

# ASTENE

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

## BULLETIN



**NOTES AND QUERIES**

**NUMBER 44 : SUMMER 2010**

# Bulletin : Notes and Queries

## Number 44 : Summer 2010

<b>ASTENE News and Events</b>	1	<b>Queries and Replies</b>	12
ASTENE AGM Past <i>Bulletin</i> Editors In the Footsteps of Byron and Leake: May 2010		Archduke Ludwig Salvator on Cyprus Robert Talbot Kelly, RI, RBA, RBC (1861–1934) Rob Roy on the Nile Janet Ross and the Mulid of Abu Nishab at Tal ] al-Kabir, 1863 Blue Plaques The Dead Cities Mystery: Serjilla and Ain Dara	
<b>Other News and Events</b>	4		
Museums and Exhibitions Conferences, Lectures and Talks			
<b>Books and Reviews</b>	7	<b>Footprints</b>	15
<i>A Winter on the Nile</i> , by Anthony Sattin <i>Seventy Years of Postal History at the French Post Office in Beirut</i> , by Semaan Bassil <i>Photography and Egypt</i> , by Maria Golia <i>A Photographer on the Hajj: The Travels of Muhammad 'Ali Effendi Sa'udi (1904/1908)</i> , by Farid Kioumgi and Robert Graham <i>Mummies in Nineteenth Century America: Ancient Egyptians as Artifacts</i> , by S. J. Wolfe, with Robert Singerman		The Wilder Shores Good Company at Gournou More European Picnics in the East Cornucopia	



### Bulletin 44 : Summer 2010

Submissions for the next *Bulletin* must be received by **15 September**. We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members and interested readers. Please send contributions to the Editor.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors or of the Editor(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association. All items are ©2010 The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and Near East and its contributors.

All advertisements have been accepted by ASTENE as a service to members and in good faith. The Association is in no way responsible for any services performed or goods supplied by its advertisers. The Association reserves the right to refuse any advertisement at its discretion.

### Subscriptions and Membership

Membership is open to all at the following rates:  
UK, Europe and North America: £20 (£25 for a joint membership at one address receiving one *Bulletin*)  
Other areas and all students: £12 (proof of student status required)  
Library subscriptions: £12

Payment must be in pounds sterling. Please see the ASTENE website for application forms and further details: [www.astene.org.uk](http://www.astene.org.uk).

Please send all membership correspondence to ASTENE Treasurer  
The Studio  
30 College Lane  
London NW5 1BJ  
or by email to [astene@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:astene@dsl.pipex.com).

# ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

## ASTENE AGM

The 13th Annual General Meeting of ASTENE was held at Rewley House, 1, Wellington Square, Oxford on Saturday, 3 July 2010, at 17.00. The full text of the Chairman's report will be printed in *Bulletin* 45. The list of newly elected officers appears on the inside back cover of this *Bulletin*. The other main announcement was that Deborah Manley is relinquishing her role as Editor of the *ASTENE Bulletin*. On behalf of all the members, Robert Morkot thanked Deb for her dedicated service to ASTENE as Editor and all present applauded his vote of thanks.

## Past Bulletin Editors

Long-time ASTENE members will know that the *Bulletin* was originally edited by founder member Janet Starkey, who produced issues 1–11. Peta Réé, who had worked closely with Janet on both the *Bulletin* and the Research Resource database, succeeded Janet for four issues, her last being the Spring 2003 *Bulletin*. At that point Deborah Manley took over and has been the mainstay and champion of the printed *Bulletin* ever since, covering seven years and nearly 30 issues. Over this period the frequency of publication increased from two to three then four issues annually. Now that Deb is passing on the baton, Sheila and Russell McGuirk have agreed to take their turn as Editors, having been Guest Editors for two issues. The Editors are most grateful to Deb for all her generous help so far and hope that they will continue to be able to tap into her wealth of knowledge and memory about all things ASTENE.

The Executive Committee and the Editors are very grateful to Diane Fortenberry for her work on the design and lay-out of the *Bulletin*, including testing various typefaces at the Committee's request. Thanks also to Myra Green, who continues as Editor of the Book Review pages.

## The Future

Recently Karen Dorn and Janet Rady have been ensuring that the ASTENE website is regularly updated. Members may have noticed the change in the *Bulletin* typeface to bring it into line with that of the website and to make it as clear, unfussy and attractive as possible. The practice of

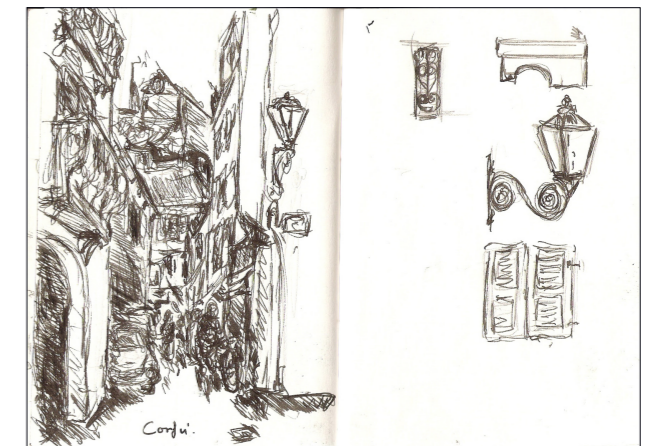
inviting other ASTENE members to act as Guest Editors will continue, and Robert Morkot will be editing the summer issue (no. 45).

## In the Footsteps of Byron and Leake: May 2010

Our ASTENE party of 25 left the UK in early May for Albania and northwestern Greece. Malcolm and Pat Wagstaff went out in 2009 to prepare the way, but few of the rest of us could have imagined what a wonderful trip was in store.

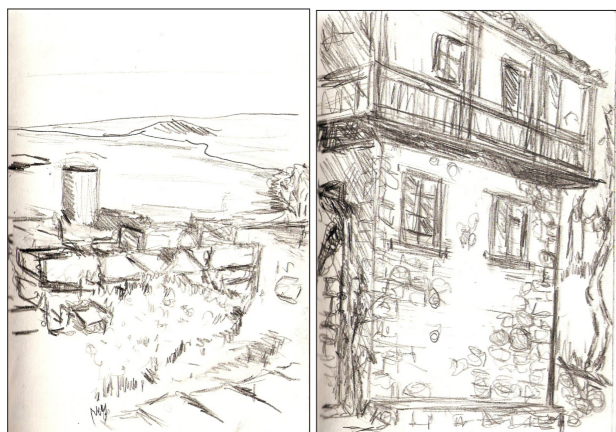
Our guide, Anna Butcher, met us at Corfu airport and quickly became 'one of us' on what proved to be a truly splendid, informative, educational and fun week. Another guide—Elena—took us on a two-hour walking tour of Corfu, along the Esplanade, the focal point of the town, through cobbled streets, up and down steps, past the Old Fort, the Royal Palace, the Orthodox cathedral, a beautiful old well-head, then up to St Spyridon's Church and back to the hotel via the Town Hall. She summarised Corfu's checkered history—from the Romans through the Normans, the Venetians, the French under Napoleon, the British, and finally to the Greeks. Dinner at the Rex restaurant set the tone for our gastronomic, walking, talking and thinking *tour de force*. One memory of Corfu town is that of birds: swooping overhead from dawn to dusk, reminiscent of Hitchcock's film.

While the trip was ostensibly to take us 'in the footsteps' of Lord Byron, his companion Hobhouse, and Colonel Leake, in fact neither Byron nor Hobhouse ever reached Corfu, although Col Leake did use the island as a base for his expeditions to the mainland from 1804 to 1807.



