

Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries

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Autruche, et façon de descendre d'un chameau.

Calendar

- Saturday 4 November **The Pre-Raphaelites and a Balkan Dress.** Birmingham.
- Friday 2 March 2001 **All Souls, Oxford, to view the College's first edition of *La Description de l'Égypte*.**
- Saturday 3 March 2001 **Day-School on Travellers in Palestine and the Levant in Ashmolean Museum, Oxford**
- Wednesday 11 July to
Sunday 15 July 2001 **ASTENE Fourth International Conference, Edinburgh**
- late March 2002 **Negotiations under way for an ASTENE meeting in Cairo in association with the British Council, Cairo.**

Contents

ASTENE Information 2; ASTENE Research Resources Project 3; ASTENE Events 4; Forthcoming ASTENE Events 5; Recent Conferences 7; Forthcoming Conferences and Lectures 8; ASTENE Publications 11; News 12; Queries — and some Answers 16; Exotic Costume 19; Graffiti in the Western Desert 19; ...my Irish lad... 21; More Graffiti 22; Much Travelled Nile Gunboats 23; The Melik Society 28; Research Resources 28; Book and Media News 30

The Aims of the Association

The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East, established in 1997, encourages and promotes education and learning with particular reference to the history of travel and travellers. It brings together all those interested, whether professional academics or not, across a wide spectrum of subjects. The main areas include travel and travellers in Egypt and the Nile Valley, and travel and travellers in other parts of the Near East.

ASTENE Information

ASTENE Office,
26 Millington Rd, Cambridge CB3 9HP.
Fax: 00 44 1223 462 749.
E-mail: <LISACAMB@AOL.COM>

ASTENE Website

We have set up a website for the Association. It is now available on <<http://www.dur.ac.uk/astene>> and this site will replace that on <<http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dml0jcs/astene.htm>>. Here you will find some extracts from the *Bulletin*, a membership form and a standing order form, information about the Association, a calendar of events etc. If anyone has the relevant expertise and interest and would like to take on the management of the Website, please contact the committee.

Members' Supplement

Please do not hesitate to contact the ASTENE Office with any corrections and amendments you might wish to make for your entry in the members' interests list. A new list will be available early 2002. E-mail addresses, in particular, often change — so please keep us posted! We hope you find the list useful and welcome any feedback on its format and/or future development.

ASTENE Logo

We are no further forward on the logo. Any ideas to Okasha El-Daly, 27 Solent Rd, London NW6 1TP. Fax. 0171 435 1274. Thank you.

ASTENE Bulletin

The ASTENE *Bulletin* is published twice a year and aims to keep members informed of research interests and queries in the field of travel in Egypt and the Near East. Members are encouraged to submit information and material for the *Bulletin* relating to on-going research and interests, conferences etc. There is also a focus on useful subject-related bibliographies and biographies. The *Bulletin* contains the following regular or semi-regular features: articles — perhaps on work in progress, which should be no more than 2,000 words; select bibliographies; features on research resources; ASTENE news: publications, conferences, seminars, exhibitions etc.; other exhibitions, conferences etc. of interest; announcements of relevant books/articles — in preparation, forthcoming, recently published; members' notes and queries. We will be including binders for the first ten issues with the next *Bulletin*.

Deadline
for submission of copy for *Bulletin* No. 11:
25 February 2001

Subscriptions & Back Issues of ASTENE Bulletin

The levels of subscription are *Members A*: from the EU, USA & Canada £20 per annum. *Members B*: from elsewhere, all students £12 per annum. Libraries £12 per annum. Each subscription covers TWO issues of *ASTENE Bulletin* (with all the information it contains), as well as access to the database of members' interests. The Treasurer sent a notice to all current members in November 1999 to up-date them on their subscription status. Full details of methods of payment were included. Please contact her at the ASTENE Office if you have any queries about membership. All back issues of *ASTENE Bulletin* are available and may be ordered from the Treasurer for £5 each (inc. postage).

Members of the Committee

Honorary President	T.G.H. James
Honorary Vice-President	Derek Hopwood
Chairman:	Malcolm Wagstaff
Secretary:	Patricia Usick
Treasurer:	Lisa French
Events organiser:	Deborah Manley
Editor of Newsletter:	Janet Starkey
Assistant Editor:	Peta Rée

Other members: Morris Bierbrier, Neil Cooke, Okasha El-Daly, Ashley Jones, Brenda Moon, Jennifer Scarce, Patricia Usick.

Foreign correspondents: Professors John Rodenbeck and Jason Thompson, American University in Cairo, POB 2511, 113 Sharia Qasr al-Aini, Cairo, Egypt; Dr Caroline Williams, 6 Coventry Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188, USA; Dr Aviva Klein-Franke, 467 Luxemburger St, D-50939 Cologne, Germany.

Annual General Meeting, 8 July 2000

The meeting was well attended and reports received on the various activities of the Association. Brenda Moon was in the chair as the retiring Chairman, Dr Paul Starkey, was in Cairo. The Executive Committee appointed Professor Malcolm Wagstaff as Chairman to replace Dr Starkey and Dr Patricia Usick as Honorary Secretary to replace Ms Searight. Two proposals for new committee members, Dr Morris Bierbrier and Mr Ashley Jones, were both voted on to the committee.

Miss Moon pointed out that this AGM two of the key players in the formation and progress of ASTENE would be resigning. Ms Sarah Searight was thanked for her work as Honorary Secretary and Dr Paul Starkey most especially for all his efforts as Chairman. She made reference to the Chairman's letter (below) which presents an impressively wide range of highly successful activities. He had been much more than an effective and hard-working

chairman, and had given ASTENE a friendly style in which exchange of information and ideas could flourish.

The Cambridge Conference was, as many present would remember, a most stimulating and enjoyable event, and the visits and lectures which had taken place since then had been well attended and showed that ASTENE was by no means a once-a-year organisation. Miss Moon added that February's day school event in Oxford had shown how ASTENE could work to great effect in association with other institutions and organisations, just one example of the tremendous contribution which Deborah Manley makes to the work of the Association. The publication of the *Bulletin* was a major benefit for members.

The next AGM will be held in the course of the Edinburgh conference (see below).

Chairman's Letter for the year 1999 to 2000

The Association has continued to have another very successful year. Current membership numbers stand at 218 and, as the Treasurer's report makes clear, the financial situation remains extremely healthy.

