

# ASTENE

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

# BULLETIN



**NOTES AND QUERIES**

**NUMBER 43 : SPRING 2010**

# Bulletin : Notes and Queries

## Number 43 : Spring 2010

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Submissions for the next Bulletin must be received by **30 June**. 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 EVENTS

## Norman N. Lewis (1919–2010)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Norman N. Lewis, peacefully, at home on 17 January 2010, in his 92nd year. His work in the Lebanon had sparked a passion for the history, geography and politics of the region, and in particular the many early travellers' accounts. For those who knew him personally, he was an outstanding example of membership of ASTENE: always generous in sharing his fund of research and his immense knowledge of travellers in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. He was present at the inception of ASTENE in 1997 when he spoke on 'William John Bankes in Syria' and at subsequent conferences spoke on 'Journeys to Petra in the Nineteenth Century', 'The Anger of Lady Hester Stanhope' and 'On Reading Travellers', and he contributed to ASTENE publications.

Norman read Geography at Cambridge, but his studies were interrupted by the war, and as a conscientious objector he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, working through the Blitz and then joining the North African campaign. Here he fell deeply in love with Syria and Arabian culture, with the Bedouins, the nomads and village life. In 1946 he resumed his studies at Cambridge, where he met his future wife Rosemary, a fellow student. He was then appointed Principal Instructor at the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies in Lebanon. Rosemary shared his passion for Lebanon and describes their time there from 1948, when they married, to 1955, as 'a golden life'. They returned to England for their children's schooling, and Norman became a negotiator for Gulf Oil for the next 26 years, moving to Houston in 1975 and retiring in 1981, but continuing to work on a Dutch-led archaeological dig in northern Syria. His four children remember Norman working on *Nomads and Settlers in Syria and Jordan 1800-1980* (1987), a classic university textbook.

In common with our much-missed President, the late Harry James, Norman shared an enthusiasm for the traveller William John Bankes. On a chance visit to Kingston Lacy, just after the National Trust took it over, he learned of Bankes' mass of unpublished papers from Syria and Jordan, which he subsequently catalogued, bringing them into line with the cataloguing work done earlier on the Egyptian papers by Rosalind Moss for the Topographical Bibliography of the Griffith Institute, Oxford. He also worked on the lithographic stones

at Kingston Lacy, Bankes' unfinished project to publish inscriptions and views.

Norman collaborated with a number of other scholars on articles for academic journals on Bankes' discoveries, including A. Sartre-Fauriat, M. Sartre, M.C.A. Macdonald and D. Morray, 'William John Bankes: Travaux en Syrie d'un voyageur oublié', in *Syria*, LXXIII (1996) and J. Dentzer-Feydy, 'Remarques sur les Temples de Hebran et de Sleim (Syrie du Sud) dessinés par W.J. Bankes (1786–1855)'. Following A. Barbet, P.-L. Gatier and Norman's 'Un tombeau peint inscrit de Sidon', in *Syria*, LXXIV (1997), formerly missing wall paintings were re-discovered at Kingston Lacy, and Norman organised and contributed to their publication by A. Barbet in *Syria*, LXXXI (2004), 'Où l'on verra que le tombeau de Sidon visité par Bankes n'est pas entièrement perdu'. He also wrote articles on Lebanon, 'The Mountain and its Terraces' (1953), 'The Trials of Syrian Isma'ilis in the First Decade of the 20th Century' (1989) and 'James Bruce's Drawings of Baalbec' (1999), contributed to an article on Bankes and the Nabatean script (2003), and compiled a bibliography of travellers to Petra.

Norman knew that he was suffering from Alzheimer's and would become unable to continue his work, but this did not diminish his involvement. When increasing illness prevented his appearance at an ASTENE conference, he asked me to speak about the Kingston Lacy wall paintings on his behalf. Rosemary Lewis tells us that 'he found ASTENE a delight' and, despite this terrible illness, when she read him the ASTENE Bulletin he was able to remember all his colleagues and his old interests.

I personally will always be grateful for his kindness and generosity. He responded to requests for information on Bankes' activities in the Near East by providing all his own research for my benefit, holding nothing back. There could be no better example of the spirit of ASTENE.

Patricia Usick



## Harry James Remembered

On Friday, 15th January 2010, the snow was still lying around Hampstead as we gathered at St Jude-on-the-Hill for Harry James's funeral. St Jude is large (one could say barn-like): it was designed by Edwin Lutyens as the parish church of Hampstead Garden Suburb, and Harry and Diana had lived quite close to it for many years. A good representation of Harry's colleagues from the British Museum, the Egypt Exploration Society and ASTENE (most representing two or more of those) joined a large number of friends and parishioners for a fine service of remembrance and farewell. It was clearly a surprise to some colleagues to find that Harry had been active in the church, and that the service was a full Requiem (St Jude's being distinctly High Church). Reminiscences and readings rightly focused on Harry the family and church man rather than the academic. Particularly memorable was the poem 'Sigma' by Anthony Thwaite—musings on a potsherd. Following the service, many of us went the short distance down the slippery hill to the Golders Green Crematorium where, following the committal we enjoyed conversation and refreshments in the Crematorium Tea Rooms.

Robert Morkot

### *Sigma*

*Unable to get on with anything,  
Throwing out papers, fiddling with piled mess,  
I pull a box of sherds out, stacked up here  
Among the whole accumulation, less  
Because I want to but because it's there –  
A scattering of pottery I picked up  
Among the Libyan middens I knew once,  
And rake it over, chucking out here a cup-*



Harry James at Jaroslav Cerny's 70th birthday party at Morden Lodge, 1968.

*Handle, broken, and a flaking rim:  
And, in among it all, there's suddenly  
This scrap that carries a graffito –  
A sigma, a scratched ess; and try to tell  
Where it once fitted – as beginning or end,  
As some abbreviated syllable,  
Or sign of ownership, or just a scribble  
Made on a day in 450 BC  
By someone else who messed about like this,  
Unable to get on with anything,  
But made his mark for someone else to see.*  
Anthony Thwaite

While many ASTENE members will recognise the portrait of a charming and convivial man which emerges from Harry James' obituary in *The Times* (6 February 2010) and *The Daily Telegraph* (24 February 2010), they may not know of his good-humoured foray into fantasy to encourage a love of Egyptology among young people.

In 2004 Templar Publishing produced a beautiful book by Dougald Steer called *Egyptology*. It purports to be the diary account by Miss Emily Sands of her search in 1926 for the tomb of Osiris, using the 'Farncombe Papyrus' as a guide. Unfortunately, Miss Sands and her party disappeared without trace and the 'diary' stopped just before they finally set out for the tomb. But her 're-discovered' journal with all the documents, photographs, booklets, foldout maps, postcards and general scrapbook of collectibles forms the basis of Steer's book, which is sent to the British Museum expert, Mr T. G. H. James, for authentication.

In his reply, printed as the last page of the book, Mr James opines that the Farncombe papyrus is almost certainly a fabrication. Indeed, he fears the whole diary may be an elaborate 'spoof'. Nevertheless, he cannot rule out completely the possibility that a long-lost account has been found; elements of the tale may be accepted as fact, some are pure legend, but the whole is delightful and instructive. The accompanying teacher's guide refers to 'a letter from a former Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, commenting on the journal's provenance' and to 'Howard Carter (like T. G. H. James, a real person)', so presumably it is up to the teacher to reveal the extent to which the format is a publisher's conceit.

Sheila McGuirk

## **ASTENE Spring Event: Travellers in Cyprus, Monday, 26 April 2010**

We are delighted that Thomas Kiely, Curator of Cyprus in the Department of Greece and Rome, the British Museum, has kindly agreed to talk to us about his work on travellers' and collectors'

records from Cyprus, and give ASTENE members a behind-the-scenes look at the archival sources for the history of the Cyprus collection in the British Museum.

Meet at 2.30 pm in Gallery 69, the British Museum (Greek and Roman Life Room), upper floor. Places are limited, so please contact Trisha Usick to book: (email) pusick@btinternet.com, (post) Dr P. Usick, AES Department, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1, 3DG.

## ASTENE AGM

The 2010 AGM will be held at 5:30 pm on 3 July 2010 at Rewley House, following the Monasteries Study Day (see below).

## ASTENE/OU DCE Study Day: *Near Eastern Monasteries and Western Travellers, Saturday, 3 July 2010*

The next ASTENE study day will be held on 3 July, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm (to be followed by the ASTENE AGM), at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.

Travellers from Western Europe to the Near East in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries frequently visited monasteries. Many simply found them convenient places to stay. Others hoped that they would discover interesting manuscripts of both Biblical and Classical texts. But what did they actually find? How were they received? What was the accommodation like? What were the monks like and what was the state of the spiritual life? How did the travellers react to forms of Christian worship and theology different from their own? These are the questions to be tackled in the day school.

Programme details:

- 9.15 Registration  
9.30 *Introduction* (Professor Malcolm Wagstaff)  
10.00 *Manuscripts and 'Monkish Fare': John Covell's Visit to Mount Athos in 1677* (Lucy Pollard)  
11.00 Coffee/tea  
11.30 *Expeditions on the Road to Palmyra: Richard and Isobel Burton and Gertrude Bell* (Dr Emma Loosley)  
12.30 Lunch  
1.30 *Adventurers, Archaeologists, Explorers and Missionaries: Western Encounters with East Assyrian Monasteries in Northern Mesopotamia, 1830–1915* (Nicholas Al-Jeloo)  
2.30 *Manuscript Hunters: Hunters of Manuscripts at the Syrian Monastery*

*(Wadi Natrun) in the 17th and 18th Centuries* (Dr Sebastian Brock)

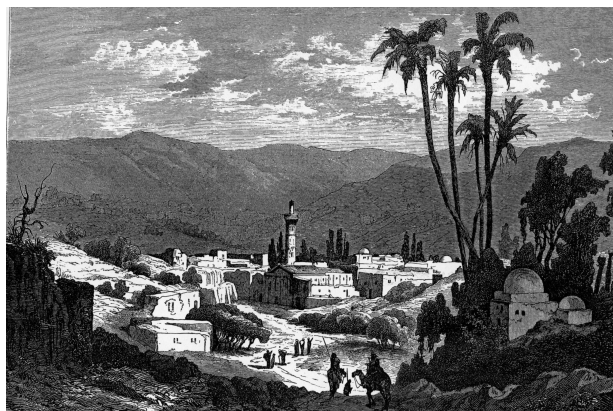
- 3.30 Tea/coffee  
4.00 *The Egyptian Desert Fathers and Coptic Monasticism in the Imagination of the West* (Dr Anthony O'Mahony)  
5.00 *Summary* (Professor Malcolm Wagstaff)  
5.30 End of course, followed by the 2010 ASTENE AGM

Speakers:

- Nicholas Al-Jeloo: Scholar of Assyrian heritage, currently a PhD candidate in Syriac Studies at the University of Sydney.
- Dr Sebastian Brock: Retired Reader in Syriac Studies, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford
- Revd Dr Robin Gibbons: Departmental Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies, OUDCE
- Dr Emma Loosley: Lecturer in Art History, University of Manchester
- Dr Anthony O'Mahony: Lecturer in Theology and Church History at Heythrop College, University of London, and Director of the Centre for Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue
- Ms Lucy Pollard: Retired teacher and librarian currently working towards a doctorate on Britons in Greece and Asia Minor, 1603–88
- Professor J. Malcolm Wagstaff (Director of Studies): Professor Emeritus and Visiting Professor in the School of Geography, University of Southampton

To book, please contact: OUDCE, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 270360; email: enquiries@conted.ox.ac.uk .

Fees for this course are from £44.00. Course code: O09P220THJ. Flyer and Application Form enclosed with this mailing. (NB: This day school will be held at Rewley House, not Ewert House as publicised in the OUDCE *Day and Weekend Events 2010* brochure.) Accommodation is often available in Rewley House for those who wish to stay on the night before a course. Please contact their Residential Centre on 01865 270362 for details of availability and prices.



## **ASTENE Pre-Study Day Evening Event and Dinner, Friday, 2 July 2010**

The Revd Stephen Platt, General Secretary of the Fellowship of St. Alban and St Sergius, has kindly agreed to talk to us about relations between the Western and Eastern Churches. The theology and liturgies of the Eastern Churches largely came from the monasteries, and the Coptic monasteries of Egypt and the Orthodox monasteries of Mt. Athos are power-houses of Christian renewal movements at the moment. They continue to attract Western visitors, partly for this reason.

The talk will be held in the Brigstock Room at Rewley House, at 6 pm, and will be followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Please contact Patricia Usick if you would like to attend: (tel.) 0207 328 2735, (email) [pusick@btinternet.com](mailto:pusick@btinternet.com).

Patricia Usick

## **ASTENE Mini-Conference, Corfu Town, 9 May 2010**

The evening conference in Corfu Town, to take place during ASTENE's Greece and Albania trip, will include the following speakers and subjects.

*Material Relating to the Ionian Islands among Gladstone's Papers at St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden* (Sonia Anderson)

In 1858–59 William Ewart Gladstone spent three months based in Corfu as High Commissioner to the Ionian Islands, also visiting adjacent parts of Greece and Albania. This episode has generally been studied from his official papers at Kew and his private papers in the British Library and Lambeth Palace Library. But there is also a large amount of relevant material at St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, which can be studied at the Flintshire Record Office.