On Tuesday we arrived in Albania by hydrofoil across the Ionian Sea to the port of Saranda and were finally on Byron's trail. Our first stop was Butrint, a Greco-Roman archaeological site of strategic importance, which is now a national park and proved to be more than just old stones. The remains of the city's massive walls are imposing. The site includes a theatre—its stone seating still intact, although the orchestra pit is flooded, presumably as a result of a shift in the water table, with terrapins swimming around. The theatre is still in use today. Other buildings include the baptistery, a nymphaeum and a basilica, which are all remarkably preserved. Eventually we got to the top of the acropolis, where the Venetians built a new castle in the 13th century. The views from here are splendid, overlooking the Vivari channel towards the open sea and beyond. Leake visited the site in 1805 and gave an interesting account of his time there in a subsequent publication.

All along the road beyond Saranda we saw pillboxes, which were built by the Albanian government after World War II against a perceived threat from Greece. After lunch at the Hotel Livia we drove to Gjirokastra, our destination for the night. This UNESCO-listed town is dominated by the massive castle, whilst old houses of stone and whitewashed walls cling to the hillsides. The roofs of many of the older houses are made of stone tiles with wide overhangs.



We visited the Ethnological Museum, which had been the home of Enver Hoxha. The ground floor was used for storage, as usual here; and the living quarters were on the first and second floors, with bedrooms above. Around 25 people lived there at any one time. The carved interior woodwork was delightful, and local artefacts (carpets, furniture and textiles) were on display, giving the otherwise empty rooms at least a semblance of habitation.

Tepelena, our next stop, was the birthplace and second residence of Ali Pasha, whilst he

was Governor of Ioannina (1788–1822). Both Byron and Hobhouse were in the town in 1809, having travelled up from the port of Prevesa with the express purpose of meeting Ali Pasha. A magnificent plaque in honour of Lord Byron has been placed on one of the fort walls, which we passed as we walked downhill to the old arched main entrance, wending our way through what is now part of the municipal rubbish dump. The huge arched portal has not altered much since Byron and Hobhouse rode through it. Houses and gardens now occupy the fort, and narrow roads lead through the old gates into the new town.

Leake visited Ali Pasha here on several occasions between 1804 and 1806. The views of the Dhrinos valley with the river winding through it are splendid, and a wooden bridge that Byron and Hobhouse would have ridden across is still in use. An imposing sculpture of Ali Pasha himself, reclining majestically upon a plinth, looks down the valley, reminding everyone of his legacy. During a coffee break overlooking this scene Malcolm read out Byron's account of his visit to Tepelena, so aptly described in Childe Harold.

As we drove on to Greece the countryside became wooded, making the hills look softer in contrast to the cultivated valleys in Albania. Ioannina was our destination for a couple of nights. We explored the interesting old Jewish quarter. A number of houses were derelict, each propped up by the adjoining building. Ioannina was Ali Pasha's capital. Colonel Leake was there at various times in 1805–06 and again three years later as British Resident.

On Wednesday, Malcolm led us through the narrow streets towards the massive kastro, standing above the modern city and lake. The kastro is still occupied, with many houses and two mosques (now museums) within its ramparts. Ali Pasha's monogram is on the wall above the main portal. We entered the northeast side of the citadel through an arch, and the site opened up before us. Many of the buildings were in ruins, though some had been restored. Ali Pasha's tomb—nobly encased in a huge wrought iron canopy—lies near his simply decorated mosque.

The main building on the site is now the Byzantine Museum, housing beautiful icons, sculpture and coins from the early Christian to the late post-Byzantine period. Some later icons were from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The old Orthodox Church is now the city's silverware museum, exhibiting exquisitely fashioned silver cup holders, brooches, necklaces, bracelets, and altar pieces. Two famous silversmiths came from Ioannina—one being Bulgari, well-known in the West today. A mosque on the southeast side of the kastro houses the Municipal Museum, with its exhibitions

of furniture, costumes of the period, carpets and ceramics. The old madrasa is also preserved, along with some Ottoman tombs and sarcophagi.

Lunch outside the walls of the kastro was followed by a ferry trip on the lake to the island of Ioannina, where there are some seven or more monasteries. Walking through the narrow streets of the little village to the monastery of St Panteleimon, where Ali Pasha met his violent death, was like walking through another time. Away from the hustle and bustle of Ioannina town, the island is still a sanctuary and a place for contemplation. We were lucky to find St Filanthropinos' monastery open, its church beautifully decorated—no inch of wall unpainted.

The next day we visited a winery—Domaine Glinavos—in Zitsa, a small mountain village north of Ioannina, and sampled the wines whilst gazing upon the Zagori Mountains. Byron and Hobhouse stayed in the small monastery above the winery in October 1809. Though uninhabited, this delightful monastery is cared for by the local village community. The walls of the church were covered in frescos, as one would expect. We then headed south to the small town of Parga, via the beautiful site of Dodoni. This amphitheatre, with its seating for some 2500 people, dominates the valley. We were the only visitors, and it was possible to spend time amongst the ruins and wild flowers, thinking of Zeus, the oracle and the ancients without being interrupted by chatter.



The following day, our last full day on the Greek mainland, our first visit was to Nicopolis—founded by Octavian (later Augustus). Parts of the high walls surrounding this city are in excellent condition. We did not have time to explore within the walls, but we did manage to see the theatre. It is now in more or less the same state as when Byron and Hobhouse visited it in 1809. Across the road is the stadium, whose outlines are still visible amongst the grasses, thistles, verbascum and other wild flowers.

Prevesa was our next stop—just a short distance from Nicopolis. This port was known to Leake, Byron and Hobhouse. It has a small natural harbour, with defences on either side of its entrance. Here Mark Antony and Augustus fought the battle of Actium (31 BC), which changed the course of world events. The site of the battle was pointed out to us by Pat Wagstaff when we reached Kassiope at the top of the hill overlooking Prevesa. From here the layout of Prevesa's roads, buildings and paving can still be seen.

A short way from Kassiope is a small monastery. On the hill rising above it are sculptures of five Souli women who, according to legend, threw themselves off the top of the cliff rather than be captured by Ali Pasha's men. Four members of the group, not to be outdone, climbed up and up the steep steps to see the women in situ, whilst the rest of us looked on with curiosity and disbelief as they only had ten minutes to complete the ascent.

We left by ferry from Parga for Igoumenitsa the next morning, stopping on the way at Glyki to see the old church dedicated to Koimesis and then walked beside the Achaeron River—one of the rivers of Hades.

Our short ASTENE conference was held in the hotel in Corfu town before dinner, chaired by Brian Taylor. As in the past, the conference papers were excellent. Sonia Anderson's paper on William Gladstone's time in Corfu from 1858 to 1862 covered a period of transition in the island's history. Morris Bierbrier gave us a light-hearted account of some of the characters connected with the island. Paul Hetherington followed this by telling us about Lord North's exploits in Corfu and his contribution to education. Joanna Holaubek's talk on Empress Elizabeth of Austria gave us an insight into an aristocrat's life on the island in the 1800s. Sadly, we did not have time to visit her palace. Jennifer Scarce's illustrated talk on the dress of the period was enlivened by her locally purchased wooden puppets.

We all give special thanks to Malcolm, Pat, Anna Butcher and Elizabeth Woodthorpe, without whom none of us would have had such a wonderful time following in the footsteps of Leake, Byron and Hobhouse.

*Priscilla Frost  
Sketches by Edmund Watson*



# OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

## Museums and Exhibitions

**T.E. Lawrence at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.** It has been 75 years since the death of 'Lawrence of Arabia' (1888–1935) and now is a good time to consider his contribution to the newly resplendent Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

Lawrence grew up in Oxford, took his first degree at Jesus College, and was later granted a Research Fellowship at All Souls to work on his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. His interest in the Middle East was encouraged by the scholar H.G. Hogarth, keeper at the Ashmolean (1909–27) and his chief at the Arab Bureau in Cairo.

