May-August 1821, Sarah Belzoni's attached *Trifling Account* of her own travels was noted thus (p. 89):

Annexed to this volume is a "Trifling Account", by Mrs Belzoni, 'of the women of Egypt, Nubia and

Syria'. She is herself, we learn, an amiable woman; and the most candid manner in which we can notice her labours is to say nothing about them. She journeyed to the Holy Land, and was much incommoded by fleas.

To fully understand how limited and arrogant is this comment, just read her 'Trifling Account' yourself! It may be noted that in later editions of Belzoni's book the word 'Trifling' was removed...

The Gentleman's Magazine of September, 1828 noted on p. 258:

Mrs Belzoni has issued a prospectus for publishing a complete series of lithographic engravings from the original model of the Egyptian Tomb made by her husband, and now in her possession. The plates, we are informed, will be upwards of eighty, and will be published in numbers. We heartily wish it success, for the benefit of the unfortunate widow of that great traveller, and for the important results which are likely to ensue to science.



Other books etc.

Howard Carter: The Path to Tutankhamun
Our President, T.G.H. (Harry) James's important book ('A first rate biography.') is re-issued in paperback by I.B. Tauris at £12.99.

The Indefatigable Mr Lane

The March/April issue of the free magazine, *Saudi Aramco News*, contained a long beautifully illustrated article by Dr Jason Thompson on Edward Lane, who coming to Egypt in 1825, adopted the dress of an upper class Ottoman and relished the freedom this gave him to explore, to draw, to converse and eventually to write his great classic *The Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* (18xx and still normally in print) – a book with which most travellers were conversant for a century and more.

Who Travels Sees More: Artists, Architects and Archaeologists Discover Egypt and the Near East
edited by Dr Diane Fortenberry; Oxbow Books 2007

The illustrated, hardback, collection of papers from ASTENE conferences considers how the desire to look beyond the familiar landscapes of home shaped the lives of travellers to the Near East.

Oxbow Books (in association with ASTENE), 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EW, UK or E-mail: orders@oxbowbooks.com.

Traveling through Egypt: from 450 BC to the Twentieth Century by Sahar Abdel Hakim and Deborah Manley, published in hardback by the American University Press, Cairo and New York has been re-issued this year as a paperback. ISBN 978 977 416 169 8.

Edward Bawden in the Middle East by Nigel Weaver, Antique Collectors Club will be reviewed in the autumn Bulletin. In the meantime, a quote to give you a flavour from an article by Bawden quoted in *Illustration*, summer issue, 2008.

When darkness fell an antique lantern would be lit and placed at a small distance from the company – a necessary precaution, as it attracted a winged gathering of its own: thousands of midges danced around the light and swirled upwards like smoke curling from a bonfire; a congregation of extraordinary insects crawled in the lighted patch on the ground, the praying mantis, stick-insects, black horny beetles, and, as if sensing fun, frogs and toads came hopping from all directions to join the geckos, and a cat or two pawing and chewing moths.

Napoleon in Egypt: The Greatest Glory by Paul Strathern – a vivid and lively account of the period – is now in Vintage paperback at £9.99.



Cooking for Eastern travellers

Stacey International have books of recipes from the Near East – the food the travellers ate (when not sticking strictly to their tins of corn beef or the hens carried on their camels backs). *The Iraqi Cookbook* by Lamees Ibrahim with photo-graphs to tempt the cook's palate. (hardback, 236 pp, £19.95) *Secrets of Healthy Middle Eastern Cuisine* by Danaa Abourezk presents recipes from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Syria – all planned with good health in mind. (hardback, 190 pp., £12.95)

Travels in Turkey, Egypt, Nubia and Palestine in 1824, 1825, 1826 and 1827 by Dr R.E. Madden, Elibron Classics, 1829 and 2008

I recently received the two well-presented paperback volumes of Dr Madden's account of his travels. To my great pleasure the text from the

original is large and clear – perhaps such reprints are the answer to those who prefer large type books! The binding leaves a little to be desired, but to have Dr Madden's books ready to hand whenever I want to read them is very exciting.

Congratulations, Elibron whose website tells us (www.elibron.com) what else they have to offer.

