

# ASTENE

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

## BULLETIN



**NOTES AND QUERIES**

**NUMBER 54: WINTER 2012-13**

# BULLETIN: NOTES AND QUERIES

## NUMBER 54: WINTER 2012-13

Editors: Sheila and Russell McGuirk

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### Bulletin 55 : Spring 2013

Submissions for the next Bulletin must be received by **15 March 2013**. We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members and interested readers. Please send contributions to the Editors, Russell McGuirk and Sheila McGuirk (bulletin@astene.org.uk).

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Membership is open to all at the following rates:  
 UK, Europe and North America: £25 (£30 for a joint membership at one address receiving one Bulletin)  
 Students: £15 (proof of student status required)  
 Library subscriptions: £20  
 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 by email to [membership@astene.org.uk](mailto:membership@astene.org.uk) .

Cover illustration from *Egypt Past and Present, Described and Illustrated* by W.H. Davenport Adams. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1894. Title: 'Ass-drivers of Cairo'.

# ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

## The Tenth Biennial ASTENE Conference University of Aston, Birmingham, 12–15 July 2013

### Registration

The Conference Registration form is enclosed with this Bulletin. We urge members to apply in good time and preferably no later than 22 March 2013. This is because we cannot, without penalty, hold the block of pre-reserved overnight accommodation beyond the university's date for cancellations. The form is also available on the website if you require additional copies.

### Bursary Applications

Bursary application forms are now available on line. Applicants should offer a paper on historic travel in Egypt or the Near East and will have roles within the conference organization. Those wishing to apply should send a 100-word abstract of the paper they propose, to [chairman@astene.org.uk](mailto:chairman@astene.org.uk) , along with the Bursary application form. A copy of the 100-word abstract should also be sent to [events@astene.org.uk](mailto:events@astene.org.uk) as explained below.

### Call for Papers

The call for papers which was issued in Bulletin 53 is now also available on-line and will be distributed to all members electronically via Mailchimp. Please send an abstract by 1 February 2013 of no more than 100 words for a paper not to exceed 25 minutes to [events@astene.org.uk](mailto:events@astene.org.uk) or by post to: Dr Patricia Usick, 32 Carlton Hill, London, NW8 0JY.

### Related Activities

The archives of the Church Missionary Society are held at Birmingham University in Edgbaston. There is an easy rail link between Aston and Edgbaston, but members who attend the conference and would like to access the CMS files will need to have a Manuscript Reader's Card which is issued by the Special Collections staff. The Library is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

First time readers MUST bring a letter of introduction from a person of recognised position, based on personal knowledge of the reader. If you want to check in advance email: [special-collections@bham.ac.uk](mailto:special-collections@bham.ac.uk) or on the web: [www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk](http://www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk) .

Note: A copy of the archive list is deposited with the National Register of Archives. Indexes are available on [www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/nra.htm](http://www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/nra.htm) .

### Membership Renewals and Subscription Rates

Enclosed with this Bulletin is the annual membership reminder letter. Longstanding members will know that subscription rates have not changed in the 15 years of the Association, and everyone will appreciate that costs have increased considerably in that period—postage, VAT, paper and printing, insurance and much more. For some years we have been able to manage by using reserves built up in earlier years from conference attendances. However, these reserves are diminishing, albeit for good reasons, such as running an open access website and making judicious grants. UK-based members should find that compared to other societies to which they belong ASTENE remains very good value, between the website, the bulletin, and the networking opportunities offered by the conference, and other lectures, trips and visits. We hope that overseas members will be able to meet the increase through their professional/academic affiliations.

### ASTENE visit to Jordan: 17–26 April 2013

There are still a few places available on the trip to Jordan in April 2013. If you would like to join the group please contact Elisabeth Woodthorpe as soon as possible as the formal deadline has now passed ([elisabethwoodthorpe@ymail.com](mailto:elisabethwoodthorpe@ymail.com)). Anyone wishing to give a 20-minute paper at our mini conference—the last evening on the shores of the Dead Sea—should send a short extract to Elisabeth, noting that there will be no facilities for visual aids.

### Website

The new website is now live and can be accessed at the same address as before. We hope members will like the new look, in which the project team has tried to blend a more contemporary style with some of the best elements of the ASTENE brand. Links and a search capability have been improved.

Please would members send comments, suggestions, feedback and in particular material of interest to our members (such as photographs from past conferences) to Janet Rady, who has masterminded the project and to whom we are most grateful.





From L to R Malcolm Wagstaff, Patricia Usick, Josey Eldred and Neil Cooke descending the steps of Leighton House after the ASTENE visit, AGM July 14 2012.

### Who's who on this year's ASTENE Executive Committee:

**Neil Cooke** (Chairman) is a founding member of ASTENE and maintains the Membership List. By day he works on the conservation of historic buildings including the Houses of Parliament in London and the US Capitol in Washington DC. He was responsible for the multi-award-winning restoration of the King's Library, British Museum, and the Churchill War Rooms. Neil uses his spare time to research the life of James Burton who travelled in Egypt in the early 19th century.

Burton was a friend to Wilkinson, Lane, Bonomi, Lord Prudhoe, Major Felix, and many others whose names appear in the pages of ASTENE's publications.

**Patricia Usick** is also a founder member of ASTENE. She is the Events organiser and is organising the 2013 ASTENE Conference. She is also acting Secretary and acting Treasurer since July 2012. She read Ancient History and Egyptology at UCL as a mature student, then completed a PhD on the archaeological significance of William John Bankes's drawings of Nubia (1815–1821), following this with a book about Bankes's travels. She has spent ten years as the volunteer departmental archivist in the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, the British Museum, cataloguing their archive and dealing with inquiries and research on the history of the collections.

**Sheila McGuirk** is currently an ordinary member of the ASTENE committee with shared responsibility for the Bulletin and has assisted in the development and maintenance of the website. She filled the role of Chairman for one year in 2011–12. Sheila studied International Relations at the London School of Economics, followed by an MA in Middle Eastern Studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University. She has lived and worked in Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia and has travelled to many of the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Russell McGuirk** co-edits the Bulletin with his wife Sheila. He holds a BA in Modern Languages, including Arabic, from Johns Hopkins; and an MA from the Middle East Centre at Harvard. He was a teacher and journalist in Cairo; then worked as a translator in Riyadh and London for many years. In retirement he has written *The Sanusi's Little War* (Arabian Publishing, 2007) and *The Light Car Patrols: War and Exploration in Egypt and Libya with the Model T Ford* (Royal Geographical Society & Silphium Press, to be published 2013).

**Janet Rady** is the Director and Curator of Janet Rady Fine Art Gallery. She holds a Masters Degree in Islamic Art History from the University of Melbourne and a BA from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and acts as an Advisor to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels. She also sits on the Jury of the Persbook Prize and is a Nominator for the Jameel Prize. As well as being on the ASTENE Committee, she is our website advisor.

After a first degree in classics, **Lucy Pollard** had a career as a librarian, book indexer and teacher. In retirement, she did a doctorate at Birkbeck College on the subject of English travellers to Greece and Asia Minor in the 17th century. She is particularly interested in John Covel, and in early Quaker missionaries (she is a Quaker herself). She is married to a retired solicitor and they have three adult sons; they live in Suffolk. Apart from her research, her interests are music and theatre, walking, gardening and travel.

**Jacke Phillips**, an ASTENE member since 1999, is Research and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a Visiting Scholar at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. Apart from her archaeological research mostly in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Greece and the Red Sea littoral, her ASTENE interests focus on the personal interrelationships in the 'global village' of the early archaeologists in these regions, the early developments in archaeological thought

through their travels, interpretations and fieldwork experiences, and how their interventions have continued to the present day.

**Cathie Bryan** writes and lectures about ancient Egypt and its influence on modern western culture. She holds degrees in Egyptian Archaeology from University College London and in Anthropology from Hunter College in New York City, with a Business Masters from New York University. She is a frequent contributor to journals including the popular magazine *Ancient Egypt*, and was its Paris Correspondent during her seven years' residence there. She is the author of *Walk Like an Egyptian in Kensal Green Cemetery* (2012, London: The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery). She contributed the chapter about the 19th century French Egyptian Revival to *Imhotep Today: Egyptianizing Architecture* (2003, London: UCL Press). Cathie works in a freelance capacity for the public events programme of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL, where she gives lectures, walking tours, and gallery talks.