*Corfu and the Ionian Islands* (Morris Bierbrier)

The island of Corfu was acquired by the French in 1797 then by the English in 1815. The English ceded the Ionian Islands to Greece in 1863. Some of the British Commissioners who administered the region had royal connections which continue to this day. British influence led to the emigration of a number of Corfiote families to England, where they founded thriving companies and helped to build Manchester.

*Lord North, Fifth Earl of Guildford, and the Foundation in 1823 of the Ionian Academy in Corfu* (Paul Heatherington)

The Ionian Academy, set up in Corfu in 1823, was to become the first university in modern Greece. Its founder, Lord North (1766–1827),

was already a philhellene when his travels as a young man took him to Ithaca and Corfu, where he joined the Greek Orthodox Church. He was the first Chancellor of the Ionian Academy and designed robes for the professors of the four faculties (theology, law, medicine and philosophy) based on what he thought Plato would have worn. He also contributed to their salaries from his own funds.

*Corfu and the Empress Elisabeth of Austria: In Search of an Identity* (Johanna Holaubek)

The Empress Elisabeth (1837–98) hated life at court and was a compulsive traveller. In 1861, due to poor health, she remained on the island of Corfu for nearly a year. Corfu became the goal of her romantic longings; she studied Greek, wanted to have a villa called Achilleion built on the island and was a great admirer of Lord Byron.

*'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know'—Lord Byron, Especially in Albanian Dress* (Jennifer Scarce)

European visitors to the territories of the Ottoman Empire recorded their experiences in official reports, journals, and in portraits of themselves in local dress. Such clothing was both a courtesy to the host country and a protection in more remote areas but travellers also enjoyed choosing and wearing these disguises. Byron is depicted in embroidered jacket and pleated Albanian skirt in the famous Thomas Philips portrait of 1814. He had bought the costume in Epirus in 1809 and was very proud of it.

## **Disraeli in Albania**

Members who are going on the tour to Albania may like to track down Benjamin Disraeli's *Home Letters from Abroad*, published in 1885 by John Murray but re-issued by Cassell in 1928. Disraeli gives a riotous account of his visit to Albania in 1850, which included an evening of drunken revelry in 'the mountain fastness' of an Albanian chief—after which certainly Disraeli and probably the Albanian chief passed out.

## **ASTENE/LOUDCE Study Day: Byron's Journeys to Greece, Saturday, 27 November 2010**

The second ASTENE study day of 2010 will be held on 27 November at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.

Byron is an icon in Greece. Streets, tavernas, boulevards, squares and phone-cards all carry his name and picture. He is worshipped there as in no other country—certainly not England—because his death there in 1824 gave the Greek War of Independence, and thus the modern Greek



identity, its final, international, and mythical seal of approval.

We shall examine his two visits to Greece: the first, from 1809 to 1811, and the second, from 1823 to his death in 1824. We shall look at his motives for going in each case, his adventures there, and the causes, in the first case, of his coming away, and in the second, of his death. We shall look at the impact each visit made on his poetry, and on his public image. We hope to show that myth is one thing, and historical and biographical truth another—but that the two overlap and interact in such a way that it is often impossible to tell them apart.

Recommended reading:

Harold Nicolson, *Byron, the Last Journey*  
William St. Clair, *That Greece Might Still be Free*

- 9.15 Registration
- 9.30 *Harold Goes to Hell: Byron's First Greek Journey* (Dr Peter Cochran)
- 10.45 Coffee/tea
- 11.30 *William Martin Leake, Diplomat and Gun-runner* (Professor Malcolm Wagstaff)
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 *The Pilgrim of Eternity: Byron's Voyaging* (Dr Carl Thompson)
- 3.15 Tea/Coffee
- 3.45 *The Land of Honourable Death: Byron's Second and Last Greek Journey* (Dr Peter Cochran)
- 5.00 Course disperses

Speakers:

- *Professor Malcolm Wagstaff* is a geographer and professor emeritus at the University of Southampton. He has academic interests in Greece and Turkey, and is currently writing a biography of Lt.-Col. William Martin Leake. A recent publication: 'Colonel Leake's Knowledge of Events in Greece Following Independence: The Finlay Correspondence', in *Scholars, Travels, Archives: Greek History and Culture through the British School of Athens*, ed. M. Llewellyn Smith,

P. M. Kitromilides and E. Calligas (British School at Athens 2009, pp.27–38).

- *Dr Peter Cochran* is an independent scholar, responsible for the editions of Byron's work and correspondence on the website of the International Byron Society. He is well known as an expert and lecturer on the poet's life, and edits the *Newstead Byron Society Review*. Recent publications (2009 only) are 'Romanticism' and *Byron, The Gothic Byron*, and *Poland's Angry Romantic: Two Poems and a Play by Julius Slowacki* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing).
- *Dr Carl Thompson* did his PhD at Oxford and now teaches at Nottingham Trent University. He specialises in early 19th-century travel writing. Among his publications is *The Suffering Traveller and the Romantic Imagination* (Oxford 2007).

## The Maria Theresa Thaler

Although information about the latest exhibition at the Exeter University Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (*Silver Legend*, 1 February–31 March) arrived too late to be included in *Bulletin* 42, members may be interested to read about it. The exhibition was inaugurated by ASTENE member Dr Dionisius Agius and started with a lecture by Clara Semple, author of *Silver Legend: the Story of the Maria Theresa Thaler* (Barzan Publishing, 2006), which inspired the exhibition. (Clara Semple gave a paper on 'A Much Travelled Lady' at the 2003 ASTENE conference in Oxford.) ASTENE Chairman Robert Morkot attended Clara's beautifully illustrated, amusing and informative lecture, and visited the exhibition. The following is a summary of a review by another visitor, Ionis Thompson, Honorary Secretary of the Society for Arabian Studies.

Those of us who have lived in the Arabian Peninsula are familiar with the Maria Theresa thaler, the heavy silver coin with its unchanging image of the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa bearing the date 1780. We have seen it in *souqs* throughout Arabia used for weighing gold, silver and jewellery and as currency until quite recently in Yemen and Oman. How an Austrian coin with an un-Islamic image and a constant date could still be in circulation is explained and the coin's



Obverse and reverse of the Maria Theresa thaler.

remarkable history, described, with examples of its re-use in silver jewellery from the Middle East, in the informative exhibition at Exeter University's IAIS.

In her lecture, Clara explained that the word *thaler* is an abbreviated form of St. Joachimsthal, the valley in Bohemia where much of the silver was mined: it is cognate with our English word dollar. The final image of the empress on the coin struck in the year of her death, 1780, showed her in her full maturity, displaying the fine bosom which, legend has it, came to play such a part in the coin's popularity. Other coins came and went in the Middle East, but none inspired the same trust as the thaler. Its unchanging form and constant weight (an ounce) accounted for this confidence. The traveller Sir Samuel Baker wrote in 1868:

The Austrian dollar of Maria Theresa is the only large coin current in this country (Sudan): the effigy of the Empress with a very low dress and a profusion of bust, is, I believe, the charm that suits the Arab taste. So particular are these people that they reject the coin after careful examination, unless they can distinctly count seven dots that form the stars upon the coronet.

It was Europe's passion for coffee, wrote Clara Semple in *Silver Legend*, that propelled the first of Maria Theresa's silver thalers towards their extraordinary destiny in Arabia and Africa. The merchants of Yemen and Ethiopia demanded payment in a reliable coin. Europe's growing appetite for luxury goods from the East led to an expansion of trade through the ports of Southern Arabia and the Red Sea. Luxuries included silks,

ivory, gold, coffee, ostrich feathers and of course slaves, all purchased with Maria Theresa thalers.

Some states which used the thaler as currency would counter-strike the coin with their own stamp to give it additional legitimacy. The exhibition and Clara's talk showed examples of this, notably a coin counter-struck with the word Hejaz, emanating from that region of modern Saudi Arabia. They have not only been used as currency but pierced and re-used as jewellery throughout the Middle East. Necklaces containing thalers were considered important at weddings, though they must have hung heavily round the necks of young brides. (Robert Morkot noted that Clara herself was wearing a splendid example of the jewellery on 28 January.) The exhibition has some lovely examples of bridal pectorals and amulets and of thalers set in ashtrays and cigarette lighters.

*Review reprinted with the permission of the author and The Middle East in London. Those who missed the exhibition may enjoy an article on the thaler by Peter Harrigan, based on Clara Semple's research, which appeared in the Saudi Aramco World magazine online in January 2003.*

## Guest Editors for the Summer Bulletin

Guest editors for this issue of the Bulletin, Russell and Sheila McGuirk, will also edit the Summer 2010 issue. The McGuirks can be contacted at 646 Point West, 116 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4XF. Tel: +44 (0)20 7835 0063; email: rmcguirk@jhu.edu or smcguirk@post.harvard.edu .





# OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

## Museums and Exhibitions

The listing of exhibitions and museums which follows is by no means exhaustive, and readers are urged to check details before making plans. However, it does give a flavour of the extent of world-wide interest in the subjects which impassion ASTENE members.

**The Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.** Described by Lonely Planet as 'not just the best museum in Ireland, but one of the best in Europe' (European Museum of the Year in 2002), the Chester Beatty Library houses Beatty's great collection of manuscripts, prints, drawings, rare books and decorative arts. The diverse collection captures the richness of human creative expression from about 2700 BC to the present day, including Egyptian papyrus texts, beautifully illuminated copies of the Qur'an, and Turkish and Persian miniatures. The collection is now housed in Dublin Castle, and admission is free. For more information and opening times visit the website [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie). Their next temporary exhibition is:

***Muraqqá: Imperial Mughal Albums. Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.*** The displays focus on a group of six albums (*muraqqás*) of paintings and calligraphy compiled in India between about 1600 and 1658 for the Mughal emperors Jahangir and Shah Jahan (builder of the Taj Mahal). Many of the paintings are exquisitely rendered portraits of emperors, princes and courtiers—all dressed in the finest textiles and jewels—but there are also images of court life, of Sufis, saints and animals. This exhibition has been on tour in the US for the past year and now returns to the Library. 1 June–31 October 2010.

***Albania and the Balkans. Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.*** Drawings and Photographs from the Edith Durham Collection. Display of the observations of Edith Durham (1863–1944). Until 4 July 2010, so it will still be there when ASTENE is in Oxford for the Rewley House study day.

***Wilfred Thesiger in Africa: A Centenary Exhibition. Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.*** A collection of the renowned traveller's photographs, including images from Ethiopia, alongside objects collected by Thesiger. 4 June 2010–5 June 2011.

***Poetry and Prayer: Illuminated Manuscripts from the Islamic World. Walters Art Museum,***

**Baltimore.** This exhibition displays masterpieces of Islamic manuscript illumination from the ninth to the 19th century created in famed artistic centres in today's Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Egypt and the Indian subcontinent. The exhibition covers both religious and non-religious works highlighting the effects of gold, lapis lazuli and aesthetically powerful design which characterise Islamic manuscript illumination. 20 March–13 June 2010.

***Oman. De Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam.*** This exhibition focuses on the country's role as a seafaring nation and its central location on international trade routes, such as that of the Dutch East India Company, presenting more than 300 outstanding items from different public and private museum collections in Oman and from international institutions. Ends 18 April 2010.

***The Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.*** This exhibition introduces the concepts of the afterlife in the Middle Kingdom (2040–1640 BC) by a journey through the remarkable tomb of Djehutynakht and its many objects. In a 1915 excavation, the MFA found the largest Middle Kingdom burial assemblage ever discovered. The tomb was filled with the funerary equipment of a local governor and his wife, and contained four beautifully painted coffins. Until 16 May 2010.

***Childhood on the River Nile: Images of Children from Egypt. Bode-Museum, Berlin.*** This exhibition displays children's clothing, shoes and toys; doll clothing; depictions of children on the ornamental trimmings of fabrics and other organic artefacts relating to childhood on the Nile. Ends 10 June 2010.

***Terracotta. Rijksmuseum van Oudheiden, Leiden.*** *Terracotta* displays some 100 objects, including delicate Greek female figurines, architectural fragments, medieval children's toys, prehistoric animal figures and sculptures of deities from pre-Islamic Syria and Iraq. Ends 13 June 2010.

***Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto*** until 18 April 2010; and ***Denver [Colorado] Art Museum*** until 10 June 2010. An extensive travelling exhibition of more than 140 treasures from the tomb of the celebrated

pharaoh and other sites. It includes his golden sandals, created specifically for the afterlife and found on his feet when his mummy was unwrapped.

**Very Postmortem: Mummies and Medicine. Fine Arts Museums Legion of Honor, San Francisco.** The exhibition marks the return of Irethorrou, the Fine Arts Museum's mummy, out on loan since 1944. The exhibition also includes a variety of ancient artefacts that date from approximately 664–525 BC. Ends 15 August 2010.

**The Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World. American Museum of Natural History, New York.** For centuries, the Silk Road was a vast and busy network connecting Asia and the Mediterranean where people met, transported goods and conducted trade, and in the process shared culture, religion and technology. Feathers, furs, spices, silks and other trade goods; live, working silkworms; a cutaway replica of part of a dhow; a working model of a water clock; sounds and smells; and video clips of papermaking and glassblowing are among the exhibits. Ends 15 August 2010.

**Meroë: Empire on the Nile. Musée du Louvre, Paris.** This is the museum's first exhibition about the capital city of a majestic and enigmatic civilisation that developed on the banks of the Nile between 270 BC and 350 AD. It includes 200 works, which reveal Meroë's multicultural character. 26 March–6 September 2010.

