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Editors: Sheila and Russell McGuirk

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Subscriptions and Membership
Membership is open to all at the following rates:
UK, Europe and North America: £25 (€30 for a joint membership at one address receiving one Bulletin)

Students: £15 (proof of student status required)
Library subscriptions: £20
Payment must be in pounds sterling. Please see the ASTENE website for application forms and further details: www.astene.org.uk .

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BULLETIN 55: Spring 2013
Submissions for the next Bulletin must be received by 15 March 2013. We welcome articles, queries, replies and other related matters from members and interested readers. Please send contributions to the Editors, Russell McGuirk and Sheila McGuirk (bulletins@astene.org.uk).

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ASTENE News and Events
The Tenth Biennial ASTENE Conference
University of Aston, Birmingham,
12–15 July 2013

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

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

Call for Papers
The call for papers which was issued in Bulletin 53 is now also available on-line and will be distributed to all members electronically via Mailchimp.

Please send an abstract by 1 February 2013 of no more than 100 words for a paper not to exceed 25 minutes to events@astene.org.uk or by post to: Dr Patricia Utick, 32 Carlton Hill, London, NW8 0Y.

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

First time readers MUST bring a letter of introduction from a person of recognised position, based on personal knowledge of the reader. If you want to check in advance email: special-collections@bham.ac.uk or on the web: www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk .
Burton was a friend to Wilkinson, Lane, Bonomi, Lord Prudhoe, Major Felix, and many others whose names appear in the pages of ASTENE’s publications.

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

Sheila McGuirk is currently an ordinary member of the ASTENE committee with shared responsibility for the Bulletin and has assisted in the development and maintenance of the website. She filled the role of Chairman for one year in 2011–12. Sheila studied International Relations at the London School of Economics, followed by an MA in Middle Eastern Studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University. She has lived and worked in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Greece and the Red Sea littoral, her ASTENE interests focus on the personal interrelationships in the ‘global village’ of the early archaeologists in these regions, the early developments in archaeological thought through their travels, interpretations and fieldwork experiences, and how their interventions have continued to the present day.

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

Who’s who on this year’s ASTENE Executive Committee:

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

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

Jackie Phillips, an ASTENE member since 1999, is Research and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a Visiting Scholar at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. Apart from her archaeological research mostly in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Greece and the Red Sea littoral, her ASTENE interests focus on the personal interrelationships in the ‘global village’ of the early archaeologists in these regions, the early developments in archaeological thought through their travels, interpretations and fieldwork experiences, and how their interventions have continued to the present day.

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

Cairo to Constantinople: Early Photographs of the Middle East The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh Friday, 08 March 2013 to Sunday, 21 July 2013
In 1862, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) was sent on a four-month educational tour worked in Baghdad with Freya Stark during WWII. Murray, excavated with Pendlebury at Amarna, and worked in Baghdad with Freya Stark during WWII. She travelled extensively in the ASTENE region, from Iran to Turkey, Iraq to Sudan. She taught Near Eastern and Egyptian History at UCL from 1937 to 1979 and was later made an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Archaeology.

Robert Morkot

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

Lucy Pollard
It is indeed extraordinary in so many ways. Yet when one contemplates the massive bust of Rameses sent down the Nile by Belzoni soon to be displayed to an astonished crowd in the British Museum, it is easy to comprehend the impact (a photograph is at the entrance to the exhibition). The exhibition is arranged on two floors in two smallish rooms constrained by the dimensions of the Arch. On the lower floor ‘The Dawn of the Egyptian Style’ opens with the 18th century aristocratic fashion for adorning handsomely landscaped gardens with obelisks and pyramids inspired by such relics observed in Rome. But it is of course the effect of the ‘rediscovery’ triggered by Napoleon’s army of savants that is the main concern of the first part of the exhibition. The lower floor looks, mainly via prints and photographs, at the nineteenth century—‘Pharaohs in fashion’, ‘Growing Grandeur’, ‘Cities of the Dead’ (exploring the development of garden cemeteries: for example Kensal Green visited by ASTENE in September). A lot of old ASTENE favourites are here: not only Belzoni but also both Bonomis; the younger made the plaster casts of the Abu Simbel Rameses used for the exhibition). The exhibition ends on January 13th.

