

ASTENE

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

BULLETIN



NOTES AND QUERIES

NUMBER 57: AUTUMN 2013

Bulletin: Notes and Queries

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Editor: Robert Morkot

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Submissions for the next Bulletin must be received by **7 December 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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Students: £15 (proof of student status required)
Library subscriptions: £20

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Please send all membership correspondence by email to membership@astene.org.uk.

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ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2013

As you read this, ASTENE will be 18 years old (that is if you count the years from the first Conference which took place in Durham over the weekend of 16-19 July 1995). In 1995, 70 people interested in travellers to Egypt and the Near East arrived in Durham from 10 countries and over three days they listened to 36 lectures. Today ASTENE has a membership of about 250, and this year over 80 people from 12 countries will attend the Conference in Birmingham to hear 66 lectures over three days. The Conference in Birmingham is the result of hard work put in over the last year by Patricia Usick, with help from Neil Cooke, Sheila McGuirk and Janet Starkey.

The Conference in Birmingham will also include the launch of the latest ASTENE book titled *Souvenirs and New Ideas*. This is the twelfth volume of conference papers published under the ASTENE banner. That another book has been published in time for the conference is again down to the hard work of Diane Fortenberry with help from Jaromir Malek and Deborah Manley. Talks have already begun with Oxbow Publishers for the next volume of ASTENE conference papers.

While on the subject of publishing, the Committee has decided that in the year between conferences ASTENE will hold The *T G H James Memorial Essay Prize* competition. The aim of the competition is to encourage young people under the age of 25 having an interest in Egypt and the Near East to learn more about the lives and the challenges of those who have travelled in the area over the centuries. The winner will receive 2 years membership of ASTENE and a Bursary to attend the next Conference. Their essay will either be published in the *Bulletin* or in the next volume of conference papers.

Although many members reside in the UK, ASTENE is really an international organisation. Since 1995 contact with and between members has been maintained through the quarterly *Bulletin*. For the past year or two this has continued to appear because of the hard work of Sheila and Russell McGuirk. The different issues of the Bulletin have been edited by Sheila and Russell McGuirk and Robert Morkot. However, to help the Bulletin evolve

and offer a wider range of topics, any member who would like to edit one, two, or more issues of the Bulletin either now or in the future is invited to contact Sheila and Russell McGuirk to find out what would be required of them.

Back in 1995, and thanks to Janet Starkey, ASTENE was among the first small organisations to have a website. In the last couple of years it has been realised that the software originally used has its limitations. For example, it was not easy to make available to members through the website copies of all the earlier *Bulletins*. In 2012 the Committee took the decision to use newer software and create a website with a modern appearance that would be easier to maintain and update. The switch from the old to the new website was made at the start of 2013 and, hopefully, members will have been logging-on and using it. The redesigned website is largely down to the hard work of Janet Rady who has worked on the design with WISS, the company that hosts the ASTENE website. As designed, the new website is able to have new subject areas added quite easily. As the website is there to benefit members, everybody is invited to make suggestions and provide additional material for inclusion.

In addition to the *Bulletin* and website, the Committee has adopted Mailchimp as a way to send out more regular information to members by e-mail. Mailchimp is a faster way of providing information about dates, times and venues, for exhibitions and lectures and other events that may be of interest to ASTENE members, and which may have ended by the time the details appear in the next *Bulletin*. Again, Janet Rady has been hard at work on this, but it does rely on members keeping ASTENE up-to-date with changes to their e-mail addresses.

Another feature of benefit to ASTENE members that is soon to be added to the website is a FORUM. Through the FORUM members will be able to ask questions and provide answers to the wide range of subject areas connected to the study of travellers in Egypt and the Near East to assist members in their research. Work on the FORUM was started by Janet Rady and has been developed by Emmett Jackson, who will act as the moderator. The FORUM will be available to members entering a defined part of the website through a password. The FORUM will soon

be ready for use, and an e-mail giving the password will be sent to all members through Mailchimp.

In the last year there have been two major visits. One to Kensal Green Cemetery organised by Patricia Usick and with a talk by Cathie Bryan to coincide with publication by the cemetery of their *Walking Like an Egyptian* guidebook to the last resting place of travellers or those with connections to Egypt and the Near East, or to tombs and memorials where the design was influenced by the tombs and temples of ancient Egypt. The visit was well attended and members of the Travellers' Club were also invited to join us. Plans are being made for tours to other cemeteries in the next year – including to St Mary's Churchyard, Mortlake, to view the tent-shaped mausoleum of Sir Richard Burton.

The second visit was to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As with earlier ASTENE tours, the visit was arranged and superbly organised by Elisabeth Woodthorpe. The *Bulletin* will contain a detailed report about the places visited, including the remains of the northern city of the Nabataeans, at Petra.

Over the last year of being ASTENE Chairman, I have benefited from the advice of our President, Jaromir Malek, and our Vice Presidents, Lisa French and Malcolm Wagstaff. I have also been greatly supported by the Committee members: Patricia Usick, Cathie Bryan, Jacke Phillips, Janet Rady, Lucy Pollard, Sheila McGuirk, Russell McGuirk and Janet Starkey, and by our Foreign Correspondents, Hana Navratilova and Amanda Haggstad, who have been taking ASTENE to different parts of Europe.

At the start of my chairmanship, Patricia Usick took on multiple rôles as Acting Secretary, Acting Treasurer and Conference Organiser. As I am now aware the organisation of a conference is very demanding and it soon became clear that Patricia could not do all three jobs. On occasion during the year Lucy Pollard has kindly stepped in to record and produce the minutes of our meetings, and Janet Starkey has recently taken over as the Treasurer. They are all thanked for their hard work.

One thing that also became clear after becoming chairman was that from analysing our accounts the outgoings of ASTENE were exceeding income. This resulted in a need to increase the cost of Annual Membership for the first time in 16 years. Unfortunately, timing for the increase was too

close to the end of the year when direct debits and standing orders are being paid by your banks. In many cases it was too late for members to inform their bank of the increase, so a big thank-you to those who have already sent additional money to meet the increase, and also to those who have yet to do so.

That ASTENE exists and remains relevant is by the efforts of its members. As the Committee changes again there is a vacant seat, so if you could help steer ASTENE for the next three years – let me know.

Committee

The AGM saw the retirement, election and re-election of Committee members. Dr Patricia Usick, who had been acting as Treasurer and Secretary, as well as organising the Conference, has retired, and ASTENE is very grateful to her for the enormous amount of work that she has put in during a second period on the Committee. Janet Rady also retired from the Committee, having worked extensively on the updating of the website: our thanks to her for the improvements. Neil Cooke continues as Chairman, with Dr Janet Starkey taking over the role of Treasurer, Dr Hana Navratilova that of Secretary, and Cathie Bryan as Events Organiser. Russell and Sheila McGuirk remain as editors of the *Bulletin*. The other Committee members are Dr Lucy Pollard, Emmet Jackson, Jacke Phillips and Dr Morris Bierbrier.

Subscriptions Reminder

Subscriptions had remained unchanged since ASTENE was established, but reluctantly they were increased in January 2013 the new Subscription Rates for ASTENE Membership are:

£25 for all individuals; £30 for two people sharing the same address and sharing a single copy of the Bulletin ; £15 for all students studying full-time and providing proof of their course of study. Please ensure all Standing Orders etc are altered before January!

ASTENE Forum

Emmet Jackson writes: -We would like to remind you of the new ASTENE online forum. This was launched in July of this year and we now have over eighty members signed up to the forum.

In the forum you can participate in discussions, share resources, review books and read the latest ASTENE news. This provides members with a more immediate way to share information and

enables instant discussion and networking between individuals as well as facilitating our notes and queries. The forum is only as useful as the content in it and the level of participation from its members, so get posting!

If you have not already registered to the forum you can do so by going to www.astene.org.uk/members-forum and clicking on the register button. You will then be redirected to the registration page. Enter your preferred username and email address and click on the register button.

A password will be sent to your email address. Please note it can take about 15 minutes before the password is sent. The forum moderator will then add you to the forum and you can then login to the ASTENE Forum and get involved. If you have any difficulties you can email the forum moderator at forum@astene.org.uk

10th ASTENE Conference, Aston

Members who attended the 10th ASTENE biennial conference at Aston Birmingham from July 12 to 15 will not need the Bulletin Editors to tell them how enjoyable it was and how varied and lively the programme.

Because of the open door policy to encourage as many enthusiasts as possible to present their research, the programme was very full, requiring parallel presentations on the Saturday and Sunday and some scurrying from one lecture room to the other between sessions. It was tantalising having to make choices and we all hated missing ANY of the papers, the full list of which is on the website.

But there was plenty of space both indoors and out (and the weather was lovely) to catch up with friends over meals and in the evenings. During the coffee breaks the Cornucopia and Oxbow bookstalls provided plenty of browsing opportunities and there was a splendid display of pictures from the recent ASTENE trip to Jordan.

We asked our three bursary holders to send in their impressions. Here they are and they perfectly sum up the general consensus:

Since my interests are mainly in Old and Middle Kingdom Egypt it was a somewhat unusual experience for me to prepare a speech on early travellers to the Nile Valley. I was expecting to see many new scholars and enthusiasts from related

fields at the ASTENE conference. It seemed like a chance to get some fresh ideas from a historical perspective and, of course, a real opportunity to plunge into the romantic atmosphere of early travels to the East.

During the conference, I had responsibilities for technical support of the speakers which could have been a challenge but the reliable equipment and good instructions acted their part. We tried to do our best and it was a real pleasure to work with Helene and Jacke as well as to coordinate with the organizing committee.

I really appreciated the fantastic atmosphere of the conference – very lively and comfortable. It is certainly an event which is worth visiting again and again and a good place to establish new, sometimes unexpected contacts.

Maksim A. Lebedev

First of all I would like to express my thanks to the ASTENE friends and committee for their support in enabling me to attend the conference, which more than met my expectations. The location and facilities were excellent. I had expected a varied and interesting programme and can honestly say that every session I attended had something of interest. The programme was concentrated and I wasn't able to attend all the sessions that I wanted to but had enough time to make contact with the presenters. The highpoint was the opportunity to talk about subjects of mutual interest both formally and informally with like-minded individuals and enthusiasts. I made contacts with at least half a dozen people with whom I hope to maintain contact and the enthusiasm of the participants was infectious. I would certainly hope to attend future conferences and to encourage others to attend.