Some may ask, "Who is Dr Madden?" He is, to my mind, one of the most interesting of the 19th century travellers: observant, brave, funny, liberal minded, and an excellent writer. In the first chapter of his book he involved himself in buying a Greek slave in Constantinople and returning her to her family. After this journey he spent a period assisting freed slaves in the Caribbean, but would return to the East to try to convince Mehemet Ali to end slavery in his territories.

The Overseer's Family: A memoir of the Tuscan countryside by Cassandra Vivian, Publish America, Baltimore, ISBN 1-4137-9858-6, 344 pp. p/b, \$25. ASTENE members write about other matters than the Near East, and Cassandra, who we know for her research on Americans in Egypt in the 18-19th centuries, has written a lovely book about taking her mother through her growing Alzheimer's back to their family past in Tuscany. In it she carries us through the Italian-American past, rolls one in pasta in the way it should be made, and links warm memories of childhood with the shadows of age. As the blurb rightly says: "It is funny, it is sad, it is angry, but most of all it touches the heart" – and one doesn't want it to end.

Rejection slip

Some people are said to have papered their walls with rejection slips. Few such rejections can have been less encouraging than this – to John Gardner Wilkinson (1797-1875) (Bodleian Library, Ms Wilkinson. d.132).

9 Park Square, Portland Place, London
18 June 1828

Dear Sir,

I am on the point of setting off for Paris, but I have looked over Mr Wilkinson's papers and can only repeat what I said before, that I know of no bookseller who would undertake to publish them: Though the conciseness of the work and the multitude of Royal Personages contained in it are certain to be great inducements for the adventurer. After my return which I hope will be in two months I may possibly be able to make others: and I shall be very happy if any channel should be open ... The manuscript is safe in my hands – if I should happen to return a mummy it will be found in my upper drawer, with the 6 copies of the Hieroglyphics marked for Mr Wilkinson.

Thomas Young

***Egypt and the Sudan, Catalogue 99* from Michael Graves Johnston**

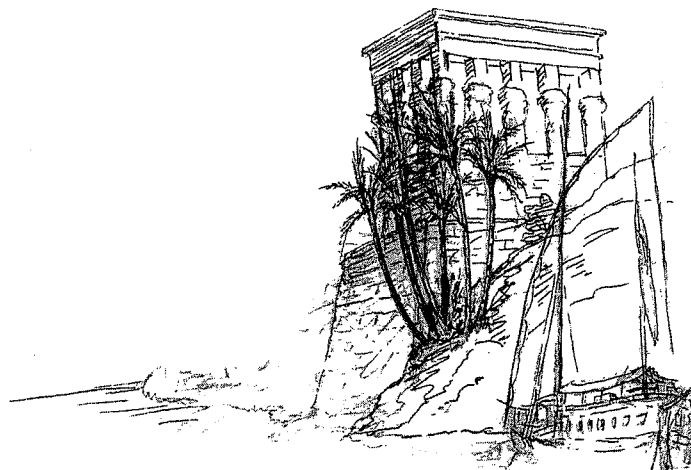
Rare book catalogues can be as exciting and interesting as a good library catalogue. The great difference being that, from a rare book catalogue, you learn how much it would cost you to own a prized book, and it also tells you the approximate value of your own rare books.

This well presented catalogue (£5.) includes such potential treats as Pierre d'Arenburg's *Voyage en Soudan Egyptien*, a prince's account of his hunting trip in 1901. (£250 for a mere 87 pages). - George Baldwin's *Political Recollections relative to Egypt* including "a Narrative of the Ever-memorable British Campaign in the Spring of 1801" – in which George Baldwin, former British Consul in Egypt was an adviser. This book, published in London in 1801, seems a snip at £250.

A really rare book is John Mason Cook's *The Nile Expedition, 1884-85, John M. Cook's Visit to the Sudan*. This is an address delivered in 1885 printed for Private Circulation. For 31 pages, the price is £275.

For a mere £200 one can own a second edition of Amelia B. Edwards *A Thousand Miles up the Nile* – with 700 wood engravings. "A very nice copy in the publisher's blue pictorial cloth". For the same price was James Bruce's *Travels, between the years 1765 and 1773, through part of Africa, Syria, Egypt and Arabia, into Abyssinia, to discover the source of the Nile c. 1812*. Giovanni d'Athanasio's *A Brief Account of the Researches and Discoveries in Upper Egypt, 1836* will cost you £900. A real rarity must be the 14 pages *Prospectus* of Sarah Belzoni's publication of lithographs of the model of the Egyptian tomb discovered by her husband. The cost £300. With our conference in Durham next July, George Waddington and Barnard Hanbury's *Journal of a Visit to Some Parts of Ethiopia*, with maps and other engravings might be a special treat at £1200.... for Waddington is buried in Durham.

