

ASTENE

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

BULLETIN



The Grand Bazaar, Constantinople



NOTES AND QUERIES

Number 41 : Autumn 2009

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Bulletin 41 : Autumn 2009

Submissions for the next *Bulletin* must be received by **1 December**. We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members and interested readers. Please send contributions to the Editor.

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Please send all membership correspondence to ASTENE Treasurer, 30 College Lane, London NW5 1BJ or by email to astene@dsl.pipex.com.

ASTENE NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Chairman's Report for 2008–2009

Through the last year your committee has met three times (in October, January and April) and also held an 'away day' for more lengthy discussion last October. Business included a decision to increase the subsidy on collections of papers published by ASTENE – this applied to our latest book, *Saddling the Dogs*, edited by Diane Fortenberry and Deborah Manley, published by Oxbow Books, and launched at the Durham Conference. Our previous title, *Who Travels Sees More*, edited by Diane Fortenberry and published in 2007, continues to sell well. Robert Morkot is working with Norman Lewis on behalf of ASTENE towards the publication of William Bankes' manuscript on the exploration of Palestine in the early 19th century.

We agreed to arrange day schools during the year and into the coming years. On 4 October 2008 we held a study day organised by committee member Janet Rady in conjunction with Leighton House Museum, Kensington, and linked to the Tate Gallery exhibition on Orientalist artists and travellers. The study day, *Orientalist Artists in an Orientalist House*, included papers by ASTENE members Sarah Searight on Lord Leighton and William de Morgan, Kathryn Ferry on Owen Jones, Briony Llewelyn on Frederic Lewis and myself on William Muller.

We hope, following a meeting in London between me, committee member Paul Robertson and Father Justin, Librarian of St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, to follow up work on the 'travellers' books' in the monastery library.

During the year, quarterly *Bulletins* have been published, edited by Deborah Manley; the third will be edited by Robert Morkot. Diane Fortenberry has greatly assisted with the design of the *Bulletin*.

In November 2008 our Events Organiser, Elisabeth Woodthorpe, worked with ASTENE member Anthony Sattin on an unforgettable Nile cruise on a rebuilt dahabeeyah. On the tour's last night in Egypt, we held a very small 'conference' in Cairo and were joined for dinner by five local and two other visiting members. Although Elisabeth is retiring from the Committee after six years' good work, she has generously agreed to help with the future overseas tour to Greece and Albania. Her post as Events Organiser has been taken over by Patricia Usick, who acted as ASTENE's first Secretary.

A proposal to assist with a survey for repairs to 'Yanni's House' at Qurna had been discussed during the year, and was followed up in a meeting between me, Robert Morkot and a representative of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Luxor. Sadly, despite an agreement in principle to this survey, the house (which members visited on the Nile tour) was subsequently demolished – a sad end to Egyptian 19th-century cultural heritage.

In April 2009, a conference on the traveller and writer Herman Melville was held in Jerusalem. ASTENE member Professor Ruth Kark represented our interest, but the programme overall was perhaps too biased towards literary criticism to interest many of our members.

Finally, since our last Annual General Meeting, Angela Reid was co-opted (and is now duly elected) as Secretary, and Myra Green agreed to be *Bulletin* Reviews Editor. Diane Fortenberry has stepped down after five years as Treasurer, with Karen Dorn elected to take her place. As I myself retire from the chairmanship I have every confidence the ASTENE Committee will give the new Chairman, Robert Morkot, all support and encouragement in the years ahead.

Brian Taylor

Saddling the Dogs: Journeys through Egypt and the Near East

Over the dozen years of ASTENE's existence we have published several books of papers delivered at our biennial and other smaller conferences. Our latest book was launched at the Oriental Museum, Durham University, at the 2009 Biennial Conference. Its unusual title reflects the Arabic proverb, 'In the absence of horses, saddle the dogs', which marks the determination of the traveller to keep moving, whatever the obstacles.

Saddling the Dogs, edited by Diane Fortenberry and Deborah Manley and published by Oxbow Books (170 pages paperback, ISBN 978-1-84217-367-1), contains 11 papers considering the problems travellers overcame in the Near East over time and throughout the area. The chapters are interspersed with extracts from contemporary travellers' tales. The list of contents includes:

- Death and Disorder in Muhammad Sadiq's *Star of the Haj*: Steamships, Quarantine, and their Impact on the Muslim Body, by Paul Robertson

- Modern Pilgrims in Egypt and the Holy Land: A Case Study, by Hana Navrátilová
- Facing Travels, Shaping Worlds: Three 17th-century Mesopotamian Travel Accounts, by Bart Ooghe
- From Baghdad to Constantinople on Horseback: A journey by Claudius and Mary Rich, October–December 1813, by Margaret Oliphant
- Pascal Coste and Eugène Flandin: *Voyage in Perse*, by Caroline Williams
- Khalil Aga: A Lost American on the Nile, by Cassandra Vivian
- An American Tourist in 1839: Philip Rhinelanders Visits the Mediterranean, by Andrew Oliver
- ‘The Contagion followed, and vanquish’d them’: Plague, Travellers and Lazarettos, by Janet Starkey
- The 6th Earl of Hopetoun Prepares for the Nile, by Brenda Moon
- The Tedious Camel, by Peta Ree
- Travel Clubs in the Era of the First Czech Republic, by Adéla Jůnova Macková.

Copies are £15.00 (plus postage and packing) to ASTENE members and £10 (plus postage and packing) for contributors, if ordered direct from Oxbow Books, 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EW, UK. Their website for ordering online is www.oxbowbooks.com.