**To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from the Brooklyn Museum. Brooklyn Museum, New York, 12 February–2 May 2010; and Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 6 June–12 September 2010.** 120 pieces of jewellery, statues, coffins and vessels dating from 3600 BC to AD 400 to illustrate the range of strategies and preparations that the ancient Egyptians developed to defeat death and to achieve success in the afterlife.

**The Great Game: Archaeology and Politics in the Age of Colonialism (1840–1940). Ruhr Museum, Essen, Germany.** The Ruhr Museum's spectacular new premises will be home to a memorable exhibition featuring a significant loan of items from the PEF's collections and archives. The PEF is proud to be making an important contribution to the exhibition, which represents a major advance in the study of culture and colonialism, and the interaction between the two. The impressive publication of the same name by exhibition curator, Charlotte Trümpler has been available since 2008. Dr Trümpler spent much time consulting the PEF's archives during her research for this book and exhibition. 12 February–13 June 2010.

For more information, see the exhibition preview webpage at [www.ruhrmuseum.de/de/sonderausstellungen/vorschau.jsp](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de/de/sonderausstellungen/vorschau.jsp), or visit the Ruhr Museum website [www.ruhrmuseum.de/de/index.jsp](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de/de/index.jsp).

**19th Century Syrian Photography. British Syrian Society Exhibition at The Royal Geographical Society.** 27–30 April 2010. Entry to the exhibition in the Pavilion is free.

**Travel and Exploration Book Fair. The Royal Geographical Society.** 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Sunday, 2 May 2010, 11 am to 5 pm, £2 entrance fee.

**1001 Inventions: The Science Museum Celebrates Science from the Muslim World. The Science Museum, London.** The Science Museum is celebrating 1,000 years of scientific achievements from the Muslim world. Dr Susan Mossman, project director at the museum, says: 'Arabic and Muslim culture particularly is a little known story in Britain. This is a real opportunity to show that hidden story.' The exhibition space is designed in seven thematic zones: home, school, market, hospital, town, world and universe. These feature a diverse range of more than sixty displays, electronic interactive pods and dramatisation. Also included in the exhibition are valuable historical artefacts from the Science



Manuscript illustration of the al-Jazari elephant clock, on display at the Science Museum, London.

Museum collection, many of which have never been on public display. There is a reproduction of a 9th-century flying device, together with a six-metre high replica of the iconic and visually striking 'elephant clock'. The free exhibition has already been visited by 80,000 people, including the Turkish Prime Minister. Until 30 June 2010.

**Terence Gilbert: Paintings of the Middle East. Mathaf Gallery, London.** Terence Gilbert has been painting for the Mathaf Gallery since it started in 1975. He has travelled extensively in the Middle East and has a wide and loyal group of collectors. Although a regular contributor to group exhibitions at the Mathaf, Terence has been kept so busy with commissions over the years that he has had little time to work towards a one-man show. This long overdue exhibition is a rare opportunity to see a collection of some 30 paintings by Terence under one roof and will be well worth the wait. A highly versatile artist, the exhibition includes both oil paintings and watercolours of landscapes, genre scenes and wildlife. 14–30 April 2010.

For further information and images please contact the Mathaf Gallery, 24 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8JU. Tel: + 44 (0)20 7235 0010; fax: + 44 (0)20 7823 1378; email: art@mathafgallery.demon.co.uk; www.mathafgallery.com .

**Summer Programme 2010 at the Petrie Museum.** All events are free and take place at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology unless otherwise indicated. Contact Debbie Challis at d.challis@ucl.ac.uk ; tel: 020 7679 4138. The following is just a selection:

- *From Luxor to London. Prints and Drawings by Adele Wagstaff.* A collection of drawings and prints inspired by reliefs, monuments and sculpture in Luxor, Thebes and the Petrie's own collection in London. Many of the drawings and prints are inspired by the Hatshepsut Temple in Deir el-Bahri as well as the Luxor Museum. 13 April–26 June 2010, museum opening hours. For information, contact www.adelewagstaff.co.uk .
- *From Luxor to London. Artist's Talk.* Adele Wagstaff discusses her exhibition and time spent in Luxor and Thebes. She will describe the processes and techniques involved in her prints and drawings as well as her inspiration from museums and sites in Egypt as well as the Petrie Museum in London. Thursday, 29 April 6.30–7.30 pm. (Doors open at 6 pm). Book in advance. www.adelewagstaff.co.uk .
- *Lates at the Petrie: Sci-fi Ancient Egypt.* Time travel back to Ancient Egypt to see monsters and aliens pitted against the Egyptian Gods. From the Daleks, who visited the building of the Pyramids, to the Stargates which reach across space and

time, the history of Egypt has been a rich source for science-fiction. Grab a free trail, written by Dr Who books author Simon Guerrier, on Egypt's use in sci-fi and explore the Petrie Museum with a glass of wine. Thursday, 6 May, 5–8 pm.

- *Out and About: Egyptian Factories in London.* Cathie Bryan leads us around the outside of the Hoover Factory, designed by Wallis Gilbert & Partners 1931–38, which is decorated with bright coloured faïence (glazed ceramic inspired by ancient Egypt). We will also look at the Tesco supermarket, designed to match the Hoover Factory. We will probably start with the Carreras Cigarette Factory in Camden and move from there to Perivale—full information will be sent nearer the time. Mornington Crescent: Carreras Cigarette Factory, Hampstead Road, Camden Town, NW1 7AD; and Perivale: Western Avenue, Greenford, UB6 8BW). Book in advance. Saturday, 5 June, 11–1 pm.
- *Makes Me Think of Egypt.* An exhibition of the five winners and other finalists of the photography competition organized by the British Egyptian Society–UK, jointly with the British Museum and Amateur Photographer magazine. The 18 finalists submitted photographs that conjured up the spirit of Egypt, capturing the monuments, statues, buildings and people that bring the country's history and culture to life in front of the lens. Previously on display at the British Museum, this exhibition is now hung among Egyptian antiquities of the Petrie Museum. 29 June–4 September 2010, museum opening hours.
- *Out and About: An Obelisk on the Thames.* Talk by Cleopatra's Needle in the Embankment on the history of this London monument, which came from Heliopolis in Egypt and dates from 1450 BC. The talk will look at its ancient history and how this Egyptian monument came to London. Meet at Cleopatra's Needle. Part of the Festival of British Archaeology. Saturday 17 July, 11.30 am. Book in advance.

## Conferences, Lectures and Talks

**Old Damascus. British Syrian Society Lecture by Badr El Hage and Private View.** The Royal Geographical Society. Introducing the private collection of Syrian photographs and postcards from the early 19th century and launching a weeklong celebration of Syrian culture and heritage. 27 April 2010, 7 pm (arrivals from 6 pm). Tickets: £15. For more information email: britishsyriansociety@btconnect.com , or telephone: 020 7839 1637. www.britishsyriansociety.org .

**Anthony Sattin on Cairo.** On Wednesday, 5 May 2010, as part of Intelligence Squared's 'Writers on Cities Series', writer and broadcaster Anthony Sattin will speak on Cairo at the Royal

Geographical Society, Ondaatje Theatre. Doors open at 6.15 pm. Lecture starts 7 pm, finishes 8.15 pm.

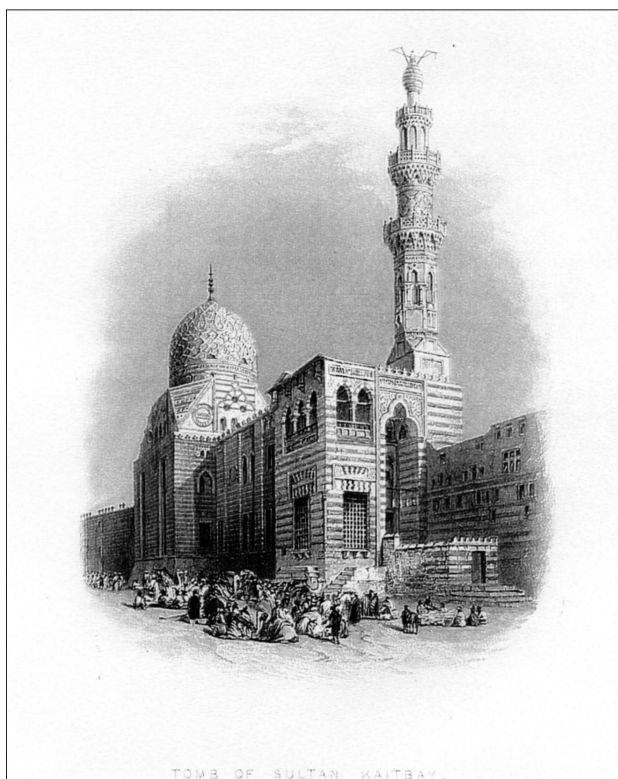
**International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East (ASEMNE). Paphos, Cyprus. 29 April–1 May 2010.**

This international congress aims to highlight recent advances in natural and material science applications to archaeology and cultural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, and to provide an international academic forum, hitherto not available, for dissemination of results of current research in these fields in the region. For further information visit [www.cbri.org.uk](http://www.cbri.org.uk).

**Study/Conference Weekend. The Ancient Egypt and Middle East Society (AEMES) with the EES (Egypt Exploration Society) and PEF (Palestine Exploration Fund), Friday to Sunday, 7–9 May 2010.**

Speakers and topics:

- *Archives, Scripture and Kinglists: How Ancient Egypt and Palestine Saw Their Own History* (Margaret Beaumont). The Baker Memorial Lecture.
- *The Egypt Exploration Society: The Early Years* (Patricia Spencer)
- *Discovering Jerusalem: The PEF in the Holy City* and *From Cairo to Jerusalem: The Beersheba Campaign of 1917* (Felicity Cobbing)
- *The Egypt Exploration Society at Abydos* and *The Egypt Exploration Society at Saqqara* (Aidan Dodson)



- *Ahab's House of Ivories: The Palace of Ancient Israel* and *Herod the Great: Egypt, Rome and Palestine* (Rupert Chapman)
- *The EES Lucy Gura Archive: What it Contains and Why We Should Preserve It* (Chris Naunton)

Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincs. LN9 6BW. Further information from [www.aemes.co.uk](http://www.aemes.co.uk).

**Egypt Exploration Society Events**

- *Coptic Thebes: Life in the 7th and 8th Centuries AD*. London Seminar, Saturday, 17 April 2010. Members £20, Student Members £15.
- *Disciplinary Measures? Histories of Egyptology in Multi-Disciplinary Context*. London Conference, Thursday 10 June–Saturday 12 June 2010. A discussion forum for the increasing number of people working on the history (or histories) of the discipline of Egyptology. The third day of the conference—Saturday 12 June 2010—will be an EES study day, featuring speakers including Elliott Colla, David Jeffreys, Jaromir Malek, Stephen Quirke and Donald Reid. The EES with The Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the Heritage Studies Research Group, University College London Archaeology Institute.
- *Third British Egyptology Congress (BEC3)*. Saturday 11 September 2010. The Department of Egypt and Sudan, British Museum, with the EES and University College London. More information on all the above from [www.ees.co.uk](http://www.ees.co.uk).

**T. E. Lawrence Society Symposium.** St John's College, Oxford, 17–19 September 2010. Programme and application form available on the T. E. Lawrence Society website: [www.telsociety.org.uk](http://www.telsociety.org.uk).

**Courses and Study Days**

**The Durrell School of Corfu** will host a six-day seminar, *The History and Culture of the Ionian Islands*, on 16–21 May 2010, in the library and research centre of the Durrell School at 11 Filellinon, in the historic centre of Corfu Town. The Academic Director of the seminar is Dr Anthony Hirst (Institute of Byzantine Studies, Queen's University Belfast), a member of the Board of the Durrell School. The moderator and keynote speaker will be Professor Peter Mackridge, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford. The seminar aims to bring together experts in all aspects of the history and culture of the Ionian Islands in an attempt to take an interdisciplinary overview of the history and culture of this group of islands, the development of which, at least in medieval and modern times, was quite distinct from that of the rest of Greece.

**Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, Cambridge.** The following courses in 2010 may be of interest to ASTENE members:

- *On the Trail of the Phoenicians.* 9–11 July 2010. Combining archaeology, the visual arts and epigraphy, this course offers an insight into the origins and spread of the Phoenicians, a complex people who spread from Lebanon across the Mediterranean.
- *The British Rediscovery of the Ancient World.* 25–31 July 2010. The nations of 18th- and 19th-century Europe developed a host of techniques for rediscovering the ancient Mediterranean and Near East: the rise of travel, emergence of the museum, decipherment of scripts, the birth of archaeology. This course will explore how knowledge of Egypt, Assyria, and Homeric Greece was integrated into British society and fuelled competition between nascent European nationalisms. Topics include: 'Homer and the Status of the Ancient Text'; 'Empire, Egypt, Assyria and Archaeology'; 'Archaic Greece in British Politics'; 'The Pre-Classical World'; and 'Literature, Egyptology, Engineering and the Idea of Prehistory'.

More information on costs and applications at [www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk). The full list of courses is extensive, with offerings for 2011 already beginning to appear. As the most popular courses fill up quickly it might be frustrating to readers for subjects to be listed in this *Bulletin* that are no longer available. Please check the website to avoid disappointment.

**Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford.** Among the huge range of courses on offer, the following is just a tiny sampling:

- *An Introduction to the Minoan Civilisation*
- *Great Egyptologists*
- *Health and Medicine in the Graeco-Roman to Medieval Islamic Worlds*
- *Impact of Empire in the Ancient Near East, 1550–330 BC*
- *Ancient Crete at the Ashmolean Museum*
- *Byzantium and the West*
- *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Controversy, Conspiracy and Consensus*
- *The Art of Travel.* This course will explore the art of the travel poster, which employed some of the most distinguished artists of the past hundred or so years in order to persuade the viewer to seek rest or adventure in new or undiscovered places.

The website for further information on timings, costs and applications is [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk).

## Bloomsbury Summer School

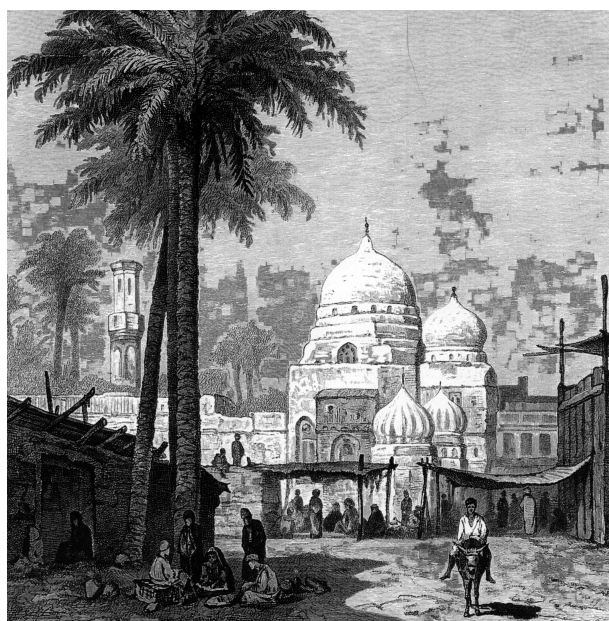
- *Ancient Egypt and the Mediterranean World, 5–30 July 2010.* Eight one-week courses taught by experts: Karen Exell, George Hart, Janet Johnstone, Thomas Kiely, Chris Naunton, José Perez-Accino, Jan Picton and Kasia Szpakowska. Special-access classes in the Petrie Museum, British Museum and EES where relevant; and, if required, cheap, local university accommodation is available.
- *Bloomsbury Summer School in Egypt, 10–17 November 2010.* An innovative course taught by John Romer in Luxor, with daily visits to ancient sites.

For further information visit: [www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury](http://www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury), or contact: The Director, Bloomsbury Summer School, Department of History, UCL, Gower St. London WC1E 6BT. Tel: 020 7679 3622, email: [bloomsbury@egyptology-uk.com](mailto:bloomsbury@egyptology-uk.com).

## Travel Opportunities

**17-Day Photo Safari of Egypt with Cassandra Vivian.** Begins 30 October 2010. For information contact Theban Travel, PO Box 1119, Guildford, GU1 9LN. Tel. 01483 828 628; email [info@theban-travel.co.uk](mailto:info@theban-travel.co.uk).

**Andante Travels Trip to Egypt, November 2010.** Members interested in Cassandra's Photo Safari may also be interested in an opportunity to visit Alexandria, Siwa and Bahariy Oases and the Faiyum, offered by Andante Travels this November. More information is available at [www.barebonestours.co.uk/travels-in-archaeology](http://www.barebonestours.co.uk/travels-in-archaeology) [www.ancient.co.uk](http://www.ancient.co.uk) is another useful site for ASTENE members with a travel bug.



# BOOKS AND REVIEWS

*ASTENE's 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 .*

**Edward Lear: Egyptian Sketches, by Jenny Gaschke. London, National Maritime Museum, 2009. 64 pp, ISBN 9781906367206. £9.99.**

When I visited an artist's studio in the Outer Hebrides in the summer, I was delighted to see the artist's large sketch pad containing the original drawings on which she based her paintings of the lochs, hills, crofts and boats of North Uist. The drawings were beautifully evocative and were overwritten with notes about colours, shading and details which would be carried on to the finished canvases in the studio. Something of the same spontaneity exists in this splendid selection of studies, mainly from the National Maritime Museum's collection of the work of the poet and 'nonsense' author, Edward Lear (1812–88). Apart from other visits to Egypt, in 1853–4 and 1866–7 he undertook two trips on the Nile, where he was fascinated by all the activity on and beside the great river. He depicts these in his sketches with a light but accurate skill, which he described as 'poetical topography'. He deftly portrayed all that interested him—but mainly the feluccas and dahabeeyahs, which appear to have alighted like butterflies on the page. If you have pleasant memories of cruising on the Nile and you can recall the slapping of the river on the boat, the creaking of the rigging and the warm desert winds caressing your face, you will certainly enjoy this book. Keep it beside your armchair!

*George Hutcheson*

**Twelve Days in Persia: Across the Mountains with the Bakhtiari Tribe, by Vita Sackville-West. London, Tauris Parke Paperbacks, 2009. ISBN: 9781845119331. 144 pp, 32 pp b/w photos. £9.99.**

**Travelling the Incense Route: From Arabia to the Levant in the Footsteps of the Magi, by Barbara Toy. London, Tauris Parke Paperbacks, 2009. ISBN: 9781845119959. 200 pp, 16 pp b/w photos, £9.99.**

Seldom do two works of travel contrast so profoundly. Time and again we are reminded

that what is seen on and said about a particular journey is as much about the person who journeyed as the places visited, and here we see the theory exemplified with a manifestation that is almost astonishing.

Vita Sackville-West is familiar to all of us who have been to Sissinghurst Castle to see the gardens in summer. And yet as we strolled amongst the white flowers and neat hedges and wondered hazily about the Elizabethan Tower's twin octagonal erections, we little suspected the genius of the woman who once lived within. Here is a book of poetry of so exalted an order that the most mundane quotidianities are raised to the level of music. Listen: 'Those camp breakfasts, when nobody was quarrelsome, had their charm. We ate huge bowls of mast—the native curdled milk, like Devonshire cream—with spoonfuls of apricot jam stirred into it, making golden streaks in the white. All around us the business of packing up the camp was going on. Tents fell, helplessly collapsing as the pegs were withdrawn, turning from shapely brown shelters to flattened crumpled squares ... The blackened ring of our fire looked as melancholy and meaningless as the glasses of a previous night's debauch.' Such beauty and serenity amidst the crises and adventures of the journey permeate the text. As she reports asking herself: 'Was it for this that I had gone footsore, cold, wet, hungry? climbed up, and scrambled down? covered all those miles? looked at all those goats?' Yes. All this and more.

The book plots her progress among the Persian peaks with similarly celestial sentiment until, with



sighs, we must leave her and the Bakhtiari to deal with the somewhat less poetic oil extraction sites that were beginning to raise their ugly heads in the 1920s. Illustrated deliciously with evocative and atmospheric photographs (many of them apparently her own) this book leaves so little to desire, but more. We do note however, by way of compensation, that Tauris is republishing other works of the same author.

Barbara Toy's style is quite, quite different. Her book also charts the highs and lows of her journey, though in a much more business-like and brisk fashion. Nothing—unexploded ordnance, trigger-happy Bedouin, injured spines—will stop her progress through the desert, and every moment is recorded systematically and accurately. Her prowess as a traveller has been recognized handsomely by the Royal Geographical Society, and deservedly so, and her books have been agreeably received by many people. The text contains a fair sprinkling of history and culture, and Toy is a notably well-informed and reliable traveller.

Perhaps the most striking thing that the books have in common is the prevalence of mentions of the oil industry, and the very content that confirms one book as truly modern and self-consciously clipped somehow confirms the other book as sublime.

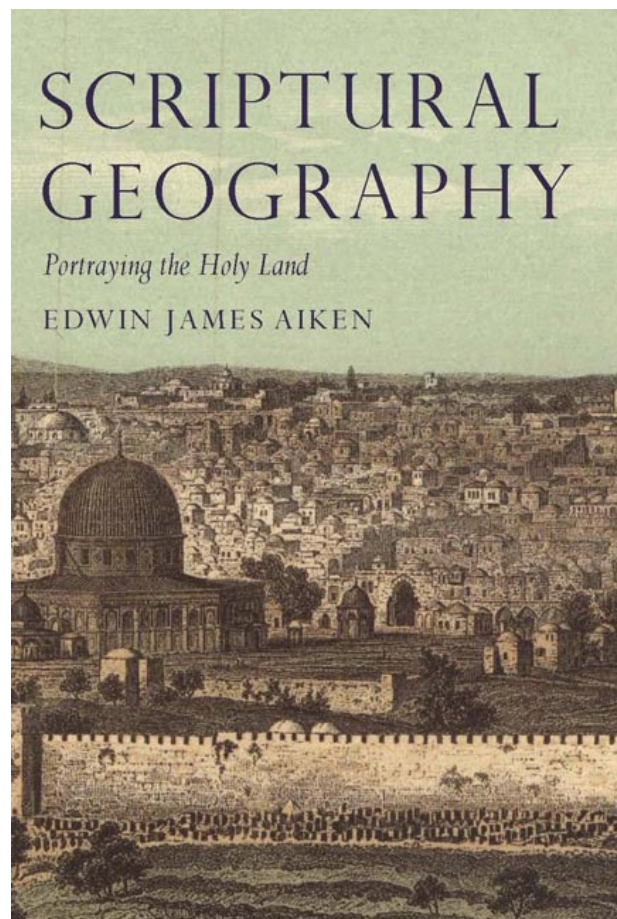
*Edwin James Aiken*

***Scriptural Geography: Portraying the Holy Land*, by Edwin James Aiken. London, I.B. Tauris, Tauris Historical Geography Series, 2010. ISBN 978 1 84511 818 1. 244pp, 17 b/w illustrations, including maps. £45 (available as special offer to ASTENE members at £31.50, to May 2010)**

Edwin Aiken, known to ASTENE members as a former reviews editor of this *Bulletin*, has written this impressive scholarly analysis of links between the geography of the Holy Land and its representation in Biblical scripture in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Based partly on the author's doctoral research at Queen's University, Belfast, this handsomely produced volume in the Tauris Historical Geography Series incorporates an intellectual journey to 'find the Holy Land... as it was understood and written about; not just as a Cartesian space, but as an intellectual, moral and discordant space; a space charged with the heat of religious debates...'; that is, the description of the geographical context of the Holy Land 'in which the story, or narrative, of the Bible takes place'. Against the broader background of current developments in the history of geographical and theological thought, including theory, the author evaluates and illustrates the development of accounts of place-located Biblical events. The

book is based both on extensive reading and review of published material and a wide range of archived manuscript sources.

The transition from what Aiken describes as didactic scriptural geography to polemic and contextual scriptural geographies in the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries is outlined in Chapter 2, and further developed at length in Chapters 3–5, which give details of the lives and writings of Michael Russell, Josias Leslie Porter and George Adam Smith. The term 'didactic scriptural geography' is applied to those writers who mainly had not visited the Holy Land themselves, who were reliant on published descriptions by others, and who did not, in a pre-Darwinian context, see science as a threat to the revealed truths of the Bible. Michael Russell (1781–1848) is the person whose works are chosen to represent this category. He became a bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church and wrote prolifically on the character and life of the Holy Land, his most famous books including *A Connection of Sacred and Profane History, Egypt, and Palestine*, the last of these using sources such as the descriptions of the Holy Land by Maundrell, Pococke, Sandys, Thevenot, Paul Lucas and Careri, and categorized by Aiken as 'high Orientalist scholarship, which erases the Eastern view of the East, and even rejoices in its triumph in doing so...'.  
*Edwin James Aiken*



Polemical Scriptural Geography is conceived as a response to the challenges posed to conservative Biblical scholars by the combination of a more scientific approach to the geographies of the Holy Land, fed in part by the publication of Darwin's *Origin of the Species* in 1859, and by the Higher Biblical Criticism emanating from major theologians and theology schools in Germany. Palestine became, according to the Aiken perspective, 'a space in which Western Christians fought their own intellectual civil war, symptomatic of the increasingly privileged role of science in Victorian cosmography'. The chosen major exemplar of this approach is Josias Leslie Porter (1823–89), an Irish Presbyterian minister who did have first-hand experience of the Middle East, including a period as a missionary in Damascus, and who ultimately became President of Queen's College, Belfast. His major works included *Five Years in Damascus*, the *Handbook for Syria and Palestine* in a series published by Murray, and *Science and Revelation*, the latter one of a number of works on links between science, religion and biblical criticism. More popular works included *Jerusalem, Bethany and Bethlehem*, and *Through Samaria to Galilee and the Jordan*. Polemical Scriptural Geography contained a substantial measure of assertion of the credibility of Biblical fact through personal experience of the places of the Holy Land and, in Porter's case, a strong measure of sense of place, Orientalist discourse and experience of producing maps of places visited, including the area around Damascus.

The third major scholar of the Holy Land evaluated in a separate chapter, and deemed representative of Contextual Scriptural Geography, is the well known George Adam Smith (1856–1942), Old Testament scholar and commentator, and ultimately university administrator, whose travels in the Holy Land and Biblical knowledge led to a wide range of publications, among which one of the most famous is *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, first published in 1894. Smith was familiar, through travels and study as a student, with the Biblical criticism emanating from Germany, and was able to ally this with his first-hand knowledge of the Holy Land and his profound insights into the Biblical representations of place and belief. His prose style is outstanding, redolent of that of the Old Testament psalmists, and yet his analysis of places is well informed by the latest scientific material, notably that deriving from archaeological investigations. Smith's contextual scriptural geography contained the essential elements of scientific knowledge allied to new insights into the Bible through the new criticism, so that the increasing intellectual complexities of geography and theology were incorporated into a new discourse, 'into its *garderobe* of techniques

for engaging with the sacred space, and so contextual Scriptural Geography appeared'.