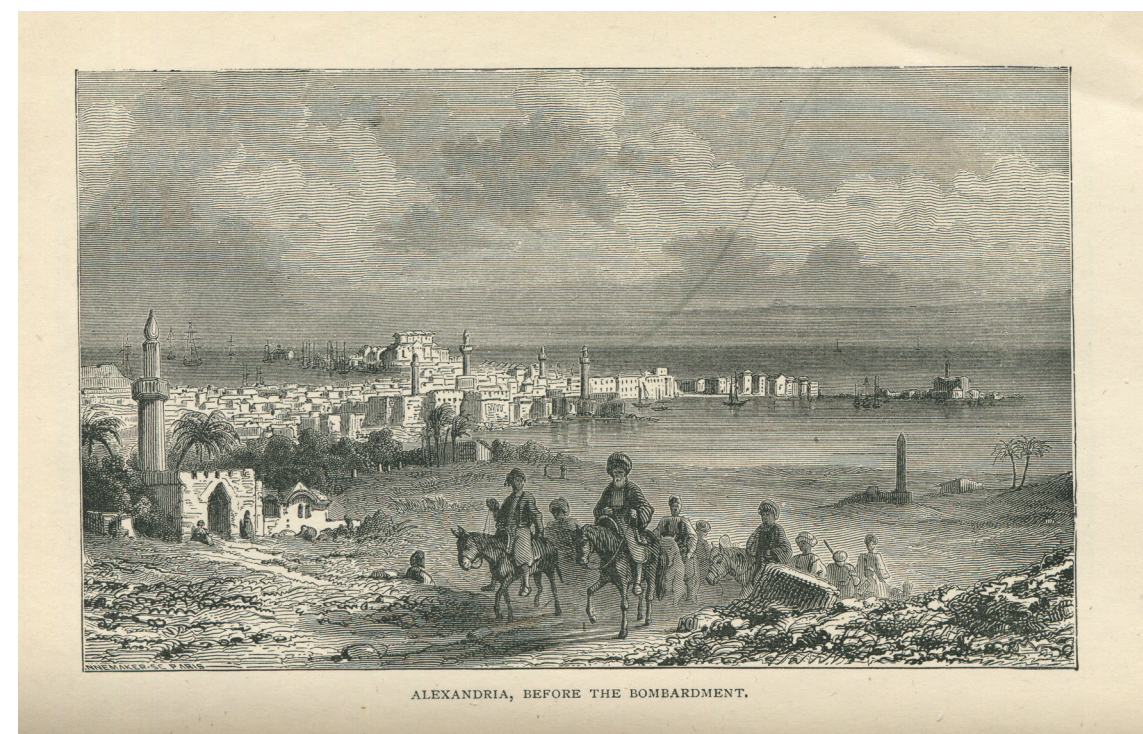


Illustration from *Egypt Past and Present*, Described and Illustrated by W.H. Davenport Adams. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1894



## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

### Peggy Drower

Margaret Stefana (Peggy) Drower, MBE, FSA, died peacefully on 12 November 2012 just a month before her 101st birthday. Members will have read a review of the biography of her mother, Lady Ethel Drower in Bulletin 53 and will remember that a note on mother and daughter appeared in Bulletin 47. Many members will have known Peggy through her long association with UCL, the Egypt Exploration Society, the Palestine Exploration Fund and the Friends of the Petrie Museum. Peggy was the last student of, and perhaps the last direct link with, Flinders Petrie. She was also a student of Margaret Murray, excavated with Pendlebury at Amarna, and worked in Baghdad with Freya Stark during WWII. She travelled extensively in the ASTENE region, from Iran to Turkey, Iraq to Sudan. She taught Near Eastern and Egyptian History at UCL from 1937 to 1979 and was later made an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Archaeology.

Robert Morkot

### Museums and Exhibitions

#### Cairo to Constantinople:

#### Early Photographs of the Middle East

#### The Queen's Gallery,

#### Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh

Friday, 08 March 2013 to Sunday, 21 July 2013

In 1862, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) was sent on a four-month educational tour of the Middle East, accompanied by the British photographer Francis Bedford (1815–94), the first photographer to travel on a royal tour. This exhibition documents this journey using Bedford's work. The tour took the Prince to Egypt, Palestine and the Holy Land, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Greece. He met rulers, politicians and other notables and travelled in a manner not yet associated with royalty, including camping out in tents.

#### In Search of Classical Greece

#### British Museum, Room 90

7 February–26 April 2013

This exhibition looks at Greece in the first decade of the 19th century, when it was part of the Ottoman Empire. Edward Dodwell and Simone Pomardi toured mainland Greece in the years 1805–6. It was a time when French military occupation prevented Grand Tourists from visiting Italy and, like Dodwell

and Pomardi, many travellers compensated for the loss of this experience by going beyond The Grand Tour. The understanding they gained of the archaeological remains of ancient Greece had two great consequences. First, the experience of travel in Greece greatly encouraged the taste among British Hellenists for Greek architecture and gave new vigour to the Greek Revival, already begun in the middle of the 18th century by the expeditions of the Society of Dilettanti. Second, Hellenism, the love of ancient Greece, was to promote a new movement of Philhellenism, that is to say a sympathy for modern Greek people and a desire to realise the 'Dream', as Byron put it, 'that Greece might still be free.'

This exhibition will set Dodwell and Pomardi in the tradition of travel in Greece in the Age of Enlightenment. It will be accompanied by an independent but related display of drawings from the British Museum's permanent collection relevant to the theme of travel in Greece in the Ottoman era and just after independence.

Some drawings exist in other collections, but the majority remained in the possession of Dodwell's Irish descendants until they were purchased in 2002 by David Packard. He was advised by the American archaeologist John Camp, who has catalogued and photographed the drawings and who will be the principal author of the exhibition catalogue. The exhibition and its catalogue will feature a selection of seventy or so highly finished watercolours, drawings in sepia and pen-and-ink sketches. The subjects are usually landscapes or the antiquities of Greece.

#### Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Queen's Road,

Bristol BS8 1RL

#### Pharaoh: King of Egypt,

15 March 2013–21 July 2013

This exhibition features highlights from the British Museum's superb collection of ancient Egyptian objects. The exhibition is the largest UK loan of Egyptian artefacts ever undertaken by the British Museum and includes examples of sculpture, jewellery, palace ornamentation, papyri and funerary objects. The theme of the exhibition is the role of kingship in ancient Egypt. While many of the surviving objects project the image Pharaoh wanted us to see, the exhibition also explores the realities and challenges of ruling this dynamic and unique

civilisation. In Temporary Exhibitions Gallery 2 on the second floor, the Museum's collection of Belzoni watercolours sheds light on the layout and decoration of the tomb of pharaoh Seti I and related tomb objects.

£5/£4 concessions/£3 children/Free under 5s. Dates for special offer free days to be confirmed.

#### Wonder in the Desert

The Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Burckhardt's discovery of Petra with the exhibition *Wunder in der Wüste*. Till 17 March 2013. There is also a display in Burckhardt's house of textiles and jewellery from a private Jordanian collection.

#### Expanding Horizons: Giovanni Battista Lusieri and the Panoramic Landscape

Exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery, 30 June–28 October 2012, catalogue published by the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, 2012. ISBN 978 906270 46 9. £24.99

By the time this review comes to print, the exhibition will be over, but the magnificent catalogue will still be available. Lusieri (1754–1821) is a surprisingly little-known figure, given that he was draughtsman and generally right-hand man to Lord Elgin in his Parthenon project, and I hope this publication will do something to rescue the artist from obscurity. Born in Rome, he worked for the first half of his career in Naples and Sicily, and it was in Naples that he developed his techniques of painting panoramas that cover an enormously wide arc, producing watercolours of meticulous detail but also a lovely luminosity that faithfully suggests the quality of Italian light. One panorama he planned in Greece but never executed was to have been twenty-five feet wide, which shows the kind of scale he was prepared to work on. The exhibition included many of his watercolours (including at least one of which the two halves are in different ownership), as well as a lot of his careful and detailed drawings of landscapes and architectural subjects.

It is the second half of his career that is likely to be of most interest to ASTENE members: Lusieri was hired by Lord Elgin when he went as ambassador to Constantinople at the turn of the 18th/19th centuries, and most of the last twenty years of the artist's life were spent in Athens. Frustratingly—and perhaps these are among the reasons he is not better-known—he was too busy in other ways to produce watercolours at the same rate during his Athenian period, and much of the material that he

did produce went down with the *Cambrian* off Crete in 1828. When he first arrived in Athens, his task was to record the Parthenon sculptures, and other Greek works of art, but once Elgin obtained his famous *firman* Lusieri was the man who supervised the removal of the slabs from the building, and their storage, packing and transport, tasks which he carried out with immense care. All these operations were recorded in his account book, which survives in the Elgin family. We are indebted to him for the condition in which the sculptures arrived in England. Without embarking on the arguments about where the Elgin marbles ought to be today, suffice it to say that both Elgin and Lusieri became convinced that the safety and preservation of the sculpture demanded its removal from the building and from the hands of the Turks.

Lusieri was a good classical scholar: a contemporary English traveller, Edward Daniel Clarke, wrote of him that 'Pausanias himself would not have made a better Cicerone', and while in Greece he wrote to an English friend in Italy asking him to send French translations of Herodotus, Thucydides, Pausanias, Plutarch, Homer, Ovid, Sophocles, Euripides and Aeschylus. He acted as guide to Byron, among others. Once he had more or less finished the Parthenon project, Lusieri embarked on a series of excavations, and in 1817 was able to send more than six hundred vases back to Britain. However, in his last years in Athens he was beset by financial and other problems: Elgin himself was in financial difficulties and had to terminate his contract with his artist.

