

ASTENE

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

BULLETIN



NOTES AND QUERIES

Number 47: Spring 2011

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Bulletin 48: Summer 2011

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 by 20 June 2011.

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Please send all membership correspondence to ASTENE, The Studio, 30 College Lane, London NW5 1BJ or by email to astene@dsl.pipex.com

Cover: The mauseoleum of Sir Richard Burton, Mortlake (see p.17-18) Courtesy HOK Culture and Heritage.

ASTENE NEWS AND EVENTS

NINTH BIENNIAL ASTENE CONFERENCE, 15–18 July 2011

St Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, UK.

The Registration Form was sent out with the last Bulletin and is available on the ASTENE website. The Call for Papers was sent out with Bulletin 45 and is also on the ASTENE Website.

Papers are coming in and offer the usual wonderful variety. They already cover such intriguing subjects as: A century of Saharan exploration (Dr Eamonn Gearon); François Charle's journey 1682–3 (Marie-Paule Vanlathem); Mary Whately, teacher and missionary (Deborah Manley); Expatriate civil servant (Sheila McGuirk); Early Quaker missionaries in the Levant (Dr Lucy Pollard); A railway engineer in Egypt 1877–84 (Andrew Wilson); How to travel on the Nile (Peta Ree); Victorian 3D presentations of people and monuments (Prof. George Mutter); Travel before tourism in stereo (Dr Bernard Fishman); Mid-Victorian collecting (Dr Lisa French); Lebanon: the ideal summer resort (Andrea Stanton); Egyptologists in Egypt during World War II (Dr Hana Navratilova); Waynman Dixon's missing collection (Dr Ian Pearce); Dhu al-Qarnayn: A Quranic Journey (Paul Robertson); Lord Byron and Albanian dress (Jennifer Scarce)... and the programme is only just building up.

Please can those offering papers submit a title and 100 word abstract as soon as possible to the Conference Organiser or to Deb Manley by post or at deb@dmanley.plus.com.

Conference Bursaries

There are four bursaries available to members of ASTENE (and students joining ASTENE). A bursary covers full conference costs, but not travel. Recipients should offer a paper and will have roles in the conference organization (registration, technical support to papers, etc). Those wishing to apply should send an abstract of the proposed paper to deb@dmanley.plus.com and complete the form on the website www.astene.org.uk.

ASTENE AGM and EGM

The 2011 ASTENE AGM will take place on Sunday afternoon, 17 July, during the Conference at St Anne's College Oxford. The Agenda, Chairman's Report and Accounts will be sent out with the summer Bulletin in early July.

The AGM will be preceded by an EGM to discuss and vote on changes to the constitution in order to enable ASTENE to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Extra-curricular activities during the Conference

There will be a special exhibition in the Library of Somerville College (five minutes along Woodstock Road from St Anne's College) of the drawings and paintings of Amelia Edwards from 12–2 and 4–6 on Friday and Monday.

Here, courtesy of Dr Lucy Pollard, is a starter list of Oxford Colleges attended by travellers of interest to ASTENE members:

Trinity College: Henry Blount
University College: George Courthop
Merton College: Edward Browne, John Greaves
Gloucester Hall (now Worcester College): Kenelm Digby, Thomas Coryate
St Mary Hall (now Oriel College): George Sandys
Corpus Christi: George Sandys, Edward Pococke
Christ Church: Francis Vernon
Balliol College: John Greaves
Magdalen College: Thomas Roe, Thomas Smith
Hart Hall (now Hertford College): Thomas Sherley
Magdalen Hall (Hertford College): Edward Pococke
Queen's College: Thomas Smith, Charles Robson
Lincoln College: George Wheler
Jesus College: T.E. Lawrence.

In T.E. Lawrence's Oxford footsteps

Lawrence was born in Wales in 1888 but moved to Oxford as a child—his home in North Oxford's 2 Polstead Road is now marked by a Blue Plaque. He attended Oxford High School for Boys—now the

History Faculty on the corner of George Street and New Inn Hall Street. In 1907 he entered Jesus College in Turl Street, off Broad Street, leaving with a First Class Honours degree. Today there is a bust of him in the college chapel and a portrait of him in Arab dress in the Hall—which can be visited in the afternoons.

In 1916–1918 Lawrence was in the Near East, from which came his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Many of his books, papers and artefacts are in the care of the Bodleian Library. At the Ashmolean Museum is his collection of Hittite seals from Syria and his famed Arab robes and headdress are also on display.

Between papers or before or after the conference some members may wish to visit these sites.

Books at the Conference

If members have recent books of their own which they would like to show at the Conference, bring along up to three copies of a title. ASTENE will offer them for sale through the bookstall and the authors will receive the money for all copies sold.

Special Sale of ASTENE publications

The ASTENE special book sale will also be available at the Conference.

Travellers in the Levant - £6.50, 91 copies left

Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers - £6.50, 160 copies left

Who Travels Sees More - £9.95, 86 copies left

Women Travellers in the Near East (2005), co-published by ASTENE and Oxbow Books, on sale at £5.00 (originally £25.00), 247 copies left.

All the above titles are also available in the US through Oxbow.

ASTENE members taking advantage of this special offer before the Conference should clearly mark their orders 'ASTENE' in the additional comments field to receive the prices listed above.

Alix Wilkinson Remembered

It is with great sadness that we report the death on 28 January of Alix Wilkinson, who

was ASTENE Secretary from 2004 to 2006. A number of ASTENE members attended Alix's funeral at Christ Church, Kensington, on Friday, 11 February, including Yvonne Neville-Rolfe and Pauline Wickham, each of whom has written a personal reminiscence.

Alix and I first met in 1950 as fellow students in the Department of Ancient History at UC London. The only child of 'Mac' and Bertha Macfarlane, her friendliness and the warm hospitality shown by her parents over many years immediately attracted me. Uniquely, in my case, both our mothers became firm friends too.

Alix worked for many years for IES Edwards in the Department of Egyptology of the British Museum. A warm relationship developed and he encouraged her both in her book *Ancient Egyptian Jewellery* (1971) and later in *The Garden in Ancient Egypt* (1998).

In the 1950s, Alix was involved with excavations in Serbia and in Jericho. It was here that she met John Wilkinson, whom she married in 1966. In 1975 John was appointed Warden of St George's College, Jerusalem, where Alix ably supported him. When John accepted a Visiting Professorship at Dumbarton Oaks, USA, Alix took time to work for a PhD in Linguistics and develop her interest in gardens. By 1979, and back in the UK, she was teaching English to immigrants.

When, in 1991, John became Curate in Charge of Christ Church, Kensington, Alix wrote a valued history and guide to the church. She was much loved there as evidenced by the number of parishioners who attended her funeral. Alix has frequently delighted us with her talks relating to 19th century gardens in Egypt and the lives of lesser known residents there. She did sterling work as Secretary of ASTENE and remained unfailingly cheerful despite her increasing deafness which eventually forced her to give up the job.

Alix was working on a paper which she had hoped to deliver in Turkey in September when she died so suddenly. We will all miss her.

Yvonne Neville-Rolfe

Alix was extremely methodical in everything she did. I once shared a six-bedded room with her (three beds each!) at the Cairo Guest House in Zamalek, and this is where I was first able to witness her supremely logical and economical way of operating... She would lay out her research notes like a game of patience on one of the spare beds and her clothes on another—everything in well-thought-out order. She travelled light but would miraculously extract just the right garment for any and every occasion; and she always looked stunning of course.

Alix had an enviable ability to go straight to the point. This made her an invaluable member of a board or a committee. She would speak her mind in such a straightforward and neutral manner that no one could take offence at what she said or fail to see the justice of her point of view. Similarly, in the realm of academic achievement, her exceptionally clear and logical mind came into full play.

We do indeed all miss a dear friend. I feel privileged to have known her.

Pauline Wickham

Brenda Moon

We were sorry to hear that Dr Brenda Moon (1931-2011) died on 7 March 2011. She was distinguished as the first lady Librarian of a major university (Edinburgh) and acknowledged as one of the pioneers of applying technology and computerisation in the world of books. Her obituary in *The Scotsman* (22 March) referred to the travels she undertook in retirement and said: 'Nothing typifies her love of travel and desire to further her knowledge more than a conference she helped to organise in Edinburgh's Pollock Halls in 2001 on Travel in Egypt and the Near East.'