Visit to the Palestine Exploration Fund

This ASTENE event in London will begin at 5:30 pm on Thursday, 29 October, and will be followed by a drink at an ASTENE member’s flat and dinner at a Near Eastern restaurant. There are still a few places, so if you wish to come, please contact Events Organiser Dr Patricia Usick, on pusick@btinternet.com, as soon as possible.

Study Day, July 2010: Monasteries of the East

There will be a study day highlighting monasteries of the Near East at Oxford University’s Department of Continuing Education on Saturday, 3 July 2010. The programme has been put together in cooperation with the Department and will be outlined in the next *Bulletin*, where booking details will be given. There will be an ASTENE social gathering on the Friday evening, and the Study Day will be followed by the ASTENE Annual General Meeting.

Tour to Greece and Albania, Spring 2010

There is already a waiting list for this ASTENE tour, which will take place 3–10 May 2010. If you are

Saddling the Dogs

Journeys through Egypt and the Near East



edited by

Diane Fortenberry and Deborah Manley

interested in the tour, please contact Elisabeth Woodthorpe on +44 (0)207 622 3694 for more details.

Byron Study Day, November 2010

Following the ASTENE tour of Greece and Albania, we are arranging a Study Day on Byron’s travels. Details will be outlined in the next *Bulletin*.

Obituary: Rosemary Nwume (1941–2009)

We are deeply saddened to report the sudden and unexpected death of Rosemary Nwume (known as Kate to her family). Rosemary and her brother Andrew Wilson have been stalwarts of the ASTENE tours abroad and were with us on the *dahabeeyah* trip on the Nile in November 2008. In Syria particularly, where there were a number of small injuries, Rosemary’s calm, professional nursing knowledge was very comforting.

Rosemary trained as a nurse and midwife in Nottingham, London and Edinburgh, and later worked in Zambia for about ten years. More recently she has been a health visitor in her home city, Nottingham. We shall miss her, and our sympathy goes out to her family. We look forward to seeing Rosemary’s daughter and Andrew in Greece and Albania next year.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

If you know of any events, lectures, exhibitions or other societies that might be of interest to ASTENE members – around the world – please let the Editor know.

Conferences, Lectures and Talks

Museum Gallery Talks at the Petrie Museum, London. Talks are given every Saturday at 12 noon to provide an insight into this unique collection. See also the events on 21 and 26 November, in association with the *Framing the Archaeologist* exhibition at the Museum.

Monday, 19 October: Anglo-Egyptian Archaeological Society. Dr Evaline van der Steen, of Liverpool University, will present a paper entitled 'From Burckhardt to Bell: Western Travellers in the Near East' at 6 pm in the Stephenson Lecture Theatre, Clore Education Centre, British Museum.

Saturday, 24 October: Bloomsbury Academy Autumn Conference. *Archaeology and the Bible.* The programme includes papers on 'Plants and Landscapes of the Bible' (Dr Caroline Cartwright), 'Biblical Tradition and Archaeological Reality' (Dr Rupert Chapman), 'Archaeology Meets Memory' (Prof. Philip Davies), 'The United Monarchy Reconsidered' (Dr Jonathan Tubb); 'Mr and Mrs God in the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah' (Dr Diana Edelman), 'The Babylonian Exile and the Tablets of Clay' (Dr Irving Finkel).

Book through the Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon St, London WC1H 0AH; tel: 020-7388-8822; website: <http://www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury/academy.htm>. Tickets are £40 and include tea and coffee; there are many nearby cafes for lunch. The conference runs from 10:30 to 5:30 in the No. 1 Lecture Theatre, The Cruciform Building, University College London.

Thursday, 27 January 2010: *Antiquity at Home: Collections of the House Museums of the 18th Century.* A rendezvous of speakers on the collections of archaeology and art in English galleries and museums from Syon to the Westmorland, including Sir Richard Worsley's collection (discussed at the 2009 ASTENE conference). In the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, on Thursday evening, and continuing on Friday, 29 January, at the Paul Mellon Centre, Bedford Square, from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. For further details, please check the British Museum and Mellon Centre websites.

Exhibitions

Ein König auf Reisen, at the Knauf-Museum Iphofen, near Würzburg, Germany, until 1 November. This exhibition tells the story of His Majesty Friedrich August III of Saxony's visit to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in 1911. The main focus of the exhibition is the photographs taken by the King, and contemporary paintings. Gaby and Jochen Hallof, who gave a paper on this journey at the ASTENE Oxford conference, have written an accompanying book, which includes documents and contemporary articles about the journey.

Framing the Archaeologist: Portraits and Excavation, at the Petrie Museum of Archaeology, London, 22 September–19 December. Portraits of Flinders Petrie in the context of late 19th- and early 20th-century portraiture traditions of representing the archaeologist/antiquarian. Included are photographs of the varied members of his excavation teams. On Saturday, 21 November, from 1 pm to 4:30, there will be a discussion of the issues raised by this exhibition.



On Thursday, 26 November, from 6–8 pm, Stephen Quirke, Curator of the Petrie Museum, will talk about his recent research on the Egyptians who worked with Petrie from the 1880s to the 1920s. Prebooking necessary, on 020 7679 4138.

The Life of Meresamon: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt, at the Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago, until 6 December. This exhibition explains the duties of the singer, and explores her life inside and outside the temple c. 800 BC.

The David Collection in Copenhagen has re-opened after three years, with its renowned Islamic collection of works of art and coins.

