

ASTENE

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

BULLETIN



NOTES AND QUERIES

Number 52: Summer 2012

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Editor: Robert Morkot

ASTENE News and Events	1		
ASTENE AGM	1	<i>A Paire of Interlopers. The English</i>	
Oxford Study Day	1-2	<i>Abyssinian Warriors.</i> Peta Rée (Jacke Phillips).	13
ASTENE in Ireland	3-4	<i>A River in the Sky.</i> Elizabeth Peters	
Hoskins Watercolours	5-7	(Deborah Manley).	14
Reports Britain and abroad	8-9		
Other News and Events	10-11	Queries and Replies	15
Books and Book Reviews	12	Joseph Bonomi	
<i>Encountering Islam: Joseph Pitts: an English slave in 17th-century Algiers and Mecca.</i> Paul Auchterlonie (Sarah Searight).	12	David Roberts: a correction	
		Digital Trvellers	
		Some Irish Notes	

Bulletin 53 Autumn 2012

We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members and interested readers. The Editor of Bulletin 53 is Robert Morkot (R.G.Morkot@exeter.ac.uk). Please send contributions by 18 September 2012.

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Cover: Johana Holaubek and Priscilla Frost at the entrance to Borris House, co Carlow, on the ASTENE visit May 2012. (photo: Robert Morkot)

ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

A Visit to Leighton House, Kensington, Saturday 14 July 2012, followed by the ASTENE AGM

The 15th Annual General Meeting of The Association for the Study of Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE) will be held on Saturday, 14 July, 2012, at 2 pm, at St Mary Abbots Centre, Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4HN. Please come along! The meeting will consider the Annual Reports and Accounts, and elect proposed members to the Executive Committee. Reports and details of nominations are in the enclosed Papers.

At 11.30 am on that day we have arranged a private guided tour of the magnificently restored interiors of Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, Kensington, W14 8LZ, the former home and studio of the artist and traveller Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896). The centrepiece Arab Hall was designed to display Leighton's priceless collection of over a thousand Islamic tiles, which he brought back from Damascus in Syria.

After the tour we shall proceed to St Mary Abbots Centre, where a sandwich lunch and drinks will be provided at a nominal charge at 1pm prior to the AGM.

Booking is essential, both for the tour (the cost of the tour is £9, payable on entry) and lunch, so please contact Patricia Usick events@astene.org.uk if you plan to come. We can only hold the tour if we have sufficient numbers.

Directions: From Leighton House, make your way to Kensington High Street where buses run east to Kensington

Church Street. St Mary Abbots Centre is at the end of a cul-de-sac off Kensington Church Street at its junction with Kensington Palace Gardens, and is a 5-minute walk from Kensington High Street.

Walking tour of Kensal Green Cemetery: Saturday 22 September 2012 at 2PM

A chance to take a guided walk through the extraordinary Egyptianising funerary monuments of Kensal Green Cemetery, supplemented by select monuments of famous travellers relevant to ASTENE. Meeting at the cemetery at 2 pm we will be led by Cathie Bryan. Refreshments will follow in the Dissenters Chapel. To book your place, please contact Patricia Usick at events@astene.org.uk. There will be a charge for this visit to cover costs. Kensal Green Cemetery, Harrow Road, London, W10.

Save the date : Tenth Biennial Conference

On Friday 12 - Monday 15 July 2013 ASTENE will hold its Tenth Biennial Conference at Aston University, Birmingham, UK. There will be a call for papers in Autumn 2012. We look forward to welcoming all members to another vibrant exchange of research and ideas.

ASTENE Study Day April 29 2012

Fourteen ASTENE members gathered on Saturday 28 April at the Ashmolean Museum for a tour round the refurbished Egyptian and

Nubian galleries conducted by the curator, Liam MacNamara. It was fascinating to hear how both the building and the displays had been re-configured to give the visitor a sense of the chronology of the exhibits, to show their intrinsic beauty and to maximise our understanding of their significance and history. Dark cul-de sacs have been opened up and the only item which was not moved was the shrine of Taharqa from the Temple at Kawa which remained swathed in protective coverings while everything around it moved and the ceiling was re-lit to show it off to maximum effect.

Afterwards the former curator, Helen Whitehouse, gave a talk about the archaeologists, travellers and collectors who had built the Ashmolean collection, including Sandys, Petrie and Griffiths. It was a privilege to have the undivided time and attention of two such scholars and enthusiasts and we were pleased that both were able to join us for supper and more chat till late.

The following day around 30 people attended the latest ASTENE/ODUCE Study Day at Rewley House, Wellington Square. This was a somewhat lower number than the 85 or so who attended the **Travellers to the Monasteries of the East** Study Day in July 2010. The smaller turnout was due to the course being scheduled for a Sunday and the pre-announcement that there was no lift access. But for those who attended it was both enlightening and entertaining with the core debate being over whether the Travellers concerned were primarily pilgrims, who had to

travel in order to reach the chosen shrine, or primarily travellers to a shrine who became pilgrims as a result of their journey. With a neat symmetry the chosen shrines were Christian (Mount Athos, exclusive to adult males), Muslim (Mecca) and then all-inclusive - Judaic with Christian and Muslim devotees also, i.e. Jerusalem.