John Thomson

Thanks to an ASTENE bursary, I was able to attend the recent conference at Birmingham where we enjoyed excellent accommodation. Both sessions were interesting but, as an Egyptologist, I was of course particularly interested in attending the papers on travellers in Egypt, with specialists from the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and so on. I was also glad to present my paper on Edouard Naville's scientific correspondence and to receive interesting questions on it. Fruitful discussions lasted long and lunches and dinners were a welcome rest to talk

further on broad subjects. I really enjoyed talking with so many passionate people in a sympathetic atmosphere. Once back in France, I enjoyed sharing this experience with colleagues working on similar topics. I have even convinced some of them to become members of ASTENE in the future!

Hélène Virenque

Once the publication sub-committee has finalised the choice of papers to be printed in the ASTENE conference book, we hope that some of the other papers can be published in the Bulletin and reach a wider readership via the Website.

ASTENE Tour 2015: Mani

Plans are going ahead for the next ASTENE tour and it would be helpful to have an indication from members if they may be interested in joining it.

Malcolm Wagstaff and John Chapman are both very knowledgeable on the Greek Peloponnese area of Mani, where many of our travellers went (also made famous as the home of Patrick Leigh Fermor). Those of you who were with us in Albania will remember the excellent guide, Anna Butcher, who, quite coincidentally, lives in Mani and runs tours there. Between us we are putting together a programme, which will probably be under the banner of Sunvil. The tour will last around 8 days. The tour will be during April 2015.

Please contact Elisabeth Woodthorpe either by email: elisabethwoodthorpe@ymail.com or telephone 01747 871 811 (with answerphone) to indicate interest. There will be a maximum of around 24 so don't delay as there are already 11 people on the list!

ASTENE Tours past

It has been suggested that it would be a good idea to keep a permanent record of our ASTENE trips in the archive in the form of photo albums, after all we rely heavily on old photos and in 50 years time ours may well be of great interest to future ASTENE members. Sadly, as we all know, many of the places we visited and photographed in Syria have recently been destroyed Elisabeth Woodthorpe has offered to mastermind the project so would be most grateful to receive any spare photos you may have of past trips. These should be proper photos, not computer images, and marked on the back *in pencil* with the place, date, names of members if possible, if featuring, and your name so they can be returned

if not used. Please send to EW at Sweeps Cottage, The Causeway, Tisbury, SP3 6LB. Some of you have doubtless already put together your own albums so maybe you would consider donating them to the archive at some future date. It is planned to display them at future conferences for all to enjoy, so do please bring yours along to the next conference in two years time (2015).

Michel Azim

We were very saddened to hear of the death, the week before the Aston Conference, of French Egyptologist Michel Azim. Michel had worked for many years on excavations in Egypt and the Sudan, and was particularly involved with the Centre franco-égyptien d'étude des temples de Karnak (CFEETK). A review of the second volume of his splendid *Karnak et sa topographie* appeared in the last Bulletin, and it was good to know that this had been read to him during his illness. As Neil Cooke said in his tribute at the conference, although Michel had not attended a conference recently, he was a key figure in the original debate that led to ASTENE being created. John Ruffle detailed this exchange in *Bulletin* 53 (Autumn 2012). Michel continued to contribute to the *Bulletin* and send information and questions to many members. His contribution to French Egyptology and to ASTENE will be sorely missed, but he left a splendid and lasting legacy in his publications.



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Irish Egyptology website

Emmet Jackson is setting up a new Irish Egyptology website that will have information on Irish travellers. Emmet is aiming to have some material up by the end of November and further news will appear in the next Bulletin. Anyone with material that they would like to post can contact Emmet directly:

www.nourfestival.eventbrite.co.uk; 0207 361 3618
nour@rbkc.gov.uk

15 Oct at the Lecture Theatre, Kensington Central Library: *A Concise History of the Arabs* by John McHugo

Cornucopia magazine

The next edition of *Cornucopia* is due out in October, with special articles on Turkish gardens. For events relating to things Turkish and things Ottoman visit: <http://www.cornucopia.net>

The Ancient & Modern Research Award

Applications open until 31 October 2013. The Ancient & Modern Research Award is open to scholars under 25 or over 60 years for a project relating to any subject area covered by Hali magazine <http://www.hali.com>

First prize £1,000, Second prize £500. Applications should be short and outline the project in no more than 500 words. For more information go to: <http://www.ancientandmodern.co.uk>

Nour Festival of Arts 2013.

Cathie Bryan draws our attention to a few events from the 2013 Nour Festival which may be of interest to ASTENE members. The festival runs from 1 October to 30 November, and has its base mainly in Kensington and Chelsea. The website www.nourfestival.co.uk gives details of all events. Of those of specific interest to members:

Weds Nov 20, 1900 – 2030

Leighton House Museum: *The Difficult Situation of Antiquities in Egypt* - Sandro Vannini

A professional photographer, Sandro Vannini lives between Viterbo, Italy and Cairo, where he continues to document the archaeological heritage of Egypt. Tickets £5/3, concessions; booking required;



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 .

Fortenberry, D. (ed.), *Souvenirs and New Ideas. Travel and Collecting in Egypt and the Near East.*, 2013, ASTENE and Oxbow Books, Oxford and Oakville. 196 pp., 17 col. pl. ISBN 978-1-84217-815-7.

Diane Fortenberry has edited some selected papers from the ASTENE Conference at St Anne's College, Oxford in 1997 into a very attractive book with many illustrations, both black and white and in colour – photographs and reproductions of paintings of people and the places they visited. There is a portrait of Sir Charles Fellows, a relaxed photograph of the Kamphoevener family in Constantinople in 1891, and several reproductions of Harriet Kavanagh's watercolours made on the Nile and now in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. The ASTENE tour to Ireland was able to see the original sketches at Borris House.

Each paper has a full Bibliography for those who would like to read further on the subjects – and there are many quotes from these books in the papers.

Diane also included a note about the sad death of ASTENE member Elaine Altman Evans in 2012, only two weeks after she had submitted her paper ...

Some of the papers – like that of Lisa French – include interesting personal observations. The papers were given by ASTENE members from across the world and many have intriguing titles: Joseph Attard from Malta spoke about the tomb of the English lady; Christina Erck, originally from Germany, introduced us to 'The Baroness of Fairy Tales'; Emmet Jackson from Ireland on the travels of the Irish Lady Harriet Kavanagh, who was accompanied by her very severely disabled son; Faye Kallionitis introduced us to a traveller few of us had previously heard of – Jeremiah Colman – the Norfolk maker of the famed mustard. Isolde Lehnert of the German Institute in Cairo, introduced ASTENE to 'A Thousand and One Books' – the vast library of early travel literature made by Ludwig

Keimer. Robert Morkot extended the travellers' journeys south with the *Travels in Ethiopia* and the history of Meroe of George Hoskins in the 1830s. Hana Navratilova broke new ground with her paper on Egyptologists in Cairo during the Second World War – with Cairo 'a vast military base', for the Allied armies – of whom several members had a keen knowledge of Egyptology. Ian Pearce introduced us to Waynman Dixon and the carriage of Cleopatra's Needle to the Thames Embankment in London from Alexandria in 1877. A decade and more earlier the Prince of Wales visited Egypt more than once and brought treasures back to England, as Cynthia Sheikholeslami described to us. Long standing ASTENE Member Brian Taylor sorted out for us questions of 'who went where, with whom and when?' in his intriguing paper on Sir Robert Ainslie (British Ambassador at Constantinople in the 1770s) and his activities with the numismatist Domenico Sestini and the artist Luigi Mayer – with three full pages of bibliography for those who want to follow the trail ... Finally, John Taylor, of the British Museum, introduced us to John Madox – 'A Diligent Traveller with a Scattered Legacy', who travelled to and all around the Near East in the early nineteenth century. Madox is a traveller whose track often crossed those of others ... and who, with many others, left his graffiti as recorded by ASTENE member Roger De Keersmaecker ...

The book gives us much to absorb and to think about and proves yet again the treasure that lies ready to re-introduce to the world.

Deborah Manley

Stolzenberg, Daniel, *Egyptian Oedipus. Athanasius Kircher and the Secrets of Antiquity.* University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 2013. ISBN 97-0-226-92414-4, Hardback and Paperback. Price £35.00 (hardback).

Until quite recently the attempts of the Jesuit polymath Athanasius Kircher (1602-1680) to decipher hieroglyphic were treated by most Egyptologists as a source of fun and mockery, if not with downright contempt. I cannot guarantee that the Egyptological attitude has changed, *but*, as this book shows, for those engaged in the History of Ideas, Kircher's place within 17th century scholarship is assured.

The difference in attitude that this book represents, is an understanding of Kircher within his own time and academic world, rather than treating him as an already outdated eccentric working within the Hermetic tradition which led him to be a failure in his attempts at decipherment. As Stolzenberg observes at the beginning of his biography, there has been a major re-evaluation of Kircher over the past twenty years.

Stolzenberg not only follows Kircher's life and academic career, but embeds it very firmly within the intellectual Republic of Letters of the 17th century. He explains the somewhat complex and ambivalent relationship with Nicolas-Claude Fabri de Peiresc, a leading patron and scholar, and one of the first to acquire large numbers of manuscripts in Coptic. The role of Coptic in deciphering hieroglyphic is generally acknowledged (it was Champollion's understanding that gave him the final edge over Young), as is Kircher's in establishing Coptic as an (admittedly obscure) academic discipline. The rivalries of Peiresc and Kircher's Roman patrons in acquiring collections of Coptic manuscripts, particularly an Arabic-Coptic lexicon, is another example of a common tale! Peiresc assisted Kircher, yet had some doubts about his abilities, and also frustrations with him.

Kircher's arrival in Rome, the centre of the academic world, and his good fortune in being able to stay there, rather than being sent off to Vienna, was certainly a key factor in his development. Yet he was frustrated in his attempts to travel to Egypt and the Near East and experience those countries at first hand. We learn of the academic rivalries, but also of the real desire for knowledge, and the methods of communicating (mostly in Latin); of the creation of the first Arabic presses in Europe and the printing of the polyglot Bible. Underlying this was the Roman Church's missionary ambitions and in its relationship with the Syriac, Ethiopic, and Coptic churches.

Kircher has been accused of plagiarism and theft of ideas: Stolzenberg explains the methods of academic work at the time, and what was acceptable. Even so, it is clear that not all that appeared as 'Kircher' was actually his – much, especially in translations and work on Jewish texts such as the Kabbalah, being by his assistants. Also of significance is the Christian dominance of ideas that had an enormous impact on the interpretation of ancient materials. Irrespective of what Kircher may have wanted to do, he also

could not avoid Roman Catholic censorship: Kircher was working and writing in the wake of Galileo's confrontation with the Papacy. This also had a major impact on what it was possible to publish, and anything that conflicted with Christian doctrine would be censored by the authorities, notably the Inquisition and the Index of Prohibited Books. Kircher's ability to interpret was thus constrained by his own Christian belief and understanding, his Jesuit background, and by ensuring that what he said was doctrinally orthodox. Whilst Protestant scholars (some encouraged by Peiresc) did not have the same problems of censorship from the Church, their *mentalité* was not necessarily that much different (as Isaac Newton's tiresome works on ancient history show).