The Egyptology Galleries at the Brighton Museum and Art Galleries have a new display of 600 exhibits of Egyptian and Sudanese material, including a magnificent stele with a prayer in hieroglyphs.

The Tomb-chapel of Nebamun: Ancient Egyptian Life and Death, at the British Museum shows eleven wall paintings from the tomb-chapel of a wealthy Egyptian official of about 1350 BC, now on display together for the first time. ASTENE members saw some of these on their visit to the British Museum last year; some are linked to Yanni D'Athanasi of the Qurna house. There is a beautiful British Museum Press accompanying book by Richard Parkinson, with a fascinating introduction on the travellers of the early 19th century. Into this introduction are woven the activities of Henry Salt, Yanni d'Athanasi, Bernardino Drovetti, John Carne, William Bankes, Linant de Bellefonds, Frederic Cailliaud and others. The introduction also includes an early drawing and a recent photograph of the early 19th-century 'Yanni's house' – now sadly destroyed.

Courses and Study Days

The Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, Cambridge. Madingley Hall offers weekend study courses, some of which will be of interest to members, for example:

- 22–24 January 2010 Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Beginners
- 5–7 February 2010 Architecture of Islam: The First Thousand Years
- 19–21 February 2010 Cities of the Eastern Adriatic

For further information and booking see <http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk>, or telephone 01954 28028.

Other Societies

IQSA – the International Qajar Studies Association. Europeans – diplomats, military and technical experts, teachers, archaeologists and artists – visited Iran in increasing numbers during the 19th century, as the country became more accessible under the rule of the Qajar Shahs (1785–1925). Their journeys by the overland route took them through regions of direct interest to ASTENE members, journeys that they recorded in their memoirs, official reports, drawings etc. Here the programmes of IQSA offer a valuable resource.

IQSA is an educational, cultural and social organisation, which also serves as a forum for discussion, research and

publication on topics related to the Qajar period. IQSA organises annual conferences (most recently in Paris on Diplomatic Travellers in the Qajar Era) and publishes a journal, *Qajar Studies*. Membership of IQSA is open to scholars, institutions and the general public (annual individual subscription \$65).

For more information about IQSA's activities and subscriptions, contact Professor Manoutcehr M. Easkanari-Qajar, President, at president@qajarstudies.org. The IQSA website is <http://www.qajarstudies.org>.

The Frontiers of the Ottoman World: Fortifications, Trade, Pilgrimage and Slavery. Dr Robert Morkot has drawn to our attention the organisation Frontiers of the Ottoman World – an initiative supported by the British Academy. It was launched at a packed two-day symposium held at the British Academy in February 2007, organised by the British Institute in Ankara, the British Institute of Eastern Africa, the British School at Athens, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, the Council for British Research in the Levant, the Egypt Exploration Society and the Society for Libyan Studies. Papers covered the entire region from Sudan to the Balkans, Libya to the Black Sea. The long-term project aims to bring together the research findings of the different schools and institutes that relate to the subject, and to relate archaeological work to the textual evidence.



BOOKS AND REVIEWS

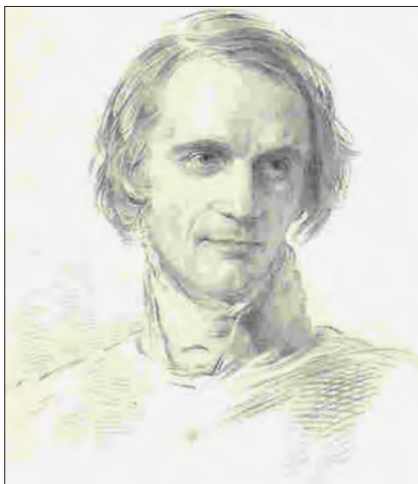
The Bulletin Reviews Editor is Myra Green. If you would like to suggest a book for review, or if you are interested in reviewing books for the Bulletin, please contact her on mg@myragreen.f9.co.uk.

Christopher Wordsworth: Six Letters from Greece, edited with an introduction by Charles Plouviez. Privately published 2009 by (and available from) Charles Plouviez, 6 Provost Road, London NW3 4ST. £6.

Christopher, nephew of William Wordsworth, made a prolonged tour of Greece in 1832–83. From this tour six letters survive in the British Library. ASTENE founder member Charles Plouviez has brought them again to life.

Christopher was a brilliant Classical scholar who, on his return from Greece, took holy orders and in 1838, still in his thirties, became Headmaster of Harrow School. While there he published his often reprinted *Greece: Pictorial, Descriptive and Historical*. His later career included a canonry at Westminster and, in 1868, the Bishopric of Lincoln. In 1832 in Italy Sir William Gell had enthused Wordsworth with the idea of Greek travel – as he had a decade before enthused John Gardner Wilkinson with the idea of travel in Egypt. Greece was coming out from under the Ottoman rule that sometimes limited travellers' opportunities of visits to the Classical sites. The letters – from Corfu, the Ionian Islands, Dodona, Attica and Mount Parnassus – are a delight. They may be of special interest to those going on the ASTENE tour to Epirus and Albania next year.

Deborah Manley



Portrait of Charles Wordsworth, c. 1845, probably by George Richmond.

***Continental Travel and Journeys Beyond Europe in the Early Modern Period: An Overlooked Connection*, by Daniel Carey. London, Hakluyt Society, 2009. ISBN 978-0-904180-96-1, £3.**

Professor Carey, of the Department of English, National University of Ireland, counters in this Hakluyt Society lecture the familiar claim that until the 18th century European travellers in the Middle East went there only because of religion, diplomacy or business. He demonstrates that plenty of Europeans during the Renaissance, especially in the Protestant north, understood that among the revived cultural inheritances from the Hellenic world was a conception of travel as offering moral and intellectual enrichment, and that this understanding was specifically extended to eastern travel. What makes the published version of this lecture particularly valuable is its plentiful notation, which includes a wealth of bibliographic material that should be of special interest to ASTENE members.