We know what was lost on the *Cambrian* because Lusieri made a list of the drawings he did for Elgin, but many drawings and watercolours do survive, including landscapes, architectural subjects and ships, as well as an enchanting watercolour of a short-haired owl. Although a lot of these are in private hands (many still in the Elgin family), others are in a range of public collections. One of the only two oil paintings known to be extant is the beautiful 'Monument of Philopappos, Athens': this is in the National Gallery in Edinburgh, and is well worth a visit. The catalogue, which includes masses of material about Lusieri's life and times, is splendidly illustrated and a very good second-best to seeing the exhibition itself.

Lucy Pollard



**'Egypt in England' English Heritage Exhibition  
Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, London  
7 November 2012–13 January 2013.**

'Egypt in England' is the second exhibition organised by English Heritage in the revamped Quadriga Gallery on the top two floors of the arch. 'England in Egypt!' enthused the anonymous writer quoted by Chris Elliott in his book on the topic (*Egypt in England*, to be reviewed in the next issue). 'How strange it is that these two countries should in any way be connected! How wonderful that the one should now so powerfully influence the other!'

It is indeed extraordinary in so many ways. Yet when one contemplates the massive bust of Rameses sent down the Nile by Belzoni soon to be displayed to an astonished crowd in the British Museum, it is easy to comprehend the impact (a photograph is at the entrance to the exhibition). The exhibition is arranged on two floors in two smallish rooms constrained by the dimensions of the Arch. On the lower floor 'The Dawn of the Egyptian Style' opens with the 18th century aristocratic fashion for adorning handsomely landscaped gardens with obelisks and pyramids inspired by such relics observed in Rome. But it is of course the effect of the 'rediscovery' triggered by Napoleon's army of savants that is the main concern of the first part of the exhibition. The lower floor looks, mainly via prints and photographs, at the nineteenth century—'Pharaohs in fashion', 'Growing Grandeur', 'Cities of the Dead' (exploring the development of garden cemeteries: for example Kensal Green visited by ASTENE in September). A lot of old ASTENE favourites are here: not only Belzoni but also both Bonomis; the younger made the plaster casts of the Abu Simbel Rameses used for the giants that guarded the entrance to the Crystal Palace Egyptian Court. Louis-Francois Cassas did the drawings used by Jean-Baptiste Huet for his *Toile de Jouy* fabric; examples of Thomas Hope's furniture are displayed alongside some 'interesting' Egypt-inspired candlesticks, a few items from the Sèvres Wellington dinner service, a table clock surmounted by a winged sphinx and so on. The story of Cleopatra's Needle is illustrated with a model of the barge designed to bring it to London (which it nearly didn't) from Alexandria. There's a wonderful little travelling writing box given to John Cook. And an extraordinary husband-and-wife statuette, 1305–1196 BC that once was used as a doorstop in Thomas Cook's Mayfair headquarters.

Then upstairs the exhibition continues with the twentieth century. In the 1930s the fantasy world of the cinema was highlighted by Egyptianised exteriors. Even industrial buildings were given the Egyptian touch, the most recent of which is Sainsbury's Homebase in Kensington. You can also sit down to watch short video clips of the opening of Tutankhamun's tomb or, better still, an excerpt from a song-and-dance act with participants in quaint 'Egyptian' costumes. And while you're up there, don't forget to go outside to savour the magnificent view down the Mall. But ASTENE readers will have to hurry if they are to enjoy this collection of curiosities: the exhibition ends on January 13th.

*Sarah Seairight*

### Conferences, Lectures and Talks

#### Trade, Travel and Transmission in the Medieval Mediterranean

#### Third Biennial Conference of the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, 8-10 July 2013

Confirmed keynote speakers: Prof. David Abulafia (University of Cambridge) and Prof. Carole Hillenbrand (University of Edinburgh)

This three-day inter-disciplinary conference will bring scholars together to explore the interaction of the various peoples, societies, faiths and cultures of the medieval Mediterranean, a region which had been commonly represented as divided by significant religious and cultural differences. The objective of the conference is to highlight the extent to which the medieval Mediterranean was not just an area of conflict but also a highly permeable frontier across which people, goods and ideas crossed and influenced neighbouring cultures and societies.

The deadline for abstracts was 1 December 2012 but members may wish to follow the conference without necessarily presenting a paper.

Subjects will include: the activities of missionary orders; Byzantine and Muslim navies; captives and slaves; cargoes, galleys and warships; costume and vestments; diplomacy; literary contacts and exchanges; scientific exchange, including astronomy, medicine and mathematics; seafaring, seamanship and shipbuilding; trade and pilgrimage; travel writing.

#### Results and Desiderata of the Study and Documentation of the Mnemohistory of Ancient Egypt, 27–30 June 2012, Bibelsaal of the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany

Thanks to Jan Assmann and Florian Ebeling, an inspiring meeting took place in Wolfenbüttel in June 2012. As the workshop title suggests, the legacy and echoes of ancient Egypt were the centre of attention. Papers presented at the meeting encompassed a very broad range of interests.

Egyptian inspirations for the Renaissance and Hermetism were among chief themes, together with the intriguing personality of Athanasius Kircher and baroque Egyptomania. Egypt entered Western culture in many ways, some of them were not only complicated but perhaps unexpected—e.g. Greek and Roman interpretations of late Egyptian culture, which then were adopted by the Islamic world and re-entered the West in the Renaissance era.

For the ASTENE audience, one of the most interesting moments was the rich legacy of Renaissance and early Baroque illustrations of Egyptian monuments, presented in the contribution by Beatrix Gessler-Löhr, ASTENE member. Some of the drawings and etchings were based on observations of objects and buildings found in Italy, others must have relied on accounts of travellers. Icons of Egypt—pyramids and mummies—were among the many themes; representations of statues and also views e.g. of the Saqqara necropolis, showed a remarkable accuracy in detail, even though the complete composition was still very much in debt to period imagination.

Also of special interest, there were presentations dedicated to Egyptian influences in applied arts, e.g. the furniture decorations of the Malmaison—an intimate version of the grand Napoleonic Egyptomania.

Hana Navratilova

#### Mohamed Shafik Gabr

Bryony Llewelyn has recently been involved in the international dialogues which are part of the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation programme on cultural exchanges. ([www.eastwestdialogue.org](http://www.eastwestdialogue.org)) Visit this attractive website to find out more about future events, which are planned in Paris, Istanbul and Cairo in 2013.

Members may know that Mohamed Gabr has an extensive collection of Orientalist paintings, mainly of Egypt (Gerome, Deutsch, Ernst, Bauernfeind, Lewis, Roberts, etc). A book of plates has been published and is available from ACC Distribution. Like many collectors Mohamed Gabr is a successful businessman who is using some of his wealth, including profits from the book, to support libraries and schools in his home country.



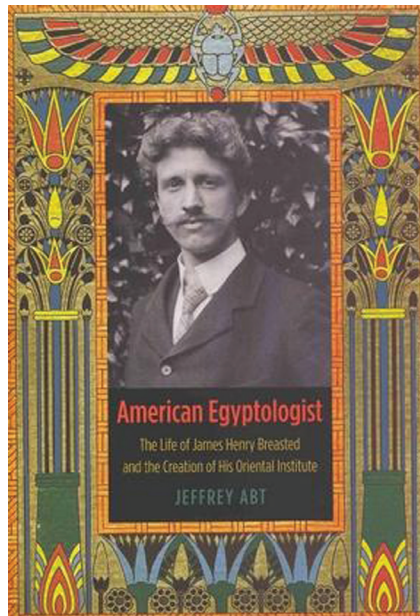
Khufu Pyramid and Sphinx – Keystone c. 1900.  
Copyright 2012 by Photoarchive3D



## 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 at mg@myragreen.f9.co.uk. Readers will note that four of the seven books reviewed below have been written or edited by ASTENE members.

***American Egyptologist. The Life of James Henry Breasted and the Creation of His Oriental Institute.*** By Jeffrey Abt. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2011. Pp. xix+510, illustrated, 4 maps. ISBN 978-0-226-00110-4. £29.



This magisterial biography traces the life of James Henry Breasted (1865–1935), the founding father of American Egyptology. I belong to probably the last generation of Egyptian scholars who regularly used Breasted's publications that are now out-of-date, but his legacy remains the Oriental Institute of Chicago, the power-house of Egyptian epigraphy and archaeology in the Near East both during and after his life-time. Chapter I describes his relatively humble background in rural Illinois in a religious family from whom he learned the virtue of hard work. Trained as a pharmacist, he abandoned this career for his interest in ancient 'oriental' history inspired in part by the Bible. Financed by his parents and supported by his patron William Rainey, a renowned Semitic scholar, he never looked back.