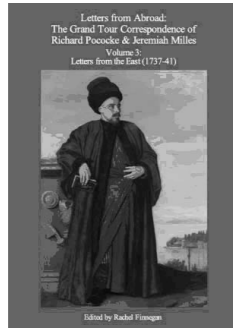
Stolzenberg gives a well-judged critique of the view of Kircher as a scholar in the Hermetic tradition, a view widely held following Frances Yates's groundbreaking study of Giordano Bruno. He shows the ways in which the influences of the Hermetic tradition changed and developed and what (few) aspects of Hermeticism influenced Kircher. Stolzenberg emphasises Kircher's 'archaeological' rather than philosophical approach to the study of the ancient world. Indeed, the illustrations in the book show how remarkably accurate some of the published engravings of inscriptions and artefacts were.

The book ends with a short chapter on the aftermath: Kircher was long out of favour by the time of Young and Champollion and the new academic Egyptology soon began to separate itself from the esoteric traditions, and consign them to a 'loony fringe'. One aspect of this book that struck me forcibly is that lack of reference to Egyptologists, both in the text, and in the Bibliography. This is certainly not a reflection on the author's knowledge, it is an indictment of Egyptology itself: it is quite remarkable that there are no major serious studies of Kircher and this period of Egyptological development. But no doubt three will now appear in rapid succession!

Daniel Stolzenberg has written an important and stimulating book. It is not always easy reading! Although each chapter is subdivided, and the style is fluent, some knowledge of the period and the issues is an asset. Nevertheless, this volume should be essential reading for everyone who is interested in the early development of Egyptology.

Robert Morkot

Finnegan, R., *Letters from Abroad: The Grand Tour Correspondence of Richard Pococke & Jeremiah Milles. Volume 3: Letters from the East (1734-41)*. Edited by Dr Rachel Finnegan. Pococke Press, Kilkenny, 2013. 328 pp. Paperback ISBN: 978-0-9569058-2-6 Price: €19.95 <http://www.pocockepress.com/volume3.php>



Like all good trilogies, this book, the third in a series of edited *Letters from Abroad; The Grand Tour Correspondence of Richard Pococke and Jeremiah Milles*, is greatly anticipated, not at least due to the fact that it has taken over two hundred and seventy years for these letters to be published. Those that have waited will not be disappointed.

Following on the success of the first two volumes, Dr Finnegan delivers the final collection of *Letters from the East (1737-41)*. For those with an interest in Pococke's travels in Egypt and the Holy land this is an essential source book. Forty-three letters from Pococke to his mother, covering a three-year time-span, are reproduced and a further five are summarised by the author. The volume is organised chronologically into three chapters covering three large geographic areas: Egypt; the Holy Land, Lebanon and Syria; and Turkey, Asia Minor and Greece, with an additional chapter summarising the journey. The chapters are framed with introductory and concluding sections, together with an appendix listing the dates and locations of each letter.

The third volume in this series offers a vast amount of material to explore. Transcribing original documents is no easy task and Dr Finnegan is to be applauded for the time dedicated to the documentation of these letters and to the vast resource the three volumes now provide to avid readers and researchers from a wide spectrum of disciplines.

The introductory section is a pleasure to read. It masterly navigates a quick summary of Pococke's

and Milles's eastern travels and the source material of this volume's content. It also provides interesting insights into the editing process. Curiously, there are no surviving original letters that make up this volume; rather, they have been transcribed from copies made by Pococke's mother. This is in contrast to the letters reproduced in the first two volumes which drew on the transcribed letters of Mrs Pococke and the original extant copies. Without the benefit of the original letters presented in this volume the full extent of Mrs Pococke's edits remains unknown and adds a sense of mystery. What did Mrs Pococke see fit to remove from her son's letters?

Chapter one consists of an invaluable reference guide to the itinerary of Pococke's eastern voyages. The information provided in this section is dense and not only lists dates and locations of his travels but also offers summaries of his travel methods and travel companions.

The following three chapters of letters are laid out chronologically and are fastidiously accompanied by place of origin, date (both in Gregorian and Julian calendars), recipient, and a letter reference number. The letters to Pococke's mother are quite relaxed and conversational and their tone is far less formal and stylised than Pococke's published works. There are large portions given over to the descriptions of leisure time and eating as well as the usual description of his journeys, accommodation, climate, flora and fauna and fellow travellers. At times Pococke's letters can be lacklustre and this is due in part to their casual tone but Dr Finnegan complements the account with the inclusion of footnotes that add valuable information and inject some of the more tedious letters with interesting facts.

For such an extensive volume of letters the conclusion is surprisingly short, and Dr. Finnegan does allude to this briefly in her introduction, suggesting that this material would provide an essential starting-point for doctoral research. However, her concluding insights into the legacy of Pococke's travels, while thought-provoking, are too brief and warrant further elaboration and analysis, so that the reader can more fully interpret the significance of this vast amount of material. The brevity of the conclusion however, does not detract from the valuable contribution that the Pococke and Milles correspondence makes to Grand Tour, Egyptian, and the Near Eastern travel studies and related disciplines. Dr Finnegan's wide-ranging

use of footnotes adds a depth to the letters while leaving room for others to take the baton of research into these fascinating correspondences.

Emmet Jackson

Adams, John M., *The Millionaire and the Mummies*. 2013, St Martin's Press, New York. xi+363 pp, 14 b & willus. ISBN 978-1-250-02669-9 \$26.99.

The history of Egyptology in the early 20th Century is sown with incidents of botched, hurried and downright appalling excavations, regrettably occurring at a highly romantic period when almost casual digs in the right place produced discoveries of spectacular significance. The discipline may have been almost 100 years old, but scientifically, much remained to be learnt and permission to dig was usually given to those with money to spend, rather than qualifications.

Some of the most significant of these amateur explorations concerned the American lawyer and financier Theodore Montgomery Davis, unquestionably the most successful excavator of the Valley of the Kings near Luxor. Viewed from today's more sophisticated viewpoint, Davis has accumulated quite a lot of bad press, and he has been censured for the cavalier methods used when he opened up several almost intact royal burials, each of which if discovered today would be international headline news. While it is true that Davis maintained something of a superficial oversight of his excavations (he regularly sailed south to Aswan while tomb clearances were in progress), his reputation deserves the healing hand of a sober, objective assessment, which is exactly what this book provides.

The author, John Adams, is well qualified for the task he set himself and delves into Davis's life with a refreshing honesty and attention to detail not easily available elsewhere. Laying out his text almost filmically, Adams moves effortlessly from the great events in the Valley of the Kings between 1905 and 1912 to the racy accumulation of riches by methods that would put Gordon Gecko to shame! Not for nothing were these financial entrepreneurs known as 'robber barons'. Sharp practice, insider dealing, frequently even straight-forward perjury was the chosen life style, and by it Davis amassed a fortune of breath-taking volume, valued in billions by today's standards. Having made his money, he deliberately stepped down from business and devoted himself

to family and relaxing entertainments, among them foreign travel and the acquisition of fine art.

Davis's encounter with Egypt, where he went like many before him for health reasons, slowly changed from mere tourist to archaeological investigator as fascination with its ancient culture ensnared him. Many later commentators criticised his approach, perhaps failing to appreciate that Davis was of his time – indeed ahead of it in many ways, as writer John Adams is at pains to point out. It should be appreciated that in 1905 scientific techniques were seriously primitive. Even the great Flinders Petrie was guilty of 'herd archaeology', excavating several sites in tandem, leaving the day to day work to un-supervised beginners. Here Davis was something of a trail blazer. He always employed a trained archaeologist to carry out the work; he donated large sums of money in a completely altruistic fashion, not expecting to gain any reward via the then customary division of finds; he planned his digging in the Valley of the Kings with single-minded, systematic care and last, but not certainly not least, he published his discoveries promptly in sumptuous volumes, albeit books which, it turns out, leave out more than they reveal. This biography is easy, fascinating reading, revealing a portrait of a complex, driven individual, somewhat removed from the popular image of a taciturn, grumpy disciplinarian so often reproduced in modern accounts. As Adams comments, Davis "was a crook, like many others of his time, but he transformed himself into a man who – despite his past – contributed unselfishly and honourably to the world's heritage". A fitting summary.

Alan L. Jeffreys

De Keersmaecker, Roger, *Travellers' Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan. Additional Volume III. Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt. Soldiers, artists and scholars*. Mortsel(Antwerpen)Belgium 2013. Part I, (Graffiti) 98pp.; Part II Portait drawings by André Dutertre 199pp.; Supplement 28pp. 15.00 Euros (packing and postage extra) contact: roger.de.keersmaecker@skynet.be

These additional volumes to Roger De Keersmaecker's invaluable series of *Travellers' Graffiti* take a slightly different approach to the site-based volumes of the main series: here Roger assembles the graffiti, along with the portraits and biographical information, of one of the earliest, largest and most significant groups of scholars to

work in Egypt – the French *savants*. As ever with these volumes, there is much to fascinate and inform. There are also the inevitable questions raised. Why go to Egypt and illustrate your graffiti with a windmill? And Jean Louis Facard's (I p.33) is not the only one – Caporal Poudrat has a windmill with house adjacent (I p.79): was it homesickness? There are some other graffiti with accompanying images, itself a rare occurrence; we usually have a name with date and perhaps a frame.

Volume II contains reproductions of all of the profiles published by André Dutertre in the *Description*, along with some other portraits. We are all thrilled when we have portraits of 'our' travellers. Given that the basic physical elements are the same, it is perhaps strange that the specific configuration of those elements is so important to us. But in portraits we recognise individuality and even character. It is therefore rather disquieting to find the same portrait used for two individuals! This happens with Pierre Jacotin and Pierre Jaubert (pp.86-87), and also with Jean Lannes and Pierre Lanusse (pp.96-97): perhaps Dutertre confused his drawings and names, lost one – who knows! The profile portrait inevitably emphasises the nose (and some weak chins) – and Dutertre has perhaps exaggerated some of these: there is certainly an array of shapes and sizes. A couple verge on caricatures: Dugua fils (p.69) has lost most of his features, and Bonaparte's aide-de-camp Guibert (p.84) is a period dandy. They are not all European males – there is a token woman (Mme Verdier, p.183) and a Syrian (Souleyman-el-Haléby, p.171). There is also a French-Irish officer, Bernard MacSheehy.