The Association has organised an impressive range of events during the year. The highlight was, of course, the Third International Conference held in Newnham College, Cambridge in July 1999, which attracted over 75 speakers from at least 22 different countries. As before, the presentations — which covered, if anything, an even more diverse range of topics than on previous occasions — ranged from the scholarly to the eccentric. Other events organised by the Association included a lecture on Vivant Denon given in November 1999 by Professor Christopher Thompson; visits to exhibitions at Eton and Paris; and an evening visit to the Palestinian Exploration Fund in January 2000. The Association was also involved in a well-attended day school on 'Travellers in Egypt' organised with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education at Rewley House on 19 February 2000 — an event preceded the previous evening by an opportunity to examine some maps relevant to the Jerusalem pilgrimage at the Bodleian Library. A further day school is planned for 2001, and it is hoped that Professor Thompson's lecture will be the first of a series of annual Association lectures.

In the Middle East itself, around 20 members and guests were present at a reception held at John Rodenbeck's home in Cairo on 21 March 2000, at which various possibilities for events in Cairo were discussed. Discussions have also been held with the British Council in Cairo about possible future collaboration [now scheduled for March 2002].

The Association has continued to support a series of publications. *Travellers in Egypt* containing papers from the 1995 conference, continues to sell well. The two volumes of papers from the 1997 Conference, to be published by Ithaca Press, are in the final stages of preparation and should be available by the time of the Association's 2000 AGM [now scheduled for October 2000]. Papers from the 1999 Cambridge Conference are to be

published by the Association itself, in three volumes (*Travellers in Deserts of the Orient; Travellers in the Near East; and Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers*), which it is hoped will appear by the end of May 2001. Meanwhile, the *Bulletin* has continued to appear regularly, providing useful information for and by members.

On the support side, a new website has been set up for the Association, and the first *Members' Supplement*, providing addresses and details of members' interests, publications, involvement on ASTENE Conferences etc, was published in January 2000. The Association has also set up a sub-committee on Research Resources.

The Association's Committee has continued to hold regular meetings throughout the year to plan and coordinate forthcoming events and, in addition to the AGM and Day Conference scheduled for 8 July 2000 at SOAS, a visit to the Pre-Raphaelites in Birmingham is planned for November 2000. Preparation is also well in hand for the next biennial ASTENE conference in Edinburgh (11-15 July 2001), which promises to be as exciting and well supported as the Association's previous international conferences.

1 May 2000

Paul Starkey

Postscript. I should like to extend my warm greetings to the new members of the committee and to the new Chairman, Professor Wagstaff, in particular. I hope he enjoys the stimulation of the post as much as I did in the early stages of ASTENE's development. He can be contacted 10 Oakmount Avenue, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1DR. Tel: 02380 557672 or by e-mail at <jm_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk>

Research Resources Project

This ASTENE sub-committee is looking into a project to enable the very varied research tools and material which our members have discovered and collected during the course of their work to be made available to all interested in the field on the ASTENE Internet site. It will constitute a resource archive to clarify the movements and records of individual travellers; much of which remains unpublished, or only found in rare early publications. To date some of this material has been published in our *Bulletin*, but we aim to produce it in a format which includes a search option and make it more widely available. The sub-committee are formulating a statement of their requirements in order to identify the specifications for this project in order to search for outside funding. Their reports showed that the British Academy was a possibility, as was The Leverhulme Trust. There were particular problems which would need to be addressed for us to be eligible for a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research board, but we might be able to fir their requirements. Any suggestions from the membership will be welcome. We are basically looking for someone willing to pay for an IT person to design a suitable database for the Internet and then, as an ongoing project, to put our collected material on to it.

The committee have now designed a form on which the material can be collected. We intend that this will be used by members of ASTENE to submit their information in a specific format for transfer to our Internet site database.

We hope to initiate the project as soon as possible and the committee will be seeking advice from other organisations who have created a similar project. The next meeting of the sub-committee will be held on 9 December 2000 by which time we hope to have more information on the technical aspects. For further information and any suggestions you might have on this please contact the ASTENE Secretary, Dr Patricia Usick at 32 Carlton Hill, London NW8 0JY, e-mail: "Mrs P Usick" <usick@dircon.co.uk>.

ASTENE Events

ASTENE visit to Eton and the Myers Collection

Nearly a dozen members and their friends made it through the rain on 4 April to visit the Brewhouse Gallery at Eton College to see the Myers Collection of Egyptian objects (See *Bulletin*, 9 (April 2000), p.10). In June the exhibition closed for a year while the collection visits the Metropolitan Museum in New York. We would all highly recommend the beauties of this collection to American members, and, for ASTENE members, it has the added interest of Major Myers' diaries of his life and travels in Egypt in the late 1800s. The collection was catalogued by Nicolas Reeves and Stephen Quirke, with some fine colour photographs.

Caroline Simpson

ASTENE one-day Conference and Annual General Meeting, 8 July 2000

The combination of a one-day conference with the Annual General Meeting (reported elsewhere in this Newsletter) proved to be a successful idea with a strong gathering at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. There were three presentations, with the AGM being held after the first two, at the end of the morning.

Dr Morris Bierbrier, formerly of the Department of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, and well known as the editor, compiler and reviser of the third edition of the useful classic, *Who Was Who in Egyptology* (1995), spoke first. He took as his subject Colonel William Lethieullier (1701–1756), who was apparently in Egypt in 1721. Not much is known about him except that he presented a mummy found at Saqqara to the British Museum, together with a few other small antiquities. An engraving of the mummy and its coffins by George Vertue was published by the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1722, and subsequently by Alexander Gordon in 1737. Gordon also published two other items from the collection, a naos of Prince Khaemwese, the famous son of

Ramesses II, and a pyramidion of Tia, sister and same name brother-in-law of Ramesses II whose tomb at Saqqara was rediscovered by Professor Geoffrey Martin a few years ago. Whilst the mummy was left to the British Museum, and was added to the collection, the other two items were given to Lethieullier's brother, Smart, and were apparently also left, in due course, to the Museum, but never collected. They have disappeared. Smart lived in Ilford and there is a record of the pyramidion being in a garden there: is it still lurking, forlorn, forgotten and forsaken in the Ilford area? If someone could literally stumble across it, it would be a valuable addition to the 'archaeology' of the early days of Egyptology. It was extremely interesting to see the original engravings compared with recent photographs of the mummy case, and especially to realise how accurate, for the period, the copying of the (then, undeciphered) hieroglyphs had been—they are readable today. The same went for the engravings of the two lost pieces—hence their value as records of the early days of Egyptological studies.