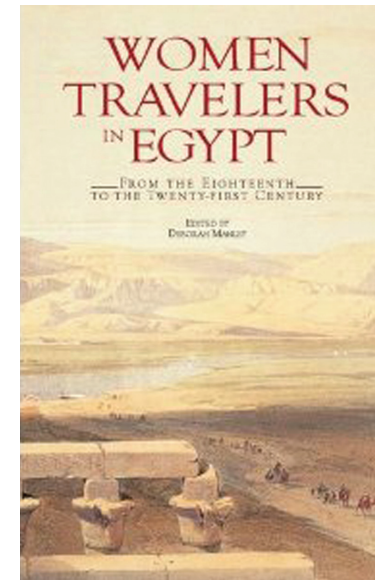
Trained at Yale and then in Germany, he obtained a post in Chicago which became the base of his future operations. This chapter is the most revealing of his personal life showing that he helped to finance his education by preaching and by singing in a popular choir and had several romantic attachments before his marriage, including a broken engagement.

The following chapters fully cover his career in Egyptology and his well-earned success and prestige. The author has assiduously used the Chicago archives to document Breasted's career but one would have liked to know more about the man himself. Possibly there is little to tell as his passion for Egyptology dominated his existence. Yet Breasted must have had a certain charm to obtain the support of the wealthy patrons such as the Rockefellers who enabled him to accomplish his goals. His relations with other scholars both in America and abroad are briefly touched upon, but it would be interesting to learn in greater detail what he thought about them and, more importantly, what they thought about him. His crowning achievement was, of course, the foundation of the Oriental Institute, covering all aspects of Near Eastern archaeology and history, and the story of its creation is fully covered including the choice of name which now seems rather dated but was meant to signify its coverage of the whole of the ancient Near East.

Breasted himself was no archaeologist although he fully appreciated and supported archaeology. Rather he was an expert epigrapher who rightly believed that the recording of the disappearing inscriptions of ancient Egypt was of paramount importance and he pioneered the new technique of tracing on photographic images which has become standard. His work and support resulted in the publication of important historic and religious texts that still continues to this day through the outstanding work of Chicago House in Luxor. His Institute has made, and is still making through its archaeological work, vital contributions to the history of the Near East from Turkey to Iran and is training future generations of Near Eastern scholars and archaeologists. This book fully explores his amazing career and contributions but the personality of the man still remains largely elusive.

*Morris Bierbrier*

***Women Travelers in Egypt from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-first Century,*** edited by Deborah Manley (Cairo, American University of Cairo Press, 2012), 256 pages. £21.50



According to the internet viewed at the end of November, Amazon has sold all its copies of this delightful compilation and is currently awaiting new copies. This is not at all surprising. The book is beautifully presented and laid out; the contents are well organised and the editorship sophisticated and effective. The excerpts are delightful and effectively represent the range of women writers on Egypt from 1779 onwards: a patchwork of voices and testimonies. The amount of research to discover relevant, appropriate snippets and to blend them together must have been phenomenal.

The book is organised into eight sections. These lead the reader from Alexandria in the north of Egypt, to Cairo and up the Nile into Nubia, and into the Desert. Each quotation is provided with a brief subheading, relevant dates and an explanation of the reasons why the extract was included. Furthermore, the snippets are arranged in delightful sequence with appropriate commentaries. The range and variety of topics is fascinating: everything from Harriet Martineau's experience of dust storms in 1848 and Amelia Edwards on Egyptian beetles in 1873, to Rosemary Mahoney rowing south from Elephantine Island in 2006. Every reader will discover their own favourite accounts. Sarah Height on donkey rides through Cairo in 1836; Norma Lorimer's descriptions of a train journey in 1907; Sophia Poole and Harriet Martineau's comments on the Pyramids in the 1840s are all charming.

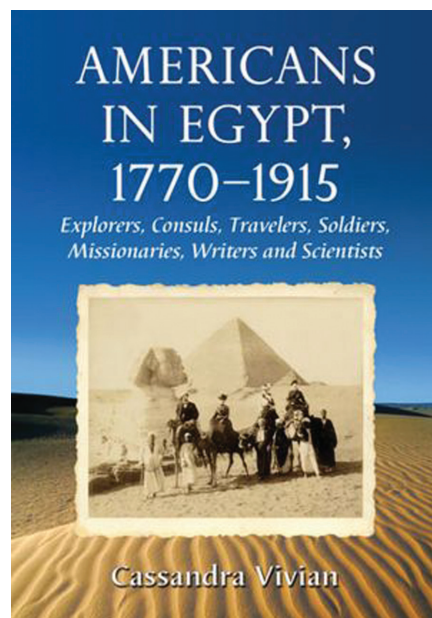
This is a book that serves many purposes: on a basic level it is an excellent book to dip into and select a range of different perspectives provided by many different women. On another level, it reflects the changing place of women travellers over two hundred years; on a third level, perceptive insights on the way of life of modern Egyptians are amply provided. As the editor describes, few travel books mentioned women until the late nineteenth century even though women had been providing observations of exotic ways of life in Egypt from the early part of that century and some even learnt Arabic. One is struck, for example, by the paucity of descriptions in guides such as Baedeker and Murray about what clothes and medicines women should bring with them. Many of the women authors are well-known including the ethnographer Winifred Blackman, economist Harriet Martineau, nurse Florence Nightingale, Amelia Edwards who founded the Egypt Exploration Society and letter-writer Lucie Duff Gordon, but others are less familiar, including Ellen Chennells who was employed by the Egyptian royal family in the 1860s and Bettina Selby, who cycled in the region in the late 1980s. Usefully, brief biographies of all travellers quoted are provided at the end of the book, along with a relevant bibliography and a handy index of travellers.

Over the years, Deborah, who has travelled frequently in the region herself, has consistently provided the reader in many previous publications with an appropriate, delightful and fascinating series of vignettes, perceptive comments and representative snippets from relevant literature. Published by AUC Press, several volumes were edited by Deborah and Sahar Abdel-Hakim and include *Traveling through Egypt* (2004), *Traveling through Sinai* (2006), and *Traveling through the Deserts of Egypt* (2009). In 2010 Deborah published another volume *Malta: A Traveller's Anthology* (Oxford; Signal Books)—reviewed in Bulletin 46. They are all excellent travel-reading companions and, like Deborah's *Women Travelers in Egypt*, effectively evoke travel by bygone travellers. Hopefully the momentum generated by these publications will lead to further volumes about travellers at specific sites and locations, such as Alexandria, Nubia or the Levant: or might include perceptions of professional travellers (soldiers, traders, clerics and diplomats), and of travellers writing in other European and Middle Eastern languages.

*Janet Starkey*



*Americans in Egypt, 1770-1915: Explorers, Consuls, Travelers, Soldiers, Missionaries, Writers and Scientists*, by Cassandra Vivian. McFarland & Company, Jefferson, North Carolina, and London. ISBN 978-0-7864-6304-6. \$55.00



I was delighted when Cassandra's book arrived on my desk. Some time ago I read it in draft—but the real book with pictures is, of course, more exciting. Cassandra, probably more than most of us, travelled through Egypt during her decade there as early travellers travelled—sometimes by camel—and she has published the definitive guide to the Egyptian Western Desert. All those ASTENE members who encouraged her along the way are generously acknowledged.

Cassandra lets her travellers speak with their own voices and there are many quite lengthy quotes of their own accounts, and an excellent bibliography of both books and journals, and many references to my own hero, Henry Salt. She follows the travellers right up the Nile to Senaar at the time of the Egyptian army's expedition in 1820-1. Some readers will have come across Luther Bradish (of the newly formed American Consular Service) and George Bethune English, but there are many others less familiar.

Americans, like others newly arrived in Egypt, faced the rigours of quarantine, stayed in the early hotels and wrote about what they saw, and so more Americans came to see for themselves. Sarah Haight was one of the earliest women to arrive and to write about Egypt, and Cassandra gives us lengthy passages from Sarah's book.

Cassandra has dug long and deep into the diaries, letters, journals and books of early travellers, and she introduces her readers to familiar as well as to almost unknown travellers. On his return from Abyssinia in 1773 James Bruce, for example, met the American John Antes who, later, defended Bruce against his critics.

We have heard talk of the European missionaries—Mary Whateley and the Lieders—yet as Cassandra tells us dozens of women went to Egypt as missionaries, and as she clearly says, missionaries were travellers too. And she provides many excerpts from their writings also.

Of course, as with all foreign powers, the greatest interest in Egypt was with its flourishing economy under Ibrahim Pasha and his descendants. Perhaps surprisingly, in 1832 America appointed an Englishman, John Gliddon, at first as their non-salaried consular agent, but later more formally. But there were not only American consular agents, but secret agents too, spying mainly for commercial opportunities.

