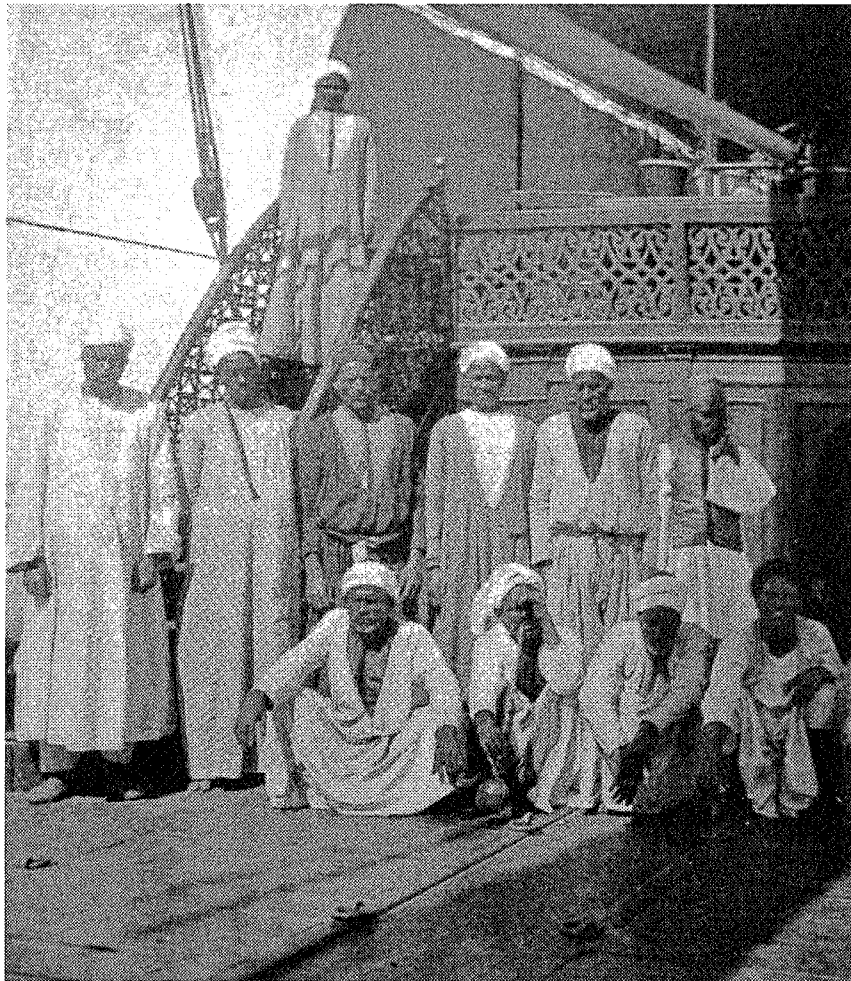


ASTENE

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

BULLETIN



NOTES AND QUERIES

Number 38 : Winter 2008/09

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Submissions for the next Bulletin must be received by
30 March. We welcome articles, queries, replies and
other related matters from members and interested
readers. Please send contributions to the Editor.

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ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ASTENE Biennial Conference and AGM, 10–13 July 2009

ASTENE's next biennial conference will be held at Collingwood College, Durham University, from Friday, 10 July to Monday, 13 July 2009. The Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference. Apologies that the Call for Papers was not included in the Autumn Bulletin as intended. It has been on the ASTENE website since November and is included now, and we very much hope that you will arrange for it to be displayed in libraries and relevant university departments – and that many of you will respond with offers of a paper.

Please note that arrangements for the conference are now being handled by Felicity Wood, to whom all registrations and enquiries should be addressed. She can be contacted by email at felicity.wood@tesco.net, on telephone number +44 (0)1865 554 281, or by post at 93 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HL.

Participants may arrange to come early to Durham or stay later in order to work in the Sudan Archive, but this arrangement must be agreed with ASTENE and the Archive. Please contact the conference co-ordinator, Felicity Wood, if you would like to arrange for access to the Archive. For more information about the Sudan Archive, see *Bulletin 37* (Autumn 2008), p. 5.

Conference Bursaries

ASTENE offers a number of bursaries for each biennial conference to assist members who wish to attend and to contribute a paper to the conference programme. Bursaries include B&B accommodation and the conference fee but not other meals or travel costs. Bursary holders normally act as members of the ASTENE volunteer team, helping with arrangements during the conference. Interested members should contact Felicity Wood, the conference co-ordinator, as soon as possible and not later than 15 May, including a 100-word abstract of the proposed paper and a separate 200-word summary.

Visit to Babylon: Myth and Reality and the Egypt Exploration Society

An important date for your diary is the ASTENE visit to the Egypt Exploration Society in London on Wednesday,

11 March 2009. There is a maximum of 20 visitors, so book early to ensure your place.

11:00–12:30 (meet at 10:45): group booking for the Babylon exhibition at the British Museum, cost £6.50. We will have lunch at the museum and then go on to the Egypt Exploration Society in Doughty Mews from 2:00–4:00. The group entry charge there is £7.50.

To book, please telephone or fax Events Organiser Elisabeth Woodthorpe on 020 7622 3694 as soon as possible.

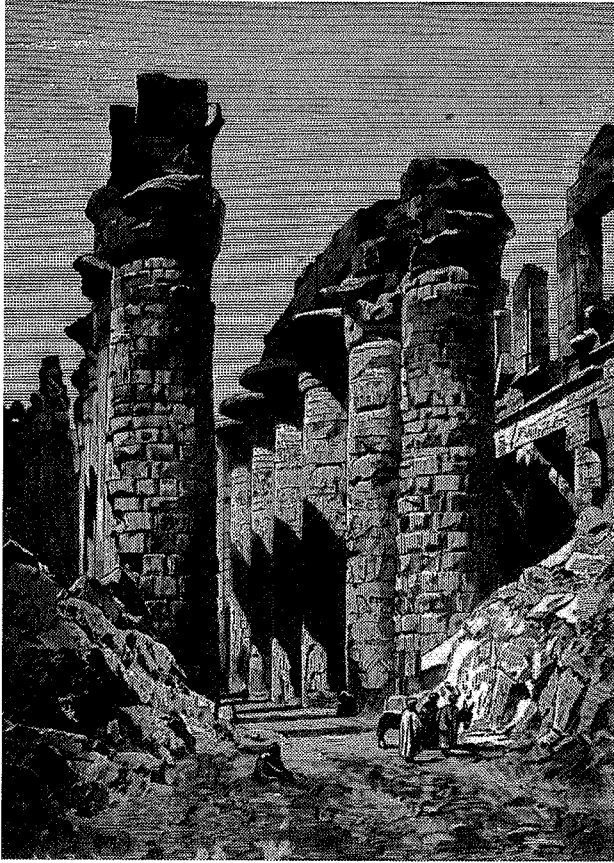
ASTENE Voyage on the Nile, November 2008

We arrived in Luxor in the dark, and after following a roadway by the 'People's Ferry' on the west bank and a bit of stumbling in the semi-darkness, there was our hotel – Sheharazade herself, and dinner in a courtyard lit by open-work pottery lamps... and so to bed.

In the Valley of the Kings next day we sank into the extreme organisation needed to keep the multitudes moving and satisfied that they have seen the objective of their travel. It is fashionable to decry the hoards – but who are they but pilgrims to these tombs? In silence they gently pass by the sacred pictures ... They are like the crowds that accompanied a burial or a great festival, with all the commercial activity that accompanied such days.

Our long-ago travellers met silence and mystery and the local population, who have now nearly been ejected from the hillside and their homes destroyed. Desperately they paint their houses with scenes of their travel to Mecca or locally inspired themes, but to no avail – only the Gourna Project, painted yellow, survives the ejection. Excavation continues with vigour in the hope of finding yet more royal tombs, or another undisturbed burial where, like Carter, one could stand – as we did – with the sun setting on the ruins of the Rameseum.