Many of the books are in French, German and Italian, for example, One or two books were from the library of the late Dr David Dixon, a much missed ASTENE member.



Queries and Replies

Queries appear on the ASTENE web site but the replies are only recorded in the ASTENE Bulletin

John Henry Middleton, 1846-1896

Called 'Archaeologist and Art Historian' by the Dictionary of National Biography, - I would be most grateful to hear if anyone has come across any notes or documents for Middleton's study of the Acropolis at Athens. An American colleague is working on stray architectural remains from the Acropolis and is searching for the Middleton notes.

It is said that some were given to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge (of which he was Director), but they have no current knowledge of any and a MSS of Middleton's once in the Classics Library has gone missing. There may however be others. We have obviously checked the DNB source list but further help is badly needed.

Please reply to Dr Elizabeth French on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and the Editor.

Travellers, tourists and cruises

In the late 19th and the first half of the 20th century 'cruising' became fashionable for the well-to-do traveller. In 1932 this advertisement appeared in the London Times :

ORIENT LINE CRUISES BY 20, 000 TON STEAMERS

Easter in Palestine 28 days From 39 guineas*

April Four cruises in Mediterranean

May 18 to 21 days, from 25 guineas

June Cruises to Norway and Northern Capitals

July 12 to 24 days from 21 guineas

August

Write for illustrated programme.

* A guinea was 21 shillings (no pence) , £1.1.0

Is anyone researching the record of this form of travel experience - as our Czech members have done ? Please reply to the Editor.



Replies to Queries

François Bonnet, agent de Drovetti à Edfou

Patricia Usick sends us the following information which Michel Azim was kind enough to provide about French Consul General to Egypt Drovetti's agent Bonnet, who does not appear in M. Bierbrier (Editor) Who was Who in Egyptology, Third Revised Edition (Egypt Exploration Society, London, 1995).

Patricia Usick (*An Architect's Progress : Charles Barry's Travels in Egypt*, in ASTENE's *Who Travels Sees More*, Oxford 2007, p.91), met en doute l'existence d'un agent de Drovetti nommé Bonnet qui aurait opéré à Edfou : « *Barry appears to have mistaken the name, as no agent named Bonnet is mentioned in other traveller's accounts.* » Bonnet, pourtant, a bel et bien existé ; il est mentionné non seulement par Barry, mais également par Édouard de Montulé et Linant de Bellefonds.

Selon Jean-Jacques Fiechter (*La moisson des dieux*, Paris 1994, p.145), François Bonnet était un rescapé de l'armée de Bonaparte que Rifaud employait pour surveiller ses fouilles ; Louis A. Christophe (*Présentation des Voyages en Égypte et en Nubie de Belzoni*, Paris 1979, p.26), confirme qu'il était chargé de la prospection de la région d'Edfou.

C'est là que Barry, au début de décembre 1818, rencontre un Français qui ne peut être que lui : « *They met the Superintendent of the Excavations a Frenchman, and he promised to take some measurements for them and said the Temple would be open when they returned. Mr Baillie gave him some snuff and some tea and, in return, he baked them 60 excellent loaves. He had been a baker in the French Army. He took tea with us and told us many odd stories about the ladies and Marriages in Egypt.* » [K. Adkins, *Personal and historical extracts from the travel diaries (1817-1820) of Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860)*, (s.l.) 1986, p.59].