John Rodenbeck

***Towards 'an English Fourth': Fragments and Echoes of Seven Pillars of Wisdom, 1918–1921*, edited by Jeremy Wilson and Nicole Wilson. Fordingbridge, Castle Hill Press, 2009.**

No one other than Jeremy and Nicole Wilson would have been capable of composing and producing *Towards an English Fourth*. The title of this beautifully made book alludes to T.E. Lawrence's remark in a letter to Edward Garnett that he wished to compose a literary work on a scale as ambitious as *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and *Moby Dick*, and the dates indicate that all these 'fragments and echoes' antedate the great 1922 Oxford edition of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, and was rescued from the obscurity of manuscript pages and one set of proofs by Jeremy Wilson, who published it in full in two editions, 1997 and 2004. Lawrence did a lot of writing during this period, much of which was by way of warm-up or preparation for the 1922 edition of *Seven Pillars*. There are many treasures here, culled from a variety of sources, mainly journalistic, with marginal notes to indicate relevant pages in *Seven Pillars*.

An item of especial interest to ASTENE members may be Lawrence's preface to the Medici Society's edition of Doughty's *Travels in Arabia Deserta*, in which Lawrence sketches his own ideal English travellers.

John Rodenbeck

***Ottoman Bursa in Travel Accounts*, by Heath W. Lowry. Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies Publications, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2003. ISBN 1-878318-16-0.**

This book is a mine of information, but it is not an easy read. After a short preface, it consists of five independent chapters covering Population and Economy, Christians and Jews, Silk and Textile Industries, Hazards of Daily Life, and Legends. The author explains that the various sections are independent and that the travellers' narratives will be repeated as relevant in each; this results in very considerable repetition. It is this factor that makes the book such an unsatisfactory read.

Each chapter, however, taken by itself, is fascinating. Historical accounts derived primarily from Ottoman sources are supplemented, embellished and enlivened by the travel narratives. The discussion of the silk trade and the Italian merchants who engaged in it, first by the import of the raw material from Persia and then from local production, contrasted most strikingly with what I knew from documents and from archaeology of the wool market at Ankara. The importance of Professor İnalçık's work of documenting 'the plagues, fires, earthquakes, brigands and conquerors which, with devastating results, frequently reshaped the demographic profile of Ottoman cities' by the expansion into travel accounts forms a most useful reminder to those of us trying to recreate a 'history of place'. I was particularly glad to see use made of the research by Professor Ambraseys (of Imperial College) and his team on recorded earthquakes, as we had been recruited for archaeological input to this during the field seasons of that project.

The many writers describing Yeşil Bursa are well known, but the extent of the list is telling, as well as the variety of information that they give. Unfortunately, the extensive list is by date, and there is no alphabetical index, so that the list is of less use to anyone seeking information on an individual rather than on the place at a given time. A glossary too would have been of help to the less specialized reader, both for the Turkish terms and the erratic spellings of the travellers.

There are no illustrations save for a very schematic version of George Wheeler's impression on the cover, though many exist. Nor is there a map of Turkey – needed to help trace the routes from Persia and onward to Istanbul – nor a plan of the city. The latter would have assisted greatly in the understanding of many details in the descriptions quoted and the whole layout of such a complex and varied city.

This is not a book to purchase, but it is a vital and interesting tool of which ASTENE researchers should be aware.

Lisa French

***A Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem at Easter A.D. 1697*, by Henry Maundrell. Garnet Publishing (Folio Archive Library). ISBN 978-1-85964-218-4, paperback, £19.99.**

Readers will be interested to know that a new edition of *A Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem* has been produced by Garnet Publishing. The book remains one of the classics of early travel writing. This present volume, reprinted from the sixth edition (1740), which includes an account of the author's trip to Mesopotamia, now makes Maundrell's observations accessible to modern readers. Travelling across Syria to Latakia, down the Syrian and Lebanese coasts and inland to Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and then visiting such places as Damascus, Baalbek and Tripoli on the return trip to Aleppo, Maundrell's meticulous descriptions of castles, mosques, churches, fortresses and other archaeological sites of note will be of great interest to those fascinated by the history of this part of the world.

A paragraph as Maundrell drew near Jerusalem gives us a sense of the liveliness of his account:

From these memorials of Solomon, we returned toward Bethlehem again in order to visit some places nearer home. The places we saw were, the field where it is said the shepherds were watching their flocks, when they received the glad tidings of the birth of Christ; and not far from the field, the village where they dwelt; and a little on the right hand of the village, an old desolate nunnery built by St Paula, and made the more memorable by her dying in it.

Myra Green



***Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Found the Hidden Gospels*, by Janet Soskice. Chatto and Windus, London, 2009. ISBN 978-0-701-17341-8, hardback, 338 pages with illustrations, £18.99.**

When ASTENE was in Sinai we were told of the forthcoming book about the Victorian twin sisters who used their significant inheritance to become multi-lingual and to travel. In 1892 they were at St Catherine's Convent, Sinai, and were shown an old, dirty, anonymous volume, its pages near-stuck together, and

realised it was a palimpsest – a document written over another earlier one – in this case a copy of the Gospels. They then spent much of the next years translating the Syriac text.