The Supplement is a collection of documents relating to 'citoyen' Hamelin and his wife (who also had some Irish O'Farel ancestry).

Altogether, these volumes are a valuable supplement to the graffiti, and bring together more of the biographical information. Some of the more significant scholars have their entries in *Who Was Who?* but the military figures and assistants do not. There is now a huge (and seemingly ever expanding) bibliography on the Napoleonic expedition, from both the scholarly and military perspectives: here we can find out more about the key figures, and what they looked like, and where they went.

Robert Morkot

Shafik Gabr, *Masterpieces of Orientalist Art The Shafik Gabr Collection ACR Edition, Paris, 2012, 476pp., 377 Col. Illu. ISBN 978-2-86770-204-4 £125*

Nineteenth century mainstream Academic painting has recovered from a long period of neglect. As recently as the 1950s, it was at the absolute nadir of its reputation. Now even the specialized Orientalist painters who exhibited at the Paris Salon and at the Royal Academy are being eagerly collected and reappraised. Whereas other aspects of nineteenth century art and design were steadily recognised and rehabilitated since that date, for Orientalism this process was slowed down by certain art history theorists in the 1980s who thought they saw in *all* Orientalist painting a host of negative things, and little else. These theorists have not exactly fallen silent, but now they are mostly ignored.

The tide has now turned and collectors in Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf States compete to not only to buy, but to research these pictures for themselves. The reason they give for collecting the paintings is that these painters, for all their faults, their tinkering with reality, nevertheless show some of the magnificence of the art, design and culture of a past now mostly swept away by modernity. Shafik Gabr is prominent amongst these collectors, and has steadily built up a spectacular collection of images of the Near East as it was, painted by a host of artists, some famous, some obscure, but all depicting a brilliantly coloured view of things they admired.

A good and typical picture in his collection is Gustav Bauernfeind's *Street scene, Damascus*. When it appeared at auction in recent years, I remember wondering who would be fortunate enough to own it. It shows a crowd of curious citizens in the street, surrounding and examining the artist and his sketching of *them*. It is a good-natured representation of an event that must have happened many times, depicting the people, their costumes, the architecture, and the slight absurdity of the painter, rather uncomfortable in his situation and in his sun-helmet, all painted in exquisite detail. It now appears in this book, and is a fine example of the subtlety that a good Orientalist painting can possess.

Other artists, such as Jean-Léon Gérôme, employed another kind of subtlety, one often criticised, as he anachronistically selected decorative details from various buildings and mingled all kinds of people together who would never have been seen

as a group. Gérôme's technique in putting all the elements together as a seamless whole is very seductive, and the experts in the topography of Cairo, especially our own Caroline Williams, have spent a lot of effort in identifying the disparate elements so cunningly stitched together. It is a matter of debate as to whether Gérôme or Ludwig Deutsch (and many others) were doing something *wrong* in their magpie-like collection and conflation of details, aided by the use of photography, but what cannot be denied is that they rendered the costumes, the architecture and the people with consummate skill.

In this book, after a foreword by Shafik Gabr and a short biography of him, there is an essay entitled *Orientalist Images Inspired by Egypt: A Nineteenth-Century Overview*, by Caroline Williams. This is a very useful summary of Orientalist painting, which Caroline divides into three periods, (1) 1820-1850 [Painters of the antiquities of Egypt]; (2.) ca.1850-1875 [The years of transition and diversity, including the influence of photography]; and (3) 1870-1900. [The dominance of French and British artists in this field is replaced by many other Europeans and Americans]. It is a sensible and sober account, and should be required reading for anyone approaching the subject.

There follows the essay *Invasion, Evasion and Immersion: A Century of French Painting in Algeria* by Stéphane Guégan. It does not shirk the fact that the painting of Algeria was an exercise mostly enabled by colonialism, but defends the artists by showing that, apart from the first wave of triumphalist military painters, mostly they did not diminish what they found and saw; on the contrary they were enthralled by another way of life.

The Oriental Kaleidoscope of Harmony by Olga Nefedova is a reasoned defence of Orientalism and the collection of Orientalist works, and incidentally gently points out the contradictions in Edward Said's thesis about representation of the East, with the aid of quotations taken from such authors as Orhan Pamuk.

The collection of pictures itself is then carefully described in a series of essays, by prominent scholars, most of them well-known to ASTENE members. (Some of them *are* ASTENE members.) They are Gerald M. Ackerman, Kristian Davies, Briony Llewellyn, Ellen K. Morris, Lindsay Stainton, Lynne Thornton, Emily M. Weekes, and Caroline

Williams. The individual essays about each picture are not signed, but there is a key on page 7, (not entirely accurate) allocating them to their authors. There is a pleasant game to be played by trying to identify who the author is of each contribution, (without cheating by looking it up), and judging by style and content alone. It is very instructive.

As you would expect, given the kind of experts recruited, the biographies of the artists and the detailed analyses and descriptions of the pictures themselves are of high quality, and contain much material I have not seen before.

The sixty-two artists represented and described are very diverse, and include (in addition to those mentioned above) the relatively well-known, such as John Frederick Lewis, Edward Lear, Filippo Bartolini, Ivan Bilibin, Henri-Félix Philippoteaux, David Roberts, Carl Werner, Charles-Theodore Frère, Henri Rousseau, Ludwig Deutsch.

Artists new to me, such as Ivan Aivazovsky, Tadeusz Ajdukiewicz, José Cruz Herrera, Nicola Forcella, Vahram Manavian, Karel Ooms, Elisabet Jerichau-Baumann, Gyula Tornai, and Charles Wilda, (and the others), all deserve reconsideration.

The colour illustrations are of high quality, the whole book is lavishly produced - this is reflected in the price. As an overview of the nineteenth century obsession with Orientalist painting, it is an invaluable source of information, particularly on the little-known and unjustly neglected artists in this field.

Charles Newton

Netton, Ian Richard ed., *Orientalism Revisited: Art, Land and Voyage, 2013, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, London and New York, pp xxv, 288, 14 b & w illustrations in text, paperback. ISBN 978-415-53856-5 £28.99*

As I looked at this intriguingly titled book I thought about the aims of ASTENE which merit a timely reminder here. Since its foundation in 1997 ASTENE has promoted "the study of travel and travellers in Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean from Greece to the Levant, Arabian Peninsula and Mesopotamian region". ASTENE through its meetings and publications, approaches the travellers objectively with a regard for the historical and social environment of their experiences. It is, for example,

pointless to judge a Victorian lady explorer's observations in the context of contemporary feminist theory. There is, however, an ever increasing literature concerned with the interpretation of the Middle East which is parallel to and of varying relevance to ASTENE's work.

A text which challenges impartial observation is Edward Said's *Orientalism*, published in 1978 and frequently reprinted, which accuses the West of visualising the Middle East through a distorting lens of political and cultural prejudice. While controversial and influential in their time, Said's arguments are now criticised by several scholars as polemical and biased. *Orientalism Revisited*, the most recent publication in Routledge's series **Culture and Civilization in the Middle East**, aims to survey a contentious subject through a range of articles of differing views contributed by established academics recruited from various disciplines – literature, history, anthropology – all linked to the Middle East. An introduction is followed by fourteen articles (1 and 12 have been previously published) classified into five sections:-

- I Imagining the Orient (1-5)
- II Art (6-7)
- III Land (8-11)
- IV Voyage (12-13)
- V The Occidental Mirror

This classification is the clue to the book's theme which links art which surveys and illustrates the lands where the traveller voyages, describes and records in report, diary, memoir, sketch and painting. As the articles vary widely in content a helpful approach is to browse them and then select a few for close reading. Here are a few suggestions specifically related to ASTENE'S interests.

John Mackenzie's 'Orientalism in Arts and Crafts revisited' (article 6) features two themes – criticism of Said's Orientalist theories and a broad survey of the influence of the Middle East on the arts and crafts of the 19th century. He is concerned by Said's tendency to select and edit facts; for example in a lecture on Verdi's opera *Aida* he never refers to the story and libretto and in another lecture again on music he ignores the genuine efforts of European composers to understand the themes and rhythms of Middle Eastern music. In contrast Mackenzie's treatment of arts and crafts is more positive. He discusses them in the context of the Victorian concern that crafts should be valued and encouraged as a balance to the mechanical products of industrialisation, highlighting here the influence

of reference works such as Owen Jones *aq* of 1856 which records a wealth of Middle Eastern design motifs. He then considers objects – the textiles, carpets, ceramics, glass and metalwork which were much favoured in interior decoration and were glowingly depicted in the works of European artists such as the painters David Wilkie (1785-1841) and David Roberts (1796-1864). Unfortunately there are no illustrations a criticism which is applicable to the book which only has a modest number of reproductions of black and white drawings and engravings. Illustrations are always a drain on publication budgets but where the unifying theme stresses art and land surely this is an argument for a more generous allowance?

Ivan Davidson Kalmar's 'Arabising the Bible' and Daniel Martin Varisco's 'Orientalism and Bibliolatry' (articles 10 and 11) are both concerned with encounters with the Holy Land in the 19th century. Kalman has written an interesting survey of the efforts of European artists and scholars to interpret the Bible using contemporary imagery and language of the Middle East well beyond the traditional territory of the Holy Land (modern Jordan, Israel and Palestine) within the domain of the Ottoman Empire. He has shown how pictorial representations of biblical characters were identified by the dress of Ottoman Turks – models for the "Israelites-in-turbans" of Rembrandt and his contemporaries. By the 19th century as a result of increased travel to the Holy Land, ethnography became important through direct observation. Gustave Doré (1832-83) illustrated his best-selling edition of the Bible with meticulously depicted Arab dress worn alike by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Jesus, however, wearing classically timeless European garments, is intentionally conspicuous among his Bedouin disciples. Biblical scholarship similarly relied on Arabic as a linguistic entry into the Old Testament.