Quelques jours plus tard, le 13 décembre 1818, Édouard de Montulé s'émerveille de la découverte du temple d'Edfou, et s'amuse du personnage pittoresque qui en a la charge : « *Nous trouvâmes là M. Bonnet ; c'est un Français, un original qui passe pour sorcier dans le pays ; il me parut un très bon diable. M. Drovetti l'emploie, et lui donne la direction des fouilles du temple d'Edfou. Il demeure au pied de la grande porte que l'on déblaye actuellement. La description de son ménage serait moins longue que singulière. Tout sorcier qu'il est, je présumais qu'il devait s'ennuyer à Edfou ; mais il m'assura que cette ville n'était point sans plaisirs, et que, malgré ses cheveux blancs, il avait captivé le cœur d'une de ses belles habitantes. Nous étions*

déjà disposés à le croire, lorsque Moustapha voyant dans la maison une vieille femme noire qui prenait les manières de demi-maîtresse, s'écria : voilà sa bonne amie. Le dépit que ne put dissimuler M. Bonnet, nous prouva qu'il avait raison. En nous faisant remarquer son costume musulman, M. Bonnet nous assura qu'il était au mieux avec Mahomet, qu'il suivait ses préceptes, qu'il n'avait plus ni eau-de-vie, ni vin ; nous en étions encore fort bien approvisionnés, et nous le priâmes d'en accepter quelques bouteilles. » (É. de Montulé, *Voyage en Amérique, en Italie, en Sicile et en Égypte pendant les années 1816, 1817, 1818 et 1819*, Paris 1821, vol.II p.199-200. Dans le *Recueil des Cartes et des Vues du voyage* qui accompagne cet ouvrage, la pl.51, « *Vue de la porte et du temple d'Edfou* », montre la maison de Bonnet devant le pylône du temple).

Après avoir atteint Assouan, de Montulé entreprend de redescendre du fleuve le 19 décembre 1818, au matin, avec un compagnon de voyage, le marchand d'antiquités romain Silvestro Guidi, et s'arrête de nouveau à Edfou : « *Nous nous dirigeâmes de suite vers la maison de M. Bonnet ; près de la grande porte [le pylône], elle semble un trou de lapin au pied d'une montagne. Nous le trouvâmes toujours le même. Quoiqu'il se dise Lorrain, il a l'accent et le raisonnement suivi des Provençaux.* » Bonnet, mandé à Thèbes par Drovetti, repart avec De Montulé et Guidi (É. De Montulé, *ibid.* p.223, 226.)

Le 31 janvier 1819, Barry est de nouveau à Edfou où il ne trouve pas Bonnet parti à Thèbes, mais il évoque les progrès de ses dégagements : « *Arrived early at Edfou and found that Mons. Bonnet, who was superintending some excavations here for Mr Drovetti, had gone to Thebes. He has cleared away a great quantity of rubbish from the portico of the Temple, but not enough to get admission. We tried unsuccessfully to enter from the roof, but later were conducted by some Arabs to a well by which they said it was easy to descend into the Temple. It did not look easy to me, so I chose to desist. They told me Mr Salt had entered this way and had been some time in the Temple.* » (K. Adkins, *op. cit.*, p.63).

Le vendredi 5 février suivant, Barry et ses compagnons de voyage sont de retour à Louqsor où ils sont accueillis par Rifaud et Bonnet : « *Arrived at Luxor and were politely received by Messrs Bonnet and Rifaud, Mr Drovetti's agents. The latter had been engaged in making a model of Karnak and this is nearly finished. They dined with us, and were merry and as full of stories as ever.* » (Adkins, *op. cit.*, p.63). Rifaud – et sans doute Bonnet – accueille Barry dans la maison bâtie par Drovetti au sommet du môle nord du I^{er} pylône de Karnak (P. Usick, *op. cit.*, p.93).

Linant de Bellefonds, enfin, les rencontre à Louqsor le 3 juillet 1821 : « *Je vis aussi Messieurs*

Rifaud et Bonnet ; ils sont encore ce qu'ils étaient il y a deux ans. » (J. Vercoutter, *Journal d'un voyage en Basse Nubie*, BSFE 37-38, 1963, p.45).

For those who do not read French – a brief summary.

Patricia Usick had in her paper in ASTENE's book Who Travels Sees More (Oxbow, 2007) queried the existence of Drovetti's agent, M. Bonnet. Michael Azim wrote to re-establish M. Bonnet's place in the history of travel in early 19th century Egypt. Bonnet had left Napoloen's army and was later employed by Colonel Drovetti, the former French Consul General, on his excavations. Charles Barry (later architect of Britain's Houses of Parliament) met Bonnet at Edfu in 1818. The French traveller Edouard Montulé also met him at this time. Three years later Linant de Bellefonds also recorded Bonnet's presence. M. Bonnet certainly existed !