The timescale covered the fourteenth century for Ibn Battuta (Malcolm Wagstaff), through the fifteenth century for Cristoforo Buondelmonti (Paul Hetherington) to the nineteenth century for Moses Montefiore (Rabbi Andrew Goldstein). The base documents were somewhat in contrast, from the embroidered account of Ibn Battuta to the highly detailed records of daily expenditure kept by Montefiore. But all three presenters conveyed the common themes of the difficulties of travel, the wonders of arrival and the journal or narrative recording the travel.

As always we invite ASTENE members to suggest topics for future study days, preferably formulated in some way to fit into the OUDCE Department of Religious Studies, since it has supported past ASTENE study days and Rewley House is an ideal venue. Above all volunteers are needed who can actually marshal speakers and act as course directors. Contact Neil Cooke if you think you would like to take over this role from Malcolm Wagstaff who has acted as course director for these events till now.



ASTENE in Ireland: 20-27 May 2012

The weather in both Eire and Northern Ireland was as warm as the Mediterranean for the whole of the ASTENE tour. A small (but very select!) group assembled on Sunday afternoon, and ASTENE Irish members rallied to make it very special visit. In the evening we were joined by Emmet Jackson, who gave us a splendid talk about the Kavanaghs and Borris House (many will remember his lecture at last year's conference on this subject).

On Monday morning Professor John Bartlett arranged a viewing of material relating to Robert Madden (1798-1886) at Trinity College, Dublin. In the evening he told us of travellers to Egypt little known to some of us, and some – like Lord Kitchener – whose Irish connection we did not know, or had forgotten.

On Tuesday, accompanied by Emmet, we went south to Borris House in County Carlow from where Lady Harriet Kavanagh and her disabled son Arthur set off for the Mediterranean and Egypt in 1846. Mrs Kavanagh showed us Lady Harriet's sketch books and framed watercolours with Nile views as professional as most artists'. These included some places that are well known from narratives, but rarely illustrated.

We learnt of the meeting of 'the two Harriets': Kavanagh and Martineau ... a wonderful future conference paper there.

The Kavanaghs formed a significant collection of Egyptian antiquities, once displayed in the house, but now the basis of the

Egyptian gallery of the National Museum in Dublin, where they have been supplemented by other private donations and artefacts from excavations, notably by the Egypt Exploration Society.

On Wednesday we turned north to Belfast, on the way visiting Mount Stewart with its lovely garden – where all the great and the good once strolled. The ASTENE connection here is Lord Castlereagh, later 4th Marquess of Londonderry, subject of papers by Briony Llewellyn and John Ruffle.

From Belfast we had a very special day out to Castle Coole in County Fermanagh, from where Somerset Lowry-Corry, 2nd Earl of Belmore, and his entourage set out for Egypt, Syria and Palestine in 1816. He was accompanied by his wife, children, illegitimate half-brother (Captain Corry), servants, sailors, chaplain and doctor. The last, Dr Richardson, wrote an account of their voyage, and the group also appears in the narratives of Irby and Mangles (whom they met in Jerusalem) and Belzoni. The Comte de Forbin complained in his book of the maid and child being on the sites. The present Earl was our guide and ruefully commented on the fact that the large Egyptian collection, much of it excavated at Thebes, was later sold to the British Museum by the 2nd Earl to pay his debts! The Earl had inherited a magnificent, if austere, newly built neoclassical house that he then had to furnish – which he did, lavishly. The 4th Earl of Belmore also made a trip to Egypt, although not on quite such a grand scale.

After Castle Coole we visited nearby Florence Court, which has



Some members of the ASTENE group outside Borris House, co Carlow.

no direct ASTENE connection, although its owners were cousins of the 2nd Earl of Belmore: but well worth a detour.

In Belfast we were joined by Dr Edwin Aiken who gave a talk on Arthur Kavanagh. Belfast has a small Egyptian collection in the Museum, including two mummies. Takabuti was brought to Belfast in 1834 by Thomas Greg of Ballymenoch House, Holywood, co Down and unwrapped the following year: Edward Hincks, probably Ulster's first Egyptologist, was present and deciphered the names. The mummy of Tjesmutperet was given by Sir James Emerson Tennent in 1845.

Some of us visited the Titanic exhibition, and wondered how many of those who lost their lives on her had travelled to Egypt. Finally, we could not miss the Folk Park, recommended to us by Lisa French. Then, reluctantly, we made our way back home to Austria, Scotland, and around England – the hot spell still lingering on.

Why does ASTENE not go on holiday to Scotland? one of us asked plenty of ASTENE travellers there ...