In 1893 the sisters returned to Sinai, accompanied by major players in academic Syriac translation (and their wives). Competition and near-battle ensued, in a period of increasing academic interest in knowledge of the East. One effect of this book is to make one want to seek out the twins' own books, and hear more about their observations of the difficulties two middle-aged widows had to – and did – overcome in competition with Victorian academia. (ASTENE has followed in the sisters' footsteps: in a *dahabeeyah* on the Nile, to Cyprus, to Sinai and soon to Greece.)

Dr Soskice has combined splendid source material with real appreciation, scholarship and a light hand to tell a tale of lady travellers and their research with serious delight. This is a story wonderfully supported by well ordered material and successfully told by an author who combines academic rigour with a wry sense of humour.

Deborah Manley



What to Read Before Your Tour, 1900

As reported in *Bulletin* 39, a friend of ASTENE has presented us with a leather-bound book listing the Programmes and Itineraries of Conducted and Independent Tours in Palestine for 1900, with facilities for visiting Egypt, the Nile, Sinai, Petra, Moab, The Hauran, Palmyra, Turkey, Cyprus etc. The book lists Guide Books and other works recommended for Palestine and Egypt, such as Murray's and Baedeker's *Guides*, of course. It also mentions William M. Thompson's *The Land and the Book*: 'A very excellent and readable work'; *Jerusalem the Holy*, by Edwin Sherman Wallace (price 7s 6d): 'Mr Wallace was United States Consul at Jerusalem for five years, and his able volume contains a thoroughly accurate picture of the city, and resume of its history'; *Pathways of Palestine* by Canon Tristram: 'two volumes, quarto, illustrated by many beautiful photographs' (price £3 3s); *My Tour in Palestine and Syria*, by F.H. Deverell (price 5s): 'A beautifully illustrated and interesting account of the

author's journey under our auspices'; and *Flora of Syria, Palestine and Sinai*, by Rev. Geo. E. Post of the Syrian Protestant College (price 21s, published by the Palestine Exploration Society).

We will give further recommendations in future issues of the Bulletin.

Travellers in Fiction

We have had some examples of how travellers in the Near East appeared in fictional accounts. Here are further examples supplied by Robert Morkot. Are readers aware of others? This could make an interesting subject for ASTENE research.

Dr Samuel Johnson's *Itinatio*

Very appropriately in the 200th anniversary of Samuel Johnson's birth (1709–84) we note that this first published work (in 1735) was a translation of Lobo's *Itinatio*. Jeronimo Lobo (1593–1678) was a Jesuit missionary, born at Lisbon. In 1621 he went to India, but in 1625 left for Abyssinia, where he began his missionary labours, being superintendent of missions in Tigre for nearly ten years. L'Abbe Legrand published a French translation of Lobo's Portuguese manuscript account of his travels in Abyssinia, translated again into English in an abridged form by Dr Johnson. This was one of Johnson's attempts to make money after his father died, and it earned him £5. It is interesting that he thought it worth a venture, saying as it does a fair amount about the interests of the public at the time.

Fictional Travellers: From Barseshire to the Orient

In Anthony Trollope's *Dr Thorne* (1858), set about 1853–54, Frank Gresham, heir to Greshamsbury

had taken his degree, as arranged, and had then gone abroad for the winter, doing the fashionable things, going up the Nile, crossing over to Mount Sinai, thence over the long desert to Jerusalem, and home by Damascus, Beyrout and Constantinople, bringing back a long beard, a red cap, and a chibouk, just as our fathers used to go through Italy and Switzerland, and our grandfathers to spend a season in Paris.

While writing the book, Trollope was himself travelling to Egypt on his Post Office business, in order to negotiate for the transport of mail through the country. A few years later, Dr Arabin, Dean of Barchester, travels to Jerusalem, leaving his wife to holiday in Florence on the way.

Arabian Publishing New Address

Arabian Publishing has moved to a new address: 4 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1 2QA. The telephone is still 020 7580 8456.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

<http://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/9190>

Dr Diane Bergman directed our attention to this website. It begins with a description of Sir John Gardner Wilkinson's *Handbook for Travellers in Egypt* (London, John Murray, 1847), but the entry leads on to the Travellers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA:<http://timea.rice.edu>), funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services at Rice University, Houston, Texas. TIMEA gives access to travel narratives, travel guides, museum catalogues and other texts related to travel in the Middle East.

The National Archive, Kew

Peta Ree draws our attention to some changes at the National Archive.

From 2010 the Reading Room at Kew will be closed to the public on Mondays. Parking at the National Archive will now be charged for. Some microfiche records, probably those that are also available online, will be removed from public access. Apparently now over 90% of their users are online and so will be unaffected. Peta Ree wonders how they know this...

The Geography the Travellers Learned

For a very reasonable sum, which I was happy to donate to Oxfam, I bought a geography text book in my local Oxfam Bookshop. It is called *A Sketch of Modern and Ancient Geography for the Use of Schools*, and was written by Samuel Butler, Doctor of Divinity of Shrewsbury School. It had by 1818 gone into four editions, and this fourth edition was 'considerably enlarged and improved'. It might well have been the very book from which many ASTENE travellers learned their geography.