With Hogarth, Lawrence excavated in northern Syria. While they worked there, the Berlin to Baghdad railway was going through and unearthing very early cemeteries and their treasures. These began to appear in the local bazaars and thus came to the museums of Europe, including the Ashmolean. In the Ancient World gallery near the main entrance is a solid little terracotta wagon with moveable wheels (c. 2300 BC) coming from these finds. Also on display is a robe that Lawrence had worn in Syria (in the textile gallery on the lower ground floor) and a portrait by Augustus John of Lawrence in military uniform. Nearby is the portrait of his friend, Emir Faisal (1883–1933) also by John.



Not always on display among the myriad treasures of the Ashmolean are other Lawrence finds and, at the Oxford Central Library, the T. E. Lawrence Society manages a research collection of his papers, which are accessible to the public. See the website: <http://telsociety.org.uk> .

*Deborah Manley*

**A Collector's Fortune: Islamic Art Masterpieces of the Keir Collection. Pergamonmuseum, Berlin.** George Hutcheson has alerted ASTENE to the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin, where he recently visited the 'exquisite' (his words) exhibition of treasures from the Keir Collection. Owned by Edmund de Unger, the collection takes its name from Keir, a house in Wimbledon, southwest London, where de Unger settled in 1962 and which still holds the bulk of his splendid and eclectic collection.

Hungarian by birth, de Unger is English by education (Kiel and Oxford) and profession (practice in law and the Colonial service in Ghana). Now 92 years old, de Unger started his collection in his youth, inspired by his parents, who were collectors of carpets. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he developed a passion for Islamic art, especially Fatimid gold-lustre pottery from 11th- and 12th-century Cairo, and he travelled widely in the pursuit of treasures not yet recognised by other collectors.

This collection of 1,500 objects is now on permanent loan to Berlin's Museum of Islamic Art, to be exhibited alongside works in Berlin's own national collection to which the Keir items are complementary. Brocades and carpets, early medieval bronzes, examples of calligraphy, miniatures, elaborately decorated book-bindings, and rock crystal items all feature in the loan. The current exhibition comprises just 112 items from the total, to whet the visitor's appetite. Further information at [www.smb.spk-berlin.de](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de) .

**Rastafari in Lusoland: King Haile Selassie's visit to Portugal in 1959. Brunei Gallery, SOAS.** Admission free. Ends 24 July. [www.soas.ac.uk/gallery](http://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery) .

**Sacred and Profane: Treasures of Ancient Egypt from the Myers Collection, Eton College. The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham.** Until 18 January 2011. [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk).

**Roads to Arabia: Archaeological Treasures from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Musée du Louvre, Paris.** The exhibition provides chronological and geographical information about discoveries made during recent excavations. Over 300 works—sculptures ceramics, jewellery, frescoes—reveal an original and dynamic civilization at the crossroads of trade routes linking the lands along the shoreline of the Indian Ocean and Africa with Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean world. 12 July–27 September.

**Embroidery From the Arab World. TRC Gallery, Leiden, Netherlands.** On display are more than 60 examples in silk, linen or wool from Egypt, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Items include an early 20th-century dress and velvet jacket from Bethlehem; a late 20th-century man's cloak from the Moroccan High Atlas; Bedouin dresses from the Northern Sinai; indigo dresses from Yemen; and wedding dresses from Morocco, the Siwa Oasis and Saudi Arabia. Ends 22 August.

**Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920 (1). Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.** An exhibition of James Henry Breasted's travels through Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine, exhibiting travel ephemera, documents and archival photos, narrated by quotations from diaries. The exhibition raises questions about the role of America in the Middle East and the relationship of the past to the present—all issues still debated today. Ends 31 August.

*The three listings immediately above are from the Saudi Aramco World website, which is always worth checking. [www.saudiaramcoworld.com](http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com) .*

## Conferences, Lectures and Talks

*The following report is about a recent conference on the John Murray Archive and travel writing. Thanks to Jennifer Scarce for pointing out the conference's inherent interest to ASTENE members, and to Justin Livingstone of the Department of English Literature at the University of Edinburgh for writing the report for ASTENE.*

**Correspondence: Travel, Writing and Literatures of Exploration, c.1750–1850. An International Conference Hosted by the University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland, 7–10 April 2010.**

The 'Correspondence' Conference marked the conclusion of a two-year investigation, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, into the John Murray Archive, currently housed in the

National Library of Scotland. Until this point, there had been little sustained work on the wealth of travel narratives published across the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the illustrious Murray dynasty. The purpose of the project was to shed light on the relationship between exploration and publishing. It focused on the balance between authors' aspirations and editors' demands, the process of negotiation through which knowledge in the field was translated into its published form. Investigated by Professor Charles W. J. Withers and Dr Innes Keighren from Edinburgh's Institute of Geography, and Dr Bill Bell of the Centre for the History of the Book, the initiative was collaborative and interdisciplinary in its conception.

This interdisciplinary nature was reflected in the concluding conference, which incorporated scholars from geography, history, history of science, history of art, and English literature; indeed, the heterogeneity of disciplinary background is indicative of the field of travel writing studies today. While none of the papers dealt explicitly with ASTENE's region of geographical interest, the conceptual and thematic dimensions will be of relevance to readers. The conference was organised into five categories, but of course transgression and overlap characterised each session. Nonetheless, in retrospect three broad and intermingling areas of interest seem detectable.

First, many of the papers dealt with issues of warrant by exploring the manifold ways in which travellers cultivated the veracity and credibility of their claims. A paper by the conference organiser, Charles Withers, was indicative of the general concern with truthfulness and reliability. He traced the ways in which nineteenth century 'How to' travel guides sought to create authoritative observers. They were concerned not only with offering notes on the essential equipment crucial for travellers, but with training human subjects to themselves be effective and trustworthy instruments. The issue of credibility was sharply focused also in papers dealing with the textual strategies whereby 'travel liars', those faux-explorers who never journeyed at all, were able to cultivate positions of authority.

The second strand of interest lay in the mechanics of form and style, and their complicated relationship with narrative content. Several papers demonstrated that the demands of genre significantly influenced the ways in which travel experiences were presented, while others probed its mobilisation for purposes of self-representation. An address by one of the plenary speakers, Elizabeth Bohls, particularly exemplified the way in which an appreciation of literary form can enhance textual understanding.

She examined Mungo Park's famous *Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa* in a new generic context by reading it both with and against the grain of other discourses on race and slavery in contemporary circulation.

There was, finally, a prevailing interest in the material construction of travel texts. Several papers focused on the complex processes involved in producing the published narratives read by the British public. These paid close attention to the practice of both authors and editors by which textual content was packaged for the specific audience to which it was directed. One paper, by Carl Thompson, warned against forging too simplistic connections between travel activities and travel texts. Using the example of Maria Graham, and of course raising questions of gender, he pointed out that archival evidence indicates a considerable discrepancy between her actual travel experiences and the image she ultimately projected in her published narratives.

On the whole, the conference was characterised by breadth, and nowhere was this more conspicuous than in the remaining plenary addresses. Harvard's Joyce Chaplin spoke on the development of narratives of circumnavigation. Transgressing all chronological parameters, she took the audience even into the domain of latter-day space travel, pointing out correspondences between the narratives emerging from this new breed of exploration and travelogues from 'the age of sail'. In contrast, Tim Fulford discussed the 19th-century fascination with the polar regions, and the ways in which Inuit peoples came to represent the uncanny. Nigel Leask, the final plenary speaker, revisited the celebrated Alexander Von Humboldt, assessing his historical impact on the development of the travel genre in the Romantic period and beyond. The diversity of discussion of course exceeds the confines of this

report; it is worth mentioning, however, that a paper by Jayati Gupta inverted the conventional travelling gaze by interrogating the account of a pre-colonial Bengali visitor's excursion in 18th-century Britain. Written in Persian, and reminiscent of the traditional *safarnamah* travel account, Mirza Sheikh's *Shigurf-Nama-e-Vilayet* is perhaps the earliest account of the Western world by an Indian.