We hope Astene members will send in their personal tributes to Brenda for a fuller appreciation of her life and work to be published in the next Bulletin.

Visit to the Library and Archives, Department of Greece and Rome, British Museum, 8 February 2011.

A group of about thirty people enjoyed a fascinating evening in the Department of Greece and Rome, the British Museum, on Tuesday evening, 8 February. ASTENE members joined with members of the Travellers' Club for a presentation of travellers' drawings from the Eastern Mediterranean. Surrounded by tables holding remarkable examples of books, manuscripts, prints, drawings and watercolours from the library and archives (which we were able to browse through at our leisure after the presentations), curators Ian Jenkins and Thomas Kiely gave an overview of the history of collecting in the department, describing the personalities involved, the changing role of the British Museum, and the access afforded to consuls, amateur collectors and travellers, which led eventually to more scientific excavations.

Ian Jenkins explained the rather cool first reception of eastern Greek Hellenistic antiquities since they were considered to represent deviant versions of Greek classical styles. Many extraordinary art-works on paper, such as the drawings from the seventeenth-century Paper Museum of the dal Pozzo collection, were first appreciated as tools for the department's Keepers, rather than as art in their own right. Ian showed us a copy of one of the first objects to be acquired by the British Museum in 1760, just seven years after its foundation, a bronze head from the important seventeenth-century collection of the Earl of Arundel, later owned by Dr Richard Mead, a benefactor of the Foundling Museum. It was first identified as Homer (but now thought perhaps to be Sophocles) and had no provenance until recently when a rare-book dealer happened upon a description of its discovery by Rev. William Petty in a well in Smyrna, and not, as previously thought, from Constantinople. Mead's collection apparently surpassed that of Hans Sloane, which founded the British Museum in 1753, and, had it not been for

Mead's extravagant lifestyle, might have come in its entirety to the British Museum.

In the eighteenth century individual consuls, diplomats and travellers began amateur yet serious collecting and joined expeditions of artists and architects to Greece and Asia Minor. From these expeditions came finely illustrated and hugely influential works such as *Ionian Antiquities*, sponsored by the Dilettante Society, with its illustrations and texts perfectly in harmony, and *Antiquities of Athens* which made the reputation of the architect and designer James 'Athenian' Stuart and, almost at a stroke, created the 'gusto Greco' of the Greek revival, supplanting the previous taste for all things Roman. A frequent note on acquisitions was the parsimony, perhaps owing to a lack of funds, which resulted in the Trustees bargaining fiercely and drawing out the negotiations over such long periods that collectors usually succumbed from exhaustion. (This syndrome is certainly replicated in many acquisitions made for the department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities.)

Ian spoke of the early excavations and discoveries at the Parthenon in Athens, at Bassae, and in Knidos, where he is still actively involved, and where the monumental lion, now in the Museum's Great Court was discovered in 1858. We learned of the discovery at Bodrum in Western Turkey of the remains of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and about Charles Newton, who worked there and in other parts of Western Turkey, first in the role of consul, later as Keeper of the department. Ian also touched on the fact that Newton deliberately overlooked the importance of the role played by Robert Murdock Smith, later Director of what is now the Royal Scottish Museum (a traveller championed by ASTENE member Jennifer Scarce at our Edinburgh conference). We also heard of the life and travels in Asian Minor of Charles Fellows, to whom the Museum's Xanthos marbles are owed. At Knidos some of the earliest archaeological photographs record local workmen whose descendants are still working on the site.

One of the most beautiful records was a sketchbook of exquisite watercolours by the classical archaeologist and traveller, William Gell, an important literary figure who was

also influential in the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs. We heard also of the tragic loss of William Pars's original drawings recording the metopes of the Parthenon. These were originally drawn for inclusion in *Ionian Antiquities*, Pars having been perilously suspended from the Parthenon to better capture the details, but they were not used in that publication and were subsequently purchased by Sir Richard Worsley (notorious for his divorce proceedings), for his two-volume book, *Museum Worsleyanum*.

Thomas Kiely then spoke about the Cyprus archives in the department, giving us a multi-layered overview of the relations between the individuals, the material, and the British Museum. Compared with the enthusiasm for Greece and Asia Minor there was a relative lack of interest in Cyprus, which was regarded very differently by travellers, being more difficult of access, less visited, and with archaeological work only carried out for brief periods. There was a contrast with classical Greek culture in the prominence on the island of the Cypriot version of Aphrodite, a very independent and un-Greek goddess. The first recording of her sanctuary was unfortunately a largely imaginative reconstruction. Among the manuscripts Thomas produced was a notebook on the excavations at Amathus, with notes recorded daily by J.H. Myres, and a volume from D. E. Colnaghi, artist, photographer and secretary to Charles Newton. Colnaghi acquired a consular position in the Archipelago and visited Cyprus in the second half of the nineteenth century. He wrote a lengthy description of the island, especially of Dali and an area near the salt lake at Larnaca where he excavated. Hamilton Lang was a British resident in the island, a large landowner under the Pasha's Chiflik system (a hereditary form of land management), and director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Larnaca.

Lang's long and detailed descriptions of his excavations were addressed to Charles Newton of the British Museum, for whom he kept watch for possible excavations and interesting finds. Five photographs from the work of the Cyprus Exploration Fund 1887-1891 remain important since very little is known about the activities of the Fund on the island and these are some of the earliest photos available. The Museum also holds a

record of the Fund's excavations in 1893–1896 including descriptions by J.W. Williamson and Percy Christian, both of whom were supervising the excavations. One of the more fascinating aspects of the communications between those in Cyprus and the Museum was the recent discovery that the British excavators used a Latin code system to inform 'headquarters', i.e. the British Museum, about their activities. The key to this code system has recently been discovered: an example of the code is the use of the Latin word *Testis* to mean 'difficulties with Christians'. We saw a volume from a bound collection of original correspondence 1861–1868, which included letters by Claude Delaval Cobham, the District Commissioner of Larnaca who often worked for the British Museum. Despite the Trustees' restraint regarding purchases, the British Museum still holds a large and important collection of Cypriot antiquities.

We thanked Ian and Thomas most warmly for giving their time and expertise so generously and with such enthusiasm and ended the evening with a glass of wine and informal chat.

Patricia Usick and Rita Severis

Friends of Qurna Discovery Project

From Caroline Simpson:

The formal organisation has been dissolved, but the related exhibitions continue. I visited Qurna in December and saw the lovely Balady Handicrafts Centre again, and Abdu has installed the *saqieh* in the way it would once have been below on the plain. We also agreed ways in which he can display the actual exhibition panels in some of the spaces that the Centre has. ASTENE kindly agreed for us to use the remaining money from their grant to display the panels again in this place. So there will be multiple reasons for people to visit Balady Handicrafts—to see both the past and the future of Qurna and the Qurnawi.

I believe that there should be a permanent, if virtual, record of the built and social culture of the Qurnawi which the authorities have tried so hard to obliterate. I have a large collection of images of the buildings, spaces and people that I have taken since

1994—many on slides and positives. Some are probably the only images of specific buildings and spaces in the villages. I also have a large collection of old postcards and other pictures. There should be a web album where everyone, especially the Qurnawi, can view the most recent culture to inhabit that world heritage site. The idea is to create a web gallery where I can upload my images (together with necessary information) and other people can apply or be invited to do the same. Thus we can create a growing collection of data and images which is easily accessible.

When this initiative is more advanced I will ask members if they have any relevant images they would like to share with the Qurnawi and the world.

A similar site has been created for the Manasir—a group of Nubians moved from their ancestral homes.

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/daralmanasir/gallery/index.html>

A fuller article which I wrote on the history of Qurna, 'More pieces of an unfinished history', was published in *Thebes and Beyond, Studies in Honour of Kent R Weeks*, Cahier 41, 2010, Supplément aux Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte (Dar El Kutub No. 21807/2010:ISBN. 978-977-704-377-9:ISSN:1687-4951).



The *Saqieh* at Balady Handicrafts (Caroline Simpson).