Next morning a neat little launch carried us across the Nile to Karnak, now unlike anything our travellers saw – so much more exposed and explicable. The great pylons and columned courtyards stand proudly as in ancient times, when they echoed to the bustle within the walls and along the processional route towards Luxor temple. After a decent pause for an especially good lunch we visited Luxor Museum to view the sacred barques being



carried and shipped from temple to temple on sculptures from a cache discovered in Luxor temple, along with outstanding items from Cairo Museum. And then to the temple itself at the end of the day.

Next morning we joined the convoy and armed escort for Esna. Here we really began to experience the world of 19th-century travellers: the streets are dust tracks, the souk has its 'cupboard' shops arranged according to trade – metal-workers, cloth merchants, vegetable sellers and spice merchants in their separate sections. We descended to Esna temple with its beautiful coloured capitals carved in bold patterns of papyrus, water lily and palm.

After threading our way through the mean streets of Esna – thinking about the dancing girls banished there by Mehemet Ali, and Flaubert's Hanem – we reached the river's edge and our two *dahabiyahs*. We were welcomed by an eager, caring crew and felt we had entered some sort of heaven of hospitality, where every wish could and would be fulfilled – with comfortable white cabins, delicious meals and ready cups of mint tea and coffee. There was little wind at first, and our attending tugs pulled us southwards through the still, flat water until the sun sank behind the trees and the stars came out as we moored by the river bank.

Some of us were up early as the sunshine was creeping golden across the water – then, grey and misty, it rose as a great disc on the eastern horizon. We moored at El Kab, capital of the vulture goddess, represented now by a vast mudbrick wall and tombs in a cliff painted with

scenes of daily life and mystical burial. In the evening, after a voyage past fields and villages, we travelled to Edfu by horse-drawn carriages, the temple lit up in the twilight, giving its great dark halls added mystery. We tied up every night at someone's farm, with crops growing by the river and animals grazing nearby. The bird-watchers found all kinds of water fowl and migrants to enjoy. Between each expedition there were delicious meals prepared in the tiny kitchen and elegantly served by our ever attentive, quietly smiling crew. We had had yet no wind and had been towed by our little tugs. What happened when there were no tugs? We knew that the boats were rowed or hauled by the crew for hours.

Each evening we held a 'Nile Conference', with papers on King Henry IV as pilgrim (Deborah Manley), detecting the origins of the 18th-century Dr Charles Perry (Brian Taylor), Osman the Scottish Mussulman (Peta Ree), Amelia Edwards as artist (Brenda Moon), Foreign Gardeners in Egypt (Alix Wilkinson) and Florence Nightingale with Flaubert (Anthony Sattin). We enjoyed two birthdays with cakes and a celebratory fantasia by the crew. In the mornings, along the shore dogs romped in the reeds, a donkey broke from its moorings and rushed off to find a better breakfast, a woman drew water from the river for her household, and another scrubbed her family's pots and dishes. A man led his bullock into the water and allowed it to wallow. Still no wind, but we never once envied the great hotel-sized steamers that queued down the other side of the river. At Gebel Silsideh we walked along the bank – attended and if necessary aided by the crew – to see the quarries and the shrine built by Horemheb and added to by later kings. We had with us to provide the background not only Anthony Sattin but also Robert Morkot, who supplied just the amount of information one needed, so one's brain was not clouded by too much knowledge.

That afternoon – at last – the sails of one of the *dahabiyahs* went up – its beautiful red and white stripes pointing skywards. All the sails eventually were hoisted, and there was just enough wind to move the vessels very slowly against the stream. Soon it was the end of the day, and all the cabin boys were up in the rigging, precariously balanced between the mast and a rope ladder, folding the huge thick sail and making it fast by looping rope around the sail and the mast.

That night we stopped on a flat, sandy shore – an isolated spot among reeds and rushes from where we could hear the birds sending each other to bed. Next morning, after a walk along the field paths, we sailed to Kom Ombo, with its Ptolemaic temple dedicated to the crocodile god Sobed and to Horus. From there, under sail truly, a line of *dahabiyahs* tacked gently with the wind. The voyage was nearly over and we wished it could go on forever, moving slowly and silently as we watched the trees and the life of the river bank, dozing and eating until the stars came and the chatter on the bank ceased.

The boats moved off while it was still dark and passed under the brightly lit bridge below Aswan. We arrived to be moored ignominiously behind a huge steamer while their rubbish was being unloaded.

Farewell to our lovely floating palaces and our kind and attentive crews and into the bustling world of tourists hastening to Philae. The old stones of Philae must rejoice that so many pilgrims are thronging her courts and marvelling at the images of Isis and the source of the flood. Our travellers were reading the names of the travellers who had gone before us and brought us here...

In the evening we were back in Cairo and welcoming our ASTENE Cairo members to dinner and to the two last papers of the 'Nile Conference': Robert Morkot on how following the traveller Colonel Straton brought scattered collections together in Britain, and Johanna Holaubek on the 'caravan' of diverse Austrian travellers in Egypt. In the morning was the Egyptian Museum and the plane back to London ... and ordinary life.

Our enormous thanks go out to Elizabeth Woodthorpe, Deborah Manley and the expertise, leadership and care provided by Anthony Sattin, with his immaculate planning and low-key delivery of day-to-day organisation that made for such a relaxed and delightful experience. It was probably nearer to the old days of

the 1920s or 1930s than earlier times, but we travelled almost the same way through some of the same scenery – though not on the same river, which ever moves, changes and stays the same.