The conference crystallised the current critical interest in the inscriptive practices of travel, in issues of credibility and authority, and in the material processes by which published narratives come into being. These thematic concerns are relevant to all who study travel, irrespective of region. Yet it is worth pointing out too that the John Murray archive, from which this conference stemmed, contains valuable resources on Isabella Bird, Sir Henry Austen Layard and Heinrich Schliemann, all of whom travelled in ASTENE's territory of interest.

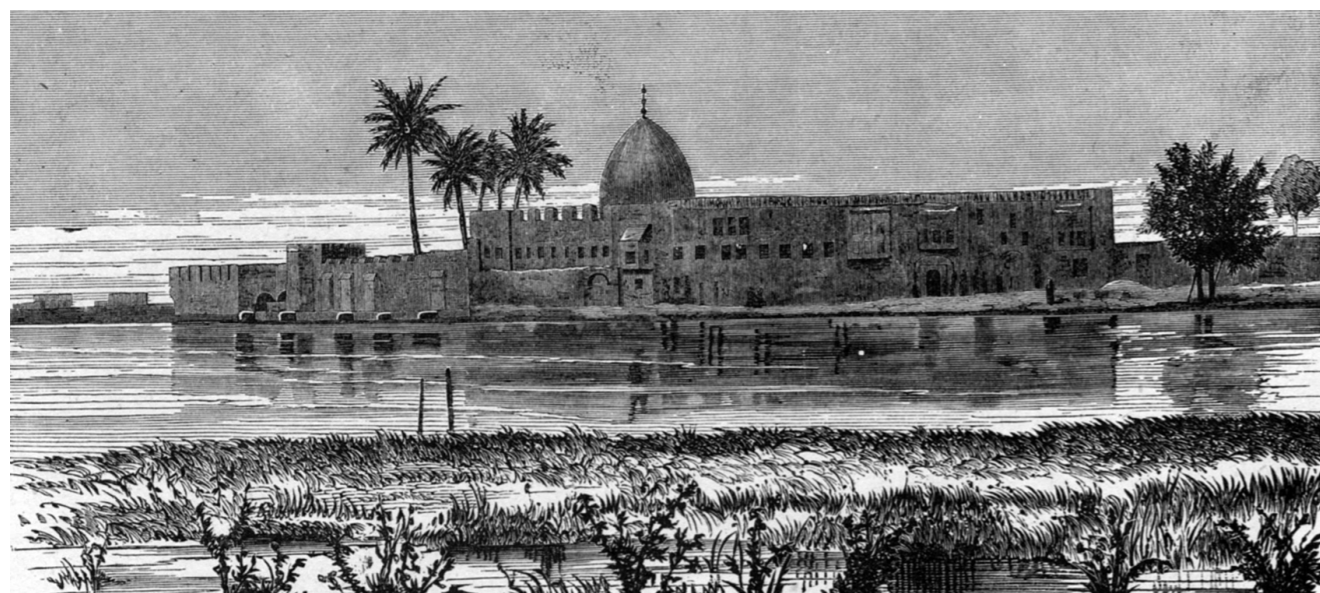
Justin Livingstone

ASTENE subscribes to BANE's London Diary for the Ancient Near East. The following is a selection from that listing.

**International Conference for Nubian Studies. British Museum.** Ticket £125. 1–6 August 2010. See [www.nubiansociety.org/nubianconference](http://www.nubiansociety.org/nubianconference) .

**Judea and Rome in Coins. Institute of Jewish Studies at Spink and Son Ltd, 69 Southampton Row.** Tickets £80. 13–14 September 2010. [www.romansociety.org/events](http://www.romansociety.org/events) .

**Red Sea V: Navigated Spaces, Connected Places. Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University.** 16–19 September 2010. <http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/mares/conferences.htm> .



## 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](mailto:mg@myragreen.f9.co.uk) .

**A Winter on the Nile, by Anthony Sattin. Hutchinson, 2010. ISBN 978 0 09 192606. 291 pp. £20.00.**

In the winter of 1849–50 two people of different nationality, sex, upbringing and background took the same boat from Alexandria to Cairo. What they had in common was uncertainty about the future.

One was the 29-year-old Florence Nightingale, who was determined to break from the conventions of her class: a 'good' marriage, which she regarded as a form of enslavement. She had somehow to follow her strong belief that she could and should do some lasting good in the world. In France, Gustave Flaubert was determined to become a novelist but was struggling to find a sense of direction. Florence was travelling with family friends, Mr and Mrs Bracebridge, and her maid. Gustave was with his friend Du Camp and a servant.

Anthony Sattin had access to the letters and private diaries of Florence. Both Flaubert and his friend Du Camp published accounts of their travels. Anthony's own extensive knowledge of Egypt—ancient and modern—add to the enjoyment of this book. The illustrations include a delicate sketch of Florence at 25, a ghostly photograph of Flaubert, an unusual painting of Florence with her friends the Bracebridges and striking photographs by Du Camp.

Although these two groups covered the same route up the Nile from Cairo to Abu Simbel, they never met, and their contrasting views of the same journey make for entertaining reading.

Florence's accounts of Abu Simbel, at that time mostly buried in sand, and the lyrical accounts of the days spent in the Temple of Osiris and Philae, are counterpointed by Flaubert's adventures at Esna, where dancing girls and sex are high on his agenda. While Flaubert visited the bordellos, Florence spent precious hours with the Nursing Nuns in Cairo.

Both travellers comment on day-to-day life in Egypt, the people they met and the stories they told. This winter on the Nile gave both the direction for their future lives. Florence broke free from her hidebound society: she went to the Crimea, founded a School of Nursing and introduced compassion and organisational rigour into the War Office to the benefit of the British Army. Flaubert took storytelling in a new direction and wrote *Madame Bovary*.

This is a delightful and beautifully written book that deserves wide ASTENE readership.

Audrey Willis

**Seventy Years of Postal History at the French Post Office in Beirut, by Semaan Bassil. The Lebanese-British Friends of the National Museum, Beirut, 2009. ISBN 978-9953-0-1478-4. 232 pp. Hardback.**

This large-format, profusely illustrated, bilingual (French and English) book is published as a double issue of *Archaeology and History in the Lebanon* and is edited by ASTENE member Claude Doumet Serhal MBE. To any philatelist it is a dream. The book offers a wonderful insight into the development of the postal system in Lebanon and the Eastern Mediterranean. It is a fascinating study of a particular form of travel, upon which many human travellers depended. Anyone who has lived overseas understands the importance of the arrival of the post and the pleasure, disappointment or even sorrow it might bring.

The French Post Office in Beirut opened on 16 November 1845, closed during the Great War in 1914, and continued until the end of the French Mandate in 1946. (The first telegraph network with Damascus and Constantinople opened in 1863 and was soon linked to Alexandria.)

The text is accompanied by a wonderful collection of stamps and covers, maps, photographs and postcards. These postcards particularly tell us so much: the Tripoli Customs Office (with its barrels, guard and loiterers), the steel clip with which letters were held at Lazarets around the Mediterranean, and a card of the Lazeret itself, should a traveller want to send such a scene home! Coinage is also illustrated. A splendid early 20th-century photograph shows young girls boiling silkworm cocoons in a Mount Lebanon silk mill under the eye of a portly French observer.

This book gives us the results of deep and varied research and would be a wonderful treat for any philatelist or reader interested in historic travel. In 1861 a traveller could post a letter to Signor Fratelli, Patron, Livorno, or to The Reverend Professor Mitchell DD, St Andrews, Scotland. Not, I think, today.

Deborah Manley

**Photography and Egypt, by Maria Golia. London, Reaktion Books, 2010. Paperback. 192 pp. 121 illustrations, 77 in colour. ISBN 978 1 86189 543 1. £15.95.**

It was in Cairo, as Maria Golia points out, in the 11th century of our era, that photography had perhaps the most consequential of its many beginnings, in the optical researches of the Iraqi savant Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham (AD 965–1039), who named, built and experimented with the first *camera obscura*, the direct ancestor of the still camera. But Egypt has in addition a special plenitude both of the most vital ingredient for photography—light—and of things worthy of having their pictures taken. It's no wonder that it has become perhaps the most relentlessly photographed country in the world.