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Study Day at the Egypt and Austria Society, Vienna

The Egypt and Austria Society and the Egyptian & Oriental Department of the Art History Museum in Vienna (Kunst-historisches Museum) are organising a Study Day entitled 'Ancient Egypt in Travel Literature', to be held Thursday, 16 June 2011 at the Museum. Themes include, among others: using travel literature as a source for archaeology; ancient Egyptian monuments both as specific travel destination and as setting or background; ancient Egyptian monuments and the Bible; reality and fiction; differences in perspective between male and female authors.

Those wishing to answer the Call for Papers should submit a 250-word abstract by 30 April 2011. Further information from www.egyptandaustria.at .

TASG: the Turkish Area Study Group

We first mentioned the TASG in Bulletin 43. Here is a little more information. Originally founded in 1978, the TASG was reconstituted in 1990 as an independent and politically neutral association designed to foster both public and academic interest in Turkey and its Ottoman past. The Group aims to bring together people interested in Turkish life, society, history, and culture. It produces the Turkish Area Studies *Review* and holds an annual one-day Symposium in May (in Cambridge) along with an Annual Lecture in January (at SOAS in London) at which speakers have included Erdal İnönü, Rahmi Koç, Mehmet Ali Birand, Clement Dodd, Erik Zürcher, Andrew Mango, Justin McCarthy, Maureen Freely, and Benjamin Fortna. Other initiatives range from sponsoring publications to holding a special conference in Oxford on Turkey and the European Union. Offers of articles or shorter pieces for the *Review* are always welcome. For further information about TASG, including membership details, go to www.tasg.org.uk or email info@tasg.org.uk . Alternatively write to Keith Bowtell, Stanton Lodge, Shelveys Way, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 5QJ.

In Berlin TWO exhibitions about Max von Oppenheim:-

1) **The Tell Halaf Adventure. Pergamonmuseum.**

Until 14 August 2011. A display of 60 statues discovered by Oppenheim shortly before WWI in what is today northeast Syria. Brought to Berlin, the 3,000-year-old statues were destroyed during the bombings of WWII. Four archaeologists have just spent nine years piecing the sculptures back together.

2) **From Cairo to Tell Halaf: The Photograph collection of Max von Oppenheim. Museum für Fotografie.**

Until 15 May 2011. Oppenheim's personal photos taken in the Middle East between 1899 and 1939.

For further details of both exhibitions please refer to the following English-language website: <http://www.smb.museum/smb>



Max von Oppenheim (1860-1946) with one of the statues from Tell Halaf (www.oppenheim.lu)

Golden treasure from Greece

From April-July this year finds from the burial tombs of King Philip II and Alexander the Great—an ASTENE traveller if ever there was one!—will be on display at Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. Discovered in 1977, the finds include jewellery, life-size sculptures, and items from the tomb of the 'Lady of Aegea', found decked head-to-toe in gold jewellery. This is the first time these finds have been displayed outside Greece.

Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.

140 objects, including pottery, stone work, carved ivories and objects from the tombs of the first kings in Egypt's Pre-Dynastic era 1000 years before the pyramids were built. 28 March–31 December 2011.

Jean-Léon Gérôme. Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.

The first major retrospective in 30 years to focus on the work of the 19th-century French orientalist painter and sculptor, Jean-Léon Gérôme, displays some 70 paintings, based on highly detailed sketches made during his numerous trips, as well as on photographs. Until 22 May 2011. The exhibition will be shown later at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

My Big Fat Egyptian Wedding. Petrie Museum, London

Wedding? What royal wedding? People have been getting together for millennia—find out how they did (or didn't) do it in ancient Egypt. Lucia Gahlin will guide visitors through Egyptian relationships and look at the economics of romance. 28 April, 6–7.30pm (doors open 6pm and talk begins 6.30pm).

Georg Schweinfurth. Pioneer of Textile Archaeology and African Explorer, Bode-Museum

Encouraged by textile finds dating from Late Antiquity, discovered in Arsinoe (Egypt) at the beginning of the 1880s, the African explorer, Georg Schweinfurth, decided to work there in 1884. Within two years, he had unearthed around 450 textile fragments, as well as complete items of clothing, headdress, blankets and cushions. In 1887 these items came into the possession of the Egyptian Museum in Berlin. Later they were passed to the Early Christian department of the then Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum, now known as the Museum of Byzantine Art.

While it was customary for other excavators of textiles at the time to cut out the ornamental features and discard the rest, thus destroying the objects' cultural-historical context, Georg Schweinfurth preserved the items of clothing and used fabrics in their complete state as best he could.

Using several of his Ancient Egyptian finds from the Egyptian Museum as well as manuscripts, drawings and printed books

from the Berlin State Library, the current exhibition traces the explorer's biography and examines the full range of his diverse researches. In all, around 30 archaeological textiles are on display. Ends 19 June 2011.

Archaeologists and Travellers in Ottoman Lands. University of Pennsylvania, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia.

In the late 1800's, the University of Pennsylvania began excavating the ancient city of Nippur, located in present-day Iraq. This was the first American expedition in the Middle East. Over a decade, the excavation team unearthed nearly 30,000 cuneiform tablets. This exhibition tells the story of three men involved in the Nippur excavation. Also on display are two paintings by the controller of all excavations in the Ottoman Empire, Osman Hamdi Bey, director of the Imperial Museum in Istanbul (now the Istanbul Archaeological Museum). Until 26 June 2011.

Egypt in Paper Egypt in Stone, Musée du Louvre, Paris.

A display of the artefacts discovered by the travelling academic Prisse d'Avennes, a huge variety of items relating to the history of Egypt, including prints, photographs and manuscripts produced by the archaeologist. 'D'Avennes was one of many keen travellers exploring the shores of the Nile in the first half of the 19th century, fascinated by Pharaonic ruins and Arab monuments alike,' say the curators. The exhibition is on the ground floor of the Sully Wing and is included in the normal €10 Louvre entry price. The show is open daily from 09:00–18:00, except Tuesday. Closes 22:00 Wednesday and Friday. Until 2 June 2011.

Princess Alice in Saudi Arabia, Royal Geographic Society, London.

Photographs of the journey of the Countess of Athlone across the desert to Riyadh in 1938. Collection on loan from King Abdul Aziz Public Library. 11 July to 24 August 2011, Exhibition Road entrance. www.rgs.org/whatson

JOHN LEWIS BURCKHARDT Antikenmuseum Basel with the Jordan National Museum and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan

We have advance notice that these organisations are planning a major exhibition in 2012 about the traveller Johann Ludwig

Burckhardt, alias Sheikh Ibrahim, and his sojourn and discoveries in the Near East. The exhibiton will present his life, travels and archaeological discoveries, including the Nabataean capital Petra, using maps, rare books, contemporary drawings, and engravings. The exhibition will be shown in both Museums (Amman in spring-summer 2012 and Basel in autumn-winter 2012-13).

Bloomsbury Summer School Ancient Egypt & Near East 2011

11-15 July

PREDYNASTIC POTS TO PHARAOHS'

PYRAMIDS: The dawning of a civilisation

Course Directors: Mr George Hart & Dr Alice Stevenson

SHINING COLOURS OUT OF FIRE: Glass and glazes

Course Director: Professor Thilo Rehren

18-22 July

PERCEPTIONS OF EGYPT: Mummymania to museums

Course Director: Dr Karen Exell

HIEROGLYPHS: Practice and progress

Course Director: Dr José-Ramon Pérez-Accino

July 25 - 29

NEW KINGDOM LITERATURE: Egyptian texts for a wider world

Course Director: Dr José-Ramon Pérez-Accino

LOFTY PLACES AND SACRED SPACE:

Archaeology in the ancient near east

Course Director: Dr Christoph Bachhuber

Further details of the Bloomsbury Summer School July courses are on www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury .

Abu: Gateway to Nubia, a course directed by Dr Robert Morkot, 11-18 December 2011

Course fee of £1990 includes: international flights with Egypt Air in economy class; all travel in Egypt (including visit to Abu Simbel by air); hotel accommodation with breakfasts; all lectures and guided tours; entrance to all sites; welcome and farewell group dinners. Lecture Programme:

Nubia: the land and its cultures;

There are no elephants in Dongola: environment and economy

Messing up history: Archaeologists in Nubia;

Abu: centre and periphery Harkuf and the Land of Egypt and Kush: from Egyptian expansion to the Kingdom of Kerma
Extending the Borders of Egypt: New Kingdom Nubia
End of Empire and the Rise of Kush
The Ivory River
Meroe and Rome

See BSS website for further details:
www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury

Travel in the Nineteenth Century: Narratives, Histories and Collections. Conference, University of Lincoln, 14-15 July 2011

In the nineteenth century, railways made distant locations ever more accessible, the Grand Tour became more and more a pastime of the middle classes and British imperial expansion brought exotic locales and non-Western cultures ever closer to home. New ways of thinking about and communicating experiences of travel and of interactions with other cultures held a significant influence in various areas of nineteenth-century culture.

The dates of this conference clash with the ASTENE conference in Oxford. However, it is possible that some of the papers will be of interest and we will look out for any resulting publications.

Modes of Transport: Travel Writing and Form, 1780-1914. King's College London , 26 & 27 MAY 2011

Keynote speakers: Mary Beard (Cambridge), Dane Kennedy (George Washington), and Dea Birkett (The Guardian)

Papers (as per list finalised 18 February 2011) will cover a range of academic disciplines, including history, literature, art history, media history, geography and classics. For more information contact travelconference@gmail.com or Mary Henes and Brian Murray at the above address. (<http://travelconference.blogspot.com/>)

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 .

***The Travel Chronicles of Mrs J. Theodore Bent, Volume III: Southern Arabia and Persia*, edited by Gerald Brisch. Oxford, Archaeopress Press, 2010. 429 pp., b/w drawings, illustrations and maps. ISBN 978-1-905739-13-4.**

Mabel and her husband Theodore Bent were early members of the Hellenic Society, whose Library now holds Mabel's many notebooks from her travels. The Archaeopress has undertaken, with Gerald Brisch, to publish her *Chronicles*, and this is the third in a projected trilogy, Volume I on Greece and the Levantine Littoral having appeared in 2006, and Volume II on Africa and Egypt forthcoming.

Mabel (1846-1929) originally intended her journals to be read by her aunts, sisters and nieces, but this intended small feminine sphere belies the broader appeal of the material contained within them; indeed, Theodore made much use of them when writing up his own published works. Brisch concedes that the *Chronicles* 'although of great interest, are far from great travel literature,' and despite him having 'smoothed over' some aspects of the journals, there are passages which might have been culled should Mabel have undertaken a revised version in her lifetime. Instead, following Theodore's death in 1897, Mabel undertook to publish his notes in *Southern Arabia* (1900), which may be familiar to ASTENE readers. These *Chronicles* offer Mabel's first-hand, unedited version of these and other travels. They give us an understanding of the day-to-day tribulations of their travels; the characters whom they met; and moreover a sense of the very real dangers which the couple faced.

The three notebooks which comprise *Chronicle 6* describe the Bents' brief excavations in Bahrain in February 1889, inspired by Durand's work there in the late 1870s, and their journey home. Seemingly on a whim, they returned overland through Persia, where they gained an audience with the Shah, who was himself undertaking a lengthy journey to Europe. Mabel refers on

occasion to Mme. Dieulafoy, whose work also appears in Vita Sackville-West's *Passenger to Teheran* (the Tauris Parke edition was reviewed in the Spring ASTENE Bulletin last year). Mabel's work also shares some of the preoccupations of Isabella Bird-Bishop's *Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan* (1891) including fascination with the *anderoun* and Persian women's lifestyles. The Bents also visited Persepolis and Isfahan, which were increasingly foci of British travellers' routes through Persia and their recollections of the country.

Chronologically, the volume here breaks for four years, during which Theodore undertook excavations at Great Zimbabwe. By late 1893, however, the couple were planning their journey to Southern Arabia, landing at Aden, which was by now a familiar port for them. They undertook a number of short journeys around the Hadramaut during the first half of 1894, and returned again in 1895. Although essentially unsuccessful – they were never to enter the Mahri district – the Bents added greatly to British understanding of the region, particularly in terms of flora and fauna. Descriptions of collecting samples, as well as of Mabel's photography, enliven much of the text.

The final *Chronicle* which Brisch has transcribed here comes from the island of Sokotra and east of Aden over the winter of 1896-97. This brief notebook contains details of their excavations, negotiations with the Sultan, Mabel's photography, and then the illness which was to kill Theodore shortly after their return to London. Each of Mabel's notebooks offers a sharp insight into travel practices for European travellers in the East.

For all these fascinating facets, there are a number of issues with the book. Brisch has taken the decision to emphasise all dates in Mabel's diaries in bold, repeatedly adding further clarification of day, date, month or year, which not only disturbs the reader's eye whilst perusing the chronicles, but also stresses a greater temporality than journals or diaries, by their very nature, tend to do. Some readers may also find the shifts between endnotes and footnotes, and also fonts, an unnecessary distraction, and Brisch himself concedes that his footnotes on Mabel's notebooks are subjective; some are elucidating, others merely distracting. Furthermore, as the typeface selected for Brisch's footnotes cannot produce the

diacritics he includes for his transliteration of Ḥaḍhramaut, at one point the word is formatted with two fonts (p. 199). Staying with the Hadramaut (as Mabel transcribes it), Brisch offers in the same footnote a definition of the region drawn from 1947; one wonders whether a contemporaneous reference could not have been found, even one drawn from Theodore's lectures or newspaper reports. Minor typographical errors include dating a Freya Stark reference 1983 rather than 1938.

Nonetheless, Brisch and Archaeopress should be commended for their attempts to bring Mabel's work into the public eye. The diaries' relationship with Theodore's *Southern Arabia* sheds light on the monumental work Mabel undertook following his death, to bring their experiences to public attention. Although their journey through Persia was an afterthought, and their attempts to enter the Hadramaut problematic, there is much to relish in these chronicles, not least another glimpse of intrepid women explorers in the late nineteenth century.

Mary Henes



A favoured mode of transport: Karl-Richard Lepsius on a donkey during the Prussian Expedition. The Donkey's narrative is, alas, not preserved.

***Libyan Sands: Travel in a Dead World*, by Ralph A. Bagnold, Eland Publishing, 2010. 228 pp., four b/w illustrations**

and 5 maps. ISBN 978-1-906011-33-8. £12.99

Eland's reprint of the 1935 classic of Sahara exploration is very attractively produced, with Ralph Bagnold's 1987 epilogue and a new additional biographical note by his son.

As Stephen, Ralph Bagnold's son, reminds us, the author is remarkably modest about the series of detailed and learned papers he eventually wrote on types and properties of sand. The few black and white illustrations are probably sufficient: they give enough atmosphere and sense of period to complement the narrative. The narrative itself, compelling and well told, will be known to many ASTENE readers already.

As is so often the case, the desert expeditions with adapted Model T Fords started by accident: a few people with time and a couple of these relatively new vehicles wondering how they would fare in the desert. Experience and experiment resulted in the long-range expeditions that form the climax of the book.

From a few tentative journeys beyond Cairo, the first major journeys were in the well-known regions to the east: a circular route across Sinai to Petra, around the Dead Sea, and back via Jerusalem. There were numerous practical and technical problems to overcome, but the utility of automobiles for desert travel was immediately recognised.

The narrative continues with the forays into the Libyan Desert and the first encounters with the dunes of the Great Sand Sea. The culmination is the extended journey to the Gilf Kebir and Uweinat at the border of Libya, Sudan and Egypt. There is much of interest on the developing political situation with the Italian occupation of Libya and forays by Italian soldiers into the same southerly regions of the desert (partly in pursuit of the Sanussi). There are notes on wildlife, archaeology and landscape; and, of course, people. One notable feature is the way in which various groups were living in, and travelling through, the most remote and inhospitable parts of the desert. They were not always seen, but signs of their relatively recent passing were. We are constantly reminded that there have always been travellers across the desert, their routes dictated by the stunted palm trees, the oases and the brackish wells: these routes are

marked by bones of cattle, camels and people.