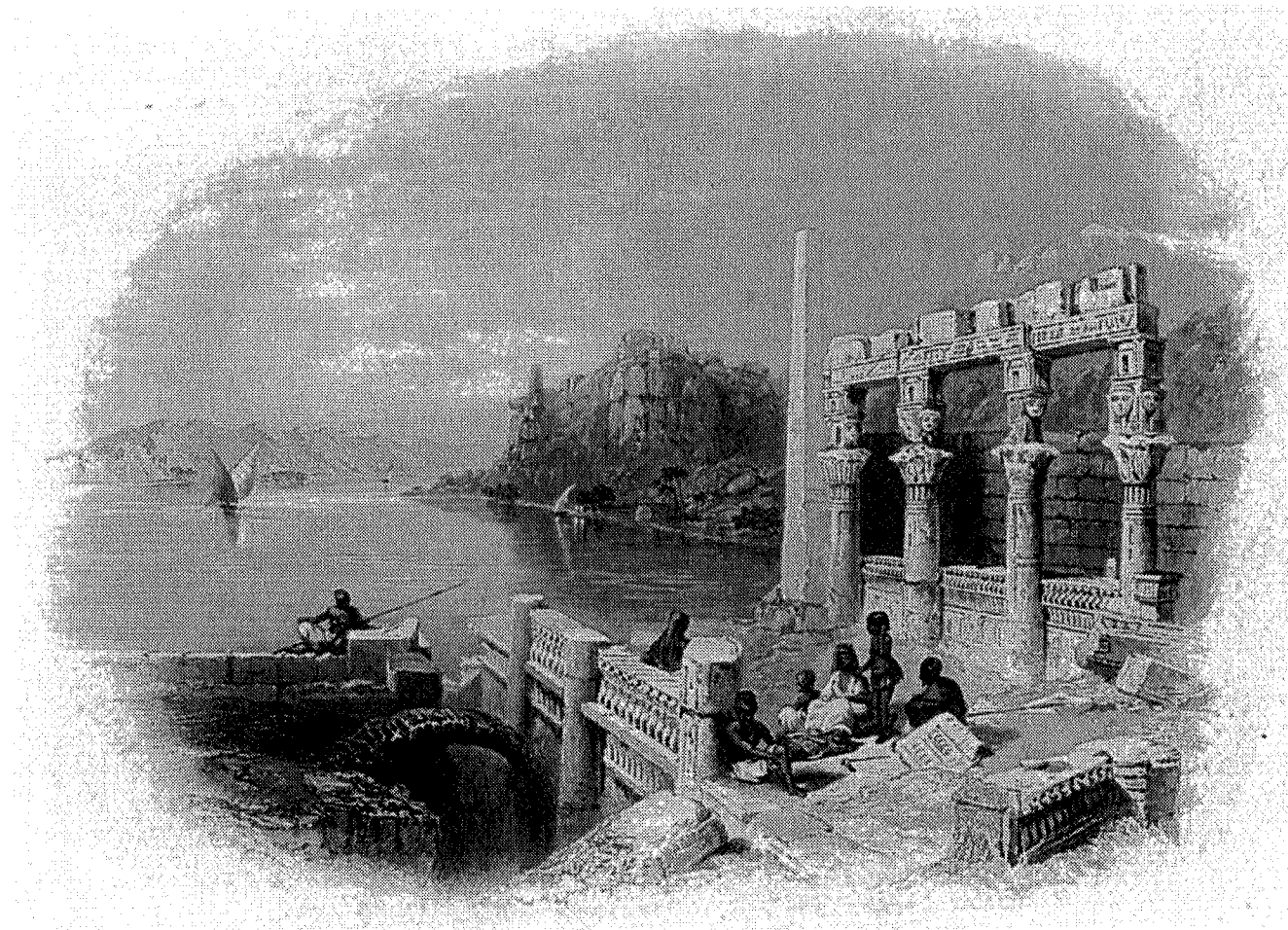
Alix Wilkinson

At the ASTENE Durham Conference we will have an exhibition of photographs of this memorable experience and information about how to book your own dahabiyah trip.

The photo on the cover of this issue of the Bulletin comes from Things Seen in Egypt, by E. L. Butcher (London, Seeley, Service and Co., n.d., p. 165). The author was the wife of Charles Henry Butcher, who became chaplain of the Anglican church in Cairo in 1880. The caption reads: 'The Crew of a Dahabeah. Their dress is picturesque but scarcely sailorlike; however, when they have to go aloft their outer garment is removed.' Although dating to the 19th century, it could easily have been taken by one of our own members during the November Nile cruise. Thanks to Felicity Wood for supplying the image.

Yanni's House

Members will remember that at the ASTENE 2007 Annual General Meeting in Southampton we passed



a motion pledging limited financial support for a survey of 'Yanni's House' at Qurna on the west bank of the Nile at Luxor, at Horubat. In about 1820 it was acquired for Consul General Henry Salt's agent, 'Yanni' (Giovanni d') Athanasi (1798–1854). The house became an important base for the exploration of the Theban necropolis by travellers and is mentioned several times in the literature [see, for example, under *Footprints*, p. 14]. The house is now in a ruinous state. Such a survey as ASTENE agreed to finance would help to assess the costs of the restoration of what might be the oldest surviving house in the Sheik abd el Qurna area.

How Yanni's house could be rescued is ably demonstrated by the Zawia, a project that owes much to the unstinting efforts and enthusiasm of ASTENE member Caroline Williams and local colleagues. Here another 19th-century house has been sympathetically restored as part of the Qurna History Project, using local labour. It is the venue for exhibiting a copy of the panoramas of Qurna and its people by Robert Hay (1790–1863). [For details of the *Qurna History Project*, see Bulletin 37, p. 4.]

During our stay in Luxor, Robert Morkot and I visited Dr Mansur Boraik at the offices of the Supreme Council of Antiquities on behalf of ASTENE, and made a case for a preliminary survey of Yanni's house, which, subject to cost, ASTENE hoped to help fund. Dr Mansur, the Senior Inspector of the Supreme Council of Antiquities for Luxor East and West, seemed to be in favour of restoring Yanni's House as part of the larger Qurna project.

Dr Boraik urged us to put the ASTENE proposal in writing to Dr Zahi Hawass, the Council's Secretary General. This we intend to do, following discussion with the ASTENE Committee and with colleagues at the British Museum. It is hoped that Yanni's House may eventually be surveyed, restored and put to some cultural use rather than left to deteriorate further.

Brian Taylor

Dr Hana Navratilova

Dr Navratilova, of Charles University, Prague, is on sabbatical in Oxford this year, attached to the Griffiths Institute. In Prague she is involved in Egyptological research partly related to the New Kingdom, in which she includes work on the graffiti of ancient Egyptian travellers. A smaller part of her work includes the Egyptian Revival and European travellers to Egypt.

During Hana's year in the UK the ASTENE Committee have invited her to attend and contribute to its Committee meetings, and she has been pleased to accept. We hope that she will also be with us at the ASTENE Biennial Conference in Durham.

Corfu and Albania

Some ASTENE members may not realise that our borders go around the eastern Mediterranean and beyond, embracing Greece, the Ottoman Balkans and the Arabian Peninsula as well as Egypt, Turkey, the Levant and the Mesopotamian region.

Following our recent fascinating trip up the Nile, our next proposed visit is to Corfu, southern Albania and northern Greece: 'in the footsteps of Byron and Leake', including their involvement with Ali Pasha and other travellers in the area. Professor Malcolm Wagstaff, who has generously agreed to lead the group, is finalising details for this 8-day trip, organised in conjunction with Sunvil Travel and planned for May/June 2010. It will include a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage excavations at Butrint in Albania, as well as a stay in the lakeside Greek city of Ioannina.

If you have not yet joined one of our ASTENE trips abroad you are missing out on a very special experience. We envisage a maximum group of 20, so please register an initial interest with ASTENE Events Organiser Elisabeth Woodthorpe (telephone/fax 020 7622 3694) as soon as possible, so that we can take things forward.

Byron in Greece and Albania

We are planning a study day on Byron's travels in Greece and Albania in early 2010. Full details in the next *Bulletin*.



Thomas Phillips, RA, *Lord Byron in Albanian Dress*, c. 1835 (London, National Portrait Gallery)

Maureen Hadfield (1935–2008)

Maureen Hadfield, who died very unexpectedly on 20 September, was one of the many members who willingly gave time and experience to ASTENE whenever asked. Her family connection with the Near East went back centuries, and she herself lived in Egypt as a child. In her work as an economic consultant she travelled the world, and more recently edited the proceedings of the International Economic Association.

In her final contribution to ASTENE, she worked with Michel Azim on his fascinating article about Dr Robert Richardson at Karnak (Bulletin 37, Autumn 2008, p. 13). She will be sadly missed by those of us who knew her.

Membership Reminder

The cost of ASTENE membership has not gone up in the 11 years of ASTENE's existence! Many of us pay our membership by standing bank order or other regular payment, others pay year by year – and they will receive a reminder with this Bulletin. It would be greatly helpful to our Treasurer if more members set up a regular payment system or paid for three years in one go.

Members Around the World

ASTENE has members right across the globe. The largest number are in the United Kingdom – 195 of us come from towns, cities and villages stretching from Belfast to Edinburgh, York to Cardiff, Southampton to Norwich, Lincoln to Exeter, and more – but members are scattered across Europe, from Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Greece, Malta, Eire, Cyprus, Sweden and elsewhere. We have a fair number of members in the United States and Canada, and in Egypt, and one each in Tunisia, Jordan and Syria. There is even an ASTENE member in China, and a couple in Australia.

Updating *Who Was Who in Egyptology*

Dr Morris Bierbrier has started work on updating that wonderful tool for ASTENE members, *Who Was Who in Egyptology*.

Originally put together by Warren R. Dawson and published by the Egypt Exploration Society in 1931, it was updated by Morris and re-issued in 1995 – with some assistance from ASTENE members. No ASTENE member researching Egyptian travellers can afford to be without its meticulously compiled information. I give as an exemplar one of the shorter entries on a well known traveller:

MANGLES, JAMES (1814–1876)

British naval officer and explorer; he was probably born at Hurley, Berks, 1786, the son of John M. and Harriet Camden; he entered the Navy, 1800, and saw much service until 1815 when he held the rank of Capt; he visited Egypt, Nubia, Syria and Palestine with the Hon. Charles Irby (q.v), 1817–18; FRS 1825; he died in Fairfield, Exeter, 18 Nov. 1876.