The book opens with a Chronological Table having a fixed starting point:

4004 BC Creation of the World

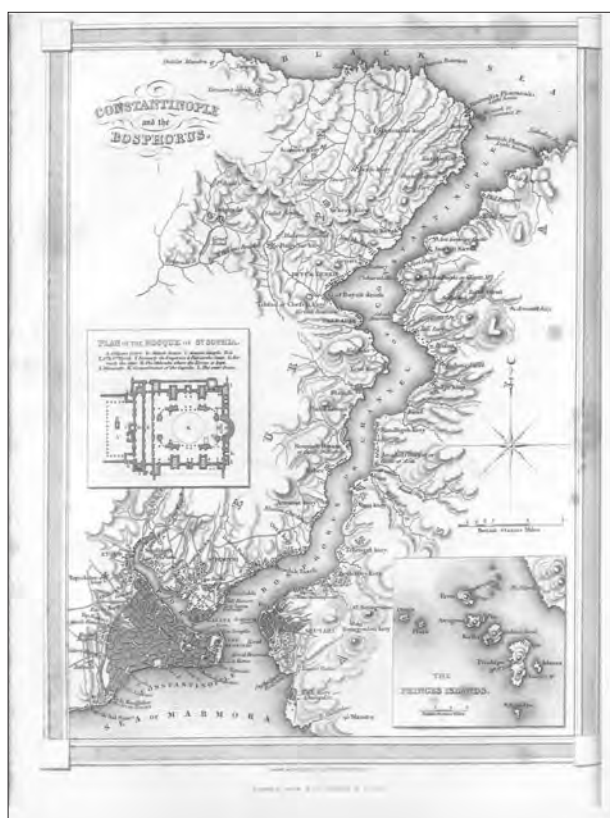
This was followed in 2348 BC by The Deluge, and the Tower of Babel built in 2247 BC. By 1184 BC we are right among the interests of the travellers. 405 BC was

'the Age of Herodotus', so familiar to many travellers. On 21 May 323 BC Alexander died, and the Kingdom of Egypt was founded by the Ptolemies. In 284 BC the Pharos of Alexandria was built – and became one of the Wonders of the Ancient World. Sixty years later the Colossus of Rhodes was thrown down by an earthquake. In 55 BC Julius Caesar invaded Britain, and seven years later took Alexandria.

In AD 121 the Emperor Hadrian built his wall in Britain (visited by ASTENE members in July), and nine years later he rebuilt Jerusalem and erected a temple there to Jupiter. In 622, on Friday, 16 July, Mahomet, in his 53rd year, flew from Mecca to Medina. This was thus the first year of the Hegira of Mahometan era. Mahomet died in 632. Five years later Jerusalem was taken by the 'Saracens'. In 640 they took Alexandria, and the Library was destroyed. There followed the various Crusades. On 29 May 1453 Mahomet II took Constantinople and put an end to the Eastern Empire – here Dr Butler's timeline ends. and his book proper begins.

The first chapter served to carve Latitude and Longitude firmly into the brains of his readers...

Deborah Manley



QUERIES AND REPLIES

Sharing knowledge is a basic purpose of ASTENE. If you can answer a query published here, please reply both to the person who asked the question and to the Editor of the Bulletin so the knowledge can be more widely shared.

Was Hugh Baillie really there in 1818?

ASTENE member Roger de Keersmacher has been researching the backgrounds to the travellers' graffiti in Egypt for the best part of half a century. Now he has raised a problem for us.

On the 'Great Rock of Abusir', where the travellers carved their names at the end of their Nile journey southwards, the names David Baillie and Charles Barry are carved, with the date 1818. With their names is carved the name of Hugh Baillie. Who were these travellers?

There is no problem with Charles Barry (1795–1860). He is the architect of the Houses of Parliament and the Travellers' Club in London, and many country and town houses, and was responsible for making alterations to Egyptian traveller William Bankes' house, Kingston Lacey, near Wimborne in Dorset. He was employed by the rich Scots gentleman, David Baillie, as artist and travelling companion when Baillie travelled on the Nile in 1818. They had met in the Near East earlier in their travels.

But Hugh Baillie is new to us. Who was he? Roger de Keersmacher's researches reveal that Hugh was a cousin of David Baillie, that he lived from 1777 to 1866, and that he was an officer in the Surrey Rangers; he was promoted to Colonel in 1810, at the age of 33. He visited Egypt in 1819 'with his cousin David Baillie' Hugh was a member of Thomas Young's Egypt Society along with Godfrey Levinge, the inventor of the famed Levinge bag – a contraption for sleeping in to escape mosquitoes – Mrs Sarah Lushington and Reverend James Samuel Wigget.

This information leads to more questions. What was Young's Egyptian Society? As Morris Bierbrier explains in *Who was Who in Egyptology* (Egypt Exploration Society, 1995, and presently being revised and updated), Dr Thomas Young (1773–1829), the brilliant doctor who worked effectively on interpreting the hieroglyphs, formed an Egyptian Society in 1819 'to publish hieroglyphic inscriptions ... plates of which were later

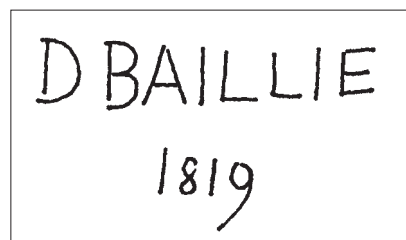
published under the auspices of the Royal Society of Literature'.

Mrs Lushington must surely be Mrs Sarah Lushington (an unusual surname), wife of an East India army officer, Charles Lushington, who travelled from India home to England through Egypt in 1827–28 and wrote an account of her journey, called *Journey from Calcutta to Europe by way of Egypt* (London, 1829).