This book is a fine scholarly product, enhanced by a good range of illustrations and portraits. It is well written and structured, and offers both a sound exegesis of the relevant publications within the field of Scriptural Geography and an entrée into the relevant concepts of contemporary human and historical geography. It is to be hoped—given the price—that a paperback version will be produced before too long.

Robin Butlin

***Sitting Beside Lepsius: Studies in Honour of Jaromir Malek at the Griffith Institute*, edited by Diana Magee, Janine Bourriau and Stephen Quirke. *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 185*. Leuven, Paris and Walpole, MA, Uitgeverij Peeters, 2009. 608 pp, b/w photographs, drawings, maps and plans. ISBN 978-90-429-2171-9. €85 (publishers' price).**

Egyptology has recently seen several *festschriften*, i.e. volumes in honour of important scholars. The volumes of this kind are not exclusive to Egyptology, or indeed Oriental studies, but they are popular in the discipline, and many interesting contributions to the subject are published in this way. The popularity of the genre is based on the fact that Egyptology is a highly collaborative scholarly discipline. This is especially true on an individual level of teaching and advising. In addition, Egyptology has unique resources that help the discipline to expand on its solid and well-researched historical roots. One of them is the 'Porter-Moss', or the *Topographical Bibliography*.

*Sitting Beside Lepsius. Studies in Honour of Jaromir Malek* is a tribute to the Editor of the Topographical Bibliography and the Keeper of the Griffith Institute Archive as well as a tribute to an encouraging teacher and mentor, a supportive colleague, and a kind giver of Egyptological knowledge.

The volume presents an interesting selection of papers covering three millennia of Egyptian history, including material culture, texts and social and cultural history of ancient Egypt. Even a list of names and themes alone would fill a review, and to highlight but a few would enforce a neglect of other contributors. There are Egyptologists from all paths of Egyptological life—Oxford-based specialists, Jaromir's colleagues from Saqqara excavations, his students, specialists on the village of Deir el-Medina (a site closely related to Jaroslav Černý, whose papers are among the Egyptological treasures of the Griffith Archive), as well as a fellow student of Jaromir from the 1960s UNESCO campaign expedition to Nubia.



Many papers are related to the themes to which the laureate has contributed—from cats in Egypt to the Abydene stelae and the Memphite necropolis. While all contributions are recommended reading for an Egyptologist, several hold particular charms for the ASTENE readership. The archives of travellers and Egyptologists become a respected fountain of resources for history of the subject. Our understanding of personalities, research, collections, even sites and monuments, is enhanced by consulting the archived papers, field notes, correspondence, travel diaries, photographs etc. of both specialists and lay visitors to Egypt. The archive is even more important when it comes to collections of Egyptian antiquities and the history of collecting. History of collecting and collections particularly is often complex and these days it is sometimes perceived as controversial. It is therefore of utmost importance to study and publish available knowledge about the history of Egyptology. *Sitting Beside Lepsius* includes analyses of a part of the Anastasi collection, the Petrie papers, archives of Auguste Mariette, and an intriguing contribution on J. H. Breasted's descriptions for series of stereoscopic images of Egypt published by the Underwood brothers. Breasted was thus a forerunner of recent popular volumes on ancient Egypt richly provided with photographs. Nor are travellers *stricto sensu* left out. The history of 'encounters on the Nile' is, besides being a meritorious research topic by itself, another indispensable part of the history of Egyptology. More or less surprising travellers' connections turn up in several seemingly 'purely Egyptological' papers as well.

It is more than fitting that ASTENE topics—contributions based on travelogues and archives—form a part of the volume, not least because Jaromir has devoted much of his time to the study of 'provenance-unknown' objects, some of which may yet be attributed to a likely place of origin with the help of notes about various incidents of travel.

Though a non-Egyptologist may consider some of the specialist contributions less easily accessible, the general tone of the contributions is not only highly informative but also digestible, and all papers related to ASTENE topics are very readable.

*Hana Navrátilová*

***Saddling the Dogs. Journeys through Egypt and the Near East*, edited by Diane Fortenberry and Deborah Manley. Oxford and Oakville, ASTENE and Oxbow Books, 2009. 170 pp, b/w drawings, maps, illustrations. ISBN 978-1-84217-367-1. £20 (£15 ASTENE members).**

Journeys through Egypt and the Near East were often demanding physically and intellectually—for those inclined to absorb and reflect different and yet seemingly well-known countries. Oriental travels have also been in demand at least for the last two hundred years, as they completed one's education, confirmed religious zeal and added to one's social stature as either an adventurer or a connoisseur, among other things. *Saddling the Dogs* offers a different perspective—what did it mean to be a traveller in terms of travel preparation and travel experience? Travel experience, once gained, was in addition becoming a kind of cultural commodity—it added to personal prestige and social identity of the traveller, especially if he or she became also a travel-writer, who transmitted particular travel experience further.

The new ASTENE volume adds to our knowledge of travellers' life from the 17th to the early 20th centuries. Though different in style and methodology, all papers are united by themes of travellers' identities, and of travellers negotiating demanding travel experiences. We meet both Westerners in the East as well as travellers of an Eastern origin on the *hajj*. The wide variety of travellers is inspiring and reminds us of shared difficulties, even shared opinions, *vis-à-vis* individual traveller's skills and capabilities, including individual gift of expression. While current history often embraces statistics and

## Saddling the Dogs

Journeys through Egypt and the Near East



*edited by*

*Diane Fortenberry and Deborah Manley*

large social structures, it is intriguing that a given human being could and did work within the network of meanings of his or her culture with a purely individual dexterity. This negotiation between shared and individual culture is very visible on physical as well as symbolical crossroads—and the history of travel is a unique source for it.

Personal travel experience was transformed into means of religious and spiritual development, as we can observe in contribution by Paul Robertson, concerning Muhammad Sadiq. This paper also reminds us of a special and important category of ASTENE travellers, namely those whose country and culture of origin itself lay within the ASTENE territory. Selected European 19th-century pilgrims are introduced by the reviewer.

Individuality in travel writing is well known, but it is always worth considering how much an individual, however well-rooted within social and cultural networks, has to say for himself or, as in case of Mary Rich (in contribution by Margaret Oliphant), herself. Mrs Rich offers in her letters more than a glimpse into the practical side of travelling between Baghdad and Constantinople. Since it is letters we read, not a guidebook or a travelogue with educational passages, her notes, such as on luggage and a cumbersome female dress, which is better replaced by a male one, retain much liveliness and wit.

The incidents of travel could bring much inconvenience and even sad events, but in the memory of travellers they were often meant to remain only colourful, lively and encouraging—as in memoranda and watercolours of the Earl of Hopetoun (by Brenda Moon). The interest in keeping records by pen as well as by brush is well known, and travellers vary in their skills but not their enthusiasm in recording—in Hopetoun's time helped by calotypes, and later photography.

Caroline Williams acquaints us with travels of P. Coste and E. Flandin, who journeyed with a double purpose. The two artists were at first part of a diplomatic retinue and embarked upon an archaeological mission later. The two parts of their journey offer themselves for comparison. Cassandra Vivian's lost American on the Nile went through a rather different sort of adventure than most of contemporary travellers, as he was attached to the force of Ismail Pasha en route to Sudan in 1820s. The rendition of large parts of the text provides us with an insight into this more than uneasy journey. Philip Rhineland (by Andrew Oliver) is known to us chiefly because of his incidents of travel recorded by both him and his travel companions. He is one of those personalities whom the travelogue made known to posterity by name, subsequently attracting

attention to his person. He offers an insight into travels of a group of relatively young Americans touring the Mediterranean.

Diseases, contagion and quarantine—health concerns are unavoidable in travels and indispensable in guidebooks. The practice of quarantine and establishment of the lazarettos on certain Mediterranean routes are described by Janet Starkey. Quarantine was part of the 'technicalities' of travel—and so were means of transport, as described in Peta Rée's 'The Tedious Camel'. The hardy and resilient animal is portrayed as a highly ambivalent creature—as ambivalent as experiences of a journey can be. This is one of the few systematic surveys on the theme of this animal, omnipresent in travelogues, famous, and yet taken for granted.

Several times throughout the volume, the word 'tourist' is used. This is a much debated term, which seems to be most appropriate in the 20th century, in an era of organised package tours (examples are offered by Adéla Jůnova-Macková in her analysis of Czechoslovak travel clubs). However, the need for organised support and help predates that era considerably, thus perhaps suggesting that the use of 'tourist' is not entirely inappropriate even in much earlier stages.

The studies alternate with excerpts from 18th- and 19th-century travelogues, which offer the reader an immediate possibility to look for phenomena just seen exemplified in analytical papers. *Saddling the Dogs* is thus a stimulating volume both for those interested in several less known travellers, and for an audience involved with the study of the comparative history of travel. 'Perhaps camels, like humans, differ in their temperaments. How else to account for the variance of the travellers' opinions of them?' (Peta Rée).

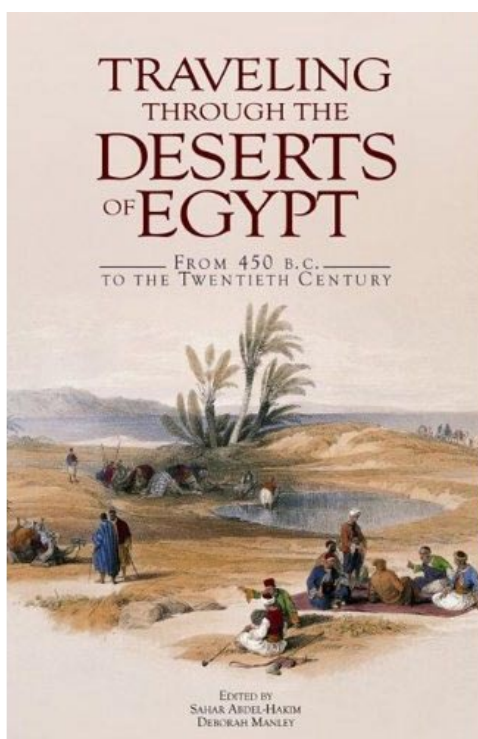
Hana Navrátilová

***Travelling Through the Deserts of Egypt from 450 BC to the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sahar Abdel-Hakim and Deborah Manley. Cairo and New York, American University in Cairo Press 2009. 225 pp., b/w drawings. ISBN 978 977 416 313 5.**

Sahar Abdel-Hakim and Deborah Manley have produced an anthology of extracts from 82 writers to show how generations of travellers imagined and experienced the three deserts of Egypt—the Western (or Libyan) Desert, the Eastern Desert and Sinai. They have grouped the excerpts into 12 sections beginning with 'the deserts of the imagination and reality'. In the next two sections the editors have selected passages which describe the topography of the three deserts, including the character of sand dunes. Other passages

have been chosen to show how preparations were made for desert journeys and how they started and ended. The actual experiences of travel are also described, including the mind-numbing tedium of covering an average of only three miles in an hour under the blazing heat, while the very real threats from wind, sandstorm and extreme thirst are exposed. Excerpts describe the plants and animals of the desert, as well as the people, both the inhabitants and the writer's travelling companions. Much is said about camels, for most of the travellers selected journeyed before the age of motor vehicles. Some travellers, like Arthur Weigall and Dean John Burgon, actually enjoyed camel riding, but most found it uncomfortable and fatiguing. Each section has a short introduction and an occasional explanatory note. Illustrations are taken from W.H. Bartlett's drawings. The book concludes with useful brief biographies of the travellers, a bibliography of the books from which the quotations were taken, and an index of travellers. This reveals that while most travellers have been quoted only once or twice, Arthur Weigall, Inspector General of Antiquities for Egypt at one time in his career, and G.W. Murray, who worked for the Survey of Egypt, each appear 15 times. Most of the travellers wrote in English, and all but 11 were men. The usual suspects are there—Belzoni, Isabella Bird and Felix Fabri, for example—but the editors have also chosen some unexpected writers; Rudyard Kipling was the most surprising to me. The editors have done a fine job, and fellow ASTENE members will certainly enjoy this beautifully produced book.

*Malcolm Wagstaff*



***The Arabs: A History*, by Eugene Rogan. Allen Lane, 2009. 576 pp. ISBN 978-0-713-99903-7. £30.**

At the BRISMES conference in London in 2008, an impassioned plea was made for academics to foreswear binarisms, discourses, narratives, post-modernism and everything reductive or essentialised, and to write readable books in clear English which can educate the public about the Middle East.

Eugene Rogan must already have been hard at work on his monumental *The Arabs: A History* long before then, but it is as though this book has appeared in direct response to that plea. It covers the history of the Arab world from Morocco to the Gulf, starting with Selim the Grim's conquest of the Mamluks in the early 16th century and continuing to the present. He writes clearly and elegantly, and brings to life key personalities and other figures who illustrate the nature of their societies and times. As well as making us understand the dilemmas they faced, he always relishes the description of a good battle or assassination. The book includes a wealth of information gathered through decades of scholarship. It is a valuable resource for other writers, and students will find it a goldmine of historical anecdotes and quotations which they can use to argue points in essays.