To help us along the way, the book has B&W illustrations, early photographs and a splendid chart showing how many days the camel routes took to cross the deserts to Mali and Kano, and from Alexandria to Lake Chad. She also reproduces a plan showing the position of the consular offices in 1868—with the French Consulate conveniently close to the comfortable Hôtel d'Europe.

She includes good information about the consular courts, which allowed miscreants to be judged by their own country's laws—not a matter most travellers wrote about. In the background, of course, is much American history, particularly as it relates to consular work and trade.

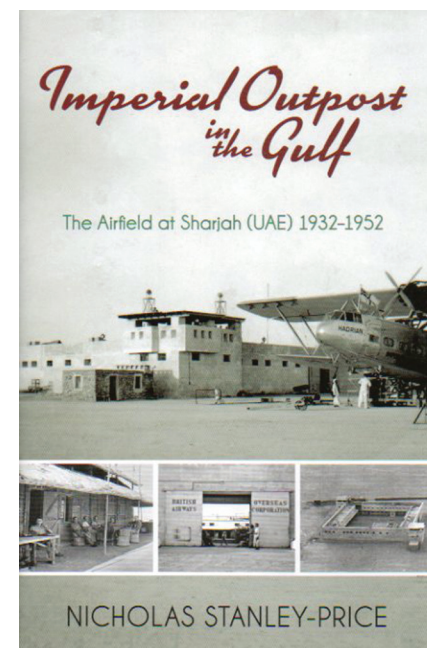
Consuls had to house, feed and help their visiting citizens (who, Cassandra admits, were sometimes 'pampered') and make sure they saw all the sights they wished and had good dahabeeyahs to carry them along the Nile. Pampered some Americans may have been, but others were hardy and some suffered along the way. One Benjamin Brown 'lay on the ground for 44 days with the fever' in one of those little Arab villages but survived to tell his tale. George Gliddon was involved too in matters of early Egypt, writing a booklet, *Ancient Egypt*, which sold over 24,000 copies.

Then came the great American travel writers, Bayard Taylor, who believed himself to be the first American to have flown the Stars and Stripes in Khartoum. Cassandra, with her deep knowledge, challenges him. Next came the explorers led by one Charles Chaillé-Long, consul during the British bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, a matter not much covered by ASTENE.

And then came the scientists. In 1907 the American Museum of Natural History in New York City sent a team of experts to search for fossils in the Fayoum, under the guidance of Pierpont Morgan's nephew, and soon they found the 'Fayoum whale' and the rhinoceros relative *Aristhorium* and much more besides. One of the prizes unearthed by Cassandra in this fascinating book was the 700 typed pages of one Emma B. Andrews, a diary, we are told, 'never to be published.'

Deborah Manley

*Imperial Outpost in the Gulf: The Airfield at Sharjah (UAE) 1932-1952*, by Nicholas Stanley-Price. Book Guild Publishing, 2012. ISBN 978 1 84624 684 5. £17.99



Do I, or do I not, correctly remember 'Smile, you are at Sharjah' emblazoned on white-washed stonework beside the runway? I certainly went to see this venerable, but by then seldom used, airstrip in 1962, over the desert from Ibri in Oman, then a two-day drive over sand to reach the Trucial Shaikhdoms. Sharjah Airfield was a historic feature, worthy of a visit.

Indeed, as this account well describes in its early chapters, the negotiations leading to the establishment in 1932 of the Airfield and Rest House for Imperial Airways as a staging post on its flying route to India and Australia led to the first penetration of western influence into the Trucial States, which had hitherto lived in their preferred isolation, bringing the first seeds of internal change and business opportunities. (Oil concession activities followed considerably later.) There was much family opposition to the idea before Shaikh Sultan Al Qassimi was persuaded to sign the air station Agreement with the Political Resident in the Gulf, H.R.P. Dickson himself.

In the two decades following the First World War, air travel was slow; the Handley Page biplanes used by Imperial Airways averaged 100 mph; from England it took three days to reach Baghdad and a further night stop was required to continue to Karachi, since the standard of luxury for passengers en route proscribed night flying. And besides passengers, the carriage of mails by air was a vital and lucrative service. Sharjah was selected after a decade of surveys by the RAF (for flying boats) and civil aviation protagonists of alternative means and routes, involving protracted negotiations with Persia and elsewhere, all described in intriguing detail. Thus was built a secure fort-cum-hotel, secluded from traditional Sharjah town and creek, providing every comfort for passengers through the 1930s until the airline's imperial ways were modernised by its incorporation into BOAC in 1940. (Recommended short video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v7f7Epn058> )

With the outbreak of WWII, Sharjah airfield acquired a strategic importance and the Agreement with the Ruler was amended to include the RAF and BOAC with expanded facilities for RAF personnel and war materiel. It became a crucial link between RAF bases in Egypt, Iraq, Aden and India, the base for an RAF Squadron and its aircraft, and used for refuelling and the transit of military reinforcements and equipment en route to the Far Eastern theatre of war, functions shared also by units of the United States air transport forces. After the War, RAF Sharjah was maintained, albeit on much reduced scale, and in 1950 the airstrip was extended for use by jet aircraft.

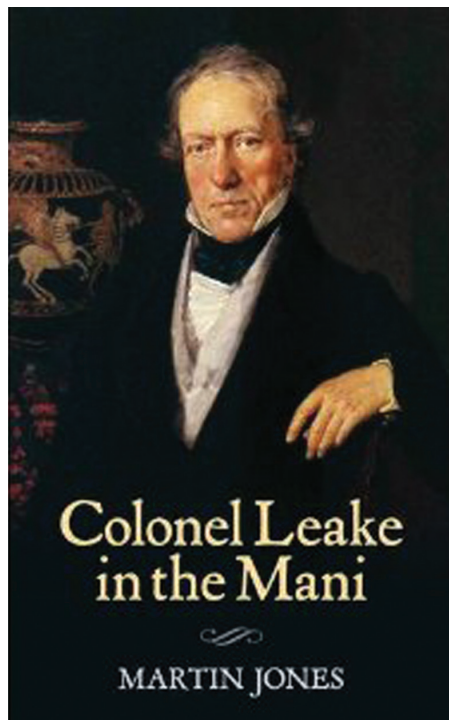
The events described and illustrated in this book, specifically limited to the 20 years 1932-1952, have been most thoroughly researched and are



full of interest. The author presents an unexpected but intriguing episode in history, not only of the expansion of aviation in that early period but also of the impact of western influence and its gradual acceptance by the indigenous society. However, life for the service personnel involved in all the various activities at Sharjah Airfield during this period meant privations in an extreme climate; no wonder they had cause to remind themselves to 'smile'.

Julian Lush

**Colonel Leake in the Mani: A Digest of Chapters 7, 8 and 9 of William Martin Leake's Travels in the Morea (London, 1830), by Martin Jones. Book Guild Publishing, hardback 2012. 150 pp. ISBN 978-1-84624-784-2. £12.95**



I looked forward to reading Martin Jones' book. My doctorate is on the Mani region of southern Greece and I am writing a biography of Colonel Leake. Sadly, I was disappointed. Jones does a competent job in condensing the three chapters from Volume 1 of Leake's Travels in the Morea where he describes his fourteen-day journey through the Mani in April, 1805. He does this mainly through stripping out Leake's scholarly discussion of the ancient topography of the region and summarising his rather dry text. His aim is to make more accessible Leake's remarkable description of life in the Mani two hundred years ago. The result is a pleasant read, enlivened by 14 illustrations, mostly near-contemporary engravings of views in the region.

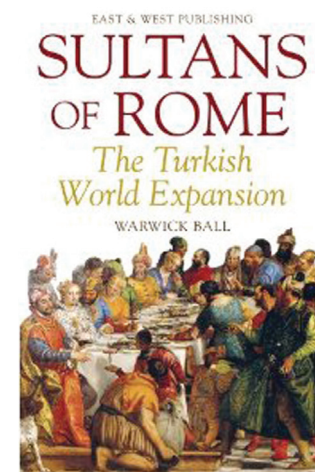
My disappointment came with the detail of the chronological table, material in the introduction and the outline of the history of the Mani before Leake's visit, as well as items in the glossary. These are full of mistakes. They will irritate the specialist reader because of the contradictions involved and lead the unwary into serious error about both Leake and also early nineteenth-century Greece. A few examples will illustrate the point. In the chronological table Jones calls his subject William Henry Leake. As far as I am aware, Leake's only given name was William and, strictly speaking, the family name is Martin Leake. The battle in which Leake commanded guns was at El Hanka in Egypt and not at Gaza. Sir John Moore visited the Ottoman Army in Palestine but he did not command the British Military Mission attached to it (pp. xx, xxi and 5). In the Introduction (p.4) Jones tells us that Leake's grandfather held 'an important post in the Admiralty' but he was, in fact, Garter King of Arms. Leake's great-grandfather, Captain Stephen Martin, was a naval officer but never worked as an Admiralty official. Martin added Leake to his name when his brother-in-law, Admiral Sir John Leake, died and he inherited most of his property. On p. 69 Leake quotes Coronelli and Jones identifies him as 'a medieval traveller'. He was in fact Father Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718), Cosmographer to the Serene Republic of Venice.