Dr Jacke Phillips of the Macdonald Institute, Cambridge, looked at the founding father of British Egyptology, Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) in his wider context. Obviously a giant in Egyptology, not everyone was fully aware of his other work outside Egypt. Dr Phillips had a particular interest in the Aegean and she outlined Petrie's work in Palestine, 1926 to 1938, on Hyksos and other sites, notably Gaza (1927–1934). From his work in Egypt, and especially the finding of Mycenaean pottery at Tell al Amarna, he made a point of visiting Greece and examining collections there. By working out the chronology of his Amarna pottery finds he was able to put forward an initial chronology for the Greek Bronze Age. Dr Phillips illustrated a number of aspects of Petrie's work, and notable were the early colour plates that he had published of Mycenaean pottery.

After the AGM, and lunch, Anthony Sattin spoke about his new book, *The Pharaoh's Shadow: travels in ancient and modern Egypt* (London: Victor Gollancz, 2000) He had an interest in survivals from ancient Egypt into the modern or more recent milieu, and this had been heightened by his work on the unpublished papers of Winifred Blackman, and her book *The Fellahin of Upper Egypt* (1927), and those of Om Seti (Dorothy Mary Eady). In his book he had interpolated his own travels in trying to follow many of the leads from the papers and the Blackman book. He regaled the audience with some of the episodes from the book which had struck him as being particularly relevant. Since Anthony was speaking about Om Seti (almost a legend of Abydos in her own right), Peter Clayton showed six slides of Om Seti in the temple of Abydos and also what were probably the last photographs of her taken in the garden of her small house at Abydos on 18 March 1981, only a matter of weeks before her death in April. He spoke briefly of Om Seti, the circumstances of the photographs and the eight years during which he had known her.

Peter Clayton

The Astene Biennial Conference in Edinburgh, 11–15 July 2001

'There are many points of similitude between the Bedouin and the Gael. Both are shrewd, wary, and suspicious, but kind and willing where they are once attached; living among the wild hills, they go armed, because in the desert *le droit du plus fort* is often the law and protection against man and beast.'

[Viscount Castlereagh's observation *en route* to Sinai, , 1842, I, 281.]

We look forward to receiving offers of papers (limited to 20–25 minutes) from members. We also include in the Bulletin a 'poster' calling for papers. If you can, would you please arrange to have it displayed where non ASTENE members will see it. As usual, we expect that the number of papers offered will necessitate running parallel sessions. At the suggestion of members, abstracts (not more than 100 words) will be published at the Conference to enable participants to make informed choices. If you want to submit a longer abstract as well, please do so — and it may help in arranging the programme — but only short versions will be used in the conference packs. Abstracts should be sent to the **Conference Organiser, Deborah Manley at 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE, fax 01865 310284, or e-mailed to <j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk >**.

As we have already received several offers of papers, as early a submission as possible is advisable. We would particularly welcome papers on travellers from Scotland and north Britain, but, of course, we hope to spread the net as widely as ever. Topics on which we have touched little as yet and would welcome papers include:

- Greek and Roman travellers.
- Pilgrims to Syria, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Sinai; Eastertide in Jerusalem; pilgrims to Mecca.
- Scientists, e.g. Sonnini, Hasselquist, Greaves, Sibthorpe.
- Travellers in the Ottoman Balkans.
- Attitudes of local people to travellers.
- Writers: Byron in Greece; Lamartine.
- Travellers within the Arab world.
- Individuals such as Palmer, Morrill, Finati, Passalacqua.
- Surveyors and mapmakers: eg Wellsted, John Ball.
- Architects, engineers: Barry, the Dixon brothers .
- Artists, photographers, gardeners, craftsmen.
- Diplomats and politicians: Turner, Marcellus, Chateaubriand, Drovetti, Sir Charles Murray.
- Wives: Lady Canning, Sarah Belzoni
- Royal tours: Queen Caroline; the Princes of Belgium, Britain, Germany etc.
- Archaeologists as travellers: Vyse, Petrie, Forbin.
- Merchants, missionaries, monks: Sicard, Abrahams, Fabri.
- Travellers beyond the Second Cataract of the Nile
- Animal travellers to Europe: giraffes, hippos, etc
- The impact of steamships and railways

The list is endless, which is why ASTENE exists! Whether or not your subject is on the above list, please let us know if you are interested in contributing a paper or helping in any other way at the conference.

Deborah Manley

Other ASTENE Events

Saturday 4 November 2000. Pre-Raphaelites and a Balkan dress

A day in Birmingham starting at the Art Gallery, very close to New Street station.

11.00 The Pre-Raphaelites in the East. Briony Llewellyn, art historian and ASTENE member, will introduce the Pre-Raphaelite paintings, and the work of other artists on the Near East including Holman Hunt, Thomas Seddon, William Dyce and David Roberts.

Lunch At the Birmingham Art Gallery

14.30 Diane Wardle will introduce the Balkan dress brought to Britain by the Cadbury family in the Undercroft of Birmingham Cathedral.

The event is free to members and friends but limited to about twenty people. Please let Deborah Manley know of your interest on 01865 310 284. ASTENE members interested in missionaries and associated travellers may wish to take the opportunity to visit the Church Missionary Society Archive at Birmingham University, Selly Oak, the previous day.

Saturday 3 March 2001. Travellers in the Levant and Palestine

A day school, in conjunction with the University Department of Continuing Education, will be held at the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford, on Saturday 3 March 2001. Speakers include: Professor Martin Biddle, 'The way of the pilgrims'; Nigel Hepper, 'The Cedar of Lebanon and travellers' parks and gardens'; Briony Llewellyn, 'Perceptions of Ruins: some 19th-century artist-travellers at Petra and Baalbek'; Professor Derek Hopwood, 'Great Lady Travellers of the Levant'. The course will be introduced by Dr Sebastian Brock.

Overseas members, for whom we have not been able to provide a separate booking form, can book for the course, cost £29, by contacting the Administrator, Day & Weekend Schools, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA or e-mail <ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk >, or telephone 01865 270380. Cheques should be made payable to OUDCE; no credit card facilities are offered. This course is an open one, but for ASTENE members only, on

Friday, 2 March 2001, the Librarian of All Souls, Oxford, has kindly invited a group to view the College's first edition of *La Description de l'Égypte*. This event, which is free, will be followed by dinner at a Lebanese restaurant, not free, but, judging from last year, liable to include music and dancing!