The final chapter is about the 'lost'—perhaps mythical—oasis of Zerzura. Here Bagnold speculates on a time when all the earth has been surveyed and examined: and now we are almost at that time. Remarkably soon after Bagnold's death (1990) we can sit at our computers and view the entire Libyan Desert using Google Earth. We can peer down onto the Gilf Kebir and Gebel Uweinat. A major road now connects all of the oases from Cairo through Bahriya, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga back to the Nile at Asyut: that didn't exist even twenty years ago. But despite this, even now it is possible to go out into this vast desert and feel that isolation that Bagnold and his companions felt. One of the most striking details of the book is the map (p.15) that has the outline of the Indian subcontinent superimposed over the Libyan Desert from Tripoli in the west to Sinai, and south to Khartoum. As the caption tells us: 'In shape the Libyan Desert resembles the Indian peninsula, and, a fact which may be surprising but at the same time helpful, it compares with India in size.' Yes, it surprised me—but I shall remember it: the same size, the same shape—but not quite so many people!

I do not drive, and have no interest in cars and the contents of their bonnets; I am also slightly ambivalent about the desert—and certainly not one of those whose heart thrills at the thought of desert travel; but Bagnold draws the reader in, and *Libyan Sands* is certainly a thoroughly enjoyable and informative book for bedtime.

Robert Morkot



Mamluk History through Architecture, Monuments, Culture and Politics in Medieval Egypt and Syria, by Nasser Rabbat. London, I.B. Tauris, 2010. 261 pp, 71 b&w illustrations and plans. ISBN 981845119645. £45

The Mamluk Sultans who dominated Egypt and Syria between 1250 and 1517 were remarkable both for the length and organisation of their rule. They were not local but members of a foreign military elite, nominally of slave soldiers—mamluks (meaning 'one who is owned')—recruited from Qipchak Turks of South Russia and Circassians from the North Caucasus, Muslims but differing in language and customs from their subjects. The most enduring and visible impact of their often violent and corrupt rule is seen in the architecture of Cairo and Damascus, first and second capitals, respectively, of their domains.

Cairo is a city where the most concentrated and varied range of surviving medieval Islamic architecture (456 registered by the 1951 Survey of Islamic Monuments of Cairo), including superb Mamluk buildings, mingles with crowded streets and shops in a remarkably preserved and dynamic historic centre. Here the only comparable rival is Fez, capital at times of Morocco, whose Islamic buildings dating from the 10th century onwards are still part of a densely populated urban environment. Many have attempted to document and interpret Cairo's Islamic architecture in such diverse publications as medieval Arabic topographical texts and meticulously recorded and classified surveys compiled in the 19th and 20th century by European scholars. Nasser Rabat, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has already published extensively on Mamluk Cairo, is a distinguished contributor to this extensive literature. He has now taken an original approach where he examines and interprets Mamluk social and cultural history through the medium of recorded architecture.

The present book is a collection of fifteen articles written between 1989 and 2005, now conveniently re-published as a single reference work. It is not a standard history of Mamluk architecture but rather the fruits of research combining the parallel disciplines of Islamic and art history—in other words texts and artefacts. Four sections, each of

four or three articles, explore the following themes: Unpicking Mamluk sources—mainly Arabic texts; Architecture as history—case studies of specific buildings; Architecture and language—the relationship between text and building; Architecture as cultural index—a discussion broadly of attitudes to Mamluk architecture.

As each article contains intriguing insights, the best approach is to make a personal choice from each section. Here are a few suggestions.

- Architects and Artists in Mamluk Society: The Perspective of the Sources. This takes the subject beyond dry facts to understand the problems which these craftsmen faced.
- The Mosaics of the Qubba al-Zahariyya in Damascus: A Classical Syrian Medium acquires a Mamluk Signature. One of the few articles on Syria which discusses and analyses the composition and themes of buildings among luxuriant trees depicted in mosaics of the late 13th century.
- Al-Azhar Mosque: An Architectural Chronicle of Cairo's History which examines the changing role of this building in the transformation of Cairo to a centre of the Mamluk military state.
- Documenting Buildings in the Waqf System. Documents recording a waqf endowment are essential for an understanding of the resources and budget allocated to an ambitious building project.
- The Formation of the Neo-Mamluk Style in Modern Egypt. Spectacular landmarks such as the Rifai Mosque and the National Library built 1869—1912 and in 1904 respectively are an eloquent testimony to the impact of Mamluk architecture.

The book concludes with a glossary of Arabic terms, comprehensive notes and bibliography, which are a stimulus to further research. Enjoy and note Professor Rabbat's insights and take them together with a detailed guidebook to explore the Mamluk monuments of Cairo with fresh eyes.

Jennifer M Scarce

**From the Sahara to Samarkand:
Selected writings of Rosita Forbes
1919–1937 edited and introduced by
Margaret Bald. Axios Press, 2010, ISBN
978-60419-030-4, p/b \$15. 00**

Living women explorer-travellers support this book with great enthusiasm. It brings together a collection of Rosita Forbes' writings. 'Once,' wrote Rosita Forbes (1893–1967), 'I couldn't even wash my hands for seventeen days. Often I have not had a bath for months.' That is serious travelling!

She was renowned for her travels in the 1920s and 1930s—often in ASTENE areas. She explored the Libyan Desert, sailed to Yemen, trekked in remote Abyssinia, travelled from Turkey to Persia and on other continents on both sides of the Atlantic. She wrote 19 travel books and 11 novels set along the routes of her travels. This book is an anthology from her writings.

Of particular interest to ASTENE are the early chapters: The Secrets of the Sahara with the Egyptian traveller Hassanein Bey—who wrote his own book of the venture (recently reissued by American University In Cairo Press); her interrupted pilgrimage to Mecca (unlike the convert to Islam, Lady Evelyn Cobbold, she did not succeed). The following year Rosita Forbes was off to Yemen, a year later to Morocco. In 1925 she trekked through Abyssinia. Then there was a pause until in 1931 when she crossed from Turkey to Persia and saw much of Kurdistan. The last journey she wrote about was from Kabul to Samarkand in 1937.

With Rosita Forbes' books long out of print, Margaret Bald has done a great service, to her and to us, in bringing out this book. Many of us will need to take to the second-hand bookshops or our libraries to search out her other books once we have absorbed this excellent starter.

Deborah Manley



RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Origin and History of Murray's Handbooks for Travellers by John Murray. (Undated, Bodleian copy 1890)

I came across this little book some time ago. It was written by John Murray to challenge an article in the Pall Mall Gazette 'claiming for Mr Baedeker the credit for inventing this class of work'. It is of particular interest to us now as we hope we may be visiting the famed Murray 'drawing room' in London's Albemarle Street—where travellers from Belzoni to Byron and beyond mingled with the literati and the John Murray of their generation. The book is not much larger than my hand and has only 16 pages, but it tells us much about the Guides which carried Murray's name and have influenced and fed all guides since.

In 1829 the young John Murray of that generation wanted to go travelling. His father (also John Murray) agreed so long as the young John first learnt a language. Young John learnt German and went—and wrote the Handbook to Holland. There were guides, he tells us, to various countries at the time, but real practical information was often missing. In Germany (before the days of rail) Murray set about finding 'all the facts, information and statistics etc which an English tourist would be likely to require or find useful'. He filled many notebooks with information and eventually produced the first Handbook. The rest, as they say, is history.

In Germany Murray met Goethe in his studio—decorated with casts of the Elgin Marbles. He met Prince Metternich in Vienna. He became an early tourist down the Danube in a timber barge, ending his journey at the Turkish frontier of Wallachia.

Young Murray continued to travel—collecting and noting for his Guides. The first Murray's Guide to Holland, Belgium, North Germany and France was published in 1836. Murray wrote all these himself, but later he employed others: Richard Ford for Spain, Sir Gardner Wilkinson for Egypt, Sir Francis Palgrave for North Italy, Dr Porter for Palestine, Sir George Bowen for Greece. By 1890 there were 29 Murray's Handbooks from India to Egypt, from France to Syria.

Only in 1839 did the first Baedeker appear. And in 1842 Mr Baedeker admitted that Murray had given him the idea ... and that he had even used Murray's material in his guide! Meantime the Murray's Guides, always

updated, always in their red covers, continued to be produced.