This important book traces the history of the art and craft of photography in Egypt. Swift-moving, sophisticated and serious, Maria Golia's narrative comes right down to the present day. Of at least equal importance, however, are the observations and massive amounts of information reserved, iceberg-like, in her 'References', the notes that follow her narrative text.

Golia reminds us that the daguerreotype process was unveiled in January 1839 at the Académie des Sciences by Daguerre's primary champion, the scientific genius François Arago (1786–1853). Arago had already seen the daguerreotype as specifically offering the possibility of surmounting ontological deficiencies that had limited the usefulness of the *Description de l'Égypte* (1810–29) as a record of reality. Acting on this hint, Noël-Marie-Paymal Lerebours (1807–73),



an important maker of optical instruments and an associate both of Daguerre and Arago, immediately commissioned newly fledged daguerreotypists to travel across Europe and Middle East in search of images that could be photographed then copied by any of various techniques to be printed lithographically and sold in albums.

The first photograph taken in Africa was thus a daguerreotype of Mehmet Ali's *haramlik* at Ras al-Tin in Alexandria made during the early morning of 7 November 1839. The photographers were Gaspard-Pierre-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière (1798–1865) and Frédéric-Auguste-Antoine Goupil-Fesquet (1817–78), assisted by the great Orientalist painter Horace Vernet (1789–1863), who was Goupil-Fesquet's uncle and teacher. All of them had been commissioned by Lerebours. The Viceroy himself oversaw the operation at very close hand and apparently became an ardent daguerreotypist himself. This historic shot survives, but only in the lithograph version later produced by Vernet.

Joly de Lotbinière had already spent a few weeks taking pictures in Greece. The copies of Egyptian daguerreotypes he later published anticipated by ten years the work of other early photographers in Egypt, exemplified by Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey (1804–92) Félix

Teynard (1817–92), Francis Frith (1822–98), Maxim Du Camp (1822–94), and Pascal Sébah (1823–86), who were likewise interested in visual authenticity for its own sake. Goupil-Fesquet also satisfied his commission and published copies of daguerreotypes, but he and his uncle were primarily interested in gathering authentic raw material for their own paintings and etchings. They thus anticipated the work of Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904), in which photography would be used synthetically to create an Orient that was purportedly 'real', but was in fact a fanciful assemblage of disparate realities. Golia's lengthy first chapter summarises this Orientalist period in pioneering photography, adds interesting technical detail and some acute critical evaluations, then moves into areas that are less well known, have therefore demanded far more original research, and are thus especially interesting.

Chapter Two, for example, introduces us to the amazing growth of photography in Egypt and to the concomitant changes created by technological advance, which made possible a massive shift of subject matter from inert and inanimate objects—typically, ancient monuments—to people. She deals succinctly with the Occidental myth to the effect that Muslims won't allow their pictures to be taken (Wahabist prohibitions still apply only to a small minority) and sketches the popularity that has even entered into popular song: '*Ana 'andik wahid surah! Surah, surah, surah!*' ('I've got a picture of you! A picture, a picture, a picture!').

Chapter Three, for instance, 'Studio Venus', deals not only with the rise of studio work, much of it involving celebrities, but also with the extraordinary Armenian contribution to photography both in Cairo and Alexandria, which was paralleled in other Middle Eastern urban centres such as Istanbul, Izmir, Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut, and has since become a world-wide phenomenon, as Golia indicates with a subtle reference to the great Armenian-Canadian portraitist, Yousuf Karsh.

Chapter Four is an acute political history of post-revolutionary Egypt between 1952 and 2000 as observed through the photographic lens. This period saw a massive decline in the quality of press photography, thanks to the introduction of Soviet-style censorship, and in the quantity of art photography, thanks to the evaporation of the social class that had included most of its viewers.

The final chapter looks to something like a revival, but also emphasises the preservation of Egypt's photographic past. Despite the country's enormous enthusiasm for photography, much has disappeared. 'The present work,' Golia observes, 'hopes to shed some light on Egypt, where

photography has played an inestimable role in shaping political and social realities. Today, in the midst of an ever-intense transformation, there are signs that the time of censure and dispersal is ending, and a time of recollection has begun.' Based on years of first-hand research, this book makes an enormous contribution to the job of recovery.

John Rodenbeck

**A Photographer on the Hajj: The Travels of Muhammad 'Ali Effendi Sa'udi (1904/1908), by Farid Kioumgi and Robert Graham. American University in Cairo Press, 2009. ISBN 978-977-416-290-9. 124 pp.**

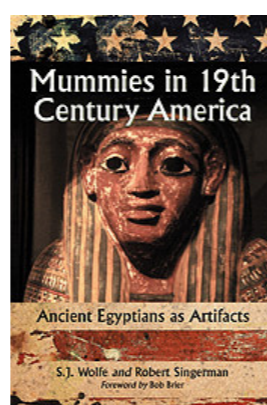
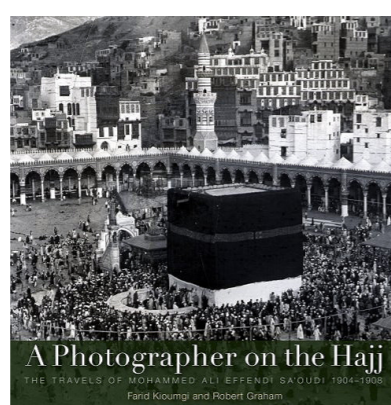
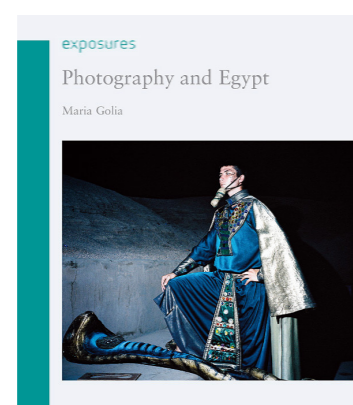
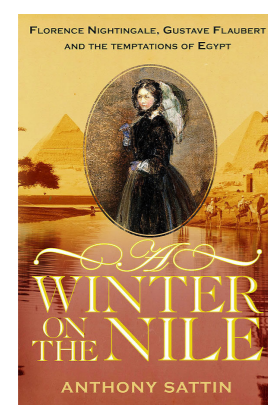
Our perception of the pilgrimage differs considerably from that of pilgrims who travelled to Mecca and Medina in the early 20th century. What the Hajj was really like, with all the hazards that beset travellers, is clearly conveyed in this book.

Muhammad 'Ali Effendi Sa'udi went on the Hajj twice—in 1904 and then again in 1907–08. On both occasions he was part of the Egyptian official caravan under General Ibrahim Rif'at Pasha, the Amir al-Hajj. This gave Sa'udi a number of privileges that he would not otherwise have had, and these are fully explained.

One of Sa'udi's roles in 1904 was as an assistant to the treasurer of the *mahmal*, 'a palanquin wrapped in black velvet and embroidered with gold that by ancient tradition, symbolized the authority of the Egyptian pilgrim caravan'. In this capacity he was also responsible for the safe-keeping of the treasury chest, with monies amounting to some 23,000 Egyptian pounds, which today would be equivalent to around US\$ 5 million. The money was used to pay for the hire of camels, tents, guides—especially through the Bedouin lands, as hostile tribes used bribery (repeatedly) to secure travel through their part of the country. There was at this time much hostility to the opening of the Hijaz railway to Medina, because local tribes feared that the revenue they derived from guiding caravans through the mountains would cease.

Sa'udi kept a diary on both occasions (sometimes writing whilst on the back of a camel), giving detailed accounts of his experiences and companions on the journey. This record of the pilgrimage was commissioned by Muhammad 'Abduh, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, to describe not only the religious history of the monuments around the Haram, but also the atmosphere and activities in the sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina.