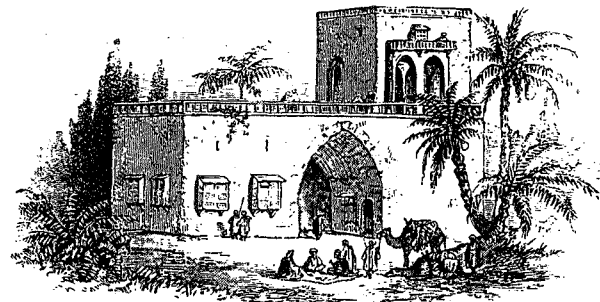
Other Associated Events

North Africa Travel

ASTENE member, Barnaby Rogerson, is organising a study session on travellers to the Maghreb on Tuesday 10 October at Southside House, 2-3 Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, London SW19, by kind permission of the Pennington-Mellor-Munthe charitable trust. Papers include Dr John Wright, 'Trade Routes of the central Sahara and the 19th century slave trade'; Jamie Bruce Lockhart, 'The Travel Journals of Hugh Clapperton'; Barry Cole, 'Alamein to Zem Zem, the North African poems of Keith Douglas'; 'The Algiers Diaries of Ellen and Emily Hall', with a brief introduction from Elizabeth Silverthorne, archivist of the Bromley Library; Dr Peter Clark, 'Abd al-

Majid bin Jallun and the Moroccan merchants of Manchester; Venture de Paradis, an 18th century Frenchman in Tunis'. There will also be an opportunity to view images of the Maghreb from the photograph library of Christine Osborne. For further information, call Barnaby Rogerson on 020 7837 3854 or contact him at Sickle Moon Books, 3 Inglebert St, Clerkenwell, London EC1 1XR.

North Yorkshire Egyptian Group lectures include John Ruffle, 'An Egyptian Journey' on 28 February 2001 at the Board Inn, Knaresborough. 19.00 to 21.30.



GUEST-CHAMBER ON THE ROOF.

Launch of Edward W. Lane's *Description of Egypt* — a lost masterpiece

The venues for Jason Thompson's lecture tour in October 2000 are listed below. For further information contact John Ruffle at Rockcliffe House, Kirk Merrington, Co Durham, DL16 7HP on 01388 812 747.

Friday 13 October	18.30	London	Friends of the Petrie Museum. The Cruciform Lecture Theatre, University College London. Contact the Administrator: 0207 679 2883
Sunday 15 October	20.00	Falmouth	Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Falmouth Arts Centre, Church St, Falmouth TR11 3EG Contact Mr Michael Carver 01326 314 566
Monday 16 October		Swansea	Dept of Classics and Ancient History, University of Wales, Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP Contact Dr David W.J. Gill 01792 205 678 x 4815.
Tuesday 17 October	17.00	Oxford	St Antony's College, Middle East Centre, 68 Woodstock Rd Contact Ms E. Anderson 01865 284 780
Wednesday 18 October	19.30	Bristol	Museum Winter Lectures. Frank Lecture Theatre, Civics Building, The University Contact Ray Barnett, Bristol Museums and Art Gallery, Queen's Road. Bristol BS8 1RL Tel: 0117 922 3600
Thursday 19 October	18.00	Edinburgh	Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh Contact Ms Michelle Hunter 0131 247 4104 <m.hunter@nms.ac.uk >
Saturday 21 October		Horncastle	Ancient Egypt and Middle East Society 11.00 John Ruffle on 'Lord Prudhoe and Major Felix'. 14.00 Jason Thompson on 'E.W. Lane's <i>Description of Egypt</i> '. Contact Mrs Sue Kirk 01754 765 341
Tuesday 24 October	19.00	Manchester	EES Northern Branch, The Manchester Museum, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL Contact Dr Rosalie David 0161 275 2634 <r.david@man.ac.uk >
Wednesday 25 October	19.30	Knaresborough	North Yorks Ancient Egyptian Group, The Board Inn, Knaresborough Contact Ms Anne Murray 01423 861 604
Thursday 26 October	19.30	Durham	The Phoenix Society (non-members welcome), Birley Rooms Dept of Archaeology, Science Site, South Rd, Durham Contact John Ruffle 01388 812 747 <a.g.green@durham.ac.uk >

Reports on Past Conferences

Wind Sand and Stars Conference

Saturday 13 November 1999. The conference took place at Church House in the shadow of Westminster Abbey, a venue that seemed appropriate enough for the evangelical fervour with which people recounted their impressions of the desert experience.

Wind Sand and Stars offers much more than just a package tour of Sinai. It works harmoniously with the Bedouins on environmental projects and gives groups, in particular school parties, a brief but quite exceptional taste of desert life. The impact of this sudden contrast with Western civilisation was evident in the 'witness' of a dozen modern travellers of different ages and outlooks, one of whom was blind, who had all felt the emotional lure of Mount Sinai and the desert.

The Conference began with a paper on icons and artists at St Catherine's Monastery by Professor Robin Cormack. The afternoon session highlighted the desert environment with talks on the Bedouin families of south Sinai, by Emma Loveridge and Dr Rabia Barty, the geological history of Sinai, by Dr Gary Nichols, and the flora and fauna of Sinai, by Dr Francis Gilbert and Professor Samy Zalut. Finally, various writers, artists and photographers discussed capturing the desert in words and images. Tamsin Sridhara spoke on early travellers in Sinai by interspersing quotations from early travellers' impressions between the other speakers.

The intervals were an opportunity to meet the other participants (many representing schools) and look around the exhibition area with displays from the 'Medical Expedition 2000', the bodies representing St Catherine's, and modern paintings by Sue Beach. Chatting to one headmaster I discovered that he had transcribed the journal of his great-great-great-uncle's travels in Egypt and Palestine in 1862-1863. J.E. Plummer wrote up his journey as a lecture with photographs. John Plummer was travelling, to improve his health, with his brother Eli; the two young men in the charge of John Brocklebank. The daily minutiae of travel in their letters home to the family in Leeds are livelier than the lecture content which, rather predictably, contains a portentous mixture of impressions influenced by the 'Arabian Nights', biblical associations, and sightseeing of the ancient monuments. The ten-week journey included two weeks on the Nile between Cairo and Aswan, a visit to Sinai, and then Jerusalem and Beirut. This just before, as J.E. Plummer notes, the place became thronged with American tourists (following their Civil War) and before Mr Cook's 'coupon system' and steam changed the nature of travel forever with the arrival of fast, mass 'tourism'.

Patricia Usick



Orientalism: the West's response to the Muslim World

Saturday 24 June 2000. A study day held in the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh. Scottish Society for Art History in association with the National Museums of Scotland. The title of this conference promised many variations on the treatment of an endlessly stimulating theme. The eventual choice of subject emphasised the interplay of arts and material culture between the West and the Middle East, entirely appropriate in the context of a museum. Six papers explored aspects of architecture, ceramic tilework, painting, metalwork, and dress.