Doctor Charles Perry

Michel Azim's reply to the query from Dr Brian Taylor on Charles Perry (Bulletin 35) arrived within days of publication, and is based on Richard Pococke's letters to his mother, now in the British Library. M. Azim corrects the record of Perry's travels in 1736 in Who was Who in Egyptology. He believes the evidence shows that Perry's birth date of 1698 is correct.

Les lettres de Pococke à sa mère apportent quelques points de repère (Add Mss 22998)

:Pococke, le 16 décembre 1738, de Larnaca, indique que Perry vient juste d'arriver à Chypre : « Dec. 16th. I went with the Consul & Mr Grosvenor to visit Dr Perry an English Physician just arrived from Syria at Mr Luports, he has cursorily visited some of those parts coming from Constantinople where he had been two years ; he is a youngish man & well recommended, & I find we are likely to join company for some time. » i[i] Le 18 décembre, Pococke et Perry s'embarquent pour Alexandrie : « Dec. 18th. That day I dined at Mr Luports, & went home & packed up. the Consul went with me in his chaise to see Dr Perry an English Physician, who has been 3 or 4 months at Jerusalem & Aleppo &c ii[ii]: he was gone to embark ; we met at the marine where I took leave of the Consul, Mess^{rs} Grosvenor, Luport & Purnell, & went with Dr Perry aboard Capt^r Fourniers, the vessel I went in from Damietta to Joppa ; we sailed about midnight... I find the Dr to be a very ingenious man, studied at Leyden & lived many years in Holland, & has published an account of the Span waters & those of Aix le Chapelle, & is preparing a curious treatise of the causes of all diseases ; & I find him to be very agreeable easy company ; he is about 40. » iii[iii]

1[i] Pococke, lettre n°23, datée de Larnaca, le 18 décembre 1738, Add Mss 22998, p.116.

1[ii] Pococke indique d'abord que Perry a passé deux ans à Constantinople, puis maintenant qu'il est resté 3 ou 4 mois à Jérusalem et Alep ; ces deux propositions ne sont pas nécessairement contradictoires, sauf si la seconde constitue une correction de la première, mais, dans les deux cas, Perry voyage depuis 1738 au moins, voire 1736, et non 1739 comme indiqué dans Dawson, Uphill et Bierbrier 1995, p.327.

1[iii] Pococke, lettre n°24, du Caire, le 31 janvier 1739, Add Mss 22998, p.117 et 118. L'âge que Pococke attribue à Perry ferait naître celui-ci vers 1699 et donc rend vraisemblable la date de 1698 donnée par Dawson et Uphill 1972, p.226. J'ignore pourquoi cette date a été retirée de Dawson, Uphill et Bierbrier 1995, p.327.

Research Resources

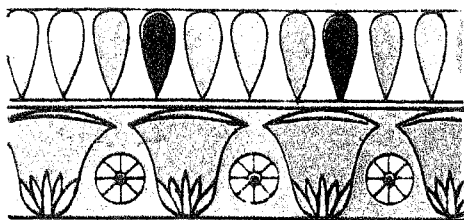
Maxime du Camp's calotypes

Michel Azim has shared information which he thinks will be of interest to some readers about the whereabouts of the mid-19th century calotype photographs of Egypt of Maxime du Camp.

Dans l'ouvrage de Dewachter et Oster, *Un voyageur en Egypte vers 1850 - Le Nil de Maxime du Camp*, 1987, p.29, on lit : "Enfin, c'est dès le début du printemps 1851 que le futur inspecteur des bâtiments civils, Alfred Normand, prix de Rome en 1846, exécuta à la villa Médicis des tirages de certains calotypes de Du Camp ... on ignore l'emplacement actuel des tirages obtenus à Rome par ce calotypiste."

En fait, un mémoire de Bénédicte Jarry, *Les fonds d'architecture dans les bibliothèques publiques*, Paris 2005 (disponible sur internet : <http://www.enssib.fr/bibliotheque-numerique/document-570>), fournit la réponse : les tirages photographiques réalisés à Rome, lorsque Du Camp est revenu d'Égypte avec ses négatifs sur papier, par l'architecte et photographe Alfred-Nicolas Normand (1822-1909), sont conservés à la Bibliothèque municipale de Nantes (France). La liste en est donnée dans l'Annexe 4, "Égypte II", p.XLIV-XLVII, du mémoire de Jarry.