Jones also wrongly translates various terms. For example, a *hodji-bashi* (sic) was not a pilgrim to Mecca, if a Muslim, or to Jerusalem, if a Christian, but a powerful individual. Notable or Primate would be a near equivalent. Someone who had completed the Pilgrimage was, and is, known as *hadji*. *Agoyates* is not a coachman but post boys (plural), ie. men responsible for looking after the horses or mules hired by travellers from one and returning them to their post house. In this context magazines, were not munition stores but stores used either for boat and fishing gear or for goods being imported or exported.

The book is handy in size and nicely presented, but it is let down by careless or hasty editing and readers should be aware of this.

Malcolm Wagstaff

**Sultans of Rome: the Turkish World Expansion, by Warwick Ball. Vol. 3 of Asia in Europe and the Making of the West. London East & West Publishing, 2012, ISBN 978 1 907318 05 4. £15.95**



Warwick Ball is a man of enormous energy. He has 'archaeologised' all over the Middle East, including Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. He has written copiously on Syria. And from the point of view of Volume 3 in this quartet of his views of the impact of East on West—*Sultans of Rome: the Turkish World Expansion*—he has travelled far and wide across the worlds he describes. Vol 1—*Out of Arabia*—mainly dealt with the travels of the Phoenicians and the early-to-medieval Arabs; Vol 2—*Towards One World*—dealt with the Iranian world; and Vol 4, when it comes, will cover the Eurasian steppe. They are all succinct, maybe occasionally too much so; only one reaches the 200 page mark.

Anyone who has travelled with Warwick will recognise the style. He often leads the tours he sets up under the title 'Eastern Approaches', and to some extent the books bring together the thorough notes which he supplies to his travellers. Indeed he thanks the numerous fellow travellers 'who have had to endure my talking of many of the ideas expressed in this book' led on, he says, by 'their inexhaustible curiosity.'

The cover of Sultans is a detail of a painting by Veronese, 'The wedding at Cana', showing Suleyman the Magnificent seated at a banquet also attended by Charles V of Spain, Eleanor of Austria who was also queen of Portugal and France, her husband Francis I and many other potentates. And half of the account deals with the Turks in Europe, directed from Constantinople, but here referred to as 'Rome'. However, it is the first half of the book which for me is the most impressive, in which the author deftly sorts out the tribal world of the early-to-medieval Turkish peoples as they marched out of their homelands in the forests of Siberia across the inner Eurasian steppe, through what was once

known as Chinese Turkestan (now Xinjiang), through Afghanistan and the other 'stans' of the ex-Soviet Union ultimately into Anatolia. I feel breathless just describing the scope as he sorts out the tribal ramifications. The bibliography is an indication of the author's ferocious appetite for, and ability to digest a remarkable and enviable range of authorities. Yes, the account is a bit of a rush and the assumptions, conclusions abstractions could be elaborated a little more. But as a synthesis of Turkish history and its profound impact on Europe, it is a remarkable achievement. It may even encourage ASTENE members to join him on an 'eastern approach'.

Sarah Searight

**L'Égypte Dessinée, by Bruno Cassiers. Grez Doiceau, Lycaons, 2012. Pb, 319 pp, no ISBN number. 66 €**

Bruno Cassiers has produced an interesting, and in several respects pioneering, book which occasionally provides a few challenges for those interested in the history of travel and exploration of Egypt between the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. It is satisfying to be able to state that the time has, at last, arrived when the interest and value of early records of Egypt, such as drawings, watercolours and photographs, are being generally recognized. For some they are primarily works of art in the romantic and occasionally slightly titillating Orientalist tradition while others regard them as an important testimony to the Egypt of their day and a potential source of 'hard core' information for Egyptologists, Islamic and Coptic art historians and social anthropologists. Books which make use of such early records are increasing in number and *L'Égypte Dessinée* is a distinguished addition to the genre. It has not come as a complete surprise: we were alerted to its gestation by the paper which the author gave at the ASTENE biennial conference in Oxford in 2011.

Those who acquire this substantial volume of 319 pages get value for their money. There is a good-size image, often in colour, on almost every 24.5 by 27 cm page, accompanied by a succinct text specifically referring to the image. Cassiers is informative without descending into over-specialized discussion. Although organized into chapters, there is no continuous narrative as such except in the 'Introduction'. The author has tried to use as much as possible the original artwork gleaned from archives and similar institutions rather than reproductions



which appeared in contemporary publications. The selection of the drawings clearly aims at originality. Many of the artists are not so well known, and quite a few of them are, at least for me, new. Particularly noteworthy are the drawings by those accompanying Napoleon's expedition, such as François Cécile, Nicolas Jacques Conté and André Dutertre. Howard Carter's 'The sailmakers' bazaar', dating to 1906, i.e. the period between his resignation from the Antiquities Service following the Saqqara bust-up and the beginning of his association with Lord Carnarvon, is interesting because it shows his skills as an artist. Among the images published for the first time are the views of Kom Ombo, probably by Robert Hay, and of Dabod by Charles Barry, and a panoramic view of Philae, probably by Frederic Catherwood. True to the book's title, no photographs have been included.

There is an 'Introduction' (pp. 9–12), nine chapters which divide the material geographically (pp. 13–275) and a tenth chapter which reproduces some memorable passages from books by early travellers, especially Amelia Edwards (pp. 277–87). The Annexes on pp. 289–317 are particularly valuable. There is a list of sites and monuments with indications of which artists worked there, a chronologically arranged list of 166 artists active in Egypt between 1737 and 1934, a list of sources of the images reproduced, a list of books, starting with de Bruyne's *Voyage au Levant* published in 1700, which contain images of Egypt, an index of authors of such publications, and a list showing where the main collections of the original drawings are kept. The book can thus be approached from several different starting points.

Geographical limits of the book are defined by Cairo in the north and Abu Simbel in the south. I must confess that this I find somewhat perplexing: most of the travellers to Egypt arrived by sea in Alexandria and from there then proceeded to Cairo and further south. The absence of Alexandria, with its harbours, obelisks and Pompey's Pillar, can only be explained by the author's preferences for images of buildings or by practical difficulties which he faced when making his own sketches. The Delta sites, on the whole, were less attractive for early artists and so, understandably, their complete absence in the book is due to the lack of early coverage. The area between Cairo and Thebes (Chapter 5) has only a limited selection of sites. Surprisingly, there are no images of the Great Sphinx at Giza, mirroring a similar lack of interest by Herodotus some 2,500 years earlier.

Chapter 8 ('Between Thebes and Aswan') includes the only Coptic monument, the monastery of Apa Simeon at Aswan.

Almost all illustrations in the book are accompanied by Cassiers's own drawings, over a hundred of them, made between 1991 and 2009. These show the monuments in their present state and make the book special. The buildings on Cassiers's sketches are, of course, 'cleaned up', without the blemishes and minor injuries brought about by the passing of time, but a picture often says more than a thousand words and makes the comparison between old and contemporary easier. The idea is not new but, as far as I know, this is the first substantial attempt at comparing old records with the current state of monuments. There are also very useful and beautifully clear maps and plans, for example of Cairo, Karnak, Luxor, the Theban West Bank and Nubia.

One thing which attracts one's attention immediately is the unusually large number of illustrations of Islamic monuments: four chapters out of nine, i.e. nearly a half. This probably correctly reflects the attention paid to them by the early artists, at least partly encouraged by the relative ease with which the drawings could be made. In the same way, practicalities were probably decisive when the author was making his own sketches.

Cassiers's 'Introduction' occupies a mere four pages but contains several perceptive observations. One of them concerns the relationship between drawings and photographs, and here he introduces a word of caution into the use of drawings as a source of information on the state of monuments. The definition of the artist's aims behind many of them, given by the French painter Eugène Fromentin as 'to seek the truth above the exactitude', should be a warning to many uncritically enthusiastic scholars. To recognize how far an old visual record can be trusted is one of the main difficulties facing an archive researcher. The author also points out the pitfalls of trusting too much engravings or lithographs in contemporary publications: they were often made by engravers or lithographers who had no experience of Egypt.

This is a carefully prepared and attractively produced book. It is a joy to read or just to browse through and one will want to return to it on many occasions in the future.

Jaromir Malek

## QUERIES AND REPLIES

### David Kennedy writes:-

One of the interesting groups to visit Petra in 1901 were Emily Hornby and her two sisters. Some of the group had evidently been 'East of the Jordan' before. Emily kept a diary and one of her sisters subsequently published it privately as a book: Hornby, E. (1906) *Sinai and Petra. The Journals of Emily Hornby in 1899 and 1901*, London (James Nesbit). Her diaries for a previous Nile trip and for Alpine mountaineering had previously been published. I have been unable to find anything more about the Hornby sisters. Can anyone help? Are they related to Lady Emilia Bithynia Hornby?