John A. Smith (Ajman University, UAE) opened the morning session of the conference with a survey of Islamic gardens which are essential components of the architecture of palaces and great houses. He referred to passages in the Qur'an which stressed the importance of gardens and then discussed variations of the classic plan of four plots of flowering plants and trees divided by paths illustrated by gardens still surviving in Iran today. This plan influenced the development of the formal garden in Europe and has been created anew in the garden of the al-Bustan Hotel in Muscat.

Sylvia Auld (formerly of the Department of Fine Art, Edinburgh University) concentrated on the response to the arts of Islam in Renaissance Florence and Venice. Using a wealth of source materials—metalwork, drawings, paintings and textiles — she showed that Renaissance patrons and craftsmen both collected examples of Muslim work and were influenced by it. Benvenuto Cellini, for example, collected Turkish steel daggers and much admired the delicate arabesque foliage which ornamented them. Leonardo da Vinci drew Islamic designs which were copied by Dürer; while veils of the Virgin in paintings of the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries were edged with Arabic inscriptions indicating the use of precious imported silks and also that the Virgin herself was of Middle Eastern origin. Ulrike al-Khamis and Rose Watban (National Museums of Scotland) discussed a spectacular nineteenth-century French tile panel acquired by the Museum in 1869. This was the work of a ceramicist, Collinot, who had published, with his colleague Beaumont, a manual of Oriental and Islamic designs. Together they had also opened factories in Paris and Sur Seine to promote ceramic production inspired by the techniques and designs of Islamic potters. The panel is made of a hard, white, ceramic body glazed in brilliant colours — turquoise, red, violet — with an elaborate floral scheme inspired both by the decoration of Turkish Iznik tiles and vessels, and the designs of Turkish and Persian carpets.

The afternoon session featured paintings, both in their own right and as sources of information. Patsy Campbell (Department of Fine Art, Edinburgh University) gave a detailed lecture about Sir David Wilkie, court painter to King George IV, King William IV and Queen Victoria, who travelled to Constantinople in 1840, with the aim of travelling to Palestine. Detained in Constantinople because of the siege of Acre, he put his time and contacts to good use, enthusiastically exploring the city, making notes and

sketches, especially of the styles of Turkish dress still in use. His portrait drawings of the young Sultan Abdul Mejid II in European-inspired uniform are a poignant record of the passing of Turkish fashion and a remarkable achievement of access.

Christopher Ferrard continued the painting theme with a perceptive and entertaining analysis of William Allan's exotic interpretation of the slave market at Istanbul, arguing that reality was far more sober. Finally, Jennifer Scarce (Department of Islamic and Middle East Studies, Edinburgh University) introduced and discussed the subject of Europeans wearing Turkish dress, outlining the reasons why they chose to do this. Reasons ranged from practical discretion to a delight in such flamboyant garments. The abundant source material includes surviving clothes, pictorial representations in portraits and drawings and accounts in personal memoirs and travel journals. Her examples included the well known Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and the painter, David Roberts, and a less familiar, charming watercolour portrait of Victoria, Princess Royal, in a complete traditional Turkish court dress, painted when she was ten years old, in 1850.

The conference was ably chaired by Robert Hillenbrand (Department of Fine Art, Edinburgh University) and Hilary MacCartney (Scottish Society for Art History) and was well attended. Local and London-based delegates also enjoyed seeing the Museum's permanent displays of Middle Eastern culture.

Jennifer Scarce

Fifth International Conference on Sudan: past, present and future

Durham 30 August to 1 September 2000. As at previous conferences on Sudan, many of the urgent human problems of war, famine and political strife and associated abuse of human rights dominated the discussion. However, there was also a strong historical thread with many notable participants, including Professors Yusuf Fadl Hassan, Peter Holt on the *Funj Chronicle*, Rex O'Fahey and Bob Collins. Papers of particular interest to ASTENE members included a discussion of a report written by a Frenchman in the 1860s on the difficulties facing European traders in the area presented by Alice Moore-Harell. Abd al-Rahim Salim gave a fascinating illustrated paper on the island port city of Suakin (its history and recent attempts to revive it); Janet Starkey, 'Travellers' perceptions of the Bisharin of Eastern Sudan'; Arita Baaijens, on her personal experiences of travelling through the same area; Paul Wilson talked on a Frenchman who travelled in the Sudan and took probably the first photographs there. Selected papers are likely to be published, with others presented on the Web. For further information contact Dr Justin Willis, Dept of History, University of Durham <justin.willis@durham.ac.uk>

Forthcoming Lecture Series

The Egyptian Embassy Education and Culture Bureau,
4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1Y 8BR

Those lectures of particular interest 2000/2001 to members are: 12 October Christopher Kirby, 'Travellers in the Fayyoub'; 19 October Paul Nicholson, 'Memphis' (provisional); 26 October Okasha El-Daly, 'Arab Decipherment of Hieroglyphics'; 2 November Delia Pemberton, 'Crocodiles in Ancient Egypt'; 1 February Rosalind Janssen, 'Petrie's Textile Legacy'; 15 February Alix Wilkinson, 'Mohamad Ali's Gardens'; 12 April Fekri Hassan, 'Obelisks'.

All lectures start at 6.30 pm and last approximately 75 minutes, including questions and discussion, followed by free refreshments. Further information from the Bureau at 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1Y 8BR. Tel: 020 7491 7720 e-mail <egyptculture@ukonline.co.uk>.



Arab World Education Programme, British Museum

14 October 2000. **Lebanon Study Day** at the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. Lecturers include George Hart (British Museum) on Byblos; Simon James (University of Leicester) on Baalbek; Rana Mikati (American University of Beirut) on the Early Islamic Period; Dominic Perring (University of York), 'Archaeology and post-war reconstruction of Beirut'; Jens Hanssen (St Antony's College, Oxford), 'Public and domestic architecture in *fin de siècle* Beirut'; and Nadim Shehadi (Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford), 'Beirut in its heyday'. Programme available 0207 323 8511/8854. Tickets £25 (concessions £20).

3 February 2001. **Morocco Study Day**. BP Amoco lecture theatre, Clore Centre, British Museum. A series of illustrated lectures. Speakers include Sam Moorhead and Venetia Porter. Tickets £25 (concessions £20).