Michel Azim

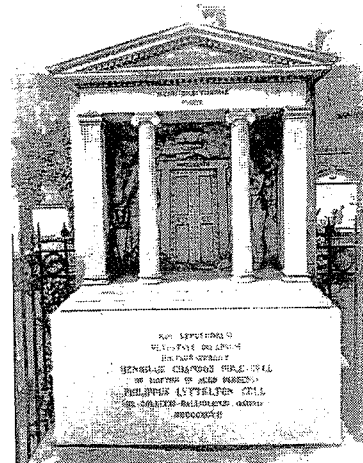


Herodotus and the Simoon

Christina Erck leafed through her Herodotus in search of a memory about the power of the Simoon and a tale of people declaring war on it. She found it in his Histories, Book IV, 'African Nations', verse 175 (here from the Everyman edition, translated by George Rawlinson in 1909.)

On the country of the Nasamonians borders that of the Psylli, who were swept away under the following circumstances. The south-wind had blown for a long time and dried up all the tanks in which their water was stored. Now the whole region within the Syrtis is utterly devoid of springs. Accordingly the Psylli took counsel among themselves, and by common consent made war upon the south-wind – so at least the Libyans say, I do but repeat their words – they went forth and reached the desert; but there the south-wind rose and buried them under heaps of sand: whereupon the Psylli being destroyed, their lands passed to the Nasamonians.

Where are they buried?



The shared tomb of Lady Craven, William Gell and Keppel Craven.

Three for the price of one

Charles Plouviez reports: Possibly the only case of three travellers to the Eastern Mediterranean sharing a tomb is in Naples. Lady Craven, her youngest son, Keppel Craven, and his bosom friend, Sir William Gell, share the same plot. Lady Craven, later the Margravine of Brandenburg, published her *Journey through the Crimea to Constantinople* in 1786. Keppel Craven accompanied Sir William Gell's mission for the Society of Antiquities to Anatolia in 1811. Lady Craven died in 1828, Gell in 1836 and Keppel not until 1851.

Contemporary obituaries

Guest Editor Robert Morkot directed our attention to *The Gentleman's Magazine*. In 1856 the obituaries included the death of Mr Josiah Conder on 27 December, aged 66, at his residence in St John's Wood (London). It was in 1824 that he became of interest to us when he "entered into an engagement to edit the afterwards well known series of 'The Modern Traveller', undertaking in the first instance to furnish the volume on Palestine only." Ultimately he composed the whole set of thirty volumes, having assistance in 4 or 5 volumes only. Conder was interred in Abney-park Cemetery.

I turned next to July-December 1855 and was rewarded on page 205 by the obituary of William John Bankes who died in Venice on 15 April at the age of 69. The obituary reported his political career after his travels, the lawsuit with James Silk Buckingham over accounts of findings in the Near East, and his translation of Giovanni Finati's memoir. It ended "For the last few years Mr Bankes chiefly resided in Venice." It did not explain why and nor did it say where he was buried.

Articles

The impact of Egyptomania

Professor Joan Rees in an article originally published in the Times Literary Supplement of 11 April considered the impact of Egypt on three women travellers – famed in other contexts.

The immense Egyptological excitement generated by Napoleon's savants and Champollion's decipherment of the hieroglyphs, freshly energized excavation spurred speculators, antiquarians, scholars and would-be donors to national and other museums to study and/or profit from the treasures newly revealed, while at the same time mass tourism was generated and Europeans in their thousands took to cruising on the Nile in their dahabeeyahs and, later, their steamers. Much of this interest was superficial and many Nile travellers thought crocodile-hunting more worth their time than a visit to yet another temple; nevertheless Egypt and scholarship related to Egypt made an impact which has not yet been exhausted.

