



**Thirteenth Biennial ASTENE Conference 2019
Friday 12 July – Monday 15 July 2019 at the University of York
and the Railway Museum, York**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for abstract submission is 15 March 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to give you more details about the thirteenth ASTENE biennial international conference to be held at the University of York from **Friday 12 July to Monday 15 July 2019**. This will include an afternoon session at the Railway Museum, York on **Sunday 14 July** and a planned excursion to York Minster and to Castle Howard on **Monday 15 July**. The prices are very similar to those for the Norwich and Exeter Conferences.

Registration. The Conference Booking Form and Bursary Application Form will be available on www.astene.org.uk from 16 January 2019 with the deadline to submit bookings by 15 March and no later than the 20 June 2019 if possible. Bursary applications by 1 March to 2019yorkastene@gmail.com

Call for Papers

Offers of papers are beginning to arrive and indicate that we will be able to offer an interesting and stimulating programme. **Now is the time to send in your ideas, titles and abstracts — ideally by 15 March to 2019yorkastene@gmail.com or to jcmstarkey@gmail.com.**

Please send an abstract of not more than 250 words on or before 15 March 2019 for consideration by the Conference Committee. Please give your name, email address, proposed title, and a short abstract. As a rough guideline, presentations will be for 20 minutes, with an additional five minutes for discussion. Participants will be informed about the acceptance of their paper by 7 April 2019.

Suggested Topics. As usual, we welcome papers from a wide range of disciplines and interests connected with travel to and from the Near and Middle East. We would love to

hear from anyone who might be interested in contributing a talk about Orientalist Art, on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (who even lived near York at one time); on travel in classical times and during the Byzantine Empire; on Crusader travellers; on travel from India and the Far East to or throughout the Middle East and Egypt; on pilgrimages and pilgrims as travellers.

Do any of you have a paper to offer about exploring archaeology and/or ancient monuments through travel accounts? How about a session on botanical-travellers, on those to or from Ottoman lands? It would be interesting to run a session on fictional travellers in the region (John Mandeville, *Vathek* and the like), on different approaches to reading and interpreting travelogues ... and more. For the session at the railway museum, we welcome papers on steam and rail travel in Egypt, Sudan, and the Middle East including Iran and North Africa.

Focus Sessions and Round-Table Discussions. The Committee is happy to consider possible Focus Session proposals for discussions to include a maximum of four papers. We also welcome ideas for more informal Round-Table Discussions with a clear focus, with the explicit purpose to promote discussion on specific issues or work currently in progress, the current state of scholarship, issues involved in the application of new approaches and models, etc. If you would like to propose a Focus Session or a Round-Table Session, please send us a summary of up to 200 words and the name of the person coordinating the session.

Posters. Sometimes researchers are not yet in a position to present a full paper but may want participants to hear all about their project(s), so a poster is an excellent and interesting way to present your ideas. The Committee is happy to receive submissions for the presentation of research posters (anything from A1 to A4). The deadline for the submission of poster abstracts is 31 May 2019. For further information please contact us on 2019yorkastene@gmail.com

Publication. As usual, we will be selecting a group of papers to be reworked and resubmitted for publication to appear in time for the next ASTENE conference in 2021. Only those papers that are actually presented at the Conference will be considered for publication, and they will be subject to editorial and peer review. Further details about the process will be available on-line in July 2019.

Three Conference Bursaries are being offered – please consult www.astene.org.uk after 15 January 2019 for the Application Form or contact treasurerastene@gmail.com for further information.

The Venues. The conference is to be held in Vanbrugh College, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD. Several of us have visited the venue and are very impressed. Everything is integrated and there are no steep hills to negotiate or long distances between the accommodation, the lecture rooms and the dining room. We plan a film night on the Friday evening and a conference dinner on the Saturday. To discover more about the York University venue go to <https://www.york.ac.uk/colleges/vanbrugh/> and about their conference facilities go to <https://yorkconferences.com/>

The Conference trip on Monday 15 July will be to the York Minster area (<https://yorkminster.org/>) in the morning followed by a visit to Castle Howard with its curious pyramids in the afternoon www.castlehoward.co.uk. We hope we will be able to view relevant archives at these venues. Members will be able to buy their own lunch at Castle Howard which has excellent facilities.