Further information from the British Museum Education Dept, London WC1B 3DG. Tel: 020 7323 8511/8854. <cherry@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk>

Forthcoming Conferences

20-21 October 2000. **Women's Writing and Travel Narratives**. Linguistic Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota, to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Women's travel writing, especially the transformation of literary genres; travel narratives and exploration literature. Abstracts published in the annual *Proceedings*. Contact Constance Cartmill, President LCMMND, Dept of French, Spanish and Italian, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. R3T 2N2. Tel: 204 474 6643; fax: 204 474 7578. <cartmill@cc.umanitoba.ca>. http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~cartmill/lcmmnd/

29–31 October 2000 **The English Romantics: British Romanticism and the Enlightenment.** English Romantics Panel of the 10th Annual Central New York Conference on Language and Literature to be held at the Courtland College of the State University of New York.

The panel will concentrate on relationships between British Romanticism and Enlightenment thinking, especially in papers that look at space: geography, maps, home, garden, countryside, city, nation, walking, harbour/sea, Grand Tour, empire, museum, geology. How do conceptions of space change and/or remain the same? Why is space important? How does the space of painting change or stay the same (Fuseli, Bierstadt, Turner, Friedrich, Gainsborough, Poussin, Reynolds, Ingres, Constable, David)? Although organized around 'Enlightenment spaces' and British Romanticism, any aspect of the Enlightenment in relation to British Romanticism is acceptable. This is a congenial and internationally attended conference. For further information contact Kevin Hickey, 3027 Williamsburg Drive, Schenectady, New York 12303 <Khickey@skidmore.edu>.



16–19 November 2000. **Middle East Studies Association. Representations of the Middle East,** MESA annual conference, Orlando, Florida. Information from <mesana@u.arizona.edu>. Website <www.mesa.arizona.edu>, including panels on *Representations of Empire: a comparative approach* (PO62); *Trading Gods and Goods* (NP12).

The American Institute for Yemeni Studies, P.O. Box 311, Ardmore PA 19003-0311, USA <mellis@sas.upenn.edu>, <http://www.aiys.org>. Publishes *Yemen Update*, edited by Dan Varisco. It runs a Fellowship Programme for study and research in Yemen, open to US scholars (deadline 15 November) and for citizens of the Republic of Yemen. They also produce several publications' series, including the Yemen Translation Series, Yemen Research Series and the Yemen Bibliography Series. Its annual meeting is on 16 November from 17.00 to 19.00 at the MESA meeting in Orlando, Florida.



17-18 November 2000. **Texts in Time: representation, marginal spaces, textual appropriation from the Renaissance to the Twenty-First Century.** A Conference in English Studies, University College Dublin,

Time and Place significantly shape the authorial process and textual representation. In light of recent debates about historicist and contextual readings, the aim of this conference is to re-evaluate understandings about the relationship between a text and its historical moment. Texts in time will explore how authors write both within and against history. The focus of the conference will be on the following: Textual Constructions of Space and Landscape; Literary Contexts; Travel Literature; Theoretical Re-evaluations; Appropriations of Voice; Cultural Representations of the Individual. For further

information contact: Pdraig Kirwan and Stephen O'Neill, Room G 001, Department of Modern English and American Literature, John Henry Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. <pdraig.kirwan@ucd.ie>, <stephen.oneill@ucd.ie>.



15–18 December 2000. **Encounters with Ancient Egypt,** Institute of Archaeology, Gordon Square, London WC1. International Conference to examine ways in which ancient Egyptian cultures have perpetually been reconfigured in response to changing ideologies and strategies for appropriating the past. Further information from Professor John Tait, Institute of Archaeology, ICL, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY <j.tait@ucl.ac.uk> or <ancient-egypt@ucl.ac.uk>



17–19 March 2001. **Aesthetic Encounters.** The Department of English at Kuwait University is holding its first ever International Conference in the field of Comparative Literature in Kuwait. Sessions to include 'Appropriating the Other'; 'Arab writers in English and French' and 'The Image of the Arab World in Travel Literature'. Contributors receive accommodation free of charge but must make their own arrangements for travel and other expenses. Abstracts to be submitted by 30 November 2000 to the Organiser, CompLit Conference Committee, Dept of English, Faculty of Arts, PO Box 23558 (Safat), 13096 Kuwait. Email: <englishlit@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw> or <lalmaleh@yahoo.com>. Tel 965 483 4136 and fax 965 481 2534.



22–25 March 2001. **North and South: identity, imagination, and memory in pre-modern cultures.** Worldwide Conference on Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, University of South Carolina.

Although ASTENE tends to be looking at relations on an East-West axis, members may also be stimulated by this conference. The North-South division is perhaps the most salient feature of the current global economy. Such differences have a long history. In many regions of the world climatic and geographical contrasts have occasioned conspicuous differences in crop production and diet, in shelter and clothing, and in a range of other markers and vehicles of cultural identity. The distinct character (stereo-) types ascribed by ancient philosophers, notably Aristotle, to Northerners and Southerners have had long-lasting effects that reverberate today. Within many geographically distinct regions the unification of North and South and their disparate societies has required immense effort and frequent bloodshed. On the other hand, the diversity and differences associated with geographical distance have often supplied and continue to supply positive cultural stimulus and opportunity. As we seek to come to terms with the rise of new economic and social relations between North and South in the modern era, it is timely to study the influence that pre-modern era southern societies exerted on the North. Notable examples are the debt of medieval Europe to Islamic and Jewish civilizations, and that of northern Europe to the Italian Renaissance.

Subject to the usual scholarly review process, select papers will be published in a Proceedings Volume by BREPOLs Publishing Company. Abstracts of papers in fields other than Comparative Literature should be sent to: Jeremiah Hackett, Conference Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208. Tel.: 803-777-3738; Fax: 803-777-9178; Email: HackettJ@gwm.sc.edu. Abstracts in Comparative Literature should be sent to: Paul Allen Miller, Director, Comparative Literature Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Tel. 803-777-0473; Fax: 803-777-7514 E-Mail: PAMiller@sc.edu: deadline for all abstracts: 15 October 2000.

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26-28 March 2001. **The XIth David Nichol Smith Conference: 'The Exotic'**, National Library, Canberra, Australia.

To rethink the idea, scope and influence of the exotic in the long eighteenth century. The term 'exotic' can be construed broadly. According to Dr Johnson, it encompassed anything that conjures up notions of the 'foreign' or 'strange'. Therefore papers welcomed on 'exotic' in non-geographical sense, as well as those more usual associations with far-flung geographical, imperial and oriental domains. Contact: Dr Christa Knellwold, Humanities Research Centre, ANU (02) 6279 8963; fax (02) 6248 0054. <Christa.Knellwold@anu.edu.au>

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30-31 March 2001. **North Eastern Modern Language Association**

Victorian Women's Autobiographical Writing, NEMLA, Hartford, CT, USA.