Morris asks ASTENE members to supply any new information they have discovered in their researches. He can be contacted c/o Egypt Exploration Society, 3 Doughty Mews, London WC! 2PG. He would like to include more photographs of the people discussed; if anyone has photos or portraits to submit, please send them to Morris at the EES or, if scanned, to chris.naunton@ees.ac.uk.



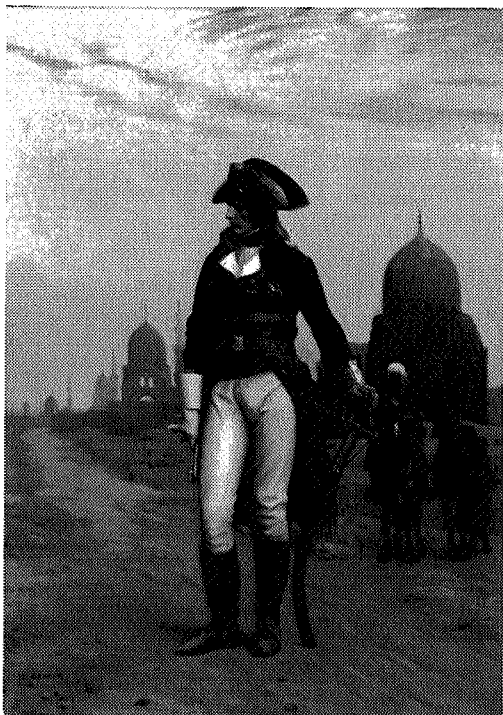
SPECIMENS OF EGYPTIAN ART, &c.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Exhibitions

Bonaparte et l'Égypte: Feu et Lumières, 1769–1869. L'Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, until 29 March 2009. A modicum of good fortune decreed that I should be in Paris just a few days after the opening of this exhibition in the splendid Institut building within sight of Notre Dame. The exhibition is designed to record the relationship between France and Egypt between 1796, when both Napoleon and Muhammed Ali were born, and 1869, when the Suez Canal, a predominantly French undertaking, was opened. For anyone familiar with the history of this period and, particularly, the fruits of the artistic and scientific enterprises that resulted from the non-military elements of Napoleon's expedition, this is an essential exhibition that is unlikely to be replicated for many years and should be on everyone's 'must see' list for the winter months!

The Institut has collected paintings, prints and *objets d'art* from museums and galleries in France, Cairo and London, and visitors are able to see the originals of works used to illustrate the many histories of the period that are now available. There are original prints from Dominique-Vivant Denon's *Voyage* and from *La Description de l'Égypte* and paintings by Gerome, David, Lejeune and others. The first-ever bronze bust of



Jean-Léon Gérôme, *Napoleon in Egypt*, c. 1867–68 (Princeton University Art Museum)

Napoleon is exhibited, along with two other intriguing sculptures of him on a camel.

This is not a 'blockbuster' exhibition, nor is it very large – but it is highly concentrated, and there are very few objects one would pass by. I will, certainly, make an effort to see it a second time. Additionally, there is the opportunity to visit the splendid bookshop in the Institut; it has copies of all the recent publications relevant to the history of the period, as well as CDs, DVDs and many other delights. For more information, see www.imarabe.org/temp/expo/bonaparte.html.

George Hutcheson

Byzantium: 330–1453. Royal Academy, London, until 22 March 2009. This is a luxurious exhibition of some 340 objects from a variety of sources, including icons, wall paintings, mosaics, ivories, enamels and gold and silver artefacts, some never displayed publicly before. Through these splendid works, arranged chronologically, the evolution of Byzantium unfolds and links through to the coming of the Renaissance. This is the first exhibition about this ignored civilisation – and its travellers – for half a century, and the Royal Academy overcame many hurdles to gather together such splendour. Some of us will have seen the icon from St Catherine's Convent in Sinai when ASTENE visited in 2006. The talk to be given by Father Justin, who worked with us in Sinai, is unfortunately completely full. For more information, see www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/byzantium.

Babylon: Myth and Reality. British Museum, London, until 15 March 2009. This important exhibition draws intriguing contrasts between the idea of Babylon, with its hanging gardens and palaces, and the reality discovered by archaeologists and travellers. Tickets may be booked on 0207 323 8181.

There are related BM lectures on Thursdays at 18:30:
29 January – Babylon: The Archaeology of Iraq Today
5 February – Written in the Stars: The Scientific Legacy of Babylon
12 February – Exploration, Propagation and Curation: Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark in Arabia
26 February – From Jerusalem to Babylon: New Thoughts on the Babylonian Exile, by exhibition curator Irving Finkel.

There are also Gallery Talks on other days. For more information, see www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/all_current_exhibitions/babylon.aspx.

Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium BC. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, until 15 March 2009. This exhibition focuses on the extraordinary art created for the kings, diplomats and merchants of this era. There are 350 objects from tombs, temples and palaces, as well as from a unique shipwreck. The artefacts represent the widespread connections between the regions of the Near East, from Greece and Syria to Egypt and Mesopotamia, Anatolia and the Caucasus. Many of the objects exhibited have never been displayed before. For more information, see www.metmuseum.org/special/index.asp.

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs. Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas, until 17 May. This exhibition includes 130 works from the Egyptian National Museum in Cairo, including 50 spectacular objects from Tutankhamun's tomb. The exhibition is more than twice the size of the 1979 'King Tut' exhibition. Booking recommended on 877-888 8587. For more information, see dallasmuseumofart.org/Dallas_Museum_of_Art/View/Tut/index.htm.

Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, until 25 May 2009. An exhibition of 50 of Harry Burton's photographs explained. For more information, see www.carlos.emory.edu/wonderful-things.

The V&A travels to Damascus and Istanbul. An exhibition of 160 ceramic masterpieces from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London has been travelling. It started in Damascus, opening from late November to early January at the Khas As'ad Pasha in the wonderful souk. It then travels on to the Pera Museum in Istanbul from May to July, before returning to the newly refurbished V&A ceramic gallery in London.

The exhibition reflects the cross-currents of trade between Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Among the highlights is a two-metre high turquoise-glazed sceptre from dynastic Egypt, a life-sized porcelain goat from Dresden, Sevres busts of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, and Picasso's famed 1954 vase, 'Artist at His Easel'. If you are in Istanbul this summer, try not to miss these masterpieces at the Pera Museum.

Palestine Photographed by the American Colony Photographers, 1898–1931. Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, until 28 February 2009. In 1926 and 1931 the American grain dealer Ane Speelman (1880–1964) and his wife went twice to Palestine. At the photo shop of the American Colony (a Christian religious community) they bought more than a thousand lantern slides of the Holy Land. These slides show a 'dreamland, in which the tensions between Palestinian Jews and Arabs are almost invisible.' Nearly 100 of these images are on display in the Jewish Historical Museum,

Nieuwe Amstelstraat 1, Amsterdam.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book, *In the Footsteps of Abraham: The Holy Land in Hand-painted Photographs* by Richard Hardiman and Helen Speelman (€34.95 from the museum). For more details see www.jhm.nl/exhibitions/aspx.

Conferences and Lectures

Britain and the Muslim World: Historical Perspectives. University of Exeter, 17–19 April 2009. This British Academy-sponsored conference will explore the historical impact of cross-cultural encounters between the Muslim world and Britain, bringing together people from many backgrounds to consider the past, the current situation and the future. There will be an ASTENE panel at the conference.

For full details and booking arrangements, see www.sall.ex.ac.uk/conferences/britain-and-the-muslim-world.html. The closing date for bookings is 15 January, but try anyway, even if you make contact after that date.