Sarah Searight

Conferences, Lectures and Talks

Trade, Travel and Transmission in the Medieval Mediterranean

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mohamed Shafik Gabr

Bryony Llewelyn has recently been involved in the international dialogues which are part of the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation programme on cultural exchanges. (www.eastwestdialogue.org)

Visit this attractive website to find out more about future events, which are planned in Paris, Istanbul and Cairo in 2013.
This magisterial biography traces the life of James Henry Breasted (1865–1935), the founding father of American Egyptology. I belong to probably the best generation of Egyptian scholars who regularly used Breasted’s publications that are now out-of-date, but his legacy remains the Oriental Institute of Chicago, the power-house of Egyptian epigraphy and archaeology in the Near East both during and after his life-time. Chapter I describes his relatively humble background in rural Illinois in a religious family from whom he learned the virtue of hard work. Trained as a pharmacist, he abandoned this career for his interest in ancient ‘oriental’ history and archaeology in the Near East from Turkey to Iran and is training future generations of Near Eastern scholars and archaeologists. This book fully explores his amazing career and contributions but the personality of the man still remains largely elusive.

Morris Bierbrier

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

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

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

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

Janet Starkey

Women Travelers in Egypt from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-first Century, edited by Deborah Manley (Cairo, American University of Cairo Press, 2012), 256 pages. £21.50
Cassandra has dug long and deep into the diaries, letters, journals and books of early travellers, and she introduces her readers to familiar as well as to almost unknown travellers. On his return from Abyssinia in 1773 James Bruce, for example, met the American John Antes who, later, defended Bruce against his critics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

The events described and illustrated in this book, specifically limited to the 20 years 1932–1952, have been most thoroughly researched and are...
full of interest. The author presents an unexpected but intriguing episode in history, not only of the expansion of aviation in that early period but also of the impact of western influence and its gradual acceptance by the indigenous society. However, life for the service personnel involved in all the various activities at Sharjah Airfield during this period meant privations in an extreme climate; no wonder they had cause to remind themselves to ‘smile’.

Julian Lush


I looked forward to reading Martin Jones’ book. My doctorate is on the Mani region of southern Greece and I am writing a biography of Colonel Leake. Sadly, I was disappointed. Jones does a competent job in condensing the three chapters from Volume 1 of Leake’s Travels in the Morea where he describes his fourteen-day journey through the Mani in April, 1805. He does this mainly through stripping his fourteen-day journey through the Mani in 1805. He does this mainly through stripping it is let down by careless or hasty editing and readers will irritate the specialist reader and social anthropologists. Books which make use of early records of Egypt, such as drawings, watercolours and photographs, are being generally recognized. For some they are primarily works of art in the romantic and occasionally slightly titillating Orientalist tradition while others regard them as important testimony to the Egypt of their day and a potential source of ‘hard core’ information for Egyptologists, Islamic and Coptic art historians and social anthropologists. Books which make use of such early records are increasing in number and L’Égypte Dessinée is a distinguished addition to the genre. It has not come as a complete surprise: we were alerted to its gestation by the paper which the author gave at the ASTENE biennial conference in Oxford in 2011.

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

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

Anyone who has travelled with Warwick will recognise the style. He often leads the tours he sets up under the title ‘Eastern Approaches’, and to some extent the books bring together the thorough notes which he supplies his travellers. Not that he thanks the numerous fellow travellers ‘who have had to endure my talking of many of the ideas expressed in this book’ led on, he says, by ‘their inexhaustible curiosity’.

The cover of Sultans is a detail of a painting by Veronese, ‘The wedding at Cana’, showing Suleyman the Magnificent seated at a banquet also attended by Francis I and many other potentates. And half of the account deals with the Turks in Europe, directed from Constantinople, but here referred to as ‘Rome’. However, it is the first half of the book which for me is the most impressive, in which the author deftly sorts out the tribal world of the early-to-medieval Turkish peoples as they marched out of their homelands in the forests of Siberia across the inner Eurasian steppe, through what was once known as Chinese Turkestan (now Xinjiang), through Afghanistan and the other ‘stans’ of the ex-Soviet Union ultimately into Anatolia. I feel breathless just describing the scope as he sorts out the tribal ramifications. The bibliography is an indication of the author’s voracious appetite for, and ability to digest a remarkable and enviable range of authorities. Yes, the account is a bit of a rush and the assumptions, conclusions and speculations could be elaborated a little more. But as a synthesis of Turkish history and its profound impact on Europe, it is a remarkable achievement. It may even encourage ASTENE members to join him on an ‘eastern approach’.