Our thanks go to John Bartlett, Emmet Jackson, and Edwin Aiken for help with the planning, and for their lectures.

Deborah Manley and Robert Morkot

ASTENE helps to publish the drawings and watercolours by George Alexander Hoskins.

Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Egypt in 1798-1801 brought the country forcibly to the attention of the West. Preconditions for a closer and all-embracing relationship were created shortly afterwards. Muhammad Ali, the *wali* (protector) and self-proclaimed *khedive* (viceroy) between 1805 and 1848, combined the worst excesses of a despot, such as his treacherous slaughter of the Mamluk leaders in 1811, with enlightened attempts to modernize the country by bringing in European expertise. This, inevitably, opened Egypt to foreign travellers, though even then the trip was not for the faint-hearted. Excavators and epigraphists were active. The former were digging ancient sites, in a hasty and unscientific way, in search of monuments for national as well as private collections. The latter were copying texts and scenes in tombs and temples in order to expand the corpus of study material for the recently formed subject, Egyptology. Egypt was an exotic country and the attention of the early visitors was not confined to ancient relics but also included various aspects of Coptic and Islamic cultures and the people they encountered. The copyists of the 1820s and 1830s were men whom one must admire for their artistic abilities, dedication and courage.

One such person was George Alexander Hoskins (1802-1863). Hoskins was a man of independent

means and a gifted, though not properly trained, amateur artist. He was in Egypt in 1832-3 and teamed up with other prominent epigraphists, including Robert Hay, Francis Arundale, Frederic Catherwood and Joseph Bonomi. Unusually, he travelled to the outlying regions, such as the Kharga Oasis and Nubia. Musauwarat el-Sofra and Wad Ban Naga, near the 6th Nile cataract, were the southernmost ancient sites which Hoskins recorded in his drawings.

Three albums of Hoskins's watercolours and drawings were in the possession of Sir Alan Gardiner. After his death they came into the Archive of the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford. The albums contain altogether 394 numbered items. The majority of them were made by Hoskins but about 50 of them can be assigned to Luchese Bandoni, an Italian artist who was Hoskins' travel-companion during the journey into Nubia. Hoskins produced two books about his stay in Egypt, the splendidly titled *Travels in Ethiopia, above the second cataract of the Nile; exhibiting the state of that country, and its various inhabitants, under the dominion of Mohammed Ali; and illustrating the antiquities, arts, and history of the ancient kingdom of Meroe* (1835), and *Visit to the Great Oasis of the Libyan Desert; with an account, ancient and modern, of the oasis of Amun, and the other oases now under the dominion of the Pasha of Egypt* (1837). Some of the images in the Griffith Institute's albums were reproduced in these books but there are others, known to us from



Two men of the Shageea tribe fighting. Hoskins MSS 331. © The Griffith Institute, University of Oxford.

the books, which are not in the albums. There is therefore, a real possibility that some may be in other archives, or in private possession, perhaps unrecognized. Hoskins returned to Egypt in 1860-1 and wrote a third book, but it appears that the watercolours and drawings in the Griffith Institute albums were made exclusively during the first visit.

An online publication of this material had been contemplated for some time but would not have been possible had ASTENE not stepped in and most generously financed the scanning of the material. The initial cataloguing was done by Rosalind Moss sometime before 1952 and provided a useful starting point. This was expanded further by Ana

I. Navajas, Tracy Walker, Nicola Harrington, Alison Hobby and Elizabeth Fleming. The scanning was carried out by Jenni Navratil, assisted by Hana Navrátilová. The format of the presentation of the material and the final editing were due to me.

The project has now been completed. All the Hoskins watercolours and drawings can be seen on the website of the Griffith Institute:

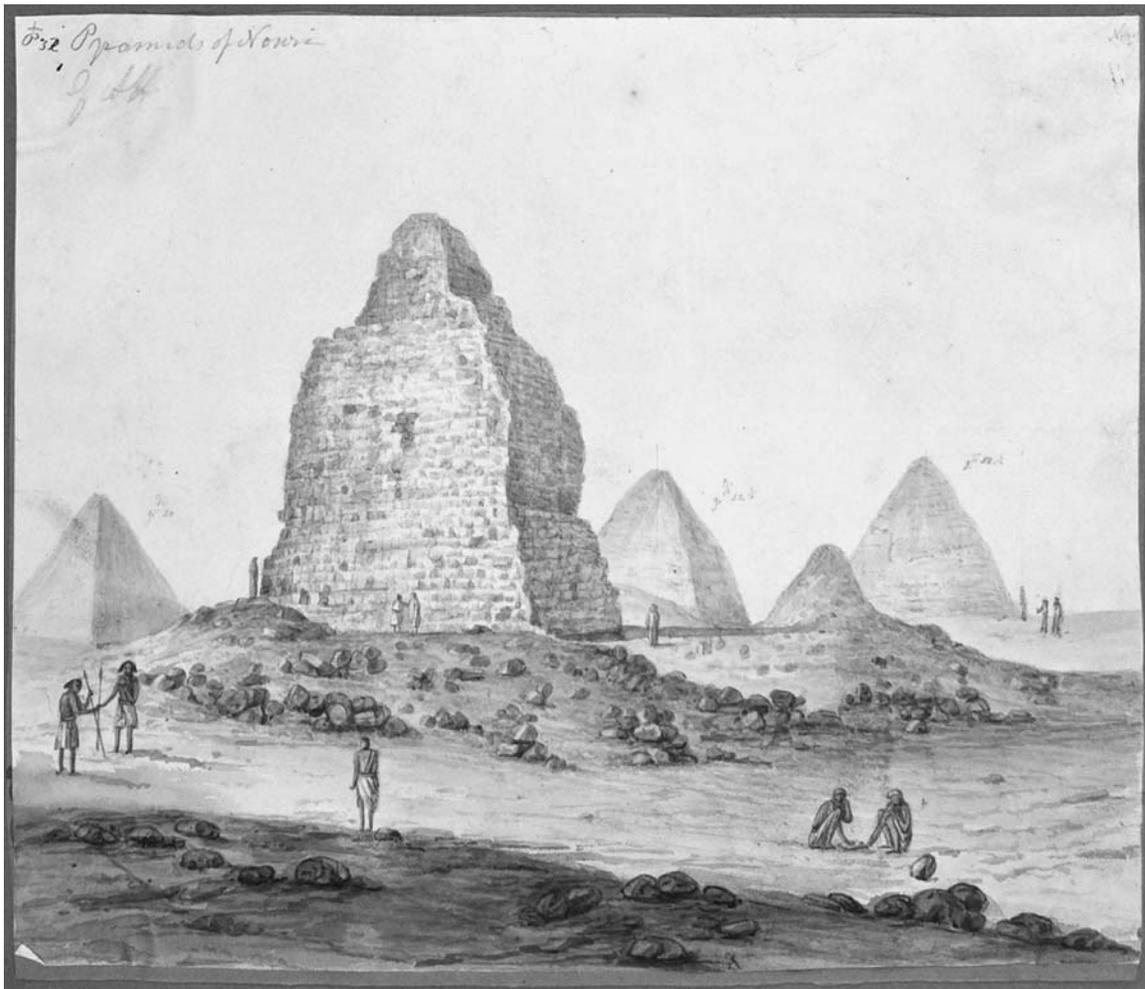
<http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/4hoskins-opening-page>. Each image has its own page with measurements and the description of the technique, transcripts of annotations, an indication of the site or subject and, where relevant, a reference to *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian*

Hieroglyphic Texts (PM). There are also lists by archive numbers and by subjects and sites and a gallery of all the images. Bandoni's copies are listed separately. Robert Morkot contributed a brief biography of Hoskins.

Egypt has changed enormously during the past two hundred years and any records dating to the first half of the 19th century potentially contain unique

information which would otherwise be irretrievably lost. The watercolours and drawings by George Alexander Hoskins certainly belong to this category.

Jaromir Malek



The pyramids of Nuri, near the Fourth Cataract, northern Sudan. Hoskins MSS 2.57

© The Griffith Institute, University of Oxford.

Report from Scotland

On 31 March Jennifer Scarce attended the launch of the excellent publication by Susan Keracher of the journey of the two remarkable lady journalists Marie Imandt and Bessie Maxwell who set off on February 16 1894 on a world tour sponsored by the newspaper magnate DC Thomson. They visited 10 countries and reported particularly on women for the Dundee Courier and the Weekly News. Their travels included ASTENE territory such as Egypt. The book has been published by the Abertay historical society and will be reviewed in the next *Bulletin*.

The Abertay Historical Society has agreed to include the ASTENE application brochure in its next mailing to members.

Jennifer Scarce has also distributed ASTENE flyers to the National Library of Scotland's John Murray Archive. Jennifer gave a lecture at the Dorothy Dunnett Society AGM in Edinburgh over the weekend of April 21/22. The Title was "Style from top to toe - how to dress at the Ottoman Court in the sixteenth Century" inspired by Dorothy Dunnett's novel *Pawn in Frankincense* which explores the perilous world of the Ottoman harem.

International Activities of ASTENE – a first brief report

ASTENE hopes to enlarge its international appeal, following suggestions of our members, voiced at the Oxford conference in 2011. Our activities are intended to include talks, lectures and other

presentations in related institutions and fellow organisations. One of the aims is to offer to the ASTENE members who reside outside the UK an opportunity to have an ASTENE event in their area.

There were several positive reactions to this long-term plan.

Amanda Heggstad has met with a positive response from her colleagues in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Recently, Dr. André Veldmeijer of the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo (NVIC) has kindly suggested the NVIC would welcome ASTENE talks in their venue in Cairo. The speaker could also benefit from the possibility of having accommodation on the premises. Please would members able to take advantage of this opportunity contact Dr Veldmeijer on veldmeijer@palarch.nl (with a copy to Hana Navrátilová so that she can organise ASTENE hand-outs if possible).