Varisco's article concentrates on a critical preface of Said's *Orientalism* then on an examination of Protestant handbooks to the Holy Land which are both religious works and also rich sources of ethnographical information. He questions Said's view of the Middle East as a European creation of an exotic Orient and claims also that he ignores the vast numbers of texts whose diligent records of archaeological discoveries and descriptions of customs and manners attracted a devoted reading public in Europe and America. He has chosen two of the most popular Protestant texts read in the 19th century, both written by American missionaries

to the Holy Land – Henry J. Van-Lennep's encyclopaedic *Bible Lands: their Modern Customs and Manners Illustrative of Scriptures* published in 1875 and William Thomson's devotional travel guide *The Land and the Book* first published in 1859 and reprinted in 1901. Although both writers were naturally products of their time and mission, Varisco notes that they are able to involve themselves fully in local culture. Van-Lennep appreciated the opportunities he had to meet people of all classes and occupations, attempted to understand Muslims in context, spoke five Arabic dialects and was an excellent artist well able to illustrate his book. While Thomson's main objective was to interpret a living bible he too recorded contemporary life and customs in his copiously illustrated guide. While a few sample illustrations are included in *Orientalism Revisited* it seems that there is some confusion. Three black and white drawings – *A Syrian gentleman in full dress* (fig 11.3a), *Dress of Syrian or Egyptian Lady* (fig 11.3b) and *Dancing Girls* (fig 11.4) are all attributed to the 1901 edition of Thomson's book. They are in fact identical with figures 14 (p 31), 25 (p 43) and 94 (p 385) of Lane's *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* published in 1836 (Everyman Library publication of E Stanley Poole's edition of the text of 1860, London 1908). Lane himself states in his preface of 1835 that he prepared the drawings himself to explain the text. In conclusion were they also used by other writers?

Jennifer M Scarce

Shomer, Enid, *The Twelve Rooms of the Nile*, Simon & Schuster UK, 2012, ISBN 978 0 85720 779 1. £7.99

ASTENE readers may like to ponder which historical traveller would be the ideal companion for a voyage along the Nile: Sir John Gardner Wilkinson, perhaps, so knowledgeable about all the monuments, or the ex-Empress Eugénie, reminiscing as her white dahabeeyah glides past Abu Simbel. Few of us might care to choose Gustave Flaubert, displaying frequent bouts of satyriasis, or Florence Nightingale with her alarming medicine chest. Genius does not necessarily make good company.

As it happened, Flaubert and Nightingale were in Egypt in 1849-1850 and their paths seem to have crossed: certainly they travelled on the same small boat from Alexandria to Cairo, and then on different dahabeeyahs for the long journey to Nubia. Did they

meet? Though both were prolific recorders neither apparently mentioned it and it is impossible to prove a negative of this kind.

The world of fiction can slip through this kind of slim speculative gap, and Enid Shomer gives us a novel based on the proposition that not only did they encounter each other, but their meeting had profound consequences for them both. Many visitors to Egypt will recognise the truth of the proposition that an encounter with that country can be a life-changing experience and it is perfectly true that both Flaubert and Nightingale were each at a crucial point. Flaubert's sexual encounters in Egypt are notorious, but a serious professional dilemma confronted him, for he had just completed his first novel, *The Temptations of St. Anthony*, in a florid neo-Romantic style which his friends were urging him to abandon. Should he adopt the realism of Balzac? As for Nightingale, she had rejected her long-term suitor and was bracing herself to meet parental opposition to her desire to lead a life dedicated to a higher cause. For both, the Nile cruise was an opportunity to consider and consolidate.

And also to experience highly-charged emotions and sexual urges, as Shomer has it. Her Nightingale falls in love with the dissolute Frenchman who seems to have the ability to see into her deepest feelings. At Philae she experiences such despair and hopelessness that she wishes to die, but she is rescued by a man who is capable, in spite of his drinking and womanising, of understanding a search for goodness. As for Flaubert, his respect and admiration for this rigidly repressed Englishwoman gradually develop, though he is already suffering from venereal disease and cannot contemplate a sexual encounter.

Much of the factual background to this story has already been described by Anthony Sattin in his *A Winter on the Nile* which covered the known facts about these two fascinating figures as they travelled through Egypt before their years of fame. ASTENE readers should perhaps be warned that, whereas Sattin dealt discreetly with Flaubert's sexuality, quoting only famous passages of writing such as his encounter with the dancer Kuchuk, Shomer spares us none of the explicit obscenities with which he sprinkled his private letters and journals. Some readers may find this offensive, though it does form an extraordinarily effective contrast with the prim innocence of Nightingale.

The title takes its 'Twelve Rooms' from the twelve-hour journey through the underworld. Shomer has evidently done a great deal of research, though ultimately her book should be judged on its effectiveness as fiction, and this fascinating imaginary encounter of two extraordinary minds is both atmospheric and touching.

I must add as a note of national shame that Shomer's British publishers have managed to misspell the name of Flaubert's fictional heroine twice on the back of the book. But then, one should never judge a book by its cover.

Jane Jakeman



The official, and widely copied portrait of Athanasius Kircher in 1655 aged 53

E-Books:-

The American University in Cairo Press have produced some of their publications in electronic format: see <http://www.aucpress.com/> These include: *Women Travelers in Egypt From the Eighteenth to the Twenty-first Century* Edited by Deborah Manley.



QUERIES AND REPLIES

Where did the travellers stay?

In the end pages of Cook's Tourist Handbook Switzerland, 1900, is a list of Cook's recommended hotels where their special 'coupons' were accepted.

In Malta was the Hotel Royal, in Athens the Hotel d'Angleterre, in Cairo Shepheard's, the Hotel du Nile and Hotel Metropole (though the coupons were not accepted from January to March – the height of the tourist season ...

In Port Said was the Hotel Continental and the Eastern Exchange Hotel (at 10 - 13 shillings a night). At 12 shillings a night was the Hotel Abbot in Alexandria, and four further hotels in Cairo.

At Luxor was the Hotel Luxor – with a supplement on the price in February. Assouan was the Grand Assouan Hotel – coupons accepted February and March, and in Khartoum, at a pound a day, was the Grand Hotel. Does any reader know if any of these hotels still continue, though with a different name?

Deborah Manley

Mr Melton at Giza 1658

Victor Blunden asks whether anyone knows anything about a James Melton who visited Egypt in 1658. Melton is referred to by John David Wortham, in *British Egyptologists 1594-1906*, p.25: "Sometime between 1660 and 1677, a Scotsman named Melton visited Giza." He does not appear in *Who Was Who in Egyptology*.

Drovetti, Lady Belmore and the boat

Peter Marson writes that he is "still working away at Castle Coole but now creating a Belmore archive, historical and modern." He is seeking the reference for the story about Drovetti, ever the gallant, allowing Lady (Juliana) Belmore to dig in one of his spaces. She found the black granite boat of Mutemwia now on display in the sculpture gallery of the British Museum. There is no reference to this in Ronald Ridley's biography *Napoleon's Proconsul in Egypt*.

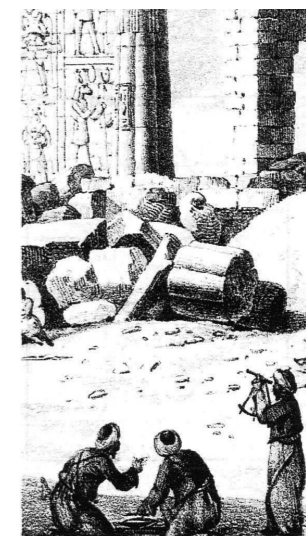
Roger De Keersmaecker sends the following on Enamour/Ain Amur:

Le Torzec, Ismael Bouchenape, 1820
Pierre Constant Letorzec, born in Rochefort on

24 February 1798, died 27 April 1857 in Nantes. Richard Hill, *A Biographical Dictionary of the Sudan*, London 1967, p. 213; Morris L. Bierbrier, *Who was Who in Egyptology*, London 2012, p. 327; Eugene Cruz-Urbe, *Hibis Temple Project, Volume 3, The Graffiti From the Temple Precinct*, San Antonio USA, 2008, p. 101 (Abou Chanape was Letorzec's dragoman). Other graffiti by Letorzec, *Travellers' Graffiti from Egypt and the Sudan*, Volume: II; VI; VII; IX; XI; XII.

Frédéric Cailliaud; *Voyage a Méroé, au fleuve blanc, au-delà de Fâzoql dans le midi du royaume de Sennâr, a Syouah dans cinq autres oasis ; fait dans les années 1819, 1820, 1821 et 1822*, 4 vol., Paris 1826, vol., I, p. 18 «Je passai quelques jours à faire mes préparatifs, et je m'embarquai à Boulaq, accompagné de M. Letorzec, d'Ismaÿl-Abouchenab, mamlouk français, en qualité d'interprète, et de deux domestiques arabes »

And also on Curtin: -
Concerning the Henry James Curtin article by Robert Morkot, if somebody is interested in a colour photograph of the graffito, please let me know and I will send a copy with an e-mail.
Roger.de.keersmaecker@skynet.be
Or you can also find the photograph on my web: <http://www.egypt-sudan-graffiti.be>
Go to articles, there is the article with the print. It is easily printable. You find it also in the *Astene Bulletin*, number 10 October 2000, p. 21-22, but without colour photograph.



ARTICLES

James Burton's Giraffe

©2013 Neil Cooke

When James Burton left London in 1819 with Charles Humphreys, his only thought was to meet up with Sir Humphrey Davey and assist with his experiments in unrolling carbonised papyrus rolls in the collection of the King of Naples. Burton already knew Davey as he had been in partnership with the Burton and Children families advising on the production of gunpowder. In Naples, Burton met Sir William Gell and Sir John Gardner Wilkinson who encouraged him to visit Egypt, copy the hieroglyphics on the temples and tombs, and communicate this information to Dr Thomas Young, then competing with Champollion over their decipherment.

In 1833, having spent over a decade away from home, Burton considered living out the remainder of his life in Egypt. He did not, however, have the financial means to do this as his father had stopped paying his bills several years earlier and to remain in Egypt, Burton had borrowed money from family friend George Bellas Greenough.

Like others before him, Burton imagined selling ancient Egyptian artefacts in London as a way to repay his debts and leave him a profit. Aware that an Egyptian collection might not sell, and perhaps on the advice of either Greenough or John George Children, who later became Keeper of the Department of Zoology at the British Museum, Burton also assembled a menagerie of animals to sell. He knew this could be of interest to the newly founded Zoological Society in London or to any travelling showman who could recoup their outlay by exhibiting such curiosities to the public for the price of an admission ticket.

The *Morning Post* 24 September 1833 offers the first clue about Burton's menagerie.

THE GIRAFFE: This singular and hitherto extremely rare animal, which, until the arrival of the one sent as a present from the Pacha of Egypt in 1827 to his late Majesty, was considered as having existence only in fabulous stories, not having been seen in Europe for several centuries previously, is now from

the increasing desire to procure the novelties of the animal kingdom, likely to become more familiar to this country, as no less than six have been captured and brought through the Great Desert. They have arrived safely in Grand Cairo, preparatory to their shipment for England. One of these beautiful animals has been procured by Mr Burton, the architect, who is now travelling in Egypt for the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park, and arrangements are in progress for shipping a pair of these rare specimens of animated nature for the Surrey Zoological Gardens. One of these animals has also been captured in the back settlements of the Cape of Good Hope and is now on its passage to this country. It is a private speculation, undertaken by a merchant, and should it arrive first, will obtain a high price. The animals referred to above are all young, and do not exceed five or six feet in height.