Sa'udi writes of the ill treatment of poor pilgrims; the greed of those in authority; the countless times that bribery was the only way to procure





camels, tents and safe passages through the mountain passes. His diaries also decry the lack of precautions to prevent the spread of cholera, especially in Mecca.

Sa'udi's second journey took place over the winter of 1907–08. Once again he was part of an official pilgrimage, and again he took his camera. On this trip he was given letters of introduction to enter the Holy Places in Medina, letters that he found extremely useful. Sa'udi was a devout Muslim who undertook this second journey with all the faith and conviction of his first pilgrimage. On this occasion, however, he took his mother with him, making the journey even more arduous and precarious, as she was often not well. His second pilgrimage is described in more detail. For example, on 24 December 1907 the caravan left Cairo by train for the port of Suez, where they caught the boat—the al-Minya—to Jeddah in the late afternoon. There were the usual frustrations of overcrowding and the concern about cholera. He gives interesting insights into the perils of the journey such as being robbed of silver and coins from his back pocket even before leaving Egypt. Arriving in Jeddah, the pilgrims travelled on to Mecca by camel and on foot.

Concerned about his camera equipment, Sa'udi spread it among his belongings on several camels. The glass plates were fragile, and on more than one occasion they broke. But his photographs give an interesting glimpse of life on pilgrimage:

for example, one photograph shows the train of 1,400 camels weaving its way through the valley towards Mount Arafat over very rocky terrain.

Sa'udi's time in Mecca is delightfully described, both verbally and photographically. He was a keen photographer but sometimes had to take his shots surreptitiously, as he was suspected of being a spy. It is difficult for us to imagine and understand the enormity of the challenge he faced, especially in this day of small portable cameras, which can just be slipped into a pocket. Yet he managed to take a wide range of photographs, and those of buildings and street scenes in Mecca are amazingly clear, in particular one of the courtyard of the Holy Mosque that is rich in detail, clearly showing the Ka'ba with the Kiswa mantle raised to protect the cloth from the hordes of pilgrims. The photographs were mainly taken with a Stereo-Palmos Ica camera, a forerunner of the Leica.

The book contains a number of maps, showing the routes that Sa'udi took on both occasions, as well as plans of the two cities. The plan of Mecca, for example, gives the reader a good idea of the terrain around the city, as well as key buildings.

This is a wonderful book and a splendid photographic record of two remarkable and difficult journeys. It is also a fine tribute to Muhammad 'Ali Effendi Sa'udi, a photographer *par excellence*.

Priscilla Frost

***Mummies in Nineteenth Century America: Ancient Egyptians as Artifacts*, by S. J. Wolfe, with Robert Singerman. McFarland Publishing, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7864-3941-6. \$35.00.**

All I can say is, WOW!! The amount of research, minute, exacting research that went into the creation of this book is astounding. Even more impressive is the number of collaborations the author made with scholars and organisations from all over the world to find and help decipher information. Only through that type of unselfish sharing could the author have covered such a scope of material. This work was slowly compiled with the aid of colleagues, friends and research fellows from the American Antiquarian Society, fellow researchers in 'mummy-ology', librarians, museum curators, and directors of historical societies around the country and the world who held mummies in their collections.

It begins at the beginning, with the first known mummy to come to American shores: bits and pieces that the artist Benjamin West presented to the Company of Philadelphia in 1767. Others followed, but the bulk of the chapter belongs to Padihershef, brought to Boston in 1823 aboard

the Yankee brig *Sally Anne* to 'await his re-birth in the Western Lands'. We travel with Padihershef as he makes his way through America to his final resting place.

Through seven chapters and four appendices Wolfe systematically records the who, what, when, where and why of mummies in America. Relying heavily on 19th-century newspaper accounts from all over the country (made easily available via the Internet—oh, the wonders of modern research), Wolfe chases, finds and uncovers her Egyptians. Through George Gliddon, Henry Abbott, P. T. Barnum and a host of other entrepreneurs, museums and historical societies we follow one imported Egyptian after another, finding out how they made the journey, how they fared in America, and sometimes learning where they finally found a resting place in 'the West'.

The last chapter ends at the end of the century with a plethora of mummies that were not so well treated and what happened to them when mummy-mania was on the wane. Throughout it all we receive quote after quote from both metropolitan and provincial newspapers telling the tales of un-wrappings, misjudgments and discoveries. It is a compelling collection.

Appendix 1 is a catalogue of pre-1901 references to mummies in America not mentioned in the text. In other words, the exhaustive list of encounters covered in the text of the book did not

extinguish the list of mummies that made their way to America. Appendix 2 offers suggestions for further reading. More intriguing is Appendix 3, notes on the coffins of the first mummies brought to America. Appendix 4 spreads the news about 19th-century newspapers, where much of the information was found.

I knew I was going to like the book the minute I read the dedication: 'To the untold numbers of mummies of ancient Egyptians, in the hope that by "speaking their names" in this book they will live again in the Western Lands.'

Cassandra Vivian

*The following has been found by Peta Rée as an entertaining afterthought on ancient Egyptians in America.*

**Digging up an Eastern City in California.** The *Ottawa Citizen* of 21 March 2010 reported on a temple 800 feet wide and 120 feet tall flanked by four 40-ton statues of the Pharaoh Ramses buried in the sands of California's Central Coast. It was created for Cecil B. DeMille's film, *The Ten Commandments*, and the set was too expensive to move yet too valuable to leave for others. De Mille imagined that in a thousand years his set would be discovered by archaeologists who might announce the amazing news that Egyptian civilization extended all the way to the Pacific Coast of North America.



# 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 Editors of the Bulletin so the knowledge can be more widely shared.*

## Archduke Ludwig Salvator on Cyprus

*Robert Merrillees writes:*

I was interested to read in *Bulletin 43* the piece on Archduke Ludwig Salvator, with reference to the books he wrote on his travels in the Levant. Amongst them was an account of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, produced when he was only 26 years old, following a visit to the island in 1873. It is a work of especial historiographical importance, being the most comprehensive description of Nicosia before the British took over the administration of the island's affairs from the Sublime Porte in 1878. First published in German, the original English translation, published under the title *Levkosia, the Capital of Cyprus* by C. Kegan Paul & Co. in London in 1881, is exceptionally rare, as almost the entire stock was destroyed by fire. In the reprint by Trigraph Ltd, London, in 1983, Sir David Hunt, who included in it a valuable note on the life and work of the Archduke together with the latter's bibliography, records the existence of only three copies of the original, to which a fourth in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris should be added. As Sir David aptly remarks, the book 'gives a faithful picture of the end of the Turkish period in Cyprus, recording a way of life which had changed little in three hundred years and was about to be transformed by the British occupation'.

## Robert Talbot Kelly, RI, RBA, RBC (1861–1934)

*Dr Hisham Khatib writes in response to queries in the last Bulletin:*

I have in my large collection of watercolours on the Holy Land and Egypt an attractive Talbot Kelly watercolour of dhows on the Nile with the Citadel in the background. It is in blue, dated 1901, size 27 x 44 cm, and is depicted in my book *Palestine and Egypt Under the Ottomans*, I B Tauris, 2003. Another Kelly watercolour was sold at Christies,

10 December 2006, Lot 48, for £840 (he is not an expensive painter). I hope this may be of interest. Now turning to Henry Salt, one of my most interesting painters and statesmen, he was associated with Burckhardt. I have in my collection an interesting original portrait of him by Bonomi, reproduced on page 83 of my book.

Also in response to the Talbot Kelly query, *Bryony Llewellyn* has drawn our attention to the catalogue of the Searight Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which provides a biography of the artist. He was one of a family of artists. He worked in a cotton firm in Liverpool before becoming a full time artist in 1882. He travelled widely in the East, spoke fluent Arabic and lived for a time among the Bedouin tribesmen in Egypt. He published works on Egypt, notably *Egypt Painted and Described* (1902). In 1980 there was an exhibition of his work—'Paintings by Robert Talbot-Kelly'—at the Williamson Art Gallery, Birkenhead.