Few Victorian women wrote autobiographies. In recent years scholars have been redefining autobiographical writing or life writing to include letters, diaries, journals, and travel writing, as well as published autobiographies. Through this means we have come to know more about the lives of Victorian women, particularly those from the lower classes. What have we learned about the lives these women led by examining their autobiographical writing? Contact: Abigail Burnham Bloom. 54 Riverside Drive, 15D, New York NY10024 <abigail.bloom@nyu.edu>.

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Trips and Tales: Ideology and Agency in Women's Travel Writing, NEMLA, Hartford, CT, USA.

This panel explores women's writings about travel as crucial sites for theorising and representing alternative possibilities for feminist identity and radical agency. Concentrating on essays which focus on particular narratives (fiction/non-fiction) and travellers, nomadism, migrancy, subjectivity and agency. Contact Shaeleen Meaney, 404 Manning Blvd, Albany, NY 12206, USA <shaeleen@worldnet.att.net>.

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5-7 April 2001. **The South-Central Renaissance Conference** will meet for its 50th Jubilee at Texas A & M

University (College Station, Texas) Papers (20 minutes reading length) are encouraged on any aspect of Renaissance (early modern) art, music, history, or literature. Special sessions proposed for the 2001 Conference include:- Renaissance Europe through Others' Eyes: the Ottomans, the North Africans, sub-Saharan, Persians.

The deadline for papers (8-10 pages, 20 minutes reading length) is 31 December 2000. Papers should be mailed (two copies) with 100-word abstract (abstract on disk) to the program chair, George Klawitter, Department of English, St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas 78704, 512-464-8850. <georgek@admin.stedwards.edu>

Program participants must join SCRC and are encouraged to submit publication-length versions. Further details on the conference can be found on the SCRC Website: <<http://www.stedwards.edu/hum/klawitter/scrc.html>>

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5-7 July 2001 **Intersections in the Nineteenth-Century: European Literatures, Histories, Arts.** University of Wales, Cardiff, University Conference Centre.

Contributions are invited for this 2-day interdisciplinary conference which will consider the mediation through text of European visual and plastic arts, music, history and politics in the long nineteenth century (1780-1914). Papers will focus primarily on the connections of these other domains to literature. The conference takes a pan-European approach and welcomes contributions on European minority languages texts. Areas of inquiry include travel writing, Romanticism, Symbolism etc. Papers should take 20 minutes to present. Papers will be selected for publication as an edited volume. For further information contact Dr Rachael Langford <LangfordRE@Cardiff.ac.uk>; Dr Greinne Ni Dhuill (<NiDhuillGB@Cardiff.ac.uk>), School of European Studies, Cardiff University, PO Box 908, Cardiff CF10 3TQ.

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12-15 July 2001. **Between Empires: Orientalism Before 1600.** An International Conference Trinity College, Cambridge

Unfortunately, what sounds like a most interesting conference is being held at the same time as the ASTENE conference in Edinburgh, but at that time of the year university halls are packed with an amazing array of conferences. Perhaps we can entice those attending this conference to make a quick visit to Edinburgh as well!

Ever since the publication of Edward Said's *Orientalism* in 1978, the ideological underpinnings of Europe's encounters with those regions, peoples and cultures that were reputedly the Orient have been subject to intense scrutiny. However, two central issues concerning interaction between the Orient and Europe require further consideration. Firstly, what were the precursors of Orientalism? How did travel, trade, crusades, missionary activity and cultural exchange between empires in the centuries that preceded the age of European expansion and colonisation influence Western perceptions of the East? In

what ways did the meaning of the East change before the seventeenth century? Secondly, what were the responses of the many non-European empires to the travellers, armies, ambassadors and entrepreneurs of the West? What forms does Occidentalism take before 1600?

The aim of this conference is to explore the forms of dialogue that existed between empires of the East and of the West, and to investigate the formation of these categories themselves. It will consider the concrete forms of such dialogues: the vicissitudes of trade, translation, and theft that characterise transactions of a material nature. It will also consider the imaginative dimension of relations that existed between empires: the catalogue of marvels, myths, and misgivings that both encouraged and impeded those dialogues. The deadline for submission was 30 September 2000. For further information contact: fax: +44 (0)1223 338 564 (F.A.O. Dr Alfred Hiatt), email: Dr Alfred Hiatt 'Between Empires', Trinity College, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ, U.K. <between.empires@trin.cam.ac.uk>; web: <http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/empires>



A Disturbed Night South-West of Tiberias

After a humble but excellent supper of bread and oil for our guides, and a bowl of curdled sour milk for ourselves, we lay down to repose. Our party was thrice disturbed, however, during the night by the barking of the dogs, the encroachment of the buffaloes on our tent, and by the young calves within it.

[James Silk Buckingham, 1816]

ASTENE Publications

Travellers in Egypt

Ed. Paul and Janet Starkey (London: I.B. Tauris, 1998). The book is to be reissued in paperback in June 2001, with a new introduction.



At last the two volumes which developed from the 1997 Oxford conference are in press this October and an order form is included with your *Bulletin*.

Unfolding the Orient, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey. ISBN 0 86372 257 1. £35. Includes essays on the Grand Tour, Adam Olearius's journey to Persia, the writings of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and the role of the British in Oman since 1645.



Interpreting the Orient, edited by Paul and Janet Starkey. ISBN 0 86372 258 X. £35. Contains papers on Sir David Wilkie, Carl Haag, Amelia Edwards and Gertrude Bell.



Publication of papers from the 1999 Cambridge Conference

It saves both time and frustration to publish volumes ourselves and amongst our various members we have the capacity and talents available to produce the volumes in-house. We have therefore ventured to publish three books which have developed as a result of the 1999 Cambridge Conference on Travellers in Egypt and the Near East. Rather than produce another set of volumes covering a wide spectrum of topics, we have created three volumes dedicated to particular themes, the Desert, the Levant and a volume specifically on Egypt. The first of these, *Travellers in the Desert*, is to be published by December 2000 and we will be able to include an order form with *Bulletin* 11. The volumes will be in paperback and the price will be kept as low as possible. For further information contact Ashley Jones at the Museum Bookshop of 36 Great Russell St, London (opposite the British Museum). As we are producing these volumes in-house we rely on members to publicise them to their friends and colleagues!