That James Burton is described as an architect is a confusion with his brother Decimus who, having designed layouts for the zoological gardens in London and Dublin, was then designing a giraffe house. According to the Society minute books, on 18th October 1831 they decided to offer £1000 to anyone supplying a single Giraffe and £1500 to anyone supplying a pair. At the Council meeting of 15th September 1833 a letter was received from Messrs Phillips and King offering a Giraffe from the Cape. As a result of this Decimus Burton was instructed to prepare the plan of a Giraffe House, which he did by 25th September 1833. This animal died on its journey to England and at the end of 1833, arrangements were made with M Thibaut, then at Cairo, who obtained the four specimens that arrived at Regent's Park in May 1836 having walked through the streets from London Docks. There is no record at the Society of any Giraffe being offered or expected from Burton, although he was aware of their offer, and he had obtained one of the two remaining animals then at Cairo. Burton's Giraffe, Cameleopard, Zozafel or Zoraffeh (named after its cloud markings) was 7' 2" to the top of its shoulders and end of its mane. It was 11' 6" to the end of its raised nose, and 12' 6" to 13' 0" with the utmost reach of its tongue. It loved company, was docile, mild mannered, and licked Burton's hand on recognising him. (BLAddMss 25666 p57-63).

In November 1833 Burton left Cairo for Alexandria

to begin the journey to London. Humphreys wrote to Joseph Bonomi, then in Beirut 'We have been in Alexandria a week on our way to Europe!!! Alexandria you will say is still in Egypt but listen to this - Mr Burton has hired a vessel to transport us all, bipeds and quadrupeds to Leghorn - the day fixed for sailing is Monday next - Nov 18th - the vessel is a Neapolitan called Il Tasso, Capitan Ruggiero. Our party consists of Mr Burton, Dudu [Adriana], Vincenzo [Braico], Mohammed, the giraffe, the camel, [a hyena], two gazelles, three monkeys, two ovebar, three hawks, three owls, a nameless bird, four gerboas and your most obedient. We shall most probably meet with some delightful stormy weather and if we reach our port in safety it will be in the midst of winter, instead of the summer, as we ought to have done. ... The camel you sent from Suez was very ill when it arrived - he got better and was sold for 225 piastres - the dollar at 19. The other camel goes to England with us.' (13-11-1833 Private Collection).

News of Burton's departure spread around Europe. The *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* from 1834 noted 'In regards to the famous English traveler Mr Burton, *Moniteur Egyptien* said the following on the 26th of November 1833 ... another enthusiastic traveler arrived in Alexandria. ... This person is English, Mr Burton. ... He brought back to England, amongst other animals, a young giraffe and a very rare small animal, similar to a groundhog and known to the Arabian world as Ovebar. He also achieved significant success in regards to hieroglyphic. One hopes that his and Wilkinson's attempts will brighten the areas of this still dark science. Mr Burton was accompanied by the great artist, Mr Humphries, who drew a large number of the hieroglyphs.'

Burton finally left Alexandria for Italy on either 26 or 27 November 1833. His first letter home was to Greenough, and sent in February 1834 from quarantine in the Lazzaretto at Leghorn. 'I remained some months longer in Egypt than I should otherwise have done in expectation of receiving answers to my communication respecting the Zozafel [Egyptian Giraffe] and finally having made all my arrangements, and taken leave of my friends, was resolved on braving the season, contrary to their advice, more particularly as I was flattered with the prospect of a short though perhaps rough passage at this time of year; in this I was disappointed, and have been forty five days at sea during very bad weather. It is with confidence I now again beg you to aid me, in the disposal of my menagerie, which, if properly effected, relieve me, as you are aware of (a) great

burden. I am extremely anxious not to have any longer the trouble and expense of carrying it on its journey, whether it be destined for England or elsewhere, but shall be willing of course to give every instruction and assistance necessary for its proper and secure conveyance, and will ensure its safe arrival if strict attention be paid to it. I have not received from the Zoological Society any more than from yourself or my father any answer to my note; and here I may observe, that I have not on any occasion since 1831 had the honour of securing my reports from the Committee of Science and correspondence, from which it would appear that they have not considered that I could give them any assistance in the East. ... They have been unfortunate, I find, in their speculation of obtaining a Zozafel from the Cape, and I conjecture it must have been owing to the pending of their negotiation that no attention was paid to my offer. In addition to the Zozafel I have a young male dromedary of the Bishary breed, one cercopithecus ruber [red monkey from Senegal Central Africa] - two cercopithecus sabai ?male and female [monkeys] - two antelopes (recticornus) male and female, one hyena [Rousettus] Aegyptiacus (the same I fancy as the Syrian) and erinaceus [hedgehog] - a porphyris hyacinthus, an Ibis - several hawks, owls, partridges, and other animals. ... With respect to the animals I must be greatly under the guidance of yourself and other friends, but I am desirous of parting with them to the best bidder, and I suggest that offers be made, first to the Zoological Society, secondly to the Surrey [Zoological] Society and then to private individuals, who may be desirous of speculating in their exhibition. Before their refusal I am not unwilling to sell them on the Continent - but it is right you should know I have had information from the Austrian Employee that the Emperor would be desirous of obtaining the Zozafel, and I am informed that the Parisians have lost that which was in the Jardin des Plantes. The market seems therefore favourable, but I am very desirous it should go to England. Of this I am properly sure, that no one of the animals hitherto brought to Europe were in such fine condition as mine. Respecting its value, which I have been well considering, I do not see that I ought to part with it for less than eighteen thousand dollars. Having been habituated five years in confinement, and having arrived safely in Europe, in such excellent order, I consider its value as more than trebly increased. The expenses have been very heavy for keep, lodging and attendants, and transport from Qahirah to Alexandria, and thence to Europe, and in endeavouring to determine a price from the profit which would accrue to its owner on exhibition, it will

of course be considerably augmented by the circumstance of that at Naples being I am told in a weak state, and that at Paris dead. You are aware I had an offer of £800 when I first received it, and was in a very precarious state of health - It was then at Qahirah - It is now in Europe in robust health. The owners of that at Naples had five thousand dollars offered in Malta - subsequently that sum has been doubled - but both offers have been refused - as they say that the cost has been to them hitherto as much as fifteen thousand dollars and the demanded eighteen thousands. One of these offers was made, I have been told by the Zoological Society. To give you an idea of their calculations of profit, it was insured for forty thousand dollars. Like that of race horses its value must rest on the probability of the stakes to be won by it, and if a colt will sell for three thousand guineas, I do not see why a Zoafel should not, which seems to me to offer a much safer game for one or two years than the racehorse. And the winnings would commence from this place to the exhibitor, where even in the Lazaretto, owing to the crowds of visitors that have sought admittance, I have been obliged at last to refuse admission. The exhibitor would carry it hence by sea to Marseilles, in the steam packet - thence, after a proper time up the Rhone to Lyons, and then as high as Chalons - here he would have to cross the country, I believe half a day, till he fell into a canal joining the Seine, and would at this option proceed to Paris or Havre - according to circumstance. From here he might take passage to London - and hire the Regent's Park or close in the neighbourhood of the Zoological Society - a proper place for his exhibition. Once arrived in London, were he to seek for further and most sure data for its value, he must consult the books of the Society, and from the numbers of visitors who pay the one shilling at the door of their gardens fix the selling price. Were I then in his place I would not sell it for less than five thousand guineas - for it is certain he would receive all their visitors, and as many more during the year as curiosity formerly led to them, where they took at their garden gate eleven thousand pounds, and he might then sell it at any other price or try his fortune another year in some other place - for I would insure the animals life at least two years. It is evident then it would well repay the Society or any individual to purchase it. I do not fancy that William IV has the same taste as that George IV had, you will know but whether it should be offered to him. If the road through France, which I have mentioned, be practicable, I would not on any account venture on another long voyage round by Gibraltar, although it bore its passage extremely well to this place. It was

sick and off its food on a rough sea but quickly recovered on the weather becoming calmer. The middle of the hold was inclosed with planking, and fitted up with cushions to save it in a bad sea, being laid deep with sand and gravel and well covered with straw. I was also prepared with strong canvas for swinging it, which however I seldom used, the animal becoming accustomed to the roll, and (a) very accomplished sailor. It was kept warm, but not too thickly covered, and I have never yet had occasion to clothe it in a complete sheepskin dress which I have for it. Great attention has been paid to its food, and it has not been allowed to have green food except in very small quantities as a treat. I began with this treatment when I first had it, in order to prepare it for the voyage, and it is to this that I principally attribute its good health. I did not allow it any large quantity of water aboard - giving it to drink only every third day as I did the dromedary, its food being split beans and hay. The deaths of the other three at Qahirah were owing to the negligence of these respects, at the same time that they were left exposed in a damp, cold grove where no sun could penetrate. The practice of continuing to give these animals milk in large quantity and for a long time, as was done with others brought to Europe is hurtful. I now permit it to have water daily, as it eats so much, and I shall be obliged to lower it by diminishing its food some days before I take it out of the Lazaretto, or shall not be able to convey it safely into town (to ensure safe passage from the people, (I am to have a party of Dragoons) I am of the opinion, however, that it will be better now during the hot weather to give it green food for two months. I should particularly recommend the purchaser to keep it in company with other animals, and to let its keepers be always with it as it is remarkably fond of society, and aboard ship was always making friends with the sailors. Whenever the weather permits, it should have exercise, with or without its clothes according to the day. I make it gallop along the area within the walls of the Lazaretto, pursuing it on a dromedary. It is about five years since it was brought to Qahirah, and it must have been at that time about one year old - it now reaches thirteen feet, and it is a female, and although she can kick, is tres amiable. I do not observe that her kicks are so exceedingly rapid as described - but she uses both her forelegs as well as her hind ones. The mode by which it also destroys other animals is pressure of the chest. I had two very large Cranes, in the same ground with it, killed in this way after they had been knocked down by her legs, and she constantly presses against the keeper when he attends the manger. She has never uttered any cry. The sense

of hearing is very acute, and I should that of smell also, as the tongue is constantly employed in keeping the nostril moist. It can on no account be called a small feeder. In contradiction of my good friend Signor d'Acerbi's assertion that it does not stretch its legs forward as well as sideways when it eats from the ground. I must say that mine does - but certainly not so much forwards as sideways, which varies according to the level of ground, being generally six feet - and she certainly eats with much greater facility at five feet from the ground. It is needless to tell you again the purpose to which I am anxious to apply some of the proceeds, and I am convinced you will help me with your advice. I only wish to know immediately from the parties to whom it is offered their inclination. The Dromedary and the other animals must be taken at the same time, but about these we should have no difficulty. In case of purchasing the animals here, it will necessarily be the business of the purchaser to send proper agents to take care of them.' (-1-02-1834 Letter to Greenough UCL 35/2).