*Deborah Manley* comments, 'He sounds like an excellent subject for one of our art historians to offer a paper on at the ASTENE biennial conference in Oxford in July 2011.'

## Rob Roy on the Nile

*Deborah Manley writes:*

Earlier discussion of Rob Roy on the Nile and the Jordan made my eye catch this title at Oxford University's Sackler Library: *Canoe Errant on the Nile*, by Major R. Raven-Hart, John Murray, London, 1936 (with black and white photos). Major Raven-Hart, after a cold year in England, was looking for sun. He had lived in Egypt, spoke Arabic, but had little money. His account of his adventures is a worthy successor to the Rob Roy books. He also includes good contemporary information on how to live cheaply, in his 'Appendix of Practical Details' (p. 235). Included are such details as:

Flagstuffs: spring-fitted to prevent breaking; Egyptian flag forward, Red Ensign aft; use of Union Jack is always incorrect, and in Egypt punishable by law.

Useful commentary on food supplies includes:

Milk chocolate goes too soft; plain discolours but still tastes the same. ... Good store of dates should be laid in upstream, while still plentiful.

Other recommendations: sun-helmet indispensable; spine-pad advisable. The book is very practical and a good read—worth seeking out.



*Dr Zvi Malachi* of the Lod Museum of Jewish Heritage has sent in a further note on MacGregor's Rob Roy. He believes that the Rob Roy canoe referred to in *Bulletin 43* (following on from the original reference in *Bulletin 41*) as being in Haifa is actually a replica and that the original was returned to the Royal Canoe Club. MacGregor founded the Canoe Club in 1866; it was designated the Royal Canoe Club in 1874. According to the Royal Canoe Club website the original Rob Roy is now in the National Maritime Museum, where it is occasionally exhibited.

## Janet Ross and the Mulid of Abu Nishab at Tal al-Kabir, 1863

*From John Rodenbeck, the following query:*

Ben Downing is working on a biography of Janet Ross, Lucie Duff Gordon's wonderful daughter, and would be interested in any information about the *mulid* of Abu Nishab at Tal al-Kabir, which Janet attended in July of 1863, having been invited by a French friend. She published a lengthy and colourful description of the experience in 1912. There is another earlier account of the same *mulid* recorded by Paul Merruau (1812–82), a very interesting but largely forgotten French travel writer. He witnessed the event in 1862, a year before Janet, in the course of a tour of the construction of the Suez Canal, described in 'Une excursion au canal de Suez,' which was published in *Le Tour du Monde* in 1863. Merruau had already published *L'Égypte contemporaine* (1858) and was regarded as something of an expert.

Does anyone have any further information? It might be borne in mind that such 'saints' are often the result of dream-visions or happenstance and therefore do not necessarily bear any relation to the real history of the Prophet and the Companions. There is, in fact, a famous traditional anecdote on this subject.

Reply to the Editors and to John Rodenbeck at [jrodenbeck@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jrodenbeck@wanadoo.fr).

## Blue Plaques

In *Bulletin 40* we reported on a blue plaque in honour of Francis Rawdon Chesney on a house in Ballyvea, Northern Ireland. The same practice has existed in London since the mid-1860s to commemorate a renowned person who once lived in the house marked, or at least on the site. For example, there is a blue plaque at 48 Bloomsbury Street, where lived Sir Wallis Budge (1857–1934), for many years (1892–1924) Keeper of the Department of Egypt and Assyrian Antiquities at the nearby British Museum.

There is also a blue plaque on 5 Cannon Place, Hampstead, where Flinders Petrie (1853–1942), first Professor of Egyptology at University College, London, lived, though he spent his last years in Jerusalem and died there.

This led Deborah Manley to ask Anat Almog if she knew of Petrie's grave in the English Cemetery there. We look forward to more information on Flinders Petrie's grave for a future 'Where Are They Buried?' section of an ASTENE *Bulletin*. But can one have Petrie without Amelia Edwards, who sponsored the professorship he held? Maybe she is buried in Weston-super-Mare; does anyone know? As she was born in London perhaps she deserves a blue plaque! There is a blue plaque to Florence Nightingale on the site of her house at 10 South Street, Mayfair, appropriately near the present Egyptian Embassy on the same street.





If readers know of other blue plaques in honour of ASTENE travellers, please let the Editors know. If you know of a house which should bear such a plaque, perhaps we could nominate it.

## The Dead Cities Mystery: Serjilla and Ain Dara

Deborah Manley writes:

On Saturday, 9 January 2010, the Travel section of *The Guardian* had a double spread article entitled 'The Dead Cities Mystery', about Syria's abandoned Byzantine towns at Serjilla and Ain Dara, an hour's drive from Aleppo. On their 2006 tour ASTENE had been to these places. But, I ask, surely ASTENE travellers had been there before us! If so, what did they report about this extraordinary area? Before we went there I knew nothing of these amazing sites, so, for others like me, I'll explain very briefly.

The region is a rolling upland of craggy limestone dotted with the ruins of villas, a church, town baths—astonishingly little used by later generations as a quarry of worked stone. Why were these cities deserted? *The Guardian*

suggested (with rather 21st-century wisdom) that the price of olive oil and wine may have crashed, undermining the wealth of the area. When we were there, Malcolm Wagstaff had a more interesting explanation: a local climate change sufficient to make the area uneconomic. Whatever the cause, the result is astonishing.

What does *Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Syria and Palestine* have to say? Surprisingly, the answer is—under these place names—nothing. However, on page 569 it describes the road from Antioch to Aleppo, and at Abu Katoura reports

a considerable town, now deserted... The character of the architecture resembles that of Western Europe more than anything we meet elsewhere in Syria.

Murray continues that 'the principal ruins of this region were illustrated in Ferguson's *Architecture* ... and de Voglis has examined it with care...'. The buildings were not thought to be earlier than the 5th century.

A contribution on travellers to these sites would be fascinating material at ASTENE's conference at St Anne's College, Oxford, in 2011.



The Romano-Byzantine 'Dead City' at Serjilla, Syria. One of hundreds of abandoned settlements, including farms, monasteries and towns, located on the barren limestone uplands south of Aleppo.

# FOOTPRINTS

## The Wilder Shores

Within travel literature and travel writing there is a sub-genre relating to women travellers. Doyenne of this genre was Lesley Blanch, who died in 2007 at the age of 102. Her famous 1954 book, *The Wilder Shores of Love*, was probably the first book many of us read about those doughty women who went east in pursuit of romance—and it probably doesn't matter that some of what she wrote was fantasy; fantasy was her life-blood, according to a recent biography by Anne Boston entitled *Lesley Blanch: Inner Landscapes, Wilder Shores* (John Murray, 2010).

In this spirit of romance and adventure *Deborah Manley* sent in the following light-hearted report on a Mills and Boon book she came across.

*Aunt Augusta in Egypt* by J. E. Buckrose. London, Mills and Boon, 1916. This title caught my eye in the Bodleian Library catalogue and I called it up. It is everything we still get from Mills and Boon—dashing, easy-to-read, but with more common sense than many critics expect—and, for the date, holds other surprises. On page 37, this:

while the carriage moved smoothly along ... only Dora looked out of the window, so it was she alone who saw Mr Porter, the Sheriff, flash by in a taxi-cab with a lady in blue seated on his knee ...

However, to move fast forward to Egypt... Aunt Augusta was to winter there for her rheumatism, accompanied by her niece, her niece's betrothed and some neighbours. I seldom laugh when I read a book—especially in the Bodleian—but here is much cause for laughter. For example, Aunt Augusta believed that a camel's groans could only 'proceed from a stomach ache' and planned to form a League at Assuan to prevent cruelty to camels. There are wonderful scenes with donkeys and donkey boys, and, as the party row about among the submerged temples at Philae—the 'British' dam having flooded it a decade before—Aunt Augusta comments: 'It seems as cruel as bathing a cat to make these poor carved Egyptian pillars stand with their heads just above water.'