Melville and the Mediterranean. Ecole Biblique, East Jerusalem, 17–21 June 2009. This conference is devoted to understanding the place of the Mediterranean and the Holy Land in Western consciousness. While one focus is concerned with Herman Melville's epic *Cleavel: A Poem and Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*, the conference aims to open up discussions related to travel, literature, other humanities and the sciences, aesthetics, anthropology, archaeology, ethnography, and religion. Papers and panels are welcome on a range of international writing about the region. There is a particular interest in a panel or panels from ASTENE members on travel writing and other fields relating to knowledge of the region and its significance in the 19th and 20th centuries. For further details of the conference, see www.unc.edu/~marr/jerusalem/.

Classical Ships of Islam, from Mesopotamia to the Indian Ocean. Arabian Studies Society lecture by Professor Dionysius Agius in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, London, on 22 January. All welcome. Details at www.societyarabianstudies.org.

Courses and Study Days at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education

Troy – Myth and Archaeology. This 20-week course starts on Wednesday 21 January (10–noon) at the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education in Oxford's Summertown, led by Dr Stephen Kershaw. The cost is £198. Most of our travellers were very well

versed in this war and its place in Classical literature. Very briefly, the course covers in the first term the origins and building of Troy, and the years of the Trojan War; the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid* and the war in art and literature. The second, summer term is concerned with the discoveries of Calvert and Schliemann and other excavators. The last three sessions try to answer the question 'Did the Trojan War take place?' and to consider it in literature, art and film; the course ends with a British Museum visit. For details and booking telephone 01865 280892, or visit www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/. Email enquiries@conted.ox.ac.uk.

Mesopotamia: Cradle of Civilization. Also starting on 21 January, from 7 to 9 pm, is a course run by Dr Frances Reynolds giving an overview of this region, including the invention of cities and writing, kings, palaces, libraries and much more, including a museum visit. Cost £105. Details and applications as above.

Study Days at Rewley House, Oxford. There is a variety of study days this spring of interest to ASTENE members. Details as above. Book on 01865 270360.

Moses: a Mythical Perspective. The study day (Saturday, 4 April), run by Reverend Robin Gibbons of the Faculty of Theology, will consider the meanings of the Moses story in Christian and Islamic mysticism.

Winter/Spring Programme at the Petrie Museum, London

The Petrie Museum, London, has a programme that will attract and intrigue ASTENE members. All activities are free and do not need to be booked unless otherwise stated. For further details see www.petrie.ucl.ac.uk/.

29 January – Holiday Flicks: The Tourist Gaze in Egypt. Film on British tourists at Egyptian sites in the 1930s. Dr Amira Bennison, Lecturer in Middle East and Islamic Studies, will comment. Doors open at 6 pm, talk at 6:30, film at 7:00.

4 February – Study day: Napoleon in Egypt. Commemorates 200 years since the publication of the *Description of Egypt*. 1–5 pm at the Petrie Museum, moving on afterwards to Apsley House (the Duke of Wellington's home, 'Number One, London' at Hyde Park Corner) to view the Sevres dinner set, inspired by the *Description* illustrations. Free, but booking essential.

5 February – Desire and Papyrus: The Discovery of Fragments of Sappho in Egypt. Lecture by ASTENE member Dr Debbie Challis of the Petrie Museum at the Petrie Museum, 6–8 pm. Refreshments will be served.

11 March – Pyramid Building: Change and Innovation. A lecture linked to National Science and Engineering Week, 3–5 pm.

4 April – Study day: Isis to Cleopatra: Ptolemaic Egypt and the Petrie Museum. Exploring the Greek period of Egypt, from Alexander the Great to Cleopatra VII, and the fusion of Egyptian and Hellenistic cultures. 1–5 pm. Free, but booking essential.

Other Societies

There are a number of other societies with interests that link closely with those of ASTENE. One is the Egypt Exploration Society, which ASTENE will visit in the spring – see p. 1 above.

Another is the T. E. Lawrence Society, introduced to us by Elisabeth Woodhouse. It was established in 1985 (just over a decade before ASTENE) and exists to provide information about the life and career of T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and to promote and publish research. The Society offers two journals and four newsletters a year and arranges meetings and visits and a symposium every alternate year. It maintains contacts with people with similar interests in Britain and abroad.



T. E. Lawrence, 1888–1935

The *Ancient Egypt* journal links societies that share an interest in ancient Egypt and the history, people and culture of the Nile Valley, and is a useful source of information on meetings and other activities. For further information see [ww.ancientegyptmagazine.com](http://www.ancientegyptmagazine.com).

BOOK REVIEWS

The ASTENE Bulletin Book Reviews Editor is Ashley Jones. He can be contacted at Waters End, Broom Water West, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9QH, or on ashleyjones40@hotmail.com.

***The Tangled Web: A Life of Sir Richard Burton*, by Jon R. Godsall. Leicester, Troubador Publishing, 2008. £8.99**

It is amazing that anyone should think that yet another biography of Sir Richard Burton should be added to the already existing corpus. However, Jon R. Godsall has judged this to be the case, and his book bears this out. It is a tremendous success, dense and heavy (425 pages) with pages of notes, appendices and a first-class index. Admirers of Richard Burton will surely be most grateful for this addition to the bibliography.

Burton was a complicated individual, and Godsall's detailed account of his early years will explain much and fill in some of the gaps omitted by earlier biographers. Burton's exploits in Africa are well detailed, as are his travels in Arabia and especially his journey to Mдина and Mecca.

One of the great mysteries of this period is what really happened to Professor Edward Palmer, an Arabist and

linguist who was murdered in 1882 in the Sinai Desert. Godsall's account of this episode is painstakingly researched yet inconclusive.

Throughout his life Burton seemed to be at the centre of controversy, and this persisted until his final moments. His wife, Lady Isabel Burton, was a staunch Roman Catholic, and one of her final acts was to burn much of Sir Richard's correspondence, an act of vandalism that cannot be overstated. The mausoleum where they are both interred can be visited at Mortlake. *The Tangled Web* is a splendid piece of work, although not designed for an easy bed-time read.

Ashley Jones

***Dreaming of East: Western Women and the Exotic Allure of the Orient*, by Barbara Hodgson. Vancouver, Greystone Books, 2006. \$18.95.**

This attractively produced, well researched and extremely well illustrated book sets out to study the interests and achievements of Western women travellers to the East from 1717 to about 1930. The author explores the ways in which her subjects found confidence, independence and freedom through their exploits. The attraction of travel to and in the Orient is discussed under various headings: the logistics and



conditions of travel; the role of the harem; scholarly travel, and friendships with both men and women. The author has ducked into contemporary fiction too. The result is a new and intriguing look at the appeal of the Orient to such well known people as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Lucie Duff Gordon, Isabella Burton and Gertrude Bell, and less familiar travellers such as the Viennese widow Ida Pfeiffer (1797–1858), Julia Pardoe (1806–1892), Countess Hahn-Hahn (1805–1880), the ill-fated Netherlands heiress Alexine Tinne (1835–1869), Margaret Fontaine (1862–1940) the butterfly hunter, and Asmar of Mesopotamia (1804–1854), a rare Eastern travel writer.

To anyone with an interest in women travellers to the East here is a book bringing fresh and fascinating knowledge.

Ann Revell

***The Spirit of Hadrian's Wall*, by Roger Clegg and Mark Richards. Milnthorpe, Cumbria, Cicerone Press, 2008. £20.**

The emperor Hadrian's Roman Empire stretched from Romania in the east to Egypt and Tunisia in the south and to the British Isles in the north and west. To mark the extent of the territory he would defend, walls were built along the boundaries. Not far from Durham, where ASTENE's 2009 conference will be held in July, Hadrian's Wall snakes across Britain; begun in AD 122, it marked the northernmost stretch of Hadrian's empire. This book of photographs by Roger Clegg, who has been recording Hadrian's Wall for many years, shows the wall in different places and in various moods as he moves along it from east to west, following the Roman wall-builders.