The Gentleman's Magazine of March 1834 included further details in its report: 'Another explorer of Egypt, who seems to be as equally ardent as all who have preceded him, has arrived at Alexandria; Mr Burton is waiting there for conveyance to England. ... He has brought with him some living animals, among which is a young giraffe and a small but very rare creature resembling a marmot, or dormouse, and which in Arabia is called the ovebar. Mr Burton has also employed his scientific investigations upon hieroglyphics. He has been accompanied throughout his long and toilsome travels by Mr Humphries, an able artist, who has copied a great number of hieroglyphics. Some of his drawings have been lithographed at Cairo.'

'Mr Barton's (sic) giraffe' was first seen at Leghorn on 21 April 1834 by Captain William Bouchier RN on his way home from India. (Narrative of a Passage from Bombay to England). **As further confirmation of it being in Naples**, Sir William Gell, wrote to Wilkinson on 9 September 1834 'I should hope ere this Burton would have arrived in England for we saw him in the papers at Marseilles with his Griffons and Salamanders duly advertised. It would be entertaining to walk through France with a museum of monsters and make a fortune by exhibiting at all the places along the road. It would be very entertaining if one was young enough.' (Bodleian Library Wilkinson MSS, Letters Etc)

With quarantine completed, Burton set off from Leghorn by boat, heading for Sete on the south coast of France, where coincidentally the father of his friend in Egypt, Linant de Bellefonds, was harbourmaster. Burton's plan was to transport the giraffe through France by barge using the canal system. The arrival was reported in the *Farmer's Weekly for October 1834* 'Mr Burton, who has been for some time in Arabia, has just returned from that country to France. He has brought with him, and safely landed, a beautiful giraffe, a dromedary, and some gazelles and monkies. The giraffe is understood to be a present to William IV.' But what nobody knew was that the giraffe had been in Sete at the beginning of September and was already dead, having allegedly been poisoned. This fact was acknowledged in another letter to Wilkinson from Gell dated 04 November 1834 'I am truly sorry to hear of the decease of Burton's cameleopard after all the trouble and expense he has had with it. I wrote to him at Leghorn to recommend him to take half price rather than risk the voyage with it. They are too delicate for northern climes and cannot get proper food.'

Burton kept from his family and friends the fact that the giraffe had died and *The Gentleman's Magazine* of 26 November 1834 continued to report 'Another explorer of Egypt, who seems to be as equally ardent as all who have preceded him, has arrived in Alexandria; Mr Burton is waiting there for a conveyance to England. ... He has brought with him some living animals, among them a young giraffe, and a small but very rare creature resembling a marmot and which in Arabia is called the ovebar [marmot or doormouse]. Mr Burton has also employed his scientific investigations upon hieroglyphics. He has been accompanied throughout his long and toilsome travels by Mr Humphries, an able artist, who has copied a great number of hieroglyphics. Some of his drawings have been lithographed at Cairo.' In contrast *Peabody's Parlour Journal for 1834* reported what others already knew, that the 'Giraffe given by the Pasha to Burton died at Cette. Burton had refused 4,000 francs for it.'

Having left Sete, Burton arrived in Bordeaux towards the end of 1834 and took accommodation for his companions and stabling for the remainder of his menagerie in an hotel at 1 Rue de Seze, from where Humphreys wrote to Bonomi, now in London. 'Your dromedary as well as the other animals that were brought from Egypt with the giraffe are here and nobody knows what to do with them, they are as the horsedealers say eating their heads off, the

Camel seems to bear the climate pretty well but does not fatten. We lead the lives of hermits here. I know no one and no one knows me, I have no courage to take up any pursuit and am not discontented and miserable. I never write or receive letters and as my mother's death took place immediately after my return [from] Egypt I am as lonely a being as can well be imagined.' (26-12-1834 letter Private Collection).

News of the menagerie continued to travel far and wide and *The Sydney Morning Herald* 2 February 1835 repeated that 'Mr. Burton, who has been for some time in Arabia, has just returned from that country to France. He has brought with him, and safely landed, a beautiful giraffe, a dromedary, and some gazelles and monkeys.'

By April 1835, nearly six months after reaching Bordeaux, Burton, Humphreys and the menagerie were living a hand to mouth existence. His father would not send money and Greenough would not increase his loan, all in an attempt to force Burton back to London. Although at the best of times Burton was stubborn, he now had other worries. These he would only reveal months later. Humphreys sent a begging letter to Bonomi asking for money to help keep body and soul together while Burton made every effort to find a buyer for the menagerie. 'We shall all be very shortly moving homewards and are now only waiting until the French Government make payment respecting the ... Camels, gazelles (Slender Horned Gazelle), monkeys etc. which they I believe are going to take. Say nothing about this in London, because it might hurt the feelings of some of Mr B[urton]'s friends that these animals did not go to the Zoological Society but the money is absolutely necessary here and if they went to London they must be made presents of. ... We are quite well but as I have before told you very low in purse and all this is owing to the Giraffe, who swallowed up such an enormous sum of money without any profit. (Answered with a 10 pound note 14 April 1835)' (-7-04-1835 letter Private Collection).

To achieve a sale, Burton enlisted the help of Msr Guestier, Deputy for the Gironde, who at the end of April 1835 wrote to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, offering all the animals for the sum of 5,500 francs. Having consulted Msr le Directeur and the garde de la menagerie, a letter was sent to Burton suggesting they were only worth 3,650 francs. Hoping to sell elsewhere, Burton held off taking a decision until July, then sent a letter requesting a best and final offer. By now the purchase was being considered by

the zoologist Msr Isidore Geoffrey St Hilaire, who reduced the offer even further to 3,000 francs. Again Burton held off while continuing to haemorrhage money paying for the hotel and stabling. The animals were finally delivered to the Jardin des Plantes at the beginning of November 1835. They went on exhibit in 1836.

Burton and his entourage could now leave Bordeaux. (*Archives nationales, Paris Microfilm AJ/15/132*). Burton arrived at the family home in St Leonard's on Sea on Christmas Eve 1835. His father briefly noting in a dairy 'James ... arrived after spending several months in the South of France (and Paris). As can be imagined there was 'a big family party' on Christmas Day.

On 1st January 1836, Burton sent a letter to Robert Hay. 'I was to have been in England in June or July 1824, that year however passed and two days before Xmas of 1835 I put my foot on the quay at Dover in the midst of a babel of cacophonous English and was carried off piecemeal to an hotel. I then worked my way across the country to this place and have not yet been to London. But why was I not in England in 1834? There's the rub - and a rough and heavy one too. My mercantile speculation in zoology - or Polito scheme of converting wild beasts into gold failed when on the point of realising my sanguine hopes and instead of putting several thousand pounds in my pocket, I have lost. My Zoraffe died suddenly, when within five days of England after all the trouble and anxiety and expense of the journey from Qahirah and the remaining [animals] brought no compensation to it under the idea that they would in part pay (?the whole expense) but remained dead weight upon my hands for a whole year and have finally been given I may say to the Jardin des Plantes at Paris part of their keep and their transport from Bordeaux being paid. In the midst of the delay, occasioned by the animals being low spirited and unwell - and fearful of the climate of England - and my departure was signed, sealed and completed by my evil genius. The poor fellow Mohammed had his right arm horribly lacerated by one of the animals (the hyena). Amputation was at first decided upon by the surgeons but I persuaded them to let nature try her powers to preserve the limb. Every artery, vein and tendon [except that of the little finger] were torn apart and the joint of the wrist laid open so that the hand hung by the fleshy part towards the little finger only. The goodwill of nature and the good blood of the Arab succeeded and I preserved the tombstone of an arm although without the use. This accident beside

loading me with very heavy accounts for surgeons and apothecaries (for the keep of his bed and room four or five months) has left a cripple on my hands for support and brought me to the end of another year and here I am, at length arrived, in the depth of the worst winter or rather your vile English climate has lowered upon you for many years.' (01-01-1836 Letter BL AddMss 38094 f93+94).

Although he had lost money from his zoological speculation, Burton still had a collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities and books in Arabic he could sell and repay his debt to Greenough. Burton's collection was auctioned between 15-18 July 1836. Within days of the sale Sotheby, the auctioneers, filed for bankruptcy and Burton lost every penny. Burton never really recovered from this double set-back and he spent the remainder of his life in Edinburgh in the company of DuDu [Adriana Garofalaki], the Greek slave girl he had bought in Cairo nearly twenty years before and had now married.

In November 1838 Bonomi with his two sisters and a female friend of theirs, left London to visit their family in Rome. Travelling via Paris they visited the Jardin des Plantes. J J Scoles in a letter to Hay noted that Bonomi 'was mightily pleased at meeting with his old camel which he gave to Burton. He made him go on his knees twice to the surprise of the keepers and the spectators without the paling [on the public side of the fence]. The animal had almost forgotten the word 'Kish'. (13-11-1838 Letter to Hay RIBA Library).

Burton never saw his menagerie again.



- Thibaut's Giraffe - cover of the *Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction* 11 June 1836

VISIT TO JERUSALEM IN 1918

The Editors are grateful to ASTENE member Henry Keown-Boyd for offering the following account of a visit made by his father, when the latter was Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for Egypt, Sir Reginald Wingate.

3rd Sept 1918

[...] I am at the moment on the Mount of Olives, sitting in my bedroom with my back to Jerusalem and looking out over the Dead Sea. The house in which I am is, needless to say, a German hostelry, admirably built and very comfortable and now used as a divisional headquarters. The view is, of course, magnificent, plain and hills spread out like a map below you and set off by the dull glitter of the big salt lake.

[... We] left Alexandria at 3.40 on Friday afternoon. After a comfortable journey in HE's saloon with a tea and dinner of sumptuous plenty, which only the Egyptian State Railways can provide in these days, we reached Kantara on the Suez Canal at 10pm. At Kantara West Station we took a motor-car, crossed the Canal by a wooden bridge and boarded a special train on the Palestine Military Railway at Kantara East Station and left at 10.30pm. Again in the extreme of comfort—each has his own saloon, even to a bathroom. The evening is finished with whisky and soda, and so to bed with great content. Personally I knew no more until six o'clock on the Saturday morning when I woke at Gaza, in green, hilly country with a cool, even cold, wind. I drank my early tea and smoked my first and best cigarette of the day and my chief thought—may I be forgiven—was “no office to-day”.