One less obvious aspect of Egyptomania was, and is, in its way profound. Harriet Martineau, Florence Nightingale and Amelia Edwards all went to Egypt between 1847 and 1873, and all wrote about what the experience meant to them. In each case it was life-changing. For Martineau it led her to an awareness of wider intellectual and spiritual horizons which informed the books she went on to write. Nightingale undertook the journey reluctantly and, once there, determinedly refused to

be impressed by what she saw until, after a while, Egypt, Egyptian art and Egyptian religion made an indelible impact and materially altered her conception of life and human destiny. Rfwards went to Egypt only to escape bad weather in France, but she came back to give up her previous career as a novelist and journalist and founded the Egyptian Exploration Fund, which, under its present name as the Egypt Exploration Society, continues its work of preservation, excavation and study of the monuments of ancient Egypt.

No one who had once seen Egypt would ever feel equally interested in any other country, Harriet Martineau declared, and this was no merely sentimental enthusiasm. "One wonders that people come back from Egypt and live lives as they did before," Florence Nightingale remarked, believing that Egypt had taught her profound truths about God and human life, Amelia Edwards, a brilliant and multi-talented woman, devoted all her life and her health to the causes of the EES.

The responsiveness of these women to the experience of Egypt was stimulated by their discovery of an ancient world whose codes were different from those of the repressive society of their own time. Men had long revelled in exploration of the classical world and reserved it and its riches to themselves. Egypt offered a new field where women were free to explore and respond according to their own natures and interests. Harriet Martineau, Florence Nightingale and Amelia Edwards responded with all the force of their personalities and their powerful minds.

Joan Rees

Do readers have other examples of journeys to the Near East being such life-changing experiences? Do you know of male travellers whose lives were changed by their experience of Near Eastern travel?

Late news

This information came to us just as the Bulletin was about to go to press....

Symposium on Ottoman Istanbul and British Orientalism, Pera Museum, Istanbul, 27-28 November, 2008

At the time when the Lure of the East exhibition – now at the Tate in London – moves on to Istanbul this symposium will be held in the museum.

The programme will also address broader questions of cultural exchange between Ottoman and European cultures in the nineteenth century.

The symposium includes leading scholars from art and architectural history, cultural studies, literature and Ottoman history.

To book one of the limited places and for more detail go to <http://www.britishorientalism.org/>

Footprints

No antiquities available

The traveller John Carne (1789-1844) wrote from Cairo to a friend, Henry Boase, in London on 18th December, 1821.

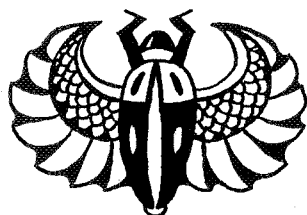
It is very difficult to procure anything (meaning antiquities) here, the greedy antiquaries have carried all that was (rare) and portable. You would really think if you saw the devastations committed in the great burial place of ancient Thebes, they were treasures of gold and silver they had been in search of. The poor Egyptians have had their precious remains torn up from their graves, their deep vaults and secret places. Men, women and children, beauties, warriors, philosophers of all ranks and ages have come to light again. You see bones, arms, legs and parts of the flesh scattered about.

An Englishman I got acquainted with at Cairo had carried off a lady's leg, determined to have something antique, and put it in his trunk. I asked him if the odour was not a little strong of past ages. He said he wished his friends at home to see a specimen of a mummy in its natural state....

"Creeping things" of ancient Egypt

In John Halls' *Life of Henry Salt, volume II, 1835* he published the *Consul General's poem about Egypt in full. Here is an excerpt, describing the 'creeping things' he saw in the interior of one of the 'chambers'.*

And of such mystic fancies, in the range
Of these deep-cavern'd sepulchres are found.
The wildest images, unheard of, strange,
Striking, uncouth, odd, picturesque, profound,
That ever puzzled antiquarian's brain:
Prisoners of different nations, bound and slain;
Genii with heads of birds, hawks, ibis, drakes,
Of lions, foxes, cats, fish, frogs and snakes,
Bulls, rams and monkeys, hippopotami,
With knife in paw, suspended from the sky;
Gods germinating men, and men turn's gods,
Seated in honour, with gilt crooks, and rods;
Vast scarabei, globes by hands upheld.
From chaos springing, 'mid an endless field
Of form grotesque – the sphinx, the crocodile,
And other reptiles from the slime of the Nile.