Many travellers to Egypt remarked the ruins on the Nile where the emperor's young male lover had drowned. An excursion to 'The Wall' which for centuries has amazingly linked northern Britain to the Nile, is planned for the conference.

Deborah Manley

Further Books

Recent publications from I. B. Tauris that may interest ASTENE members:

Two Faiths, One Banner: When Muslims Marched with Christians across Europe, by Ian Almond (£27.50 h/b)

The Wahhabi Mission and Saudi Arabia, by David Dean Commins (£39.50 h/b)

The Grand Turk: Sultan Mehmet II, Conqueror of Constantinople, Master of an Empire, and Lord of Two Seas, by John Freely (£12.99 p/b)

The Earl and his Butler in Constantinople: The Secret Diary of an English Servant among the Ottomans, by Nigel and Caroline Webb (£14.99 p/b)

Monuments of Egypt: An A-Z Companion to Ancient Egyptian Architecture, by Dieter Arnold (14.99 p/b)

Kingdom of Ruins: The Art and Architectural Splendours of Ancient Turkey, by Jeremy Stafford Deitch (£29.95 p/b)

Wanderings in Arabia, by Charles Doughty with a new foreword by Barnaby Rogerson. The authorized abridged edition of *Travels in Arabia Deserta* (£14.99 p/b)

Petra and the Lost Kingdom of the Nabataeans, by Jane Taylor (£15.99 p/b)

The Sultan's Admiral: Barbarossa – Pirate and Empire Builder, by Ernle Bradford with a new foreword by John Freely (11.99 p/b)

The Last of the Crusaders: The Knights of St John and Malta in the 18th Century, by Roderick Cavaliero (£11.99 p/b)

Tales from the Bazaars of Arabia: Folk Stories from the Middle East, by Amina Shah (£9.99 p/b)

Travellers in Egypt, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey. Re-issue of papers from the first ASTENE conference (£11.99 p/b)

Pierre Loti: Travels with the Legendary Romantic, by Lesley Blanch (£11.99 p/b)

A Real and Fictional Hero

A friend, seeing a copy of John Buchan's *Greenmantle* in my house, asked if I knew that the author based his tales of adventure in ASTENE regions on a real person. I did not, and so he searched his Buchans and found that in the Foreword to *The Entry of the Morning*, T. T. Binyon wrote that Sandy Glenroyden is based on Aubrey Herbert, a friend of Buchan's at Oxford, whose experiences before the 1914–18 war in Albania and the Levant resemble those attributed to Sandy in *Greenmantle*. He was even said to have been offered the crown of Albania ...

In the *Dictionary of National Biography*, Aubrey has earned two full columns – an ASTENE traveller indeed, and of particular interest as ASTENE is planning a trip to Albania in 2010 (see above, p. 4).

Deborah Manley

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

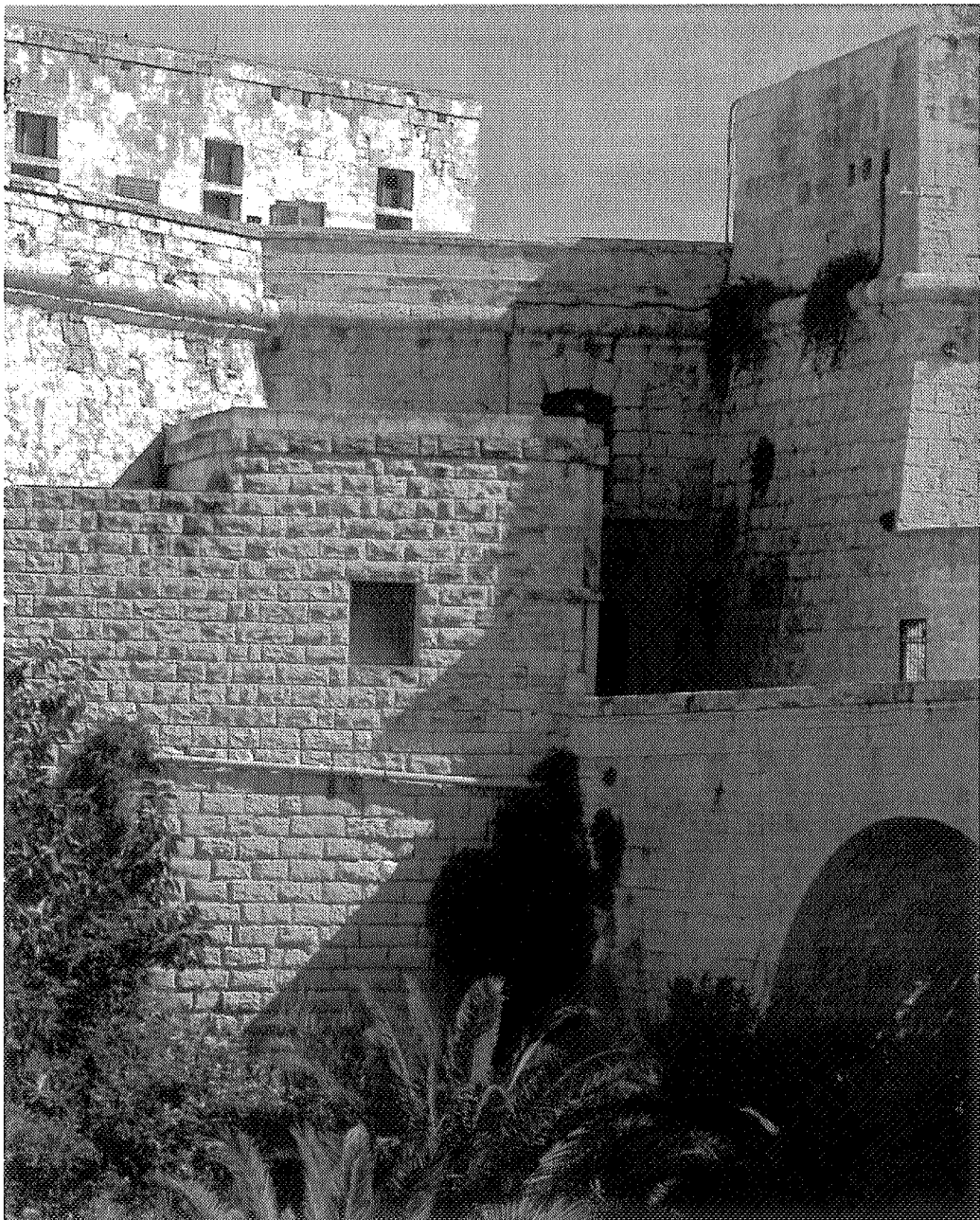
Ralph Abercromby

General Sir Ralph Abercromby of Tullibody (1734–1801) was a distinguished British soldier who is widely credited with securing the removal of the French army from Egypt, after Napoleon's invasion, at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801. During the course of the battle, however, he was mortally wounded, and he died a few days later. His son, Sir John Abercromby (1772–1817), who was present at the battle, decided that his father's body should be taken to Malta and interred there. Some time

later his remains were removed to a bastion in St Elmo's Fort in Valletta. (shown here).

Today, the vertical headstone is in a distressed condition adjacent to a toilet and in an area frequently used by turning vehicles. For the remains of a man who played a significant part in our view of the history of Egypt and who is commemorated by a substantial equestrian statue in St Paul's Cathedral in London, this is a particularly sad situation.

George Hutcheson



ARTICLES

Do Not Blame the Ambassador

It might have been ‘Lalleymania’ instead of ‘Tulipomania’ if a certain conversation had taken a different turn 453 years ago. Why indeed do we use the word *tulip*, when the flower that the Turks cultivated, and the Western Europeans saw, loved and then imported, was actually called *lâle* in the Ottoman dominions?