Deborah Manley

Out of Print Books for Scholars

For more than thirty years, this US-based organisation has been selling used and out of print scholarly books via catalogues. The catalogues contain three sections: the ancient Old World (for example, Greece, Rome, Egypt, Mesopotamia); the Middle East from the end of the ancient world to the present; and Mediaeval, Renaissance and Reformation Europe to about 1700. There are also currently two Special Lists available: 23–Egypt through the Ages; and 24–Persia / Iran and its Neighbours through the Ages. They have approximately 50,000 volumes in stock. If members wish to receive the catalogue via email they should contact Carl Sandler Berkowitz at berkowitz@frontiernet.net .

The E-Corpus digital library

E-Corpus is a collective digital library being created under the auspices of the Centre de Conservation du Livre (Arles, www.ccl-fr.org) co-financed by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the European Union.

Recent additions to the collection include: Arabic, Georgian and Syriac manuscripts from St. Catherine's Monastery Mount Sinai; Hebrew manuscripts from the Library of Nîmes; Documents on the history of Egypt from the Pharaonic period to the present; Arabic manuscripts from father Jean-Joseph-Léandre Bargès (1810–1896).

In the process of digitization and soon to be on E-Corpus are:

Persian and Arabic manuscripts from the Aga Khan Museum (Geneva); a series of antique photographs – Aleppo, with the cooperation of the IFPO (Institut Français du Proche-Orient); The University of Kaslik Library–Lebanon; Antonius Library–Lebanon.

E-Corpus organises training programmes and publishes a Newsletter. For more information consult the website, www.e-corpus.org .

QUERIES AND REPLIES

The Painter Elijah Walton

In the Winter 2010–11 issue there was a query about Mr Walton 'a clever young painter' met in Cairo in the early 1860s by G.A. Hoskins. Briony Llewellyn has replied that 'this must be Elijah Walton (1830–1880), better known for his drawings of camels (one of which appears on the ASTENE website) and later of Alpine scenery'. In the Searight Collection of Art of the Near East in the Victoria and Albert Museum, Prints and Drawings Collection, are many of his Nile landscapes and portraits of such local personalities as Sir Henry Graham's Dragoman, an old Sinai Bedouin, and gardeners in Constantinople. His landscapes include the Nile Delta at sunset, the remains of Roman walls at Antioch and a date grove near Alexandria.



Walton's Camel, after a drawing in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Marcel Pic, Artist for the British Army in Egypt

From Henry Keown-Boyd:

I wonder if anyone knows the identity of an artist who signed himself MARCEL PIC? He must have been in Egypt in the 1890s as he drew a series of cartoons of the British officers serving with the Egyptian Army at that time. They are in the style of SPY but with large heads and small bodies. They are numbered and dated 1895.

I have heard of, but not seen, other examples of his work, all of army officers. It occurs to me he may have been in the army himself.

More on Lady Drower

Rosalind Janssen sent an interesting response with information on Lady Drower's

daughter; Robert Morkot writes at greater length on both:-

Ethel Stefana Stevens (1 Dec 1879 – 27 Jan 1972) became the leading authority on the Mandaean Sect and a collector of Mandaean manuscripts. The eldest daughter of the Rev Silas William Stevens, Ethel was clearly an adventurous young woman and became a novelist and journalist. Like so many others, she seems to have been particularly drawn to the Near East, and wrote several novels set in the region, including *The Veil* (1909), *The Mountain of God* (1911), and *The Earthen Drum* (1911), a collection of oriental tales. In 1909 she went to the Sudan, a period narrated in *My Sudan Year* (1912). There, in Khartoum, she met a young lawyer, (later Sir) Edwin Mortimer Drower (1880–1951) and they married in 1911. Edwin Drower, later served as adviser to the minister of justice in Iraq. Based in Iraq from 1919 to 1947, Ethel Drower wrote many books on the region, and developed her interest in the Mandaean sect. Her volume, *The Mandaean of Iraq and Iran* (1937) remains the principal study. Her major contribution was the translation of a series of Mandaic texts, for which she learnt Aramaic and Mandaic (a branch of eastern Aramaic). The manuscripts that she acquired are in the Bodleian Library. She wrote numerous scholarly articles as well as the volumes of translations, and was awarded a number of Honorary Degrees for her work.

Sir Edwin and Lady Drower had three children, one of whom, Margaret (Peggy) Stefana Drower (Mrs Hackforth-Jones), was for many years (until 1979) Reader in Ancient History at University College London. Peggy Drower studied at UCL with Flinders Petrie and Margaret Murray, amongst others. Peggy became a lifelong friend of Petrie's daughter Anne, and was envious that it was Anne who spent more time with the Drowers in Iraq than she did! Peggy later excavated with Pendlebury at Amarna, and at Armant.

As a lecturer on the archaeology of the Near East Peggy travelled over much of the ASTENE region, and used to regale those of us fortunate enough to have been her students with stories of T.E. Lawrence and Gertrude Bell; of being shot at on the Upper Zab, and similar adventures. She gets an honourable mention in one of Freya Stark's volumes, but is best known as the author of the biography of Flinders Petrie, and editor of

a collection of his letters. Peggy was intending to write a biography of her mother, although how far she has progressed with that, I do not know.

Peggy is due to celebrate her 100th birthday in December, thereby equalling her former teacher the redoubtable Margaret Murray.

In 1983, when I was working as Archivist in the Petrie Museum, I found a letter from Mrs Drower to Petrie, enquiring about the possibility of Peggy becoming one of his students: Peggy was amused to be shown that Petrie had recycled it, using the back for one of his innumerable sketch plans!

The Mahmoudieh Canal

Deb Manley has sent the following from *The European Magazine* of October 1822 about the building of this canal in Alexandria in the Muhammad Ali period. 'I had never seen it so well explained ...,' she says.

The Canal of Alexandria last year received, in honour of the Sultan, the name of Mahmoudié. It terminates a few steps from Pompey's column, and begins near the Nile, and under the town of Saone. Its length is 41,706 toises, its width 15 toises and its depth 3 toises. One hundred thousand men started it in January 1819; this number was increased the following months to two hundred and sixty thousand; the workmen received a piastre a day.

In the month of May, thirty thousand other workmen, from Upper Egypt, were added to the number; and on the 13th of September the work was completed. Six European engineers directed the work.

We find that a 'toise' is just under two meters, but does anyone know who the European engineers were? Are there other descriptions of the canal and its building?

Cliveden and the Apes

Also from Deb Manley:
'Cliveden goes ape!' This is the quaint title of a National Trust story about a pair of c. 1000 BC granite baboons from Egypt, now in the Long Garden at Cliveden. In the late 19th century Viscount Astor purchased sculptures and statues, ancient and modern. A few years ago the apes were donated to the Trust—one ape was in very poor condition but is now restored.

Does any reader know more about these apes... particularly who brought them to Britain?

Who were they?

In January 1861, the writer M.L.M. Carey (*Four months in a Dahabeeh*), travelling on the Nile, met at Wadi Halfa a vessel bearing the Sardinian flag. It was an expedition 'sent out by the Viceroy to discover the source of the Nile'. Miani was its chief, who had earlier 'penetrated as far as the second degree of north latitude'. He was accompanied by a Frenchman ('whose name we did not hear') and Mr James, an English photographer.

Does any reader know more about this expedition?

Muhammed Effendi, Naval Surveyor in Alexandria

Amanda Heddestad writes:

In William Robert Wilde's account of his 1838 voyage to Egypt (among other places), *Narrative of a Voyage to Madeira, Tenerife, and Along the Shores of the Mediterranean, Including a Visit to Algiers, Egypt, Palestine, Tyre, Rhodes, Telmessus, Cyprus and Greece with Observations on the Present State and Prospects of Egypt and Palestine, and on the Climate, Natural History, and Antiquities of the Countries Visited*, he mentions meeting the surveyor of the navy in Alexandria, a Muhammed Effendi. This esteemed individual carried a fashionable embossed card, had studied his trade in England, and had taken a British wife. Does anyone have any further information on this individual or his wife?