People of the East in the Bazaar

The Danish writer Hans Christian Anderson travelled through the Near East in 1840. In *A Poet's Bazaar: A Journey to Greece and Turkey and up the Danube (re-issued 1988 in New York)*. Here he has been wandering through the bazaars of Constantinople

It is very interesting to note the characteristics which each nationality reveals itself here. The Turk sits, serious and grave, with his long pipe in his mouth; the Jew and the Greek are busy – they shout and wave. Meanwhile the motley human throng masses its way through the criss-cross arches, the Persians with their heavy, pointed caps, the Armenians with their upside-down, cone-shaped black hats, the Bulgarians in sheepskin coats, Jews with a tattered shawl around a black high-crowned turban, smart Greeks and veiled women – what a busy-ness there is. And through it their rides, very gravely, a distinguished Turk, who looks neither to right or left.

At a given signal in the evening both sellers and buyers go away. A kind of watchman, whose job it is to keep guard in the bazaars, closes all the entrances and opens them again at a fixed time next morning. The salesmen find their stalls exactly as they left them.

From Basra to Aleppo, 1750

Bartholomew Plaisted travelled from Busserah to Aleppo in April-May 1750. He listed his needs and their costs in some detail – although the detail reduced as the list lengthened.....

For the camel which carried my cajavas 75 piasters, and for 3 more at 25 each, which makes 75 more, and amount to	900
The two cajavas, with everything belonging thereto, as also 4 saddles and 6 skins of water, cost me fitting up	246
Two maunds of bread, being 190 pounds	165
Two maunds of rice, the same weight	104
28 pounds of sugar	55
Three okar of coffee	18
Twelve okar of ghee, a sort of butter	72
A dupper or large leather bottle	12
Two matarras or small leather bottles of water, which are exceeding useful	16
Onions, pepper, &c; as also a carpet	64
Asses to carry my luggage to Zabar	20
Spent about 40 rupees at Zabar, and in the desert for hares etc, the particulars of which would be too long to insert	216
To my servants who attended me, 50 piasters	300
Total	2188

All of which amounts to 48 pounds sterling, without reckoning anything for liquors, which were supplied gratis by Messieurs Pomfret and Knidhausen.

Passing life on the Sinai Peninsula, 1816

John Lewis Burckhardt (1784-1817) the Swiss traveller, travelled through Sinai as part of his wide travels through the Near east.

I always commenced the day with a long walk, nothing can be more enjoyable, - the desert, half gravel, half sand, crunches under the feet like snow, - sometimes bounded by low hills, sometimes it stretches out into an interminable plain, but always of the same unvaried hue. We passed skeletons of camels repeatedly, and scattered bones bleached to the whiteness of snow, and, one morning prowling about near our encampment, a Found an open grave and a skull grinning up into my face within it - the relic, doubtless, of some hapless pilgrim. Melancholy memorials these!

But all was not death there, a frog, species of grey lizard, some quails and vultures, were symptoms of animal - and various thorny shrubs, a few wild flowers, and a strongly scented plant (a species of wild camomile we thought it), called by the Arabs *beharran* - of vegetable life; nor should I forget a solitary tree, long conspicuous on the horizon with the apparent dignity of a palm, but which dwindled long before we reached it, into a stunted thorn, covered with rags streaming in the wind, hung there by every pilgrim as he passes *en chemin* for Mecca. The half-eaten carcass of a camel lay beneath it, and the vultures that had been garbaging on it flew away at our approach.

Dates for your diary

ASTENE Conference and dinner, Cairo on Saturday 22 November, 2008

All ASTENE members in Egypt will be invited to a dinner in Cairo, preceded by a short conference. If you wish to give a short paper (20 minutes), please submit a 100 word abstract to Deborah Manley - see email on page 2.

The next ASTENE bi-ennial conference will be held at Collingwood Hall, Durham University in July 2009.

Collingwood has good modern facilities set in a pleasant area of the Durham University campus. Durham is a fascinating historic city, surrounded by beautiful country. .

The conference which led to the foundation of ASTENE was held here in 1995, organised by Janet Starkey - as the 2009 conference will be.

In Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections is the Sudan Archive - a wonderful collection of about 700 boxes of written and printed material and films and maps dating from about 1880 onwards. Founded in 1957, the Archive drew on - and continues to draw on - materials from both Sudanese people and people who worked and travelled there and in the wider Near East. Members at the ASTENE Conference will be able to come early and stay after the Conference to work in this archive.