Lexicographers blame the famous traveller Ogier Ghislen de Busbecq (1522–1591), Hapsburg ambassador to the court of Süleyman the Magnificent, for the misnaming of the tulip. When Busbecq was travelling between Edirne and Istanbul in 1554–1555 to take up his post, he noted a flower, new to him, and mentioned it in his first letter home (subsequently published in Latin, 1588):

As we travelled through this region, a great profusion of flowers was on show everywhere: narcissi, hyacinths, and those that the Turks call *tulipan*...

The problem was that they didn’t. They called it *lâle* (but see below), Thanks to the popularity of Busbecq’s *Letters*..., variants of *tulipan* as a name for the new flower have entered many languages, and various theories have been put forward as to why he (or his dragoman/interpreter) made such an error. The *Oxford English Dictionary* under the entry ‘Tulip’ includes this dismissive comment:

[the word tulip from a] ... vulgar Turkish pronunciation of Persian *dulband*, ‘turban’, which the expanded flower of the tulip is thought to resemble...

This is probably wrong on two counts. *Dulband* (*dülbent* or *tülbent* in Turkish) does not mean ‘turban’, and the expanded flowers of tulips of the early Ottoman period did not really resemble turbans, nor did the Turks think so. *Dülbent* is, in fact, fine white cotton gauze or lawn, used, among other things, for making a turban – not the turban itself, which was, and is, called *sarık*.

Indeed, another, and better informed *Oxford English Dictionary* contributor (under the entry ‘Turban’) quotes from a book entitled *The Grand Signors Seraglio* ..., edited by John Greaves in 1653:

The name of the stuff (as we call ours lawn, cambrick, holland, &c.) is Telbent; whence we (falsly) call that which a Turk wears a Turbant, using the name of the stuff for the things made up...

Anna Pavord, in her book *The Tulip*, has another scenario¹. She suggests that Busbecq pointed at a tulip worn in a turban; then the dragoman, thinking that Busbecq meant the turban itself, gave him the name for that, instead of the flower worn in it. Yet, as noted above, the word for turban is *sarık*, not *dülbent*.

My speculation is much simpler. Busbecq asked ‘What is that flower?’, pointing to one on show. The gardener, who took him too literally, thinking that he meant the name of that specific kind of tulip, replied precisely (via the dragoman): ‘*Dülbent lâlesi*, Your Excellency.’ For *dülbent* (or *tülbent*) is the species of tulip identified by Redhouse² in his Ottoman/English dictionary as *Tulipa stellata*, a common kind of tulip in Turkey, with pure white petals. Thus *dülbent lâlesi* means, literally, the gauze tulip, not the turban tulip³. The petals were translucent white, like fine muslin.

I suggest that this is an example of what grammarians call *antonomasia*, i.e., substitution of a proper name for some generic term, although some might make a case for *catachresis*, the incorrect or improper use of a word. More simply, try a thought experiment: imagine a visiting Martian landing in a rose garden and asking a rose enthusiast ‘What is that?’, pointing to a prize specimen of a flower never before seen. The gardener, pleased to see her unexpected visitor admiring the roses, replies, ‘It’s a damask.’ The Martian could be forgiven for thinking that the English word for all roses is damask.

Busbecq, according to my speculation, was not to blame. He had heard correctly, he was simply the victim of a misunderstanding between him and his interpreter.

Charles Newton

1 A. Pavord, *The Tulip* (London, 2000), pp. 54, 56–57.

2 J. W. Redhouse, *A Turkish and English Lexicon* (Constantinople, 1890), p. 1620, under compounds of *lâle*: *dülbent lâlesi* – the white tulip *T. stellata*; p. 911, *Dülbent* – muslin, gauze; *ibid.*, p. 1154, *Sarık* – turban.

3 It was one of many famous varieties, including also *berri lâle* (wild tulip), *kara lâle* (black tulip), *lâle-i dağdar* (spotted tulip), *eşek lâlesi* (donkey tulip), *lâle-i hamra* (red tulip), *beyaz lâle* (white tulip), *lâle-i deşti* (desert tulip).



Engraving from *Hortus Eystettensis* by Basil Besler, 1613. Image courtesy Charles Newton.

FOOTPRINTS

To celebrate the New Year, we offer a few travellers' tales of a celebratory nature.

The Onion

We know that onions have been an important part of the Egyptian diet since ancient times. W. G. Browne extolled the virtues of the Egyptian onion in 1792.

The Egyptian onions are remarkably mild, more so than the Spanish, but not so large. They are of the purest white, and the lamina are of a softer and looser texture than those of any other species. They deteriorate by transplantation; so that much must depend on the soil and the climate. They remain a favourite article of food with all classes; and it is usual to put a layer or two of them, and of meat, on a spit or skewer, and thus roast them over a charcoal fire. The desire of the Israelites for the onions of Egypt is not to be wondered at.

Tomb Living, 1832

Across the Nile from Luxor, at Qurna, was where early travellers who were exploring in the area settled themselves. G. A. Hoskins (1802–1863) was there in 1832 and, unusually, returned some 30 years later.

Mr Hay, who was at Thebes during the whole time of my residence there, smoked his pipe with me; and, on Sunday, which, though we had no church to go to, we invariably made a day of rest, I dined with him. On Thursday evening also the travellers at Thebes used to assemble at his house, or rather tomb I should call it; but never was the habitation of death witness to gayer scenes.

Though we wore the costume, we did not always preserve the gravity of Turks; and the saloon, although formerly a sepulchre, threw no gloom over our mirth. The still remaining beautiful fragments of the painted roof were illuminated by the blaze of wax-lights; and the odour of the mummies had long before been dispelled by the more congenial perfume of savoury viands.

Speaking Franca

G.A. Hoskins also reported on the language spoken by employees to the travellers from many languages.

Our servant begged us in Franca, which he had learned at Luxor: 'No Effende, me non ruba acqu, me non Arab, me vostro servo; Arab sa niente, me sa tutto, me non Arab – ma me va morir.'

His appeal to Mr H. [Hay] and Mr C. [Catherwood] was equally eloquent, and the expression of his countenance most ludicrously piteous; and as he promised faithfully to sin no more, we consented to mitigate his punishment.

A Differing View, Early 1850s

Peta Ree came across this paragraph in *Wanderings among the Falasha Tribes in Abyssinia* by the missionary Henry Aaron Stern (London, 1862). The author had been in Egypt with a Mr. Bronkhorst in the early 1850s.

[At Karnak and Luxor] the rais and crew of the boat shared in our strong indifference to the fallen grandeur and gloomy desolation of Thebes; and without a single sigh or a parting glance of sorrow, we took our departure from a spot where vanity and ambition have traced their awful characters on the wreck and ruins of a city, which, to the very verge of time, may well elicit the wonder and admiration of every visitor.

New Year's Day, 1828

Mrs Lushington and her husband were returning from India in the company of other East India Company officers. They were crossing from the Red Sea to the Nile.

Anniversaries passed in strange countries, and at a long distance from home, are generally celebrated by travellers with extraordinary zest and cordiality; ... I will venture to describe the fête which Mr. Elphinstone (Governor of Bombay) gave us on New Year's Day, 1828.

She joined the gentlemen in the dining tent.

Behold our party, consisting of ten persons, sitting in a comfortable tent lined with yellow baize, and cheerfully lighted up; a clean table-cloth, and the following bill of fare: – roast turkey, ham, fowls, mutton in various shapes, curry, rice, and potatoes, damson tart, and a pudding; Madeira, claret, sherry,

port, and Hodgson's beer. For the dessert, Lemann's biscuits, almonds and raisins, water-melons, pumplenose (or shaddock), and a plum cake finale!