However, there is a problem. Charles Barry kept a very detailed diary and record of their journey. In 1986 his great-granddaughter, Kathleen Adkins, privately published a typed manuscript copy of excerpts from this journal, which is held by the Bodleian Library, Oxford (*Travel Diaries (1817–1820) of Sir Charles Barry (1795–1860)*). This makes it clear that Hugh was not with the party on the Nile in 1818. That party consisted of David Baillie, Charles Barry, Mr Godfrey and Mr Wyse. Above the island of Philae they took to four small boats for the rest of their journey southwards. Barry's journal reported:

Thursday, December 17th. All our little fleet of 4 small boats, each with a lateen sail and a complement of 4 or 5 men left Philae at 9. ... We found the boats very comfortable. They are rough and misshapen, but creep along with very little wind. One boat is occupied with Mr Baillie and myself, another by Messrs Godfrey and Wyse, the third by the servants, the fourth by George and the cooking apparatus and all our luggage.

'George' had not been mentioned before – he was, one might guess, a British servant travelling with his employer, David Baillie. The list shows clearly that all boats were full, and Hugh Baillie was not there – although perhaps his name was carved at Abu Sir on this journey. Barry described their visit to the rock at Abu Sir



Grafitto of David Baillie at the Temple of Amenophis III, Elkab. Drawing courtesy of Roger de Keersmaecker.

where they ‘found many of our countrymen’s names written on it’. He did not say in the excerpt that they added their names – and perhaps Hugh’s as well.

Reading on beyond Egypt in the Bodleian manuscript, we meet George briefly again. The party had travelled north and then crossed the desert to journey through Palestine to Syria, and onward. On Wednesday, 23 June 1819, after dining with the Consul in Tripoli and meeting the Sheik of Eden (‘a sensible fellow’, wrote Barry, ‘who speaks French’), David Baillie left the party ‘with Giovanni, George and Nichol for Aleppo’.

Deborah Manley

Did Any Traveller See Rob Roy?

I have known for some time of J. Macgregor’s book *Rob Roy on the Jordan, Nile, Red Sea etc* (London, John Murray, 1869). Recently on BBC Radio 4 there was a talk about someone going down the Jordan in a kayak, and I looked up Rob Roy.

The book starts in Alexandria as they took the carpet that had covered the Rob Roy ‘during the long voyage from England’ and Macgregor ‘stepped in for a six month cruise’. Has any reader come across an account of other travellers meeting Macgregor and the Rob Roy on this journey? I can thoroughly recommend the book as a good read that quickly immerses one in an era of change and continuity. The book has dozens of illustrations of the places and intimacy of the journey, and his links with river life are quite different from those of other travellers.

Rob Roy has been recently reissued by the American Long Riders’ Press, but can be bought secondhand for about £25–30.

News of Paul Lenoir?

A reader is trying to find out more about the artist/traveller Paul Lenoir, author of *The Fayum, or Artists in Egypt*. If any member knows of specific biographical references concerning Lenoir, please contact Claire Malleon on mally@liverpool.ac.uk. Please copy any reply to the Editor on deb@debmanley.plus.uk.

What the Travellers Said About Their ‘Graffiti’

I recently came across two commentaries by travellers on the subject of other travellers carving their names in Egypt. In 1832 G.A Hoskins (1802–63) wrote in his *Travel in the Great Oasis of the Libyan Desert* (London, 1837):

Most of these early explorers found time to cut their names on the walls of the temple of Hibis, and Cailliaud 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 that noble edifice. The names of these explorers, who in some cases suffered considerable hardships in visiting oases, are, however, quite overshadowed by the numberless scrawls made in recent years by a host of otherwise unknown petty officials of the Government, who have had to take their turn of duty and banishment in the greatly dreaded desert. The dated names cut in the walls of the temple are of some value, as an examination of the rate of weathering of the stone since the time of which they were inscribed.

In 1909 H.J. Llewellyn Beadnell wrote in his *Egyptian Oasis: An Account of the Oasis of Kharga*:

Inscribed on the walls of the ancient monuments of 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 an apology for briefly referring to those which I have been able to examine.

And more recently, by happy coincidence, Peta Ree drew our attention to Philippa McDonnell’s short article in *The Guardian* newspaper about the graffiti her early 19th-century ancestors had carved in Egypt. Her great-great-grandfather was the 2nd Earl of Belmore, and he and his party left their mark in several places. In the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York BELMORE is ‘inscribed in 3-inch high Roman capitals on the side of the Temple of Dendar – given to the Museum by the Egyptian government to save it from a watery grave in Lake Nasser’.

Ms McDonnell had been to Egypt this spring to ‘see whether there was any legacy’. She discovered BELMORE again on the Great Pyramid and at the temple of Medinet Habu at Luxor, and, as we know more frequently, her great-great-great-uncle’s graffiti AL CORRY 1818 here and elsewhere. He had been captain on the sea voyage thither, and had his sailors with him to carve his name. Rather shamefacedly Ms McDonnell admitted the family connection to an official guide at Djebel Silsileh. ‘You should be proud,’ he said. ‘Modern graffiti we cannot stand, but Lord Belmore and his contemporaries helped discover our heritage. Now they are part of it.’

Are there other descendants of the early travellers who have found their forebears’ graffiti?

A Link to the Past

Roger Rosswick drew our attention to the obituary in *The Times* (London) of 19 August 2009 of Father Columba (Patrick) Ryan (1916–2009) – priest, teacher and university chaplain. Of special interest to ASTENE is his family link to our region:

Patrick's father was the last British dragoman in Constantinople, and his mother also had Turkish connections. Her grandfather, Julius van Millingen, was physician to five successive sultans and had attended Byron on his deathbed. Patrick would later devote considerable energy to defending his great-grandfather from the claim that he had hastened Byron's death by insisting upon bleeding him.