We hope there will be more events of this sort. I would like to use this opportunity to thank Amanda Heggstad for starting an ASTENE group in the Benelux, Cynthia Sheikholeslami for mediating useful contacts in Cairo, and Deb Manley for inspiring the idea.

Hana Navrátilová

Egypt and Austria VIII Conference in Ljubljana Slovenia

Johana Holaubek and our colleagues in south central Europe would very much like us to join them at their annual meeting:

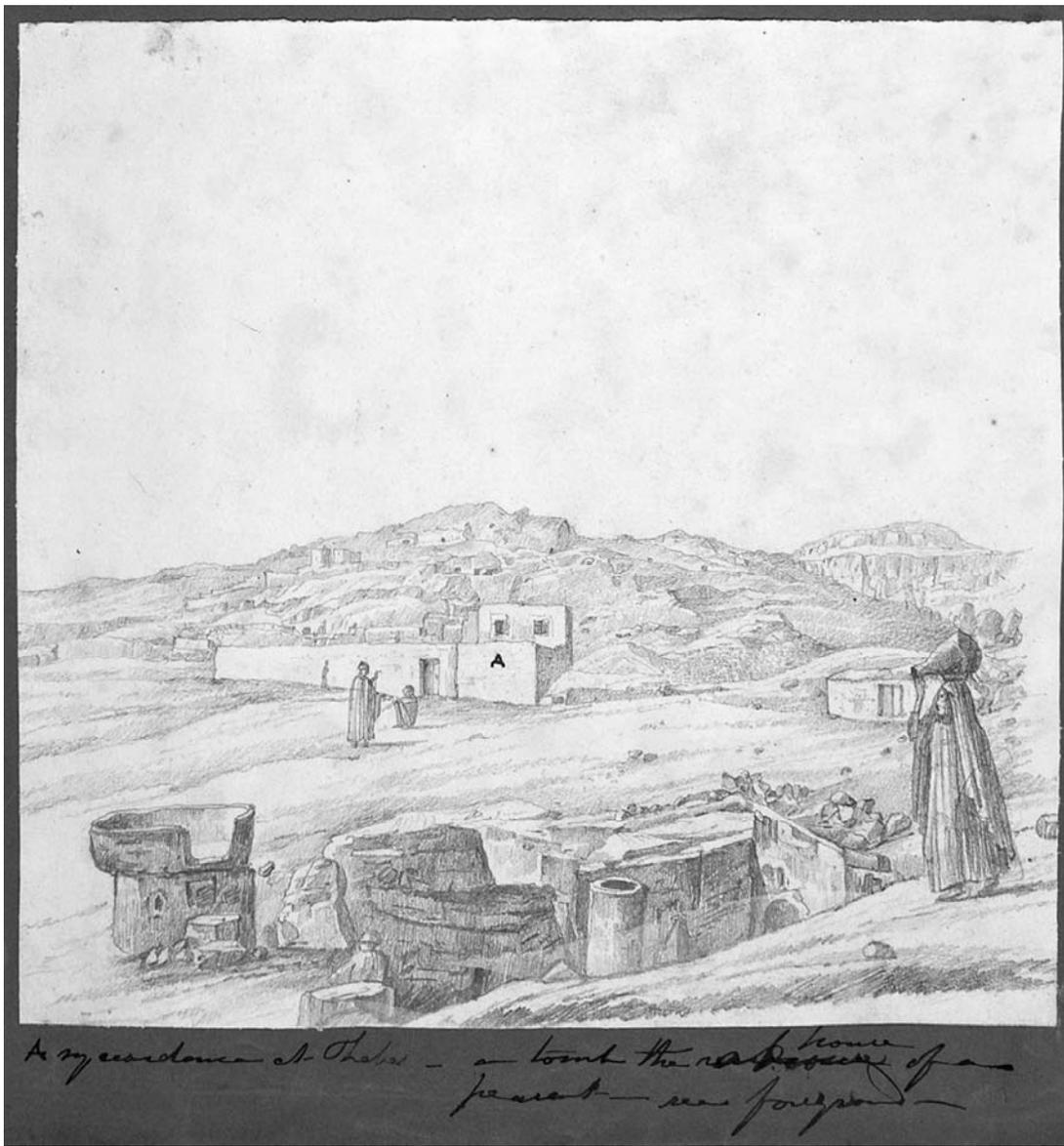
Tuesday 25th September - Friday
28th September 2012.

Organized by the University of Primorska (Koper), National Museum of Slovenia and Slovene Ethnographical Museum (Ljubljana). Special attention will be given to the topics: Meeting point Egypt. For more information please write to the Conference Secretary: ivana.pintaric@zrs.upr.si

Bartholomäus Schachman

Olga Nefedova draws our attention to the Exhibition:

The Art of Travel: Bartholomäus Schachman 1559-1614. National Museum in Gdansk, 24 Długi Taq St., Gdansk.