More on Waynman Dixon from Dr Bob Brier

Among Egyptologists, Waynman Dixon is famous for two things: 1) he discovered two 'air shafts' in the Queen's Chamber of the Great Pyramid of Giza; and 2) he brought Cleopatra's Needle to London from Alexandria. The part of the Dixon archive that I was able to obtain (the money ran out!) relates more to travel than to Egyptology and consists of 30 letters written between 1872 and 1876 by Dixon to his family in England. They are important because they give details of how the young engineer viewed Egypt (he was fascinated). There are three different descriptions of the

Moulid el Nebi and Zikr that run for pages. Also of interest are detailed descriptions of life at Shephard's Hotel complete with diagram of his room! He was a hawaga, but an interested and interesting one.

In addition there are a couple of dozen water-colours by Dixon that are quite good, but not so good as the ones of his brother John that appear in Haywood's book, *Cleopatra's Needles*. There are also some of his travel documents and a photo album in the collection. The letters are being transcribed, water-colours will be photographed, and my hope is that I can free up time finally to make it to England for an ASTENE meeting and present a paper! Big Inshallah.

Meantime we hope Ian Pearce can tell us more about Waynman Dixon at the ASTENE conference.

(The Editors apologize to Dr Brier for misspelling his name in the last issue.)

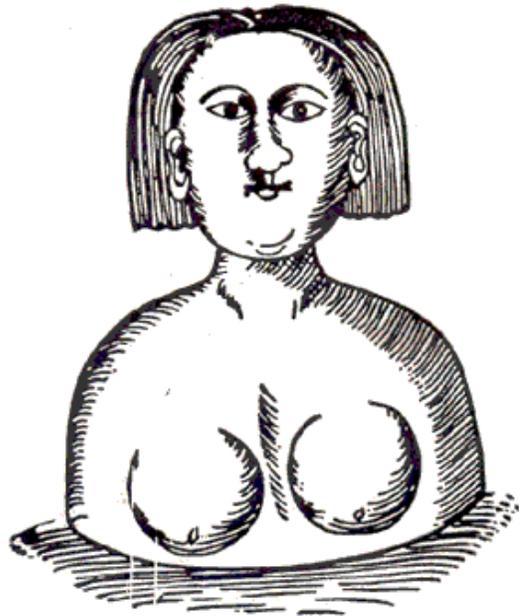
Frank Harger

Dr David Wilson sent the following e-mail:- I was very interested to find [Robert Morkot's] two-part article on the Royal Memorial Museum, Exeter, in the ASTENE Bulletin, Nos. 21 and 22. Towards the end of the first part you list some early donors, including 'F.Harger, whose collection was donated between 1868 and 1873, although a note associated with one object indicates that it was acquired in 1829;'

I can identify him as my great great grandfather, Frank Harger (pronounced with a soft g, as in 'larger'), born 15 March 1787 in Southwark, died 8 February 1874 in Exeter. In December 1827 he was appointed Purser on HMS Infernal (Commander Edmund Gilbert). The Infernal was stationed in the Mediterranean from early in 1828 until the summer of 1830. Although I have studied the logs of some of Frank's other voyages, I have not looked at this one and do not know its exact itinerary, but the dates make it quite feasible for him to have been in Egypt in 1829 and we have a vague family tradition that he was in Egypt at some early period. He also served on other ships in the Mediterranean: HMS Minorca (1810-1814) (western Med, I think) and HMS Vengeance (1850-1855) (including the Crimean campaign). He finally retired in 1855, after 50 years service in the Royal Navy, first to

his property at Northam and then to 7 Rougemont Terrace, Exeter. He died at 1 Elm Grove Road, Exeter, and was buried beside his brother, John Harger, in the churchyard at Northam.

Frank Harger seems to have been a man with quite wide cultural interests. He amassed and classified a considerable collection of exotic sea-shells, which passed to my grandfather, he collected various objets d'art, and he probably read widely - I have a copy of Sale's translation of the Koran (1836 edition) which bears his bookmark: "Mr. Harger, R.N." in gothic lettering. However, I was quite unaware of his donation to the Museum and would be very interested to know some details when you have completed your catalogue. I don't think I can add much more in the way of provenance, but even after 40 years of research on family history I do still come across new facts, so I will keep my eyes open for anything that might be of interest...



A 16th Century woodcut of the sphinx at Giza, presumably by someone who had never seen it!

FOOTPRINTS

Travellers to Sinai

Some years ago, in 2005, when ASTENE visited Sinai, we asked to see the Visitors' Book, about which I knew from my reading. We were able to form a good reading group for this purpose: we all read English and some French, Rita Severis spoke Greek, Sahar Abdel Hakim, Arabic and French, John Ruffle and Peta Ree had some German. We had hoped that one day we might go back to read further, but this has not yet been possible. Here I share some of the more intriguing entries in the period 1897–1953. (Naturally many of them were clerical gentlemen.)

March 1899: Emily Hornby of Manor House, Surrey was there with her two sisters (M.L. and F.M. Hornby) and their Dragoman, Ngeini. Later that month Samuel T. Curtiss, Professor of Old Testament, from Chicago, visited and came back in 1901.

In 1900 Reverend Alexander Sandstrom came from Butte, Montana, along with other clerics from Chicago, Frankinville, N.Y. and the state of Maine. Officers and their wives from the Sanitary Maritime Board of Egypt appear quite often - particularly at the period of the Haj. Among other Egyptian civil servants were W.S. Charteris Bey (Deputy Postmaster General), Courtney Clifton, Director Special Buildings, Public Works Dept, Cairo and Dr Walter Innes Bey from l'École de Médecine du Caire.

In 1900 travellers to Sinai included Swedes, Frenchmen, the Chargé d'Affaire for Austro-Hungary, and the German Attaché. In 1902 Contes Phillipe Hayos Wenckheim and Jean d'Arssy signed in. Later in the year there were three Russians.

In 1903 a group of Franciscans visited, returning a few years later.

In 1912 there were Dominican visitors from Jerusalem, and on 25 April 1912 an ASTENE member's relations Jennings-Bramly and Mrs Jennings-Bramly signed in.

In 1918 at the end of World War I, men of the Imperial Camel Corps were there en route for Australia. In 1921 the Survey of Egypt team signed in, including the great G.W. Murray. The next year Rendell Harris, A.M. Benson and Mary Dobson were there. And a year later an American, Benjamin

Higgins, proudly claimed to have taken the first motion pictures of Mount Sinai.

Deborah Manley

From the Journal of Sir Richard Worsley, Bt, 1785

There is scarcely a house belonging to an Athenian that has not some small fragment in sculpture over the Door or in the Court. Athens, as it is natural to suppose, abounds with curious Monuments of Antiquity. (Lincolnshire County Archives)

The Gavin Hamilton painting of Dawkins and Wood

Members who were fascinated by the print on page 20 of Bulletin 45 showing Robert Wood and James Dawkins discovering the ruins at Palmyra may be interested to know that the painting by Gavin Hamilton, from which the engraving was originally derived, is currently on permanent display at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh. It is a monumental painting measuring some ten feet by twelve feet and gives an overwhelming impression of the travellers at the moment of their 'discovery' of the romantic ruins highlighted in the distance.

In 1750 Robert Wood and James Dawkins, both antiquarians and travellers departed on a tour of the Levant that was to include both Baalbek and Palmyra. They were accompanied by an Oxford friend and collector, John Bouverie—who was shortly to die at Guzelhusar, near Ankara—and Giovanni Battista Borra, an Italian architectural draughtsman. Following their return in 1751, Robert Wood compiled and published his now highly prized opus, *The Ruins of Palmyra, otherwise Tedmor, in the Desart*. This comprised an account of their journey through the 'desart' from 'Byroot', a history of Palmyra, details of inscriptions obtained from the monuments and the set of some sixty or so illustrations. These are both views and architectural details of the ruins and are based on the work of the draughtsman Giovanni Borra. The drawings came to inspire a revival of classical decorative work in houses in Britain in addition to the use of a design in the seal of the USA.

In 1758 when James Dawkins died, a younger brother commissioned Gavin Hamilton, a Scottish artist based in Rome, to produce a commemorative painting showing

his brother at this significant moment in his life, and he produced the vast canvas now in Edinburgh. Hamilton, as was his practice, depicted the travellers in a neo-classical scene with the ruins—monumental arch and the colonnade (copied from one of the engravings in Wood's book)—highlighted in the mysterious distance. Dawkins and Wood are attired in togas and, to the right, a draughtsman with the tools of his trade in hand can just be discerned.