Sarah Seairght


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

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

Malcolm Wagstaff


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

Leake was, as far as I am aware, never a coachman but post boys (plural), i.e. men responsible for looking after the horses or mules hired by travellers from one and returning them to their post house. In this context magazines, were not munition stores but stores used either for boat activities at Sharjah Airfield during this period of mistakes. They will irritate the specialist reader and lead the unwary into serious error about both Leake and also early nineteenth-century Greece. A few examples will illustrate the point. In the chronological table Jones calls his subject William Henry Leake. As far as I am aware, Leake’s only given name was William and, strictly speaking, the family name is Martin Leake. The battle in which Leake commanded guns was at El Hanka in Egypt and not at Gaza. Sir John Moore visited the Ottoman Army in Palestine but he did not command the British Military Mission attached to it (pp. xx, xxi and 5). In the Introduction (p.4) Jones tells us that Leake’s grandfather held ‘an important post in the Admiralty’ but he was, in fact, Garter King of Arms. Leake’s great-grandfather, Captain Stephen Martin, was a naval officer but never worked as an Admiralty official. Martin added Leake to his name when his brother-in-law, Father Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718), Cosmographe to the Serene Republic of Venice. We are alerted to its gestation by the paper which the author gave at the ASTENE biennial conference in Oxford in 2011.

The author has tried to use as much as possible the original artwork gleaned from archives and similar institutions rather than reproductions

Malcolm Wagstaff


13
which appeared in contemporary publications. The selection of the drawings clearly aims at originality. Many of the artists are not so well known, and quite a few of them are, at least for me, new. Particularly noteworthy are the drawings by those accompanying Napoleon’s expedition, such as François Cécile, Nicolas Jacques Conté and André Dutertre. Howard Carter’s ‘The sailmakers’ bazaar’, dating to 1906, i.e. the period between his resignation from the Antiquities Service following the Saqqara bust-up and the beginning of his association with Lord Carnarvon, is interesting because it shows his skills as an artist. Among the images published for the first time are the views of Kom Ombo, probably by Robert Hay, and of Dabod by Charles Barry, and a panoramic view of Philae, probably by Frederic Catherwood. True to the book’s title, no photographs have been included.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jaromir Malek

David Kennedy writes:-

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

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

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

New member Dr Tim Clayden writes:-

I have recently published a paper (al-Rafidan, 2010) on travel accounts of the ruins outside Bagdad of the Kasite Period (c. 1500–1150 BC) of the city Dur-Kurigalzu. The remains consist of a zigurrat and temple complex and until the 17th century was mistaken by European travellers as the Tower of Babylon. I am now writing a book about the history and archaeology of the site. The site has been under excavation since 1942 and most especially in the 60s and 70s. There have been some excavation reports, but they are sparse and illustrations and plans sparser yet. The site, just 30 km outside Bagdad, was a tourist spot and many people visited. I would be very interested in any photographs your readers might have of the site. I do not mind what they are of or the quality, but I would like to see them. Can any ASTENE members help?

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

More on Waynman Dixon

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

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

‘Dr. Barnard of the Am. University’ That’s all I have by way of description. The present American University in Cairo was founded in 1919, so the ‘Am. University’ is a mystery.
Mr. Falconer’ He may have worked for the P&O shipping company in Alexandria.

‘Mr. and Mrs. Matthewson’ Described by Waynman as old friends of his in Egypt.

‘Shadwell’ He may have been on the staff of the Alexandria to Cairo Railway.

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

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

Please send any information about the identities of the above people to Ian Pearce at ianandsuepearce@btinternet.com with copies to the Bulletin Editors.

Who brought Asru to Manchester?

A recent article in the Guardian (24 Nov 2012) reported that the mummies in the Manchester University Museum (on show now in "Ancient Worlds" free daily) had been scanned in the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital—at night when the scanners were infrequently used. The scans revealed that Asru, the temple singer, suffered serious arthritis in her neck, and the wrappings of another mummy hid a jumble of bones—but no brain. Asru came to the Museum in 1825 with her elaborate double coffins having been brought to England by E and W Garratt. Does anyone know any more about who they were?

http://www.ancient-egypt.co.uk/manchester/pages/asru%203.htm

Deborah Manley

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

Nicholas Stanley-Price

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

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

Facebook and Alessandro Ricci

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

Paula Sanders’ digital Travelers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA): http://timea.rice.edu/index.html contains wonderful art history resources, including digital scans of the following 19th century Cairo museum catalogues (just to name a few):
- Album du Musée de Boulaq [Electronic Version] : [Album of the Boulaq Museum] Creator: Mariette, Auguste, 1821-1881 ; Delhe, Hippolyte ; Bechard, Emile Date: 1872
- Catalogue of the National museum of Arab art [Electronic Version] Creator: Herz, Max, 1856-1919 Date: 1896

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

TRAVEL WRITING: FACT OR FICTION?