At Philae our heroine climbs high to the Osiris Chamber of the temple and overhears a conversation that changes her life. The book has, as I am sure readers will expect, a happy ending.

With books of this period the titles promoted on the end pages are always worth a read. Here, I found *My Sudan Year* by E. S. Stevens (author of *The Lure and The Veil*), which has 40 illustrations and, according to the *British Weekly*, 'would take its place among the best of Sudanese travel books'.

## Good Company at Gournou

*Peta Rée* notes that James Augustus St John (1801–75) arrived at 'Thebes' towards the end of his travels in Egypt.

Sunday, February 10th, Thebes: In one of the tombs of Gournou, excavated high in the face of the mountain, I found Mr Hay and his family, whose superior politeness and urbanity are well known to all European travellers in Egypt. Mr Bonomi, an English artists of great talent, inhabited a neighbouring tomb, where he had lived several years.

St John was invited to take up his abode with the Hays.

Our society was numerous: in addition to the two gentlemen above mentioned, and Monro, who I found waiting for me at Gournou, there were Mr Catherwood and M. Dupuis, both artists, who resided in our neighbourhood. Two other artists, Messrs Gouri and Jones, were living at Luxor, where Messrs Welstead and Carlis, officers in the Indian navy, who during nearly two years had been employed in making a survey of the Red Sea, had arrived a few days previously. Mr Arundale, the editor of works of Palladio, likewise joined us, from Dendera, in the course of the week. Thebes, therefore, during the whole of our sojourn, had rather the appearance of an English colony, than of an ancient and deserted metropolis. The day was spent among the ruins; the evening, with the greater part of the night, in conversation; the majority being men of talent, and enlarged experience, in whose company time passed unobserved ...

Francis Arundale (1801–53), architect and artist; Joseph Bonomi (1796–1878), sculptor and artist; Frederic Catherwood (1799–1854), artist; A. Dupuis (fl. 1830–34), artist, architect,

lithographer; Rober Hay (1799–1863), antiquarian and collector; Owen Jones (1809–74), architect and designer; Reverend Vere Monro (1802–41), travelled with St John; James Raymond Wellstead (1805–42), British officer in the Indian navy and surveyor. (?) Carlis (n.d.) as above.

But Gourli... Does anyone know who this man is?

## More European Picnics in the East

Further to Elisabeth Woodthorpe's piece in the spring *Bulletin*, Lucy Pollard reports that 17th-century visitors to Aegean Turkey took great pleasure in picnics. William Biddulph took a day-trip from Constantinople to the Black Sea and enjoyed a picnic near the lighthouse. John Bargrave was entertained by the Smyrna merchants 'Alla Turchesca', on carpets under shady trees that provided the picnickers with fruit and nuts. They sat cross-legged and cooked on spits. He also recorded that the English had a country 'palace' near Constantinople, surrounded by gardens and woods for hunting. Turks came there too, with eunuchs and concubines, and entertained the English with 'Dauncing, Leaping, & roaring like wild persons let out of a prison'. John Covell, on his way to Adrianople, saw an enormous plane tree under which, in summer, many people came to take their 'spasso', and to sit on carpets to eat, drink and smoke.

On one occasion in the course of his travels, Paul Rycaut was given carpets and cushions under a tree by the locals, and food for himself and his horses, as well as being provided with a packed breakfast, wrapped up in a linen cloth. George Wheler described Belgrade (a village a few miles north of Constantinople), where the air was healthy:

To these shady Woods, many Persons of Quality, as well of the Turks as Ambassadors, and rich Merchants, retire to enjoy the fresh Air in the scorching heats of Summer, and to hunt at the proper Seasons of the Year.

Here some build them pretty Houses of Pleasure, others stately Chiosques, or Banqueting-Houses; and others content themselves to sojourn in Tents, they stretch out under the tall Trees, near some refreshing-Spring. All these Springs are with great Care, and greater Charges, collected into several large Cisterns; near each of which is built a stately Chiosque, or Summer-house.

Bargrave, R., *Travel Diary... 1647–1656*, ed. M.G. Brennan (London, 1999), 72, 99–100.

Biddulph, W., *The Travels of Certain Englishmen*

*into Africa, Asia, Troy, Bythinia, Thracia... Begunne in the Yeere of Jubile 1600...* (London, 1609), 28.

Covell, J. *Diary*, British Library MS Add. 22912, 175v.

Rycaut, P., *The History of the Turkish Empire from... 1623 to... 1677* (London, 1680), 2nd sequence, 131.

Wheler, G., *Journey into Greece* (London, 1682), 204.

## Cornucopia

Julie Hornsby reports that the spring issue of *Cornucopia* is more beautiful than ever. The website with highlights of the issue is <http://www.cornucopia.net/highlights43.html>.



# Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East

**Honorary President:** Dr Jaromir Malek

**Honorary Vice-President:** Dr Elizabeth French

## Executive Committee 2010–2011:

### Chairman

Dr Robert Morkot  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Exeter  
Exeter EX4 4QE  
[r.g.morkot@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.g.morkot@exeter.ac.uk)

### Secretary

The Hon. Mrs Angela Reid  
Queenford Farm  
Dorchester-on-Thames  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 7PH  
[areid@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:areid@gotadsl.co.uk)

### Treasurer

Dr Karen Dorn  
The Studio  
30 College Lane  
London NW5 1BJ  
[kd@academyprojects.com](mailto:kd@academyprojects.com)

### Bulletin Editors

Sheila and Russell McGuirk  
646 Point West  
116 Cromwell Road  
London SW7 4XF  
[rmcguirk@jhu.edu](mailto:rmcguirk@jhu.edu)

### Events Organiser

Dr Patricia Usick  
Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan  
The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG  
[pusick@btinternet.com](mailto:pusick@btinternet.com)

### Bulletin Reviews Editor

Ms Myra Green  
6 Monmouth Avenue  
Topsham, Exeter EX3 0AF  
[mg@myragreen.f9.co.uk](mailto:mg@myragreen.f9.co.uk)

## Yellow Pages Editor

Mr Neil Cooke FRGS  
52 Lauriston Road, Flat 3  
London E9 7EY  
[neil.cook@hok.com](mailto:neil.cook@hok.com)

## Committee Members

Mrs Deborah Manley  
57 Plantation Road  
Oxford OX2 6JE  
[deb@dmanley.plus.com](mailto:deb@dmanley.plus.com)

Russell McGuirk  
Address as above

Dr Hana Navrátilová (co-opted)  
Sackler Library  
St John Street  
Oxford OX1 2LG

Lucy Pollard  
Valley Farm House  
Boyton  
Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3LF  
[lucypetica@gmail.com](mailto:lucypetica@gmail.com)

Mrs Janet Rady  
Arden House, 17 West Park  
London SE9 4RZ  
[janetrady@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetrady@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr Paul Robertson  
Department of Modern and Applied Languages  
University of Westminster  
309 Regent Street  
London W1B 2UW  
[p.robertson01@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:p.robertson01@wmin.ac.uk)

Dr John Taylor  
Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan  
The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG  
[jtaylor@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:jtaylor@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

## Registered office:

26 Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HP  
email: [astene@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:astene@dsl.pipex.com)  
[www.astene.org.uk](http://www.astene.org.uk)  
Charity Commission registration number 1067157

## Membership correspondence to:

The Studio, 30 College Lane, London NW5 1BJ  
email: [astene@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:astene@dsl.pipex.com)



The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East was founded in 1997 to promote the study of travel and travellers in Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean from Greece to the Levant, Arabian Peninsula and Mesopotamian region. Membership is open to all.

Registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales, no. 1067157.

ISSN: 1461-4316