Roger De Keersmaecker asks if there has not historically been some confusion over the names and identity of Messrs Godfrey and Wyse. His next book in the series *Travellers' Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan* contains a graffito of Godfrey Wyse 1819 which looks as if there is only one traveller, though Henry Salt refers to two (see Salt's biography by Deborah Manley and Peta Rée): *on 13 January, just above Korosko, they encountered another party of Europeans. Of these men, Wyse, Godfrey, Baillie and Barry... In Syria, they joined forces with Godfrey and Wyse, who had been up the Nile as far as the second cataract, and were now on their return down river. And in Astene Bulletin Number 41, p. 9, in the article 'Was Hugh Baillie really there in 1818', by Deborah Manley.*

Can anyone confirm whether or not there were two separate people involved, or does anyone have biographical information on a single person named Godfrey Wyse?

### New member Dr Tim Clayden writes:-

I have recently published a paper (al-Rafidan, 2010) on travel accounts of the ruins outside Baghdad of the Kassite Period (c. 1500–1150 BC) of the city Dur-Kurigalzu. The remains consist of a ziggurat and temple complex and until the 17th century was mistaken by European travellers as the Tower of Babylon. I am now writing a book about the history and archaeology of the site. The site has been under excavation since 1942 and most especially in the 60s and 70s. There have been some excavation reports, but they are sparse and illustrations and plans sparser yet. The site, just 30kms outside Baghdad, was a tourist spot and many people visited. I would

be very interested in any photographs your readers might have of the site. I do not mind what they are of or the quality, but I would like to see them. Can any ASTENE members help?

In his *Incidents of Travel* the American traveller John Lloyd Stephens recorded that in 1836 he met a Mr T., an engineer in the Pasha's service, who had 'an interesting wife—the only English lady there'. Is anything known of this lady and her life in Egypt?

### More on Wayman Dixon

Ian Pearce is still working on the life of Wayman Dixon (1844–1930), an English civil engineer who lived and worked in Egypt from 1871 to 1877. Ian has sent in the following summary and query. Dixon surveyed parts of the Great Pyramid for Charles Piazzi Smyth, discovered the twin 'ventilating shafts' from the Queen's Chamber and, with his brother Jon Dixon (1835–1891), brought Cleopatra's Needle from Alexandria to London. While he was in Egypt, Wayman wrote letters home, and many of these are now owned by Dr Bob Brier in New York (see Bulletin 47). In the letters Wayman mentions ninety individuals, most of whom I have been able to trace (he generally only gives one name, so tracking them down hasn't been too easy). They include academics, artists, people in government positions, fellow engineers and friends from England. There are a few names that still elude me, and I hope that there will be some ASTENE members who might be able to help:

**'Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Atkinson'** This is the most frustrating mystery since there is quite a lot of information about this couple in the letters. He was from the north-east of England and was married to a lady from Rouen in France. They had a son named Edward Atkinson, who was about 22 years of age. Matthew Atkinson was apparently working on the barrage. Wayman refers to him once as "old Atkinson Bey" but whether he officially held this title is open to question.

**'Dr. Barnard of the Am. University'** That's all I have by way of description. The present American University in Cairo was founded in 1919, so the "Am. University" is a mystery.



**'Mr. Falconer'** He may have worked for the P&O shipping company in Alexandria.

**'Mr. and Mrs. Matthewson'** Described by Waynman as old friends of his in Egypt.

**'Shadwell'** He may have been on the staff of the Alexandria to Cairo Railway.

**'Shaw'** He was a businessman or engineer who had been working with Waynman and went bankrupt.  
**'Mr. and Mrs. Toole'** They may have just been fleeting visitors to Egypt.

**'Poor Wyke'** He was about to get married, in Egypt, a predicament which gained him Waynman's sympathies.

Please send any information about the identities of the above people to Ian Pearce at [ianandsuepearce@btinternet.com](mailto:ianandsuepearce@btinternet.com) with copies to the Bulletin Editors.

### Who brought Asru to Manchester?

A recent article in the Guardian (24 Nov 2012) reported that the mummies in the Manchester

University Museum (on show now in "Ancient Worlds" free daily) had been scanned in the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital—at night when the scanners were infrequently used. The scans revealed that Asru, the temple singer, suffered serious arthritis in her neck, and the wrappings of another mummy hid a jumble of bones—but no brain. Asru came to the Museum in 1825 with her elaborate double coffins having been brought to England by E and W Garratt. Does anyone know any more about who they were?  
<http://www.ancient-egypt.co.uk/manchester/pages/asru%203.htm>

Deborah Manley

My eye was caught by the Query in ASTENE Bulletin 53 about the name of George T. Little of Boden College, Remington, Maine, (query from Deborah Manley) since "Boden" seems to be a phonetic form of Bowdoin College in Maine, USA. According to his obituary notice in the New York Times (August 17, 1915), George T. Little died aged 53 having been the Librarian at Bowdoin for 32 years. He was a graduate of Bowdoin and had taught Latin there before becoming Librarian in 1885.

Nicholas Stanley-Price



'The Climbers', from *The Light Side of Egypt*, by Lance Thackeray, Adam and Charles Black (London, 1912).

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Egyptology North Team announces publication of the latest Newsletter. To read it online you can visit this link: <http://egyptology-north.co.uk/newsletters/life-from-inside-a-brand-new-society-tiny-tripods-and-a-wet-squeeze/?lang=en>.

The web catalogue of the exhibition, *Archaeologists and Travellers in Ottoman Lands*, from the University of Pennsylvania Museum is now available at <http://www.ottomanlands.com/>.

### Facebook and Alessandro Ricci

In trying to access a site devoted to the physician, traveller and draughtsman Alessandro Ricci (ca 1795–1834), which was advertised by The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities, we discovered that it could only be viewed through Facebook, to which not all ASTENE members will be subscribers. However, some information is also available on Daniele Salvoldi's blog site *Early Explorers in Egypt and Nubia* (See Bulletin 51) <http://earlyexplorersegypy.blogspot.co.uk>. On the same site you will find links to a posting by Andrew Oliver about the American presence in Egypt and to an account of Italians in Egypt.

Paula Sanders' digital *Travelers in the Middle East Archive* (TIMEA):

[http://timea.rice.edu/index.\\*\\*html](http://timea.rice.edu/index.**html) <<http://timea.rice.edu/index.html> contains wonderful art history resources, including digital scans of the following 19th century Cairo museum catalogues (just to name a few):

Album du Musée de Boulaq [Electronic Version] ; [Album of the Boulaq Museum] Creator: Mariette, Auguste, 1821-1881 ; Delie, Hippolyte ; Bechard, Emile Date: 1872

Catalogue of the National museum of Arab art [Electronic Version] Creator: Herz, Max, 1856-1919 Date: 1896

Exposition universelle de 1867. Description du Parc égyptien. [Electronic Edition] ; The Universal Exposition of 1867. Description of the Egyptian Exhibition. Creator: Mariette, Auguste, 1821-1881 Date: 1867

BANEA now has a Facebook page. It is a public page so anyone can post items of interest, news, lectures or events. <http://www.facebook.com/BANeareastarch>

### TRAVEL WRITING: FACT OR FICTION?

**In Bulletin 53 we announced that in addition to our usual mix of individual papers we shall be holding a plenary session and workshop at the Aston conference on the subject of Travel Writing: Fact or Fiction?**

On his return, James Bruce's account of Ethiopia was not believed, and others should not have been believed. What are the influences on travel writing and how far can it be trusted? We invite 10-minute contributions for a discussion on this subject. If you wish to participate, please send a brief note on the subject with the abstract of your paper. In this context the following publications may generate some ideas about the way in which travel writing has become a subject for analysis and debate:

*Travellers from Europe in the Ottoman and Safavid Empires, 16th–17th Centuries: Seeking, Transforming, Discarding Knowledge*  
Sonja Brentjes, University of Seville, Spain.  
Variorum Collected Studies.

This collection of articles by Sonja Brentjes published in 2010 deals with travels, encounters and the exchange of knowledge in the Mediterranean and Western Asia during the 16th and 17th centuries, focusing on three issues. The first is how we should understand the relationship between Christian and Muslim societies, in the period between the translations from Arabic into Latin (10th–13th centuries) and before the Napoleonic invasion of Ottoman Egypt (1798). The second concern is the "Western" discourse about the decline or even disappearance of the sciences in late medieval and early modern Islamic societies and, third, the construction of Western Asian natures and cultures in Catholic and Protestant books, maps and pictures. The articles discuss institutional and personal relationships, describe how Catholic or Protestant travellers learned about and accessed Muslim scholarly literature, and uncover contradictory modes of reporting, evaluating or eradicating the visited cultures and their knowledge. Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com) (Online orders receive a discount.)