He tries his best to avoid positions which Western readers might interpret as partisan or as liable to rouse the emotions of readers. In this, he is perhaps following unconsciously in the tradition of his great predecessor at St Anthony's, Albert Hourani. Like Hourani's book with the same title but unlike so many other histories, Rogan covers developments in Arab countries across North Africa in equal depth to the Arab East. Hourani, however, would never have given us Rogan's unput-down-able account of the violence of Israel's creation or the Algerian war of independence.

He always allows the story to tell itself and draws the warts of all parties to our attention. One therefore pays all the more attention when he points out recurring patterns which have shaped the Arab world's history over the last several centuries: the fact that so many decisions which affected Arabs in vital ways were taken in capital cities which were not Arab (he sees Selim's conquest of the Mamluks as the start of that process), and the related problem that Arabs have always been at a disadvantage because they have been forced to play by international rules which have changed with the times, but into which they have had little input themselves.

I only have two small reservations about the book. The first is that its geographical scope

is so great, its canvas of history so broad, and the book itself is so long (I calculate nearly 250,000 words) that I fear some readers may get confused. The remedy is simple: do not read it too quickly, although its sheer readability tempts you to do just that. Alternatively, rush through it then go back and look again at different sections of the book as vignettes. My other concern is that a reader new to the subject would benefit from reading a good introduction to Islam before embarking on it. The Ottoman conquest of the central Arab lands provides a good and logical starting point, but an understanding of Islam as a religion is necessary in order to appreciate the book fully. This is particularly so as the author also traces developments in the history of ideas, notably Muslim reform movements and the resurgence of Islam over the last generation.

The book makes a great deal accessible to the general public that was hitherto largely known only to specialists or enthusiasts. Thus, in the 18th century local notables succeeded in establishing semi-independent rule from Turkey in many areas, but without building much that lasted. In the 19th century, European bankers often posed a greater threat than European armies. The French policies of divide and rule which were applied in Morocco in the early 1920s led the mandate authorities to experiment with similar ideas in Syria with disastrous results, while a few years earlier some Arabs did actively back the Sultan-Caliph against the Arab Revolt of the Sherif of Mecca and its British backers.

Rogan shows how the actions of foreign powers gave the modern Arab world weak foundations with which to rebuild itself. The ill-conceived fragmentation of the former Ottoman provinces under the mandates and the infliction of political Zionism on the people of Palestine for reasons which so many Westerners see as morally justified are cases in point, as are the enshrinement of sectarianism in modern Lebanese politics by France and the contradictory nature of the Iraqi state established by Britain.

Leaders always had to operate within the constraints of what had gone before, and the West repeatedly showed it could not be trusted—as when Secretary of State Baker told the Palestinians that Israeli settlements would stop if they entered into negotiations with Israel. Although this is the general thrust of the book, Rogan ends on an optimistic note, with Obama's 2009 speech in Cairo and references to Rima Khalaf's UN Arab Human Development Reports. Rogan sees 'the very beginnings of a virtuous circle' emerging, but points out that it will require 'a balanced engagement from the dominant powers of the age' as well as Arab reform.

John McHugo

John McHugo is a member of the Executive of the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) and chairman of the Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine.

**Edward William Lane: The Life of the Pioneering Egyptologist and Orientalist, by Jason Thompson. London, Haus Publishing, 2010. 747 pp, ISBN 987-1-906598-68-6.**

Here's a book we've been waiting for: Jason Thompson's biography of E. W. Lane, the great traveller, ethnographer, lexicographer, and translator, whose *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* is one of the conceptual foundation stones of ASTENE. In 2000, already acknowledged as the leading expert on his subject, Jason rescued Lane's magnificent and hitherto unpublished *Description of Egypt*. Three years later he produced a touchstone edition of *Manners and Customs*. And now he has produced this giant of a biography, the fruit of nearly 26 years of labour, a narrative that is not merely definitive, but far exceeds in scope and detail the most demanding expectations.

To build such a work has meant locating, sifting through, and putting to use a vast amount of manuscript material, including papers still belonging to the Lane family. This biography also looks beyond Lane himself, however, and his extraordinary activities to provide a rich reconstruction of his background, both in Egypt and in England, including his contacts with associates, colleagues and friends such as Linant de Bellefonds, Salt, Hay, Wilkinson, Bonomi, James Burton and many others.

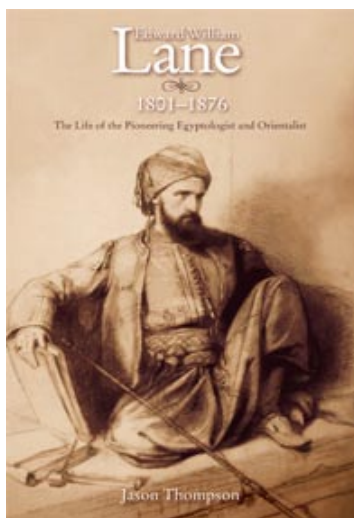
The book is structured around what Lane valued most—his work. The narrative therefore springs to life in 1825, when Lane leaves England for Egypt. The first dozen chapters (of a total of 30) rightly concentrate on Lane's first sojourn in Egypt, the 35 months during which he perfected his Arabic and sailed twice up the Nile. Throughout these trips he did most of the meticulous measuring, recording, and drawing that would result in the *Description*. Jason's description of his harrowing and dangerous first voyage to Alexandria, reconstructed from primary sources, is as salty as something out of Patrick O'Brien.

To capture Lane's impressions of Egypt during this first sojourn, Jason cunningly makes use of Lane's words, combining citations from the *Description*, the *Manners and Customs*, and various primary materials. Apart from Cairo, we thus visit every site that Lane saw and recorded on his first long voyage out of Cairo (15 March–28 October 1826), which took him to the Second Cataract and back, and the second (23 June–19 December 1827), which went only as far as Abu Simbel.

Lane travelled during a time when Mehmet Ali's ruthless modernisation called for massive destruction of the physical remains of Egypt's ancient and medieval past. The observations made between 1798 and 1801 by the Napoleonic invaders thus no longer represented reality, and likewise much of what Lane saw has since either decayed or disappeared. Jason's own Egyptological history of these sites, which supplements both the French *Description* and Lane's *Description*, is therefore a welcome bonus. The result is, in effect, a compendium of observations, insights and facts that can serve as an Egyptological reference in its own right, quite apart from its biographical value.

Chapters 13–15 describe Lane's activities in London during the period 1828–33, which seem to have consisted of doing complex favours for Robert Hay while completing the *Description*, then listening to John Murray II's complaints about the social and political problems—the stormy passage of the Reform Bill—that were delaying its publication. Lane agreed that his observation of modern Cairo should be extracted from the manuscript of the *Description* and worked up into a separate publication, a process that would require some additional research in Cairo. He was unable to sail to Egypt again, however, until November 1833.

His second Egyptian sojourn (13 December 1833–29 August 1835) had the explicit major aim of expanding the ethnographic materials he already possessed into what would eventually become *Manners and Customs*. Chapters 16–19 show what new material was added and how it was acquired. But Lane also sought a higher degree of competence in Arabic. Important new friends thus included Fulgence Fresnel, Shaykh Muhammad Ayyad al-Tantawi, and Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dasuqi. He acquired manuscripts and some important new publications of the Bulaq Press, intending to return to England with them after 12 months.



When the plague broke out in Cairo in January 1835, however, Lane and Fresnel prudently sailed to Luxor. Chapter 19, which draws heavily on manuscript sources, details hitherto unpublished adventures there.

The eight-month delay in his return caused by the plague, Jason remarks, probably cost Lane the publication of his *Description*, which would have changed his life completely. Chapters 20–23 detail Lane's life in London between September 1835 and mid-summer 1842 and include the story of its final abrupt rejection by John Murray III. Lane's disappointment was never wholly compensated by the runaway success of *Manners and Customs*, published by Charles Knight for the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1836, with a second edition following almost immediately. The entirety of Chapter 22 is devoted to his next project, his English translation of the Arabian Nights, carefully bowdlerised for family reading but given value by its ethnographic annotation, which appeared in parts between 1838 and 1840. During this same period, with the support of Lord Prudhoe, he took up in earnest the task of an Arab-English lexicon.

Lane's third and longest Egyptian sojourn (19 July 1842–16 October 1849) occupies Chapters 24–27. This time Lane travelled as an established family man, accompanied by his Greek wife Nefeesah, who had actually been living with him since she was a child of eight, his sister Sophia, and her two sons, Stanley and Stuart. Sophia set herself to work on what became *An Englishwoman in Egypt* (1844). Their stay in Egypt was prolonged by financial difficulties, Cairo being a much cheaper place to live than London. Chapters 28 and 29 record Lane's last years, and Chapter 30 is devoted to the *Arabic-English Lexicon*.

An epilogue rightly criticises Stanley Lane Poole's misguided effort to complete the Lexicon and offers a supererogatory riposte to Edward Said's *ad hominem* attack on Lane in *Orientalism* (1979). This splendid biography itself meanwhile stands as a rebuke to that sort of 'postmodern' or 'theoretical' history that is based less on primary or even secondary sources than upon two familiar tertiary ones—ideology and fantasy.

Finally, Haus Publishing should be congratulated on its production of this book, which will have involved accepting a vast and necessary amount of annotation and many spelling eccentricities. What a pleasure to see real Arabic in an English text!

John Rodenbeck



# RESEARCH RESOURCES

## **ereader / ebooks for Research**

Have library, will travel. I have been downloading Google books for years. I read them on my screen and can highlight or cut and paste when I need to. You can download just about anything. Out of print books are free: Herodotus, Nile travellers, desert explorers, cookbooks, fiction, even minutes from various historical societies and non-profits. In-copyright books can be downloaded for a small fee. New books are being published directly as ebooks, thus eliminating publishers altogether.

The new ereaders make all this possible. You buy the reader, go to the online bookseller (Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Sony etc.) and download. Everything goes to your ereader (also iPhone, iPod etc.) via wifi, or by connecting the reader to your computer's USB port. You can also store and read your books on your computer (faster, and all the bells and whistles of the computer are at your disposal, i.e. cut and paste). The books also stay with the point of purchase, which means that if you break your ereader you have two backups: your computer and the company's homepage. You can take out digital subscriptions to newspapers and magazines, and your own work, published or unpublished, can be put on the device.

Still in their infancy, there are glitches in ebook readers. The format often eliminates images, tables of contents and indexes. You can adjust the font size, but pagination as we know it is gone. They are slow, and few have touch and swipe, like computers. You can, however, highlight items for further reference. You may not be able to download certain books while travelling because of copyright infringements.

Within the coming decade it is expected that more electronic books will be published than hard copies. To be able to carry a library of 1500 books in a device that weights less than a pound and can fit into my handbag is paradise.

Stop Press: Since writing this, Apple has launched the iPad, which offers what other ereaders do not: colour, multiple applications and more. Google is launching Google Editions, which is said to cross all platforms, but downloading books may no longer be free. So get cracking. Download all your 19th-century reference books and articles now, while you have the chance.

*Cassandra Vivian*

## **Bonhams**

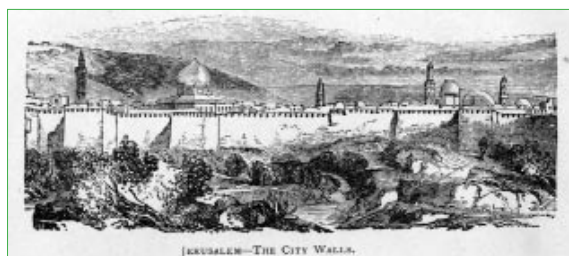
The next Bonhams Auctioneers' Printed Books and Maps sale in Oxford will be exhibited 27 April–18 May 2010; a Printed Books, Maps and Manuscripts sale will be held on 8 June 2010 at the New Bond Street galleries; and on 29 June 2010 Printed Books will again be on sale at their Oxford show rooms. The on-line catalogues ([www.bonhams.com](http://www.bonhams.com)) can be a source of useful information and leads, even if the objects themselves require a lottery win to be affordable! For example, the 18 April 2010 'India and Beyond' sale at the Knightsbridge sale rooms lists 9 lots of photographs of Egypt, some by Zangaki and Sebah, and various other photographic collections of the Near and Middle East.

## **The National Archives**

Many readers will know that The National Archives at Kew are now closed on Mondays and that other cost-saving restrictions have been introduced. 'Action 4 Archives' has been established to coordinate opposition to these proposals and others which may follow with insufficient consultation. The relevant website for finding out more about what is going on is [www.action4archives.com](http://www.action4archives.com), which has a link to TNA's website. Concerned researchers are urged to contact their MP to try to prevent further reductions in the service.

## **Turkish Area Study Group**

Malcolm Wagstaff advises of the following facility for members interested in Turkey. The Turkish Area Study Group (TASG) would like to publish articles on travellers to and travels in Turkey in its Review. These can be contemporary or historical. Members who may be interested in contributing are invited to contact either Dr. Brian Beeley (e-mail: [bw.beeley@bulldoghome.com](mailto:bw.beeley@bulldoghome.com)) or Mrs Sigrid Martin ([sbm@kent.ac.uk](mailto:sbm@kent.ac.uk) or [sigimartin@hotmail.com](mailto:sigimartin@hotmail.com)).