Does any reader have information to add to this item?

From Cairo to Suffolk

In a second-hand bookshop in a former Baptist chapel in a Suffolk village, I came across an old postcard, probably sent in the 1920s or 1930s. The message reads:

*Anglo American Pension, Sharia Solimon, Cairo
Dear Barnett,
Here is a photo of the trees on which the dates grow.
How would you like to live in that little house on
the other side? Have you got these stamps in your
collection?
Your cousin
Percy*

The recipient was Master Barnett Jenkins, The Studio, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, England. Sadly, the

stamp has been removed, with the date.

Is there any more information of interest known?

A Reply: Waynman Dixon and Gordon's Fish

We were very pleased to receive the background story to Robert Morkot's report of the sale of items associated with Waynman Dixon (Bulletin 40).

Waynman Dixon (1844–1930) discovered the air shafts in the Great Pyramid and was involved in the carriage of Cleopatra's Needle to London. He then joined his brother's ship-building business on the River Tees and later lived in Great Ayton in Yorkshire. Ian Pearce, of the Great Ayton Community Archaeological Project, has now thrown some light onto the strange episode of General Gordon's fish, about which Robert Morkot asked information.

Some six months before his death, Dixon saw a notice in the *Spectator* asking for information about General Gordon in connection with a planned biography by Bernard M. Allen. He responded with a letter in which he described how he was asked by John Hancock (a friend and founder of the Hancock Natural History Museum in Newcastle-on-Tyne), if he could use his Egyptian connections to obtain a specimen of the fish for his museum. The Dorman Museum in Middlesborough has a collection of Dixon papers, including some from the Exeter sale, and Gordon's reply, which can be summarised as 'If you think I have nothing better to do than look for fish ...', and suggested that the Hancock Museum might display Gordon's letter instead of the fish. This was not done.



FOOTPRINTS

Visitor to Yanni's House

Readers will have become familiar with the history of 'Yanni's house' at Qurna on the west bank of the Nile, so sadly bulldozed earlier this year despite requests to the authorities to respect the historic status of such buildings. The traveller G.A. Hoskins wrote of it in his *Visit to the Great Oasis of the Libyan Desert*, published in 1837:

A house built by Signor d'Athanas, a Greek gentleman formerly in the employ of Mr Salt, was my headquarters. It was situated in the western suburb of the city among the ancient tombs, which are now converted into habitations by the peasants of Gournah. A Greek named Triantafelas, a worthy honest merchant, occupied part of the house. Besides accommodation for cooking and for my servants, I had two good rooms. One of them served as a sleeping and at the same time store-room; but this combination had its inconveniences, as it attracted around my bed swarms of rats, with which almost every house in Egypt is infested; and often when they seemed to fancy that I was asleep, I have been amused with watching their squabbles for my cheese and macaroni.

A few rude chairs, a roughly manufactured table, some shelves for my books and antiquities, and a couple of commodious Turkish divans of cotton wool covered with a smart English chintz, gave a more comfortable appearance to my sitting-room. The earthen floors of both chambers were covered with clean mats, which are more convenient than carpets; as during the excessively hot weather, I was enabled to create a freshness by having them daily saturated with water.

Compared to the other habitations in the village, my house was a little palace; and indeed it was very habitable, though destitute of many comforts which in England we should consider indispensable requisites.

English Travellers in the Near East

Writers and their Work was a series of pamphlets produced for the British Council and National Book League in the 1950s to provide accessible material on British writers. In 1958 it included *English Travellers in the Near East* by Robin Fedden – a writer who knew the Near East well.

Fedden focused on the two centuries of the Levant Company's expansion, when Englishmen were settled for long periods in the Levant and their presence made it more possible for others to travel. Though he found many of the earlier travellers have now 'little appeal', he focused on some he thought more interesting, for example, George Sandys (1578–1644), whose book *Relation of a Journey* (1615) is, says Fedden, 'perhaps the only one that can claim literary merit'.

By 1800 there were some 40 published accounts of Egypt and probably more of Constantinople, including two accounts by travellers who never went there: Edward Brown in 1739 and Charles Thompson in 1744. It would be interesting to focus some attention at our next conference (in 2011) on these early travellers.

Deaths at Cairo

From an anthology of world travel published in 1922 comes this sorry tale from William Lithgow's much published Voyages in Egypt, 1632.

Arriving at last in this little world, the great Cairo, and bidding farewell to our Caravan, the three Germans and I lodged with one Marco Antonio, a Consul there for Venice. Here with this Venetian for three days, the Dutch men and I had great cheare, but they far greater a dayly swallowing downe of strong Cyprus wine, without mixture of water, which still I entreated them to forbear, but they would not be requested. The season being cruell hot, and their stomachs surfeited with burning wine, upon the fourth day long or noone, the three Dutch men were all dead, and yet me thought they had no sickness, the red of their faces staying pleasant, their eyes staring always on mine, and their tongues were perfit even to the last of their breath.

Well I am left to bury them, and with great difficulty bought one grave for them all three in a Coptic Chappell, where I interred them. Yet was I exceedingly sorrowful for the losse of these gallant Gentlemen, Religiously disposed, and so affable, that for familiarity and kindnesse, they were the mirrors of noble mindes, and vertuous spectacles of humanity; whose deaths were to me a Hell, and whose lives had beene my Paradise on earth. To whose memory and prayse, I am not able to congratulate the least Commendation their Heroicke dispositions deserved at my hands ...

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