***Impressions of Ottoman Culture in Europe:  
1453-1699***

**Nurhan Atasoy and Lale Uluc**

The Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) and ARMAGGAN Publications

have published *Impressions of Ottoman Culture in Europe: 1453-1699* by Nurhan Atasoy, TCF Senior Scholar in Residence, and her co-author Lale Uluc. This book is the culmination of a six-year research project by the authors conducted in 14 countries under the sponsorship of TCF. Written originally in English, the book has been published in Turkish and English editions. The book explores the multi-faceted cultural influences and the impressions of Ottoman material culture on Europe in the early modern age when the expansion of Ottoman territory created common borders and intensive political, diplomatic and trade ties with Europe.

***The History of the Peoples of the Eastern Desert*  
Edited by Hans Barnard**

Janet Starkey has been involved in both the Red Sea Project (now based at Exeter University) and the Eastern Desert project. The book resulting from the Eastern Desert project has now appeared (<http://www.archbase.org/ED/>) As well as the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology UCLA, the Netherlands Flemish Institute in Cairo was also involved in this

project. (See Bulletin 52). The book is over 500 pages and comes with a CD-ROM with sound and video fragments as well as the complete bibliography (Chapter 32) in pdf-format.

The last quarter century has seen extensive research on the ports of the Red Sea coast of Egypt, the road systems connecting them to the Nile, and the mines and quarries in the region. Missing has been a systematic study of the peoples of the Eastern Desert—the area between the Red Sea and the Nile Valley—in whose territories these ports, roads, mines, and quarries were located. The historical overview of the Eastern Desert in the shape of a roughly chronological narrative presented in this book fills that gap. Topics addressed include specific historical periods, natural resources, nomadic survival strategies, ancient textual data, and the interaction between Christian hermits and their neighbours. The collection provides a comprehensive outline of the history and sociology of the Eastern Desert. It will be the essential starting point for future research on the Eastern Desert. More information at [www.archbase.org](http://www.archbase.org) and [www.barnard.nl/fotos.html](http://www.barnard.nl/fotos.html).

The Gorgias Press in New Jersey now has a series entitled the 'Gorgias Ottoman Travellers' series, of which so far four volumes have appeared, including: Eleftheria Arapoglou, *A Bridge Over the Balkans: Demetra Vaka Brown and the Tradition of "Women's Orients"* (vol. 4)

Helene Pignot, *Christians under the Ottoman Turks: French and English Travellers in Greece and Anatolia (1615-1694)* (vol. 2).

Their website is [www.gorgiaspress.com](http://www.gorgiaspress.com).

## FOOTPRINTS

### **A Party of Early Canadian Travellers Tour the Nile**

It is fair to say that Canadians are not well known as travellers to Egypt. This is partly because Canada joined the game a little late—at the time of Napoleon's landmark expedition in 1798, Captain George Vancouver was mapping Canada's west coast for the first time, and it only became a country in 1867.

Nevertheless, a group of people making their homes in what would in a few years become Canada played a significant role in bringing the ancient Egyptian culture to a new land. Artefacts collected by members of this group can be found today in McGill University's Redpath Museum in Montreal, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, a small private collection in Ottawa, New York's Metropolitan Museum, the Carlos Museum at Emory University and probably the Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University, Kingston. Quebec City may also house a few of their souvenirs.

Details of this joint excursion have been pieced together by the project 'In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada/À la recherche de l'Égypte ancienne au Canada'. Sponsored by the Toronto-based Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA/SEEA), its initial goal was to identify and document ancient Egyptian material in publicly accessible Canadian institutions. This broadened to include the story of how the material came to be in Canada.

The central figure in this group of travellers was Dr. James Douglas, a Scottish-born physician who arrived in Quebec City in 1826 and became one of the leading surgeons in North America. He first visited Egypt in 1851 with his family. Partly for health reasons—the reputedly beneficial effects of Egypt's dry air—he would over-winter there on a fairly regular basis for the next decade. Douglas came to the public attention in 2006, when he was identified as central to the original acquisition of the so-called Niagara Falls mummies, one of which was subsequently identified as possibly that of Ramesses I and returned to Egypt.

In 1857, Douglas extended an invitation to his niece Mary Macdonald and his wife's nephew George

Dalrymple Ferguson, to join him on his *dahabiyeh*. Added to the party were the Rev. Dr. Lachlan Taylor and James Ferrier and family. Ferrier was a Montreal businessman and former Mayor, who would later become one of Canada's first senators. Taylor, Ferrier and Douglas all shared their Scottish birth and Methodist religion. The party arrived in Egypt in late December 1858 and travelled up and down the Nile until late March of 1859.

While no fascinating early drawings resulted, their activities were documented in a number of ways – a hand-written diary by Taylor (unpublished), letters written home by Mary Macdonald, a privately published account by James Ferrier that sadly omits the Egyptian portion of the trip, and an account written by James Douglas Sr. and Jr. called *Honeymoon on the Nile*, composed after a subsequent trip in 1861. Also, in a private collection, are several photographs, which apparently were taken by James Douglas Jr. As far as we can determine, these have yet to be published. Taylor spoke widely in Canada about his travels in the two years following his return, typically accompanied by the mummy he purchased in Thebes, which is displayed at the Royal Ontario Museum. Ferrier's "souvenirs" are housed at the Redpath Museum of McGill University in Montreal. The large Douglas collection is largely at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. One hoped-for result of the research is a publication drawing from these sources.

Anyone interested is invited to contact Mark Trumpour at [trumpoma@msn.com](mailto:trumpoma@msn.com). More on the "In Search..." project in general can be found on-line at <http://sseamontrealvip.homestead.com>.

*Mark B. Trumpour*

### **The Old Town of Siwa**

Deb Manley sends in an account (possibly by Mr Browne, a traveller in Egypt at the end of the 18th century, or possibly by an author who collected material from others' accounts rather than travelling himself) which provides a footnote to Edward Lewis's report in Bulletin 53 of house building in Siwa. It comes from *The Modern Traveller*, published in 1827 by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh.

### The History of the Peoples of the Eastern Desert



Edited by  
Hans Barnard  
and  
Kim Duistermaat

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

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The external appearance of the town of Siwah is striking and singular, as well as its internal arrangement. It is built upon a low conical rock of testaceous limestone, and, both in form and in its crowded population, bears a resemblance to a bee-hive. The streets, narrow and crooked, are like staircases; and are so dark from the overhanging storeys, that the inhabitants use a lamp at noon-day.

In the centre of the town the streets are generally 5 feet broad and about eleven feet high, but others are so low that you must stoop to pass through them. Each house has several storeys, the upper communicating with the lower by galleries and chambers which cover the streets. The number of storeys visible is three or four, and is, on the whole five or six.

On every marriage the father builds a lodgement for his son above his own, so that the town is continually rising higher. The external walls of the town are inclined, and are flanked by towers. They form nearly a square about 400 yards in circumference, with between twelve and fifteen gates. There are three wells within the walls, one of sweet, and two of brackish water.

The town is divided into two quarters: the upper town is inhabited only by married people, women and children; the lower by widowers and youths, who, although allowed to go into the other quarter by day, must retire at dusk under penalty of a fine. One wonders what the Siwans made of travellers who actually penetrated the beehive and wrote reports such as that above...

Deb Manley also sends this piece of advice from an English-Arabic Conversational Dictionary, undated:-

## At the Dealer's in Oriental Objects

When purchasing oriental articles the greatest precaution should be exercised. These dealers are almost without exception the craftiest of crafty Orientals.

Above all do not be misled by the mien of simplicity and honesty displayed in a masterly manner, nor by the numerous assertions and oaths supporting the look.

Unless the traveller has a penetrating and experienced eye, or some knowledge of goods and antiquities, he will do well not to make purchases himself; the Oriental at once knows the inexperienced buyer and will take as much advantage of him as possible.

Not that it is much safer to choose as companion one of the numerous 'dragomans' and 'commissionaires' lolling about the hotels and their neighbourhood, for these people receive their percentage from the dealer, according to the support they have given him in draining the tourist's purse.

But there are also certain reliable persons to be found out by inquiry on the spot; for instance by application to one of the English mercantile establishments in one of the larger towns of Syria or Egypt.

Special care should be taken in buying *antikats*, plural of *antika*, implying all kinds of antiquities, (including coins and curiosities), for the country abounds with numerous falsifications and imitations which are chiefly made in Europe, although old coins are also forged in the East with great skill.\*

\*My daughter once picked up what the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford identified as a 12th century coin on the path crossing the site at Palmyra—where people must have walked for centuries...



'Luxor from the Water', from *Letters from the East*, by William Cullen Bryant, G.P. Putnam & Son (New York, 1869). Bryant (1794–1878) was an American poet and, for many years, editor of the *New York Evening Post*. In 1853 he spent four months exploring the cities of the Ottoman Empire.



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.

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