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

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

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

This collection of articles by Sonja Brentjes published in 2010 deals with travels, encounters and the exchange of knowledge in the Mediterranean and Western Asia during the 16th and 17th centuries, focusing on three issues. The first is how we should understand the relationship between Christian and Muslim societies, in the period between the translations from Arabic into Latin (10th–13th centuries) and before the Napoleonic invasion of Ottoman Egypt (1798). The second concern is the “Western” discourse about the decline or even disappearance of the sciences in late medieval and early modern Islamic societies and, third, the construction of Western Asian natures and cultures in Catholic and Protestant books, maps and pictures. The articles discuss institutional and personal relationships, describe how Catholic or Protestant travellers learned about and accessed Muslim scholarly literature, and uncover contradictory modes of reporting, evaluating or eradicating the visited cultures and their knowledge.

Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: www.ashgate.com (Online orders receive a discount.)
Impressions of Ottoman Culture in Europe: 1453-1699
Nurhan Atasoy and Lale Uluc
The Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) and ARMAGGAN Publications have published Impressions of Ottoman Culture in Europe: 1453-1699 by Nurhan Atasoy, TCF Senior Scholar in Residence, and her co-author Lale Uluc. This book is the culmination of a six-year research project by the authors conducted in 14 countries under the sponsorship of TCF. Written originally in English, the book has been published in Turkish and English editions. The book explores the multi-faceted cultural influences and the impressions of Ottoman material culture on Europe in the early modern age when the expansion of Ottoman territory created common borders and intensive political, diplomatic and trade ties with Europe.

The History of the Peoples of the Eastern Desert
Edited by Hans Barnard
Janet Starkey has been involved in both the Red Sea Project (now based at Exeter University) and the Eastern Desert project. The book resulting from the Eastern Desert project has now appeared (http://www.archbase.org/ED/). As well as the Cotsen Eastern Desert project has now appeared (http://www.gorgiaspress.com). The Gorgias Press in New Jersey now has a series entitled the ‘Gorgias Ottoman Travellers’ series, of which so far four volumes have appeared, including: Eleftheria Arapoglou, A Bridge Over the Balkans: Demetra Vaka Brown and the Tradition of “Women’s Orient” (vol. 4) Helene Pignot, Christians under the Ottoman Turks: French and English Travellers in Greece and Anatolia (1615–1694) (vol. 2)

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The History of the Peoples of the Eastern Desert
Edited by Hans Barnard and Kim Duistermaat

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

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

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

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

In 1857, Douglas extended an invitation to his niece Mary Macdonald and his wife’s nephew George Dalrymple Ferguson, to join him on his dahabiyyeh. Added to the party were the Rev. Dr. Lachlan Taylor and James Ferrier and family. Ferrier was a Montreal businessman and former Mayor, who would later become one of Canada’s first senators. Taylor, Ferrier and Douglas all shared their Scottish birth and Methodist religion. The party arrived in Egypt in late December 1858 and travelled up and down the Nile until late March of 1859.

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

Anyone interested is invited to contact Mark Trumpour at trumpomaj@msn.com. More on the “In Search...” project in general can be found on-line at http://sseaonmontrealvip.homestead.com.

Mark B. Trumpour

The Old Town of Siwa
Deb Manley sends in an account (possibly by Mr Browne, a traveller in Egypt at the end of the 18th century, or possibly by an author who collected material from others’ accounts rather than travelling himself) which provides a footnote to Edward Lewis’s report in Bulletin 53 of house building in Siwa. It comes from The Modern Traveller, published in 1827 by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh.
The external appearance of the town of Siwah is striking and singular, as well as its internal arrangement. It is built upon a low conical rock of testaceous limestone, and, both in form and in its crowded population, bears a resemblance to a bee-hive. The streets, narrow and crooked, are like staircases; and are so dark from the overhanging storeys, that the inhabitants use a lamp at noon-day.

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

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

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

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

**At the Dealer's in Oriental Objects**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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