Map. For a map of the York campus, go to <https://www.york.ac.uk/map/>

Railway Museum, York. For the afternoon from lunchtime on Sunday 14 July sessions will be held at the Railway Museum, York. Apart from some ASTENE presentations, there will be opportunities to view video footage of Middle Eastern railways, discover relevant items in the collections in the stores and generally enjoy the atmosphere of this unique museum. If you are interested in seeing any particular object in their collections, please search <https://collection.sciencemuseum.org.uk/> and send the relevant details to 2019yorkastene@gmail.com or to jcmstarkey@gmail.com by 30 June 2019. For more on this wonderful museum see www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/

Directions. Transport links to York are excellent but it pays to book early. The following website www.york.ac.uk/students/new/international/travelling-to-york/ gives basic information for students travelling to the University of York by air, rail, bus and car, with maps and advice.

Parking

Parking on campus should not be a problem during the conference as the university term will have ended for the summer. For those members who will be travelling to York Campus by car, free parking is available on the Saturday and Sunday and from 18.00 each evening through to 08.00 each morning. On Friday and Monday please use the parking meters provided. Currently the pay and display charges are £1 per hour for up to 4 hours or £6 for up to ten hours.

York as a wonderful and historic venue. You can find plenty of information about York with its Roman and Viking past; its wonderful Minster, around 30 museums, and famous town wall; great shops and restaurants. For examples, go to www.visit-york.org/

ASTENE and its connections with York. Morris Bierbrier and other ASTENE members have discovered that there are several travellers from Yorkshire who travelled to Egypt. These include

1. George Sandys (1578–1644), son of the Archbishop of York. He was born in Bishopthorpe Palace, the residence of the current Bishop of York. Visited Egypt and explored the pyramids as well as travelling throughout the Ottoman Empire.

2. Robert James Gordon (1786–1823). Born Bantry, Yorks. Naval officer. Explored Egypt and the Sudan

3. Thomas Pease (1816–1884). Born in Leeds. Was in Egypt 1845–1846. Formed a collection.

4. William Arnold Stewart (1882–1953). who taught arts and crafts in Egypt (www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/4stewart.html)

5. William Osburn (1793-1875). Merchant, Egyptologist, writer from Leeds who wrote on Egyptian subjects (www.thoresby.org.uk/content/people/osburn.php)

6. <http://britishhistorybreaks.com/explore/middlethorpe-hall/> indicates connections with Lady Mary Wortley Montagu but it is now a premium hotel so probably won't have much left from the 18th century to attract ASTENE interest!

7. John B. Sawrey Morritt (1772–1843) of Rokeby Hall in Yorkshire, and two companions, crossed the Carpathians from Transylvania into Wallachia in carriages drawn by oxen. He travelled in the Ottoman Empire in 1794.

8. Sir Edward Barton (c.1562–1598) was from Yorkshire; he worked in Constantinople for the Levant Company from 1578 and was Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1588 to 1598, appointed by Queen Elizabeth I of England.

9. In Ripley Castle, Yorkshire is a painting of Constantinople by the Dutch artist Jan van der Steen, who travelled with a group of Englishmen to Aleppo in 1780 after ten years working at the Swedish Embassy in Constantinople and then on to India; he died in Bengal in 1782

10. Sir Mark Sykes (of Sykes-Picot Agreement fame) (1879–1919) was brought up in [Sledmere House](#). Most winters he travelled with his father Sir Tatton Sykes (1826–1913) around the Ottoman Empire

11. When Agatha Christie went missing for 11 days in 1926, claiming amnesia, she was found in a hotel in Yorkshire!

We have discovered that there are Turkish Baths at Harrogate, opened in 1897 when the Yorkshire spa was very popular! No doubt ASTENE members can discover more connections with York and Yorkshire. Please let us know via 2019yorkastene@gmail.com