An ancient Egyptian tomb converted into a dwelling in which Hoskins lived during his stay at Thebes. Hoskins MSS 2.59 © The Griffith Institute, University of Oxford

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Turkey and the Netherlands

Briony Llewellyn draws our attention to the following:-

This year Turkey and the Netherlands celebrate 400 years of diplomatic relationship.

Four hundred years ago, in July 1612, Sultan Ahmed I granted the Dutch the right to trade within the Ottoman Empire. This privilege had its foundation in the correspondence between the Turkish Admiral of the Fleet, Halil Pasha, and Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange. There has been an almost unbroken ambassadorial representation of the Netherlands in Turkey since 1612. To mark this year, there are many activities planned:

Exhibition: The Prince and the Pasha

There is now an exhibition in the National Archives exhibition hall (De verdieping van Nederland) in The Hague. This is a very impressive exhibition which documents 400 years of relationship. The documents contain the three ahdnames from the years 1612, 1634, and 1680, but also photos, paintings, maps and objects from all parts of the Ottoman Empire.

This exhibition will be open until 1st of July the National Archives of the Netherlands in the Hague. Some impressions of the exhibitions can be seen on the facebook page.

http://www.facebook.com/#!/DePrinsEnDePasja?bookmark_t=page

Publication: *The Prince and The*

Pasja Published in three languages: Turkish, English and Dutch, with photos and explanation of the exhibited archival documents. The book is available from the National Archives or from SOTA.

Call for Papers: Gertrude Bell and Iraq - a life and legacy

A conference organised by The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) and the British Academy. 11- 13 September, 2013 to be held at the British Academy, London.

The aims of the conference are to re-evaluate the life and legacy of Gertrude Lowthian Bell (1868-1926), the renowned scholar, explorer, writer, archaeologist and British civil servant. It will focus on her role in shaping British policy in the Middle East, especially the establishment of the Iraqi monarchy and state, her interests in Iraq's ancient past (she was instrumental in the foundation of the Iraq Museum in 1923), and reflect on her legacy for modern Iraq and neighbouring regions.

The specific themes and conference sessions will be developed on the basis of the papers that are accepted. The steering committee anticipates mixing academic disciplines during the two day conference and suggestions for session proposals are welcome. BISI will be promoting the participation of Iraqi scholars.

There will be an opening public panel discussion on the first evening, which will take place at the Royal Society.

If you wish to offer a paper, please send a 200-word abstract to bisi@britac.ac.uk before the 15th September 2012 for consideration by the Steering Committee. Abstracts submitted after the deadline may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Committee.

Abstracts must include:
1) the name and full contact details and affiliation of the contributor
2) the title of the proposed paper
3) what the proposed paper intends to cover
4) an outline of the approach it will take.

Individual presentations are limited to 20 minutes with additional time for questions.

A publication of the proceedings is anticipated and participants will be asked to submit their papers by 31 December 2013.

BISI may be able to provide financial help for participation depending on circumstances.

The BISI wishes to acknowledge the major support of the British Academy in jointly sponsoring this conference.

Organising Committee:
Professor Charles Tripp (School of Oriental and African Studies), Dr Glen Rangwala (Cambridge University), Dr Paul Collins (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford), Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr (University College London), Mrs Joan Porter MacIver (BISI).

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK
e-mail: bisi@britac.ac.uk
website: www.bisi.ac.uk

Call for Papers

Selected papers on Ottoman (Osmanlı) Studies will be published in the World Journal of Islamic History and Civilization (WJIHC) (ISSN: 2225-0883).

Submission of full paper: 30 August 2012

Notification of acceptance : 1 October 2012

Tentative WJIHC publication : March & June 2013

Contact for paper submission:
Mohd Roslan Mohd Nor Submission
Email: m_roslan@um.edu.my
Tel: +60379676008

Call for Papers

Narratives of Travel in Middle Eastern Literatures 44th Annual Convention, Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) March 21-24, 2013 Boston, Massachusetts.

This panel seeks papers that address different narratives of travel (such as exile, diaspora, immigration, and colonial adventure) in Middle Eastern literatures. The topics include, but are not limited to: transnational narratives (dis)connecting East and West; travel writing; re-visioning history; cross-dressing and cross-gender dynamics in travel. Interdisciplinary approaches on popular culture and media studies are also welcome.

Please send 250 word abstracts and brief bios to Eda Dedebas at eda.dedebas@uconn.edu

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Paul Auchterlonie, *Encountering Islam: Joseph Pitts: an English slave in 17th-century Algiers and Mecca. A critical edition, with biographical introduction and notes, of Joseph Pitts of Exeter's A Faithful Account of the Religion and Manners of the Mahometans, 1731. Maps. 17 illustrations. London, Arabian Publishing 2012. ISBN 978-0-9558894-9-3.*

Joseph Pitts of Exeter wrote a detailed account of his enslavement by Algerians in the late seventeenth century, the third and most complete edition of which was published in 1731. Now Paul Auchterlonie, appropriately of Exeter University, has produced a meticulously researched account of that edition, prefaced with a brilliant overview of the background to the story.