We arrived finally at GHQ at 7.50am and sat down to a most welcome breakfast with General Allenby a few minutes later. A short description of the C-in-C would perhaps not be out of place. He is a very tall, well-built, fine-looking man—fresh and healthy-looking with character writ large all over him. His age is about 55, I think. He is inclined to be bald but not very grey. He has rather a heavy strong jaw and his expression is very firm but kind.[...] I do not think him to be a genius or even a man of outstanding brain power—but he is quick, prompt, very much alive and very energetic. He is known to his men as “The Bull”—he visits constantly every part of the front and is worshipped by Tommy—in fact there is little doubt that his personality was

a very large factor in the success of the Palestine campaign [...]

To continue, we left GHQ by motor at 11.30am, and after passing through the scene of much fighting at which Sir R. Wingate had been present himself before the fall of Jerusalem and which he explained in detail, we skirted Jerusalem and arrived at our present abode on the Mount of Olives [...]

The first view of Jerusalem did not, I confess, impress me greatly—we got into the outskirts of it almost before we knew we were there—but the view from the front of this hostelry is very fine. [...] Yesterday I contented myself with a distant view of the city and after lunch went with Sir R. Wingate and the Corps Commander out through Bethlehem to the Pools of Solomon, three large tanks in the hills from which in ancient times the city of Jerusalem is said to have drawn an excellent and sufficient water supply. Then we went on to Pontius Pilate's reservoir from which in Christ's time water was carried to the city, some 40 kilometres, by an aqueduct the line of which, and in parts the masonry itself, can still be traced. This reservoir was found at the time of our occupation half filled with earth, and in it flourished a grove of fig and olive trees and a few vines kept by an old man who also grew a few vegetables. He was quickly dispossessed and the reservoir is now being repaired to hold a ten-day water supply for Jerusalem. A pump has been installed and the inhabitants of the Holy City, who when we arrived there depended entirely on rain water collected in tanks in their houses and a few old wells, now get a good supply carried to them by a pipe line all the way from Pilate's reservoir.

[... We] were joined at dinner by Colonel [Ronald] Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem and various military celebrities. Storrs, you may remember, was Oriental Secretary at the Residency until shortly after the capture of Jerusalem. I first met him at Hampton Court in 1907. My early impression was that he was very amusing but somewhat odd. I met him again at the Agency in [Eldon] Gorst's time and disliked him strongly [...] Since I went to Cairo and saw more of him I understood him better and like him more [... It] was a stroke of genius to make Storrs Governor of Jerusalem. No one else can or will understand the mind and character of the oriental ecclesiastic as he does. His dealings with Arabs and Moslems have been intimate. Everyone, save the Zionists, is pleased with him; and for ordinary mundane things he has a most efficient staff. In a word, he is a complete success.

My first visit this morning, after the departure of Sir Reginald [...] was to call on him in his office—a palatial building and everything well-ordered. He has a very nice set of chairs with Kaiser Wilhelm's monogram on them. We chatted and parted. From his office I went to the Arab Bureau. This has found its home in a funny little German *bier halle* near the Jaffa Gate. Over it presides [Everard] Fielding, erstwhile secretary to the Psychic Research Society, now camouflaged as a naval lieutenant. Here in an arbour of plumbago, amaryllis and jasmine meet refugees [...], officers of King Hussein's Arab Army on leave from Emir Feisel's northern army and from the Hejaz itself—scallywag Moslem Bedouin, Christian Arabs, Jews with tales to tell and a collection of odds and ends of Palestine and Syrian humanity. In the office and garden their stories are sifted and money is paid into their hands (they love the British!), and in the club-room they drink their coffee, smoke countless cigarettes, play tric-trac and French billiards and talk for ever [...]

Having finished such business as I had to do, I was taken in hand by young Baird [unidentified] who had most kindly arranged to show me in the shortest space of time possible all that the tourist should see of the Holy City—its beauties and its bathos.

We started from the Jaffa Gate [...] We quickly passed the Roman steps whence the British proclamation was read and buried ourselves in the markets[...] Narrow, noisy and in places noisome, they are streets of small shops, stone-flagged streets for the most part covered in, or with arches across them and in many places descending steeply by a series of long steps such as you see in Cornish fishing villages. The people who throng them are as varied in race and religion as in the colours of their clothing: Jews, Arabs, Armenians, Turks, all haggling, bargaining, shouting and pushing. Here and there one gets glimpses which will remain long in the memory. We are passing a dyer's shop in a dark narrow passage, [and] under an arch at right angles went a second passage equally dark and narrow and beautifully arched.

This, in its turn, was crossed at a distance of some 15 yards by a second street and at the crossing was an opening to the sky. Hidden from view from this opening, bright sunlight poured in and hit the corner of the wall where there were two young girls, one standing and leaning over to talk to a second, who was sitting against the wall. The first had a basket of vegetables by her side; the second

was holding a pitcher. Their clothes were every colour of the rainbow, and in the dark setting of the narrow arched way they made perhaps the most delightfully graceful and gaily coloured picture I have ever seen. Such glimpses are common, and then one turns back[...]to push or to be pushed by corner boys of every kind, veiled women, unveiled women, vegetable sellers with tomatoes, egg fruit, peppers, grapes, figs, prickly pears, peaches and other things of which I do not know the names. Prices are moderate and everyone is very happy and contented and, I think, confident and pleased that the British Raj has come to stay. We [spent] time in the markets and then went down the Via Dolorosa, another narrow, steep, stepped and arched street of the usual kind, to the temple area. The mosque is quite certainly the most beautiful building I have ever seen—its shape and proportions are perfect and its colouring is absolutely satisfying. Any description

of this last which one attempts to write cannot fail to give an impression of gaudiness. But it is not gaudy. The mosque is covered entirely, except for the dome which is dusty black, with coloured tiles and mosaic work. The prevailing colour is blue and the harmony of shade is unimpeachable. I have never before been so struck by the beauty of any building.

Sir Alexander Keown-Boyd, KBE, CMG
Born 1884; educated Merchant Taylors' School and St John's College, Oxford; Sudan Civil Service, 1907-1916; Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for Egypt, 1917-1919; Oriental Secretary to the High Commissioner for Egypt, 1919-1922; Director General, Foreign Affairs, Egyptian Government, 1922; Director General, European Department, Ministry of the Interior, Egyptian Government, 1923-1937; died 1954.



Sir Alexander Keown-Boyd with his wife at their home in Cairo in the 1930s.



General Sir Reginald Wingate

FOOTPRINTS

Remembering Amelia Peabody (and Elizabeth Peters) as a travel companion by Adela Junova Mackova

This is not a scholarly contribution, nor do I wish to rival official obituaries and papers by crime stories' specialists, who have written about Barbara Mertz – Elizabeth Peters (also known as Barbara Michaels). However, since Amelia Peabody also belongs to the ASTENE world, I wish to add a brief personal memory of my acquaintance with her and a small tribute to her maker.

Once I got a present from Dr. Johanna Holaubek, a fellow ASTENE member. It was a book by Elizabeth Peters entitled *The Hipopotamus Pool*. I started to read and in the beginning it was difficult for me, as my English needed a lot of practice. I continued during long winter evenings and bus rides to work. I could escape from the reality (very rainy and cold) and stay with Amelia Peabody in Luxor, enjoy the sun, the West bank atmosphere, archaeological research and fun with her son Ramses (my sons were but a little older than he at that time). When I finished, it was clear that I needed more and my hunt for the Amelia Peabody series started. I bought some of the books in Vienna, some in England, and chased others on the World Wide Web. When I left my family for a four months scholarship in London in winter 2012, I obtained the last one, read it, and was quickly ready for another. In March 2013 I travelled to Luxor and walked through the cliffs above the Valley of the Kings and suddenly I was there with Amelia and Abdullah and imagining what the next adventure will be about.

Now Elizabeth Peters is with her heroes. Her books obtained their place in many bookcases of scholars (two shelves in mine) and we will never forget these wonderful stories and their writer.

Barbara Mertz died 8 August 2013 aged 85. She studied at the University of Chicago and gained a PhD in Egyptology in 1952. Like so many, she was unable to find an academic job and, as a mother of young children, turned to writing, her first works being 'popular' Egyptology. Again, like so many others, she soon found crime was more lucrative than Egyptology, and under the names Elizabeth

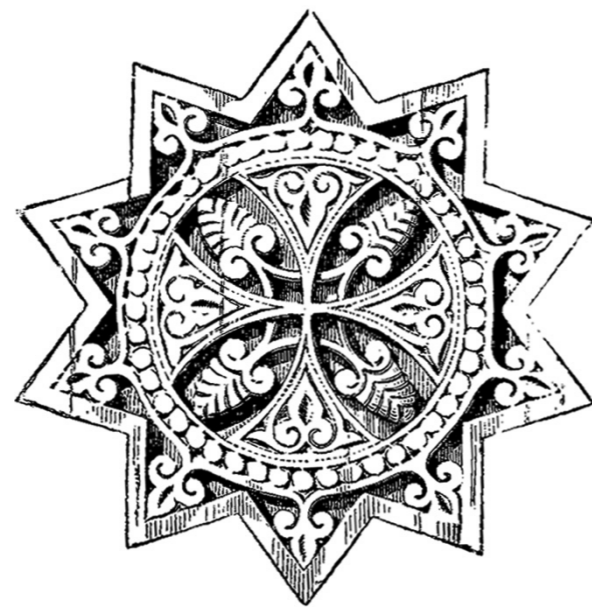
Peters and Barbara Michaels wrote many novels with different main characters: most of these were in the murder-mystery genre. Of these, Amelia Peabody – clearly a feminist version of Amelia Edwards – and her husband Radcliffe Emerson (a Petrie-a-like) provided the basis for her Egyptological series. She gained enormous popularity, particularly amongst the devotees of Egypt because she knew the country and its archaeology so well. Obituaries of Barbara Mertz appeared in many newspapers in the USA and UK *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*:

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/aug/13/barbara-mertz>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/10271770/Barbara-Mertz.html>

Gertrude Bell

The first major international conference to examine Gertrude Bell's activities in Iraq, organised by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) in association with the Gertrude Bell Archive at Newcastle University and the British Academy, was held from 11 to 13 September 2013 at the British Academy, Carlton House Terrace, London, entitled 'Gertrude Bell and Iraq - A Life and Legacy Conference', see http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/2013/Gertrude_Bell_and_Iraq.cfm. A fuller report about this fascinating event will be provided in the next edition of the *Bulletin*.



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