The Season of Sociability

Richard Lepsius (1810–1884), the German Egyptologist, led the Prussian expedition of 1842–1845 to Egypt and Nubia – perhaps one of the best equipped expeditions of the century. His account of their travels was published as *Letters from Egypt, Ethiopia and the Peninsula of Sinai*, translated into English in 1853 by Leonora and Joanna Horner.

In 1844–45 the Prussians lived on the west bank at Luxor, with the Prussian flag waving above the watch-tower at the end of the court.

Winter here, as in all other places, is the season of sociability. Not a week passes that we do not see several guests among us. A stranger's book which I have placed here for future travellers, and furnished with an introduction, was inaugurated on New Year's Day by our own signatures. Since then, above thirty names have been added, although the book has hitherto been kept exclusively in our castle, and will only be handed over to our faithful castellan 'Aquad on our departure.

Has this travellers' book by any chance survived? Does anyone know where it might now be? Please pass any information you may have to the Editor.

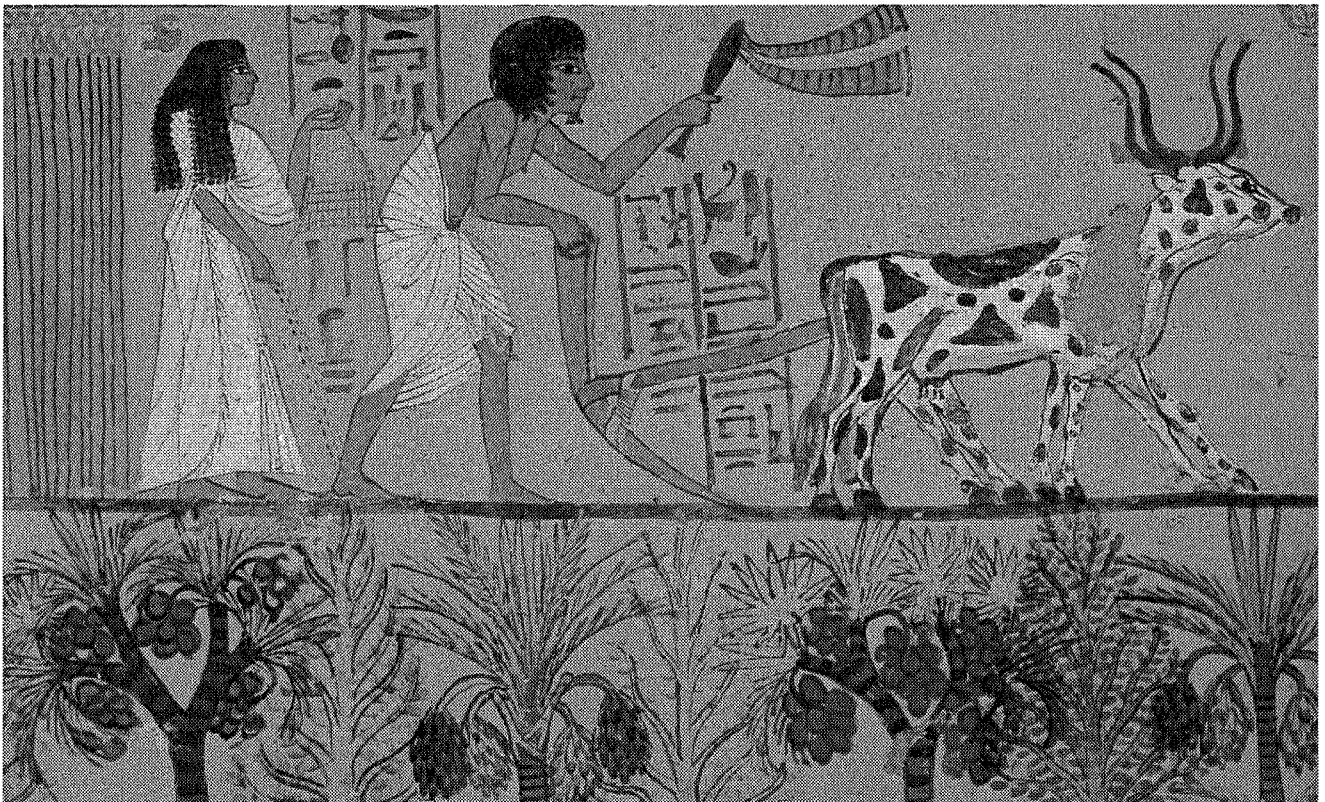
On Christmas Eve we for the third time selected a palm for our Christmas-tree. This symbol, still more beautiful than our fir tree, was decorated with lights and small gifts. Our artists celebrated the cheerful festival in other imaginative ways, and an illuminated Christmas crib, executed in the typical manner, and placed at the end of the long rock-passage, was most successful.

Tiger Nut Sweets: A Taste of Ancient Egypt

This ancient Egyptian recipe was found on ostraka discovered in Egypt and dating to c.1600 BC. It comes courtesy of the Archaeological Institute of America.

1 cup (8 oz.) fresh dates, pits removed
1/4 cup (2 fl. oz.) water
1 measuring teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup (4 oz.) walnuts, chopped
1 1/2 cups (12 oz.) honey
1 cup (8 oz.) almonds, finely chopped

Chop dates into small pieces and blend in water. Add cinnamon and chopped walnuts, and roll into balls. Dip each ball in a bowl of honey and roll until fully covered. Remove with a spoon and roll in ground almonds. Place on a cookie sheet lined with waxed paper until ready to serve. Refrigerate if not serving immediately. The sweets may be rolled in powdered sugar to make them easier to handle.



TRAVELLERS' GRAFFITI

Although we fully understand and appreciate the grave doubts some of our Egyptian colleagues have about the travellers' graffiti carved on the walls and pillars of the ancient monuments in the 19th century, lest it encourages less worthy graffiti today, it is undoubtedly exciting to see it for yourself. There were three occasions on the recent ASTENE tour when such graffiti made their mark.

First, when we introduced newcomers to the names carved high above our heads on the great pillars of the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak – I well remember seeing 'JOHN GORDON 1804' for the first time myself many years ago. Second, at El Kab we found, among others, Bowes Wright – an unpublished traveller whom two of us happened to know through his letters to a friend written during his travels in about 1820.

Thirdly, at Philae, a small group of us came across an American in the temple – we were discussing who had written the graffiti there and when they had carved it; he, a collector of graffiti, could hardly believe his luck in meeting such a knowledgeable group. We asked ASTENE member Roger de Keersmacher, *the expert on travellers' graffiti in Egypt*, if he knew the man. He replied that he had met Alan Fildes, an American Egyptologist, historian and author, and referred us to an article by Mr Fildes at www.alanfildes.com/graffiti1.php.

The photo below was taken by Roger de Keersmacher and shows the name of Richard K. Haight and his 'Lady', inscribed in 1836, on column no. 1 of the Karnak temple hypostyle.

Leaving One's Name, 1832

Most of these early explorers found time to cut their names on the walls of the temple of Hibis, and Frederic Caillaud (1787–1869) must have spent hours in this occupation, as he has left a long and neatly executed inscription recording himself as the original and genuine discoverer of this noble edifice.

The dated names cut in the walls of the temple are of some value, as an examination of them frequently yields reliable evidence on the rate of weathering of the stone since the time at which they were inscribed.

G. A. Hoskins (1802–1863)

Early Records, 1909

Inscribed in the walls of the ancient monuments in the oasis, one frequently comes across the names of travellers who visited the same scenes fifty, a hundred or even two hundred years ago. Many of these explorers wrote descriptions of their travels and experiences, and such early records are naturally of the greatest interest and importance; unfortunately they are now out of print and somewhat difficult to procure, so that I make no apology for briefly referring to those which I have been able to examine. Most of these early records are extremely quaint, and although they are chiefly descriptive of the personal experiences and impressions of the writers, in some cases numerous observations are recorded in a sufficiently exact manner to be of permanent scientific value.

H.J. Llewelyn Beadnell (1874–1944)



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