Part I of the book is entitled 'Joseph Pitts: sailor slave, traveller, pilgrim'. It is divided into three sections. Firstly, an excellent account of Algiers, 'a Corsair state', that includes details of Algiers's relations with the Ottoman Empire; the politics, society and economy of Algiers and the development of privateering (the economy dependent on proceeds from privateering including the marketing of slaves); the corsair economy; and the conditions of slavery. Interestingly Pitts was captured by a Dutch renegade; Europeans were much involved in contemporary piracy. The second section of Part I deals with Pitts and his background; this includes details of trans-Atlantic trade especially in cod fish, with which

Pitts's vessel *Speedwell* was involved when captured in the Atlantic off the Spanish coast in 1678. In general the corsairs were mainly interested in the valuable manpower on board captured vessels which were usually scuttled post capture. The third section of Part I looks in detail at Pitts's story as a captivity narrative (Auchterlonie includes an invaluable resumé of the literature on that topic), as a travel narrative, as a description of Islam, and the publishing history of this 'faithful narrative'. This includes a description of the city of Exeter, wealthy from the proceeds of maritime trade; it was also a stoutly non-conformist society which stood Pitts in good stead when he was able to equate the orthodox Muslim disapproval of revering holy men with similar Protestant disapproval of Roman Catholic saint-adoration. Part II contains the complete account.

One of the most important aspects of this account, certainly for this reviewer, is how likeable Pitts is despite some fairly horrendous experiences. Born around 1663, Pitts was still a teenager when captured in 1678. He was sold three times; his second owner was a sadistic brute according to Pitts but the third master, an elderly man when he acquired Pitts, was clearly much kinder, and facilitated Pitts's tormented conversion to Islam (he claims never to have been a Muslim – or indeed a Turk – at heart) so that he could accompany him on the pilgrimage to Mecca. This enabled Pitts to claim to have been the first European to have participated in the *Hajj*.

Auchterlonie has included in Part I a long introduction to the state of contemporary knowledge of Islam in relation to Pitts's experiences. By converting to Islam Pitt was released from slavery; he managed eventually to escape and finally reached Exeter in the mid-1690s

The book includes good maps and an enormous and invaluable bibliography and it is beautifully produced – much credit to the publisher, Arabian Publishing.

Sarah Searight

A Paire of Interlopers. The English Abyssinian Warriors. By Peta Rée. York: Petersgate, 2011. Pp. xii + 372. Pls. 14. £24.00, softcover (ISBN 978-1-904446-38-5).

I was first introduced to Nathaniel Pearce when I began working in Ethiopia and started reading its background history. He was a rather enigmatic figure, an ordinary Englishman who, rather romantically, lived for 14 years in the early 19th century with his Abyssinian wife in a *tukul* house around Adua, near Aksum where I was working. Illustrations of both him and his house – both by Henry Salt – were in my reference books, but little more was said and that was essentially all I remember about him. Although I often wondered about his story over the years, I never actually got around to pursuing him further; one usually doesn't.

Peta Rée first encountered him as a graffito on the temple of Philae rather than a modern book

illustration but, unlike me, she *did* pursue him further – much further indeed – and has produced a *tour de force* biography that not only encompasses Pearce but indeed the entire story of Anglo-Ethiopian relations to Napier's famous march on Magdala in 1868. Viscount Valentia and Henry Salt (of whom Peta has already written, with Deb Manley; see *N&Q* 12, 26-27) are, of course, the two 'big names' in that history but she also introduces us to another even more obscure Englishman named William Coffin, and brings the intertwined story of the quartet to life. It was Coffin who penned the volume's misspelt title, referring to himself and Pearce, for 'interlopers' in Ethiopia they indeed were and, for once, Salt and Valentia are as much secondary characters in the narrative as possible given the wildly disparate historical record. Coffin died long after the other three, having lived in Ethiopia for decades with his Abyssinian wife and children.

Salt and Coffin both accompanied Valentia on his voyage to India in 1802, one as his secretary, the other as his servant. Pearce, after an extremely adventurous naval life more in than out of trouble (very engagingly related in his own autobiography), was serving on the ship on which Valentia and his entourage travelled from Mangalor to Massawa and then Mocha. Deserting at Mocha, he was soon retained by Valentia to accompany Salt back to Massawa and further inland to meet with the *Ras* of Tigré, Welled Selasse, in 1805. Pearce accepted the *Ras's* invitation to remain in Abyssinia in

his service, and did so for some 14 years, acting as an intermediary with British authorities and commercial interests. Coffin and Salt returned to Ethiopia for Valentia in 1810, when Coffin elected to stay behind with Pearce. Both essentially remained there for the rest of their lives, Pearce leaving rather hurriedly in 1819 only to die in 1820 whilst visiting Salt in Cairo on his way 'home' to England, and Coffin sometime after 1850, having virtually 'gone native' and still in Ethiopia.