## Where Are They Buried?

*This section of the Bulletin Research Resources—mainly based on contributions by readers—has lapsed recently. If you have a contribution to make, please send it to the Editor.*

### John Murray (1778–1843)

Without the support and encouragement of the family of John Murray, the Scottish publisher of Albemarle Street, London, many of us would not have the basic documents of our research interest, for the Murrays published many of the travellers we learn about, including Giovanni Belzoni, and the *Murray Guides* provide us with contemporary evidence of how and where the travellers travelled.

John Murray (1778–1843) the son of the founder of the firm, is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery in West London.

### T. E. Lawrence (1888–1935)

A memorial service to mark the 75th anniversary of T. E. Lawrence's death will be held at Moreton Parish Church in Dorset at 2 pm on Saturday, 22 May 2010.

The church was where Lawrence's funeral was held in 1935, and the order of service will be based on the one followed on that occasion. The service will last about 30 minutes, followed by the laying of a wreath by the T. E. Lawrence Society. For further information please contact the T.E. Lawrence Society at [hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk](mailto:hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk).

### Howard Carter (1874–1939)

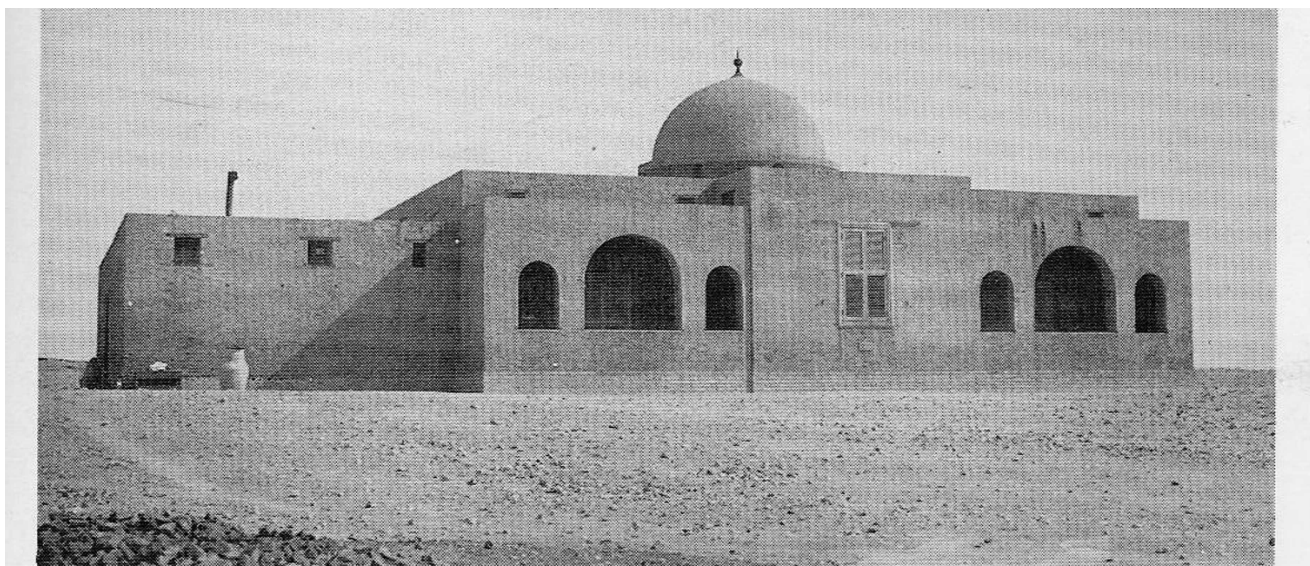
Carter began his archaeological work in Egypt 1891. In 1907 he met Lord Carnarvon, who funded the research into the tomb of Tutankhamun. In 1922 Carter found the tomb, and on 16 February 1923 he entered it. Carter is buried in Putney Vale Cemetery in southwest London.

## Correction: Howard Carter's House in Luxor

Members may have noticed that the photograph accompanying the report in the last Bulletin on the Museum in Howard Carter's restored house was not in fact of the right house. Our thanks to Caroline Simpson, who has identified the picture in Bulletin 42 as the De Garis Davies House, on the path from Yanni's to Deir el-Bahari, now used as a site office by Inspectors in the area.

Caroline writes, 'The restored [Carter] house looks very good at present—although there are plans for cafés and... and...; and it might not look so good in future.' She adds: 'Somers Clark helped Carter with the design of this—which may well explain the domes etc., as SC was heavily into Nubian domes from his work further south. Nicholas Warner is working on SC now, so he may well be rescued from obscurity.'

Below is a photo of the Carter house from Harry James's biography *Howard Carter: The Path to Tutankhamun* (I.B. Tauris, 1992).



18 Castle Carter at Elwat el-Diban, built 1911. Phyllis Walker notes (1930): 'left window, dining room - right, UH's [Uncle Howard's] room, middle window, spare room, extreme left kitchen and servant quarters. The rest is desert!'

# QUERIES AND REPLIES

*Sharing knowledge is a basic purpose of ASTENE. If you have a query, or can answer one 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.*

## National Geographic Society of Egypt

*Following on from a query in Bulletin 42 (Winter 2009/10), Alix Wilkinson notes that the National Geographic Society of Egypt is easily visited.*

I made an appointment, and was graciously received by the President, who did everything he could to assist with my enquiry. The only obstacle was that the staff had not yet mastered the library catalogue, which had evidently been created for them by 'experts'. No doubt with practice the staff would have got more familiar with it. The building is marvellous, well worth visiting, with an impressive lecture theatre, and a fascinating museum of daily objects from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and some earlier. There is also a collection of portraits of luminaries of 19–20th century scholarship in Egypt.

## The Curious Case of General Gordon and the Fish

In *Bulletin 40* (Summer 2009), Robert Morkot described some letters sold at an auction of the Wayne Dixon archive in Exeter in January 2008. Among these was a copy of a letter from General Gordon refusing a request from Dixon to acquire a certain fish. Robert wrote, 'I would dearly love to know what sort of fish could cause such desire and anguish.' Here is the answer:

Wayne Dixon was born in 1844 and grew up in the family home in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (The family was distinguished and included the drawer of the Mason-Dixon Line in the US.) His sister Augusta recalled: 'John Hancock, the naturalist, was an intimate and constant visitor at our house.' He was an avid collector, and would have been eager to obtain unusual specimens, including the fish in question, *Polypterus bichir*, an archaic fish found in the swampy regions of a Nile tributary in the Sudan. It possessed rudimentary lungs, allowing it to rise to the surface and breathe air in poorly-oxygenated waters. John Hancock knew that his friend Wayne Dixon was well connected in

Egypt, so he wrote to him enclosing a sketch of the fish, and giving instructions on how it should be sent back to England in a hermetically sealed flask of whisky. (The fish would probably have been over 300mm in length.)

Wayne Dixon had met General Gordon on several occasions in Egypt, and even claimed that Gordon wanted him to act as his agent in Cairo, although the idea came to nothing. So when he received Hancock's request, Wayne Dixon wrote to General Gordon, who was by then at Khartoum, enclosing John Hancock's letter and sketch. It was Gordon's exasperated reply that was seen by Robert Morkot. Part of this letter reads:

I cannot do these commissions, and scientific people must wait. Colonel Grant writes for me to get him an orchid to be put in a perforated tin etc, etc, etc, at a time when for want of porters I am obliged to leave my bed behind me. I am very sorry to refuse this, but you have little idea of the bother these little things occasion me.

In a postscript, Gordon suggested that Dixon contact a Mr Geigler, Head of the Telegraph at Khartoum, who had previously sold a specimen of the fish.

For many years John Hancock campaigned for a natural history museum in Newcastle, and when he died in 1890, the existing Newcastle Museum was renamed the Hancock Museum in memory of John Hancock and his brother, Albany, also a keen naturalist. The ever-resourceful Wayne Dixon suggested to the curator of the new museum that he might display the letter from General Gordon on a museum shelf in place of the actual fish. Indeed, this was done, and the museum still has the framed letter.

Wayne Dixon lived in Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, from 1901 until his death in 1930. Mr Ian Pearce, to whom we owe the information about the Fish, lives in Great Ayton and is interested in the history of the Dixon family. He asks if anyone knows the whereabouts of the parts of the Wayne Dixon archive which were re-auctioned at Sotheby's in November 2008. There are letters relevant to Wayne Dixon's life at Great Ayton, and pictures of Ayton House, which he would like to trace.

*Please reply to the Bulletin Editors and to Mr Pearce at [ianandsuepearce@btinternet.com](mailto:ianandsuepearce@btinternet.com).*



## Mary de Morgan (1850–1907)

New ASTENE member Marilyn Pemberton of the University of Warwick has studied the work of Mary de Morgan, writer of fairy tales and sister of William de Morgan, a friend of William Morris. Around 1905 Mary moved to Cairo, where she hoped the climate would suit her health. Marilyn writes:

I am researching Mary de Morgan, who was the daughter of Augustus (famous mathematician) and Sophia (spiritualist, campaigner against slavery and vivisection). I know that in the early 1900s she went to Egypt to become a directress of a girls' reformatory in Helouan. She died in 1907 and is buried in Cairo, having been at the German Hospital beforehand.

1. Does anyone know which reformatory this might have been? All I know is that it was in Helouan and was run by the Prison Department. (I make this assumption because some of the papers from her estate held in an archive at Kew relating to her death are from the Inspector of Prisons). In a letter from the Inspector General of Prisons to the Consul in Cairo he merely refers to Mary as being the directress of the girls' reformatory. Was there only one?
2. She is buried in the British Protestant Cemetery, Cairo—No. 16, section A. I have looked online, and there are references to the New BPC, but the names listed seem to start only from 1914. Are there two cemeteries? Is it possible to get further information about where Mary might be buried, and even to visit the grave?
3. There is a receipt for Mary's stay prior to her death from 'Victoria Hospital of the Diaconesses, Cairo'. I can find no reference to this anywhere. Can anyone tell me anything about it? Does it still exist? Is it also referred to as the German Hospital?
4. I have trawled the passenger lists but can see no evidence of her journey to Egypt. Can anyone tell me how she might have got there? Her brother lived a lot of the time in Florence, Italy, but I can find no evidence of Mary having gone there either. I am uncertain as to the date of her journey.
5. How would a writer of fairy tales in her 50s even have got the opportunity of becoming a directress of a reformatory?
6. Is there a friendly archivist in Cairo or Helouan (or anywhere) who might be able to help? I would love to go out to Egypt, but I suspect I would get buried in red tape and achieve nothing.

Please reply to the Bulletin Editors and Marilyn Pemberton direct at Marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk .

## Sir William Paston (1610–63)

Gillian Gauntlett writes:

I have been looking into some local history and wonder if *Bulletin* readers have come across any reference to the journey of Sir William Paston (1610–63) of Norfolk (described as a patron and collector) to Cairo, Alexandria and Jerusalem in 1638–9. He travelled initially in Europe, meeting the sculptor Nicholas Stone jnr. in Italy, and sailed to Egypt in late September 1638 with three servants. He returned to Italy in March 1639 and to England in April of the same year. Nicholas Stone and his friends Sir Thomas Browne and Robert Phillips refer to his travels and the artefacts he collected, but I would like to know more about this particular journey.

Replies to Bulletin Editors and Gillian Gauntlett at gillmgauntlett@aol.com .

## R. Talbot Kelly's Paintings

Deborah Manley asks:

I have been reading *Egypt*, painted and described by R. Talbot Kelly, with a classic and sympathetic 'tourist' text. It was published 1904 by A. and C. Black, London, with seven reprints by my copy in 1923. Kelly first went to Egypt and the Sudan in 1894 and made the illustrations, which appear in black and white, for Rudolf Slatin Pasha's *Fire and Sword in the Sudan* (1898), including 'A Dervish Emir', 'The Slave Market at Omdurman' and 'a Camel Corps Scout at Wady Halfa'. In his book *Egypt*, more than two dozen atmospheric pictures—almost certainly watercolour paintings—are reproduced. Does any one know where the original paintings are now?

Please respond to the Bulletin Editors or to deb@dmanley.plus.com .

## The Children of Henry Salt (1780–1827)

Peta Rée sends in the following query:

When researching our book on Henry Salt, British Consul-General in Egypt from 1816 till his death, my sister and I were unable to discover much about what happened to his two children.

The first, also Henry Salt (1819–?), was the son of Salt's Abyssinian mistress. The boy was put

into the care of the 'Scottish Mussulman', William Thompson, or Osman, but after Salt's death was taken away by the missionary William Krusé, lest he be converted to Islam. At some time he went to the Levant. His marriage at the age of 32 to Julia Karabetts, the daughter of the Armenian bishop, was recorded at the British Consulate in Smyrna in 1851, where he was employed as a silk reeler.

Salt's daughter, Georgina Henrietta Annesley, by his marriage in 1820 to Miss Pensa of Leghorn, Italy, was born in 1821. When her mother died in 1824 Salt sent the child back to Italy with her grandmother, Teresa Pensa, to live under the protection of her uncle, Pietro Santoni. Judith Montefiore met her there, then aged seven, but no further trace of her has so far been found, despite the efforts of Salt connections about 40 years ago. It is likely that Consular registrations of births, deaths and marriages would produce further information, but these are only present with the other official Civil Registrations from 1851; presumably the earlier records still exist somewhere, but where? And how does one get hold of them? Is any reader aware of sources which might help us to discover more?