The original engraving of the picture, from which the copy in Bulletin 45 was derived, was produced by the engraver John Hall (1739–97) and published in London by James Robson. There is a copy of the original print in the V&A, London, and no doubt others are to be found in print collections elsewhere.

The book *The Ruins of Palmyra...* is currently available in a digitized version, with the full text but with divided copies of the engravings in the ECCO Print Edition series.
George Hutcheson

A Sergeant in Serbia

We sometimes forget that ASTENE's borders reach out to 'Greece and the Ottoman Balkans'. This is partly because we rarely have offers of papers or items for this part of our area.

Shire Publications' impressive small book *Women in the First World War* by Storey and Housego introduced me to Mrs Sinclair Stobart who in 1915 took charge of the Third Serbian Relief Fund. In this unit was one Flora Sandes who joined a Serbian regiment, was involved in hand-to-hand combat and, in 1916, published her autobiographical account *An English woman sergeant in the Serbian Army*.

There are others of her ilk, too, who were travellers in the Ottoman Balkans ...

An Earl and an Architect

Recently many Britons were glued to their TVs each week as they watched the period serial drama, *Downton Abbey*. The 'Abbey' was Lord Carnarvon's Highclere Castle (where ASTENE held its farewell picnic on a beautiful summer day after the Southampton conference). Highclere was designed by another ASTENE traveller—the architect Charles Barry—in ASTENE territory in 1818–19. The second *Downton Abbey* series began

filming in February, and we can look forward to seeing the Carnarvon house again soon. (The British Egyptian Society has booked a day-trip to Highclere Castle, home of the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, for Sunday, 31 July 2011 at 11:15 am. The cost will be £17.50. For information contact noelrands@hotmail.com .)

Rasputin's Assassin in Cairo

Prince Felix Youssouppoff (1887–1967) is best known for his involvement in the assassination of Gregori Rasputin in 1916. Less well known is the fact that in 1914 he and his bride, Princess Irina, niece to Tsar Nicholas II, spent part of their honeymoon in Egypt. In his autobiography, *Lost Splendour*, Prince Felix refers to this visit. While much of Youssouppoff's memoir is historically inaccurate and self-serving, the following has a ring of truth to it:

One evening, as we wandered through the narrow streets of the old quarter, we came to a small square and there we saw a magnificent Arab, dressed in gorgeous robes and wearing a profusion of necklaces, rings and bracelets, reclining on velvet cushions on the steps of a house and sipping his coffee. A continuous stream of women and children passed before him and threw coins into a bag which lay on the ground beside him. From the houses nearby, heavily painted women sitting cross-legged behind their latticed windows displayed their somewhat faded charms. As we left this questionable quarter we met our Consul, who was horrified to find us in such a disreputable neighbourhood.

He told us that the Arab who had aroused our curiosity owed his affluence to the peculiar interest taken in him by a certain person of very high rank. Thus, he had become the owner of several streets full of brothels, from which he derived an enormous income.

From Cairo we went on to Luxor. The modern town is built on the site of ancient Thebes which was buried, in the course of centuries, under alluvial deposits from the Nile.... The Valley of Kings is an immense, irregularly-shaped circus in the desert on the left bank of the Nile. The tombs are a series of galleries and rooms hollowed out of the rock, decorated with paintings which have remained amazingly fresh. Although

the splendours of Upper Egypt were most interesting, I suffered so much from the heat that I refused to go any further..... We were sorry to leave Egypt, for we had fallen under its spell.

From Egypt Prince Felix and Princess Irina went on to Jerusalem via Jaffa. The Prince described the Russian Orthodox celebrations of that year's Holy Week in Jerusalem in some detail, 50 years on from the dispute over guardianship of the Holy Places which sparked the Crimean war.

Sir Richard Burton's Mausoleum

'He has got the very thing he wanted... to be buried in a tent above ground; to have sun and light and air, trees, birds and flowers.' When Sir Richard Burton died in 1891, his wife Isabel did her best to carry out his wishes—and no mean best it was. Burton's mausoleum in the graveyard of St Mary Magdalene Roman Catholic Church at Mortlake, London, is indeed a tent—not of canvas but of marble and stone. She intended to hang a string of camel bells across the tent so that when the wind blew, 'the tinkle of camel bells may still sound near to him,' but I do not know if this ever happened.

Lady Burton described the Mausoleum very fully:

The tent is sculptured in Forest of Dean stone and white Carrara marble. It is an Arab tent, twelve foot by twelve and eighteen foot high, surmounted by a gilt star of nine points. Over the top of the door of the tent is a white marble crucifix. The fringe is composed of gilt cressets and stars. The flap of the tent supports an open book of white marble, on which is inscribed Richard's name and the date of his decease... Below, on a white marble tablet is a beautiful sonnet written in a passion of grief by Justin Huntly McCarthy. (The most heartfelt grief perhaps seldom calls forth the greatest verse). 'He always said, "I am gone—pay, pack and follow". Dear Reader, I have paid, I have packed, I have suffered, I am waiting to join his caravan...' It was to be five years before she followed him.

By 2009 the mausoleum had fallen into such disrepair that it was included in English Heritage's Register of Buildings at Risk. Due to the efforts of the Friends of Burton, many

private donors, various fund-raising efforts, and generous grants from English Heritage and The Heritage of London Trust, restoration work was completed by October 2010, and the tent shines forth once more as a testimony to love and eccentricity.

From Peta Ree, based on an article in 'Mausolus', the newsletter of the Mausoleum and Monuments Trust, Autumn 2010.

Tomb with a View

In 1982 Paul Theroux published a collection of entertaining tales entitled *The London Embassy* (Hamish Hamilton). The chapter 'Tomb with a View' is relevant to this Bulletin. It tells of a student from Saudi Arabia whose behaviour alarms his landlady. Then the narrator learns of strange goings on at St Mary Magdalene's church, Mortlake and decides to investigate.

I was behind the church and fighting my way through a tangle of bushes when I saw the tent. It was a sort of oriental tent, perhaps Arab, with a slanting roof and high steep sides flowing from neatly scalloped eaves. I thought for a moment that I had stumbled upon a group of campers. But the tent was made of stone. It was white granite or marble, with carved folds, and it bore a tablet with the name *Captain Sir Richard F. Burton*. The explorer's tomb was the strangest I had ever seen.

At the rear of the tomb, overgrown with bushes and partly hidden by the thickness of black branches, was an iron ladder. It was fixed to the stone, it rose to the top of the tent-like roof. I climbed the iron rungs, and when I could not go any further I looked down in amazement. I was looking straight into the chamber of the tomb.

It transpires that Mr Abdoul Wahab Bin Baz has stolen Burton's bones and the artefacts of the tomb. The narrator supposes that he has done so out of

simple revenge. Hadn't Burton, the unbeliever, trampled all over Islam? In this Muslim's eyes, hadn't the English explorer violated the

sanctity of his religion by dressing up as an Arab and entering Mecca?

The denouement ensures that Mr Wahab is given a thoroughly nasty shock and, of course, that everything is returned to its rightful place, musty bones, camel bells, candlesticks and all, much as one assumes the restorers found them thirty years after Theroux wrote his tale.

The Dumreichers of Alexandria

We note the recent death in Hamburg of Hugo von Dumreicher (born in England in 1914), last of one of the great families of European Alexandria. His father was André von Dumreicher, director of the Egyptian Coastguard Camel Corps and author of

Trackers and Smugglers in the Deserts of Egypt.

Of his family's long presence in Alexandria Hugo used to say they were among the first to go and the last to leave. As wonderfully cosmopolitan as the city itself, and of mixed German and Danish descent, they were also related to some interesting Englishmen. Hugo's mother, Mary Russel, was the niece of General Sir Archibald Hunter, known as 'Kitchener's Sword Arm', and through marriage there were connections with Mark Sykes and Sir Eldon Gorst. Hugo's great great grandfather was the first Danish Consul (1810) in the time of Muhammad Ali; while a great great grandmother married Bernardino Drovetti, the famous Egyptologist and Napoleon's Consul-General in Egypt.



The stainless steel and gilt coffin of Sir Richard Burton in the Mausoleum (courtesy HOK Culture and Heritage)

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