Not only has Peta Rée explored the extraordinary lives of Pearce and Coffin in as much detail as her research has been able to reveal, but she has placed both within the bewildering intricacies of both British commercial expansion and the internecine politics and warfare of the Abyssinian élite. By their very presence in the country, both men contributed substantially to an external understanding of its affairs and to the state of Anglo-Ethiopian relations. Whilst their observations have been quoted or paraphrased in many secondary sources, Coffin's account remains only as a manuscript. Peta brings both lives into focus for the first time since Pearce's autobiography was published in 1831, and places them in context with both the Ethiopian and foreign events unfolding around – and because of – them.

Jacke Phillips



**A River in the Sky by Elizabeth Peters, Constable and Robinson
London paperback £7.99, ISBN
978-1-84901-597-4**

This latest Elizabeth Peters' novel is the 19th of Amelia Peabody's adventures in the Near East. Usually her background is Egypt. Here it is Palestine in 1910, focusing on an inept excavation of the Temple of Jerusalem, watched warily by both Muslims and Jews and, in the background, the stirrings of German interest in the region. Now, many years after our first introduction to Amelia, the excavation involves her son Ramses.

Elizabeth Peters, as ever, uses her thorough knowledge of the region – and its travel literature – and her ability to create characters and scenes to lead us through the Emersons' adventures at an uneasy period of history in the Near East. Peters gives us a real sense of 19th century Near East travel: long weary days on horseback or in jolting carts along dust, always rough and sometimes crowded roads – a mix of horses and donkeys, camel rains and people on foot. And at the end of the day, the excitement of entering the old cities of the Bible.

On the last page Amelia says "Let's go home" "Back to England," asks her husband. "No, my dear. Home. To Egypt." She replies.

Deborah Manley

QUERIES AND REPLIES

Joseph Bonomi

Our thanks to Roger O. De Keersmaecker for pointing out that the grave of Joseph Bonomi (1796–1878) is in Brompton Cemetery, London. A skilled draftsman Bonomi worked with Robert Hay's expedition to Egypt in the 1820s, drawing antiquities and wall reliefs at Abu Simbel, Kalabsha and Thebes. He subsequently illustrated both James Burton's *Excerpta Hieroglyphica* and John Wilkinson's *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*. In the 1860s he was curator of the Museum of Sir John Soane.



Photograph of the grave by Russell McGuirk

David Roberts: a correction

We are grateful to Michel Azim for pointing out that the David Roberts

picture on page 24 of Bulletin 51 was wrongly captioned. Michel writes: 'This engraving does not show the 'Dromos or First Court of the Temple at Karnak, 1838', rather the Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak, looking north to south. It is just one of a number of Roberts's pictures of the hall dating from October 1838.'

Digital Travellers

Janet Rady draws our attention to:-

Paula Sanders's digital Travelers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA): <http://timea.rice.edu/index.html>

There are wonderful art historical resources, including digital scans of the following 19th c. century Cairo museum catalogues (just to name a few):

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

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

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

Some Irish Notes

Having the advantage of a few extra days before the ASTENE visit,

I was able to spend some time in the National Library of Ireland in Dublin which has a large range of materials of relevance to the study of travellers: alas time did not allow visits to the National Archives or Trinity College. Amongst the numerous resources, many of the records of the Genealogical Office are available on microfilm in the main Reading Room. These contain valuable information on the families of travellers which can then provide new leads. Whilst working through other materials, I found a lot of information on the family of Eliot Warburton, author of *The Crescent and the Cross*, and his brother George Drought Warburton. The Warburton family was English in origin, but one branch resided in Ireland for several generations from the 17th century onwards. This resulted in a cache of information in Dublin. Eliot Warburton's descendants emigrated to New Zealand, and have been difficult to trace – but are recorded in Dublin.

The destruction of so many records during the troubles of 1916 and 1922 mean that the transcripts of earlier researchers become very important. In Belfast, PRONI (the Public Record of Northern Ireland) has a splendid new building in the redeveloped 'Titanic Quarter'. Here a reference in the catalogue guided me to one volume (and I suspect it is only one of many) that contained a thousand pages of transcripts of records in various Dublin repositories made by a researcher in the 1890s: many, if not all, of the originals of these are now lost. PRONI also houses the extensive Belmore Archives, along with a mass of other material that would

provide ASTENE researchers with days (probably months) of pleasurable and worthwhile work.

Robert Morkot



Charlemont House, the Dublin home of James Caulfield, 1st Earl of Charlemont (1728-99) (see *Bulletin* 35, 2008, pp.15-16) (Photograph: Robert Morkot)



Johana Holaubek taking possession of Castle Coole. (Photograph: Robert Morkot)

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

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