*Please respond to the Bulletin Editors and to deb@dmanley.plus.com .*

## Paul-Marie Lenoir (1843–81)

*Susan Allan sent in a reply to a query about Lenoir submitted by Claire Malleson (Bulletin 41, Autumn 2009):*

For years I have had an engraving of Lenoir's painting *Cambyses at Pelusium* hanging in my office. It is such an odd subject, and the cats all have a decidedly irritated look on their faces. This led me to buy a copy of his memoir.

The engraving derives from a set published in America in 1879, which I believe was based on paintings in American collections. I think it might have originally been based on the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

By coincidence I saw the painting come up for auction at Sotheby's NY on 18 April 2008. The sale was 19th-Century European Art, including the Orientalist Sale. Another of his paintings sold in the Orientalist Sale in London in 2009 and is also on the website of the Mathaf Gallery in London. A search of the auction sale resource websites available through the Metropolitan Museum of Art Library revealed several more of his paintings which had been at auction. All but one were Near Eastern.



*Paul-Marie Lenoir, King Cambyses at the Siege of Pelusium (1872).*

## What did they say about ...?

On the whole travellers did not comment on—or sometimes even mention—other travellers met abroad. However, I recently came upon a remark on Jane Digby (1807–81), the notorious titled English gentlewoman who married a Bedouin 'chief' in Syria. We visited her house and her grave in the Protestant cemetery in Damascus on the ASTENE tour to Syria.

I was therefore surprised to read in *Rob Roy on the Jordan*, by J. Macgregor (1869):

At Damascus I met Mrs Digby, the English wife of a great Arab chief, and, when in English society, her quiet manner as a lady makes one forget that her husband has some thousand spearmen at his beck, and that to get to Palmyra with their aid, the curious traveller must pay a heavy blackmail of yellow gold...

Have readers come across other examples of travellers commenting upon each other?

## Another Rob Roy

The mention of *Rob Roy on the Nile* in *Bulletin* 41 (Autumn 2009) reminded Professor John Bartlett of his pleasure in this—and another—book. He wrote: 'For many years I used to read passages from it to students at Trinity College Dublin on appropriate occasions.' He went on to ask if we knew of his canoeist successor—the Reverend R. J. Edmund Boggis, one time vicar of St John's Torquay who wrote *Down the Jordan in a Canoe* (SPCK, London, 1939). This is an excellent volume, well worth pursuing and reading. Somewhere, but where I have forgotten, I read later an account of Mr Boggis and his canoe, which, if I remember it rightly, ended up in someone's garden in Torquay or thereabouts.

Macgregor's *Rob Roy*, I believe, is preserved in a museum in Haifa. Has any reader seen it?

## Royal Travels in the East

*Dr Alix Wilkinson—in response to a query about the dates of royal travellers visits to Egypt—writes about Edward VII's travels through Egypt and the Near East.*

In February–June 1862, Edward—then, as the eldest son of Queen Victoria, Prince of Wales—went for a tour in the Holy Land under the guidance of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, afterwards Dean of Westminster.<sup>1</sup> They visited Egypt on the way, and the Prince was received by Said Pasha.<sup>2</sup> Apparently he was sorely tempted to shoot a flock of cranes and geese seated on the bank (as European gentry were inclined to do), but

he rigidly conformed to the due observation of Sunday.

On 18 March 1869 the Prince and Princess of Wales dined with Ismael Pasha on their visit to Egypt.<sup>3</sup> Writing some years later, Ellen Chennells (governess to the Pasha's children) thought the Princess had stayed in the kiosk, but she stayed in Ismael's Palace on Ezbekieh.<sup>4</sup> In March 1875 it was officially announced that Edward, Prince of Wales, would make a visit to India. Leaving England on 11 October, he was received at Bombay by the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook. The visit led up to the assumption by Queen Victoria of the title 'Empress of India' in the following year. (To appreciate the pomp and circumstance of such a visit, go to the Maharaja Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.)

From Piraeus his ship, the *Serapis*, proceeded to Egypt, and His Royal Highness invested Prince Tewfik, the Khedive's eldest son, with the Order of the Star of India.<sup>5</sup> Ismael lent Edward the Gezira Palace for his stay.

<sup>1</sup> NNDB: 'tracking the entire world' found by googling Edward VII.

<sup>2</sup> *Illustrated London News*.

<sup>3</sup> The Honourable Mrs Theresa (William) Grey, *Journal of a Visit to Egypt, Constantinople, the Crimea, Greece etc in the Suite of the Prince and Princess of Wales* (Smith Elder, London, 1869, p.119).

<sup>4</sup> William Howard Russell, *A Diary in the East during the Tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales* (Routledge, London, 1869, p.113). Russell was a reporter for *The Times* who had made his name with his dispatches from the front line during the Crimean War.

<sup>5</sup> Marie Adelaide (Belloc) Lowndes (1868–1947), *HRH Prince of Wales: An Account of his Career, including his Birth, Education, Travels, Marriage and Home Life—and Philanthropic, Social and Political Work* (D Appleton & Co, New York, 1898).



*The Prince of Wales' visit to Egypt: a portion of the royal party leaving the encampment at Djizeh for the Pyramids. Published in Life Magazine.*

# FOOTPRINTS

## ***The Queen Book of Travel,* 1924–25**

I have had for some time a neat little blue book issued by *Queen (The Lady's Newspaper)* to encourage travel to 'the abroad'. It includes advertisements at either end which remind the reader of the period: starting with Burberry Travel Coats, Italian State Railways and Steamship Lines, Edward Stanford's maps and guidebooks in London's Long Acre, hotels across Europe and Britain—and articles on faraway places, with descriptions sometimes lacking the excited enthusiasm of modern day travel blurbs. For example:

*Constantinople:* There is but little spring and vegetation is always late. In summer it is most delightful on the islands of the Sea of Marmara and Bosphorus. It is a general mistake to imagine this climate much more advanced than in the north.

*Cyprus:* In the extreme south of the island the climate during the winter months (November to April) is exhilarating and health-giving. The shooting, which is good, includes snipe, woodcock, wild duck, quail, francolin, moufflon, etc.

*Damascus:* (2260 feet above sea level) is cold in winter and hot in summer, but pleasant in early spring and late autumn. It is the largest town in Syria. It may be reached by rail from Cairo and Jerusalem.

## **What to Take**

Should you be going to the Near East this year, you might care to be guided by a selection from the 'What to take' list Lady Francis Egerton added to the Appendix of her *Journal of a Tour in the Holy Land*, illustrated by her husband and published in 1841. To assist, Lady Egerton often suggests where items can be obtained.

For the benefit of future travellers, it may be well to enumerate as many of the necessary articles as I can remember, which it is desirable to take into Syria.

Tents according to the number of travellers—those with walls preferable to others;

A canteen, containing knives, forks, spoons, dishes, plates, cups and saucers, tea-pot, tea-kettle, salt-cellar;

Leathern bottles for carrying water, to be got at Alexandria, and most eastern towns;

Corks for bottles—very necessary—and stout corkscrews;

Candlesticks, and a provision of wax candles—those that are to be had in the East being peculiarly bad, and almost useless.

Turkish lanterns to hang up in the tent—these are absolutely necessary, and to be had in Jerusalem;

A kitchen apparatus, large coffee-pot, etc.;

A Dover arm-chair is a great comfort, when one comes in tired from the day's ride;

Spades, to level the ground for the tents, with hooks, to cut away weeds &c.;

An umbrella, covered with white calico, the best preservative from the sun;

Green or blue spectacles, as the glare of the white rocks is injurious to the eyes;

Books, which we found useful: *The Bible* (the



best guide to these countries), Robinson's *Tour in Syria and Palestine*, Lord Lindsay's *Letters*, Miles's *Scripture Geography*, *Dictionary of the Bible*, to which I [Lady E.] would add, Wilde's *Narrative*.

## European Picnics in the East

Elisabeth Woodthorpe sent in the following account of Europeans picnicking in the East from Mrs Charles Lushington's *Narrative of a Journey from Calcutta to Europe* (1829), extracted from Jane Robinson's anthology of women travellers, *Unsuitable for Ladies*, OUP, 1994):

...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 plumcake as finale!

This reminded the editors of a passage from Mabel Caillard's autobiography, *A Lifetime in Egypt, 1876-1935*, (Grant Richards, 1935), describing an unsuccessful attempt to organise a fox hunt near Alexandria in the 1880s:

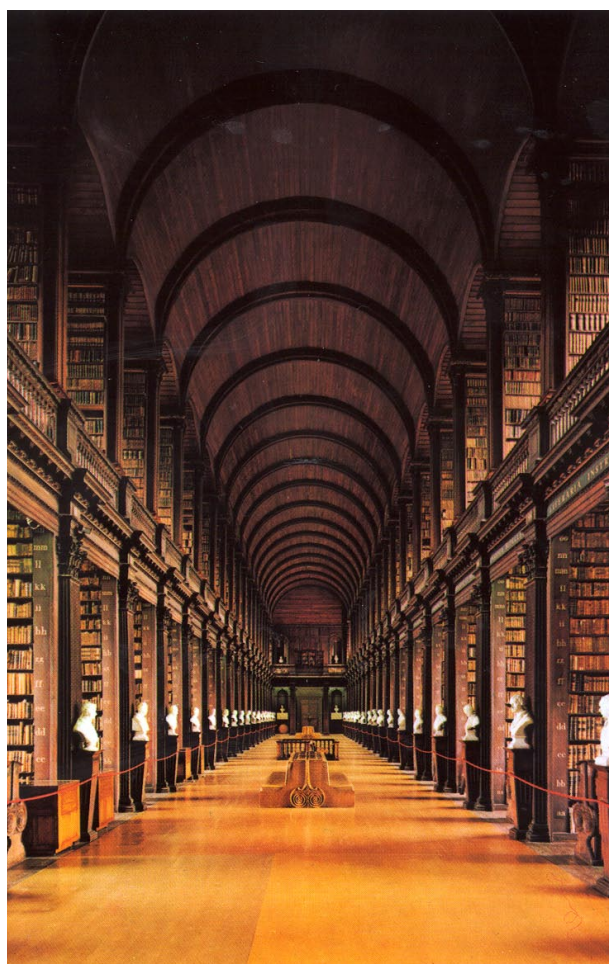
... to give reality to the proceedings, the Middlemass' gave a Hunt Breakfast, at which the men strutted about importantly in the full panoply of hunting kit and heavy riding boots, and helped themselves to game-pie and cold ham at the sideboard, while the native servants looked on in utter bewilderment at this meal that was neither breakfast nor luncheon, but both at the wrong time.

## Alfred Chester Beatty

Born in New York in 1875, Alfred Chester Beatty established successful mining consultancies in that city (1908) and in London (1912). An inveterate collector from childhood, Beatty's interests ranged from minerals, stamps and Chinese snuff bottles to European, Arabic and Persian manuscripts.

In 1914 he visited Egypt, where he bought rare manuscripts of the Qur'an. He also acquired a house near Cairo, which for many years was his winter residence. As a collector he was drawn to richly illustrated material, fine bindings and beautiful calligraphy, but he was also deeply committed to preserving texts for their historic value. Among his later interests were Japanese and Chinese paintings.

In 1950, he moved to Ireland and became Ireland's first honorary citizen in 1957. In 1954 he opened a library for his collection on Shrewsbury Road, Dublin, though the collection has now been moved to Dublin Castle. Beatty was knighted for his contribution to raw material procurement during the Second World War, and upon his death in 1968 he bequeathed his priceless collection to a trust for the benefit of the public.

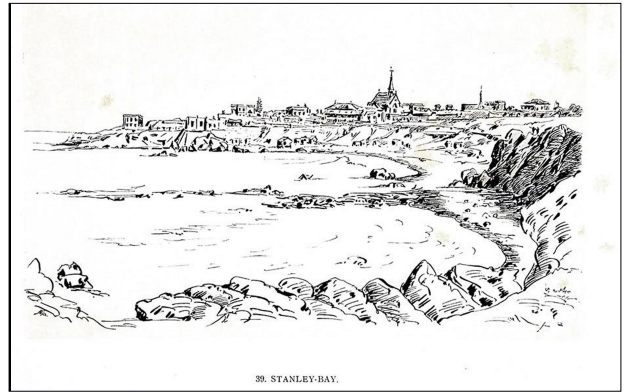


*The Chester Beatty Library, Dublin (top); the Longroom (bottom).*

## Archduke Ludwig Salvator (1847–1915)

Spare a thought for one of Austria's least consequential archdukes, Ludwig Salvator Maria Joseph Johann Baptist Dominicus Rainerius Ferdinand Carl Zenobius Antonin. Born in Florence's Palazzo Pitti, when Austria still had a large stake in a disunited Italy, Ludwig Salvator was the fourth son of Leopold II, the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Considered to be something of a royal vagabond, he spent much of his life in Majorca, where he was a conservationist of local wildlife. Most of his former property there now belongs to actor Michael Douglas.

Ludwig Salvator was a friend of Jules Verne, travelled widely around the Mediterranean, and was a competent pen & ink artist. He published many books about his travels, including, in 1900,



29. STANLEY-BAY.

one about the European residential quarter of Ramleh, a few miles east of Alexandria. Entitled *Ramleh als Winteraufenthalt (Ramleh as a Winter Resort)* it contains a very evocative sketch of Stanley Bay.

*Russell McGuirk*



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