An outline of the contents of each volume (with provisional titles) is as follows:



Travellers in the Desert, edited by Janet Starkey and Okasha El Daly. Travellers in the deserts of the Middle East left a wealth of information on everything that caught their eye: place, people, historical events, wars, festivals, historic sites and ruins, myths and maps. From Herodotus, through medieval Arabic and European sources, to those of daredevil travellers of the last 150 years, including James Bruce, William Eaton, Ameen Rihani, and T.E. Lawrence, this book shows that close encounters in the deserts can produce valid images of the oriental environment. Yet some travellers perhaps reveal more about themselves, through their experiences, than about the surrounding environment.



Travellers in the Levant, edited by Sarah Searight and Malcolm Wagstaff. Orientalists came to the Middle East with their own ideas and agendas. As we try to disentangle fact from fiction, the Middle East is explored from many perspectives, among them those of artists, novelists, archaeologists, tourists — and spies.



Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers, edited by Nadia El Kholy and Paul Starkey. Travellers made important records of ancient ruins, and noted traditions and legends. Sometimes they took more than images in pictures and words back home with them, including mummies! This volume will be published in 2001.



2001 Conference Papers

In *Bulletin* 11 we will be asking for your feedback about the future of papers presented at the Conference. ...

An Even More Disturbed Night on the way to Ethiopia

We had just unloaded our camels, and were congratulating ourselves on having arrived at the end of a harassing day's journey ... when our guide told us that a storm was at hand.... We all huddled together in the tent for shelter, but could not boast much of the protection it afforded. To add to our trouble, it had no sooner grown dark ... than an alarm was given by the Ascari, who were on the outside, that the natives were coming upon us. We instantly seized such firearms as were to hand, and rushed out to receive the enemy, into so drenching a rain as would presently have rendered our firearms entirely useless. Fortunately, however, it proved a false alarm, excited, I have no doubt, by our Ascari, who, if we had not shewn ourselves ready to repel aggression, would in all probability have taken the opportunity of at least plundering us.

The storm continued for four hours ... It was curious to observe, in the morning, how completely our tent was filled, there being not only ourselves and our servants, but the Ascari, camel-drivers, and three asses, that had crept in during the night for shelter.

[Henry Salt, 1805]

News

On 3 September 2000 the town of Castellamonte near Turin, Italy dedicated a Square to Antonio Lebolo. The former agent of Drovetti was born there. Further details of Marco Zatterin's research will be included in *Bulletin* 11.

Marco Zatterin



The Flight into Egypt

Theophilus, patriarch of the Coptic church around AD 500, is traditionally said to have had a dream in which the places where the Holy Family stayed on their flight into Egypt were named, and 1 June given as the date when they entered the country.

On 1 June 2000, modern-day pilgrims were able to follow the route of the Holy Family from Sinai through the Delta to Wadi al-Natroun and Cairo.

A newly formed organisation, the National Egyptian Heritage Revival Association (NEHRA) is playing a key role in restoring some of the most important sites on the journey. NEHRA is a group of businessmen, headed by Mounir Ghabbour, and has no specific religious affiliation. This is the first time a private association has been formed to become involved in preserving Egypt's cultural heritage — a task which, because of its vast extent, the Supreme Council of Antiquities would find it very difficult to achieve without the help of the private sector.

The sites to be restored/upgraded are the foundations of churches in Farma in North Sinai; the site of the tree and well of the Virgin at Matariya, a suburb of Cairo; a crypt at Abu Serga and the Church of the Holy Virgin at Haret

Zuweila in Old Cairo, both attacked by underground water; the Church of the Holy Virgin, Maadi, Cairo; two more churches at Sakha in the Delta and Mostorod between Cairo and Belbeis east of the Nile. At Wadi Al-Natroun there is a plan to collect masterpieces of Coptic art from the monasteries of al-Soriyan, Baramus and Abu Makar into the museum of Anba Beshoi, one of the four monasteries in the area for which restoration is intended.

The Egyptian government, mainly through the ministries of tourism and culture, plus the SCA, is providing support to NEHTA's first project to revitalise the pilgrim route. The founders of NEHRA hope that the celebration of the Holy Family's entry into Egypt will become an annual event.

[Information extracted from *Al-Abram Weekly*, 8-14 July 1999]



Expedition

Cassandra Vivian is taking a trip to the southwestern corner of Egypt as a guest (not as tour leader) of Lama Expeditions out of Germany (English and Arabic speaking too) from 8 to 24 February 2001, and there is room for 5 more people. She can attest to the skill and knowledge of Samir and Wally Lama, who will be in charge.

The trip will begin in Cairo, go directly through Kharga and Dakhla Oases and into the southern desert. The planned route includes Jabal Uwaynat and its rock art, the western side of the Gilf Kebir plateau including Wadi Sure and its rock art (The 'English Patient' cave of swimmers), up to the top of the Gilf (plateau) via Aqaba Pass to Lama Point and back down via Lama-Monad Pass into the Wadi 'Abd al Malik of the Zerzura legend; from there to the Wadi Gubba, then on to the Great Sand Sea and the silica glass site. We will cut the dunes of the sea east to west and head to Quss Abu Said and Farafra Oasis where we will have our first bath! There will be an afternoon in the White Desert and a visit to Baharia *en route* to Cairo. Travellers must be aware that the itinerary may fall victim to not only to unforeseen events, but also to the weather. It may change *en route*. There is one price which includes full board Cairo to Cairo. Contact Cassandra <cass@telerama.com> for rates and other information. First come first served!

Cassandra is the author of the newly released book *The Western Desert: an explorer's handbook*. For details about the book, including cover, outline, and purchasing) and a few photos of the Western Desert, see <www.telerama.com/~cass>.



Lost — a Codex

In the latter part of the 19th century, a German scholar, Count Tischendorf, visited St Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, looking for ancient manuscripts. He found an exceptional 4th-century codex, and obtained the monks' permission to borrow it to copy. He took it to Russia and

there it was either given to, or seized by, the Russian royal family. In the 1930s, Stalin sold the codex to the British Museum. The *Codex Sinaiticus* is now kept in the Ritblat Gallery of the British Library. The monks of St Catherine's want it back. Still furious at Tischendorf's treachery, as they see it, after more than a century, they have framed his letter containing his undertaking to return the manuscript and hung it on the wall of the monastery library.

Many objects were acquired by European museums in the 19th and first half of the 20th century in circumstances which would not be tolerated today. The museums' position is that they care for the objects extremely well, and have a legal title to them. In the case of the Elgin Marbles, Lord Elgin both had permission (admittedly from the Turkish government then in power in Greece) and paid to remove the statues, and the British Museum bought them from him - at a knockdown price which ruined Elgin, but that is another story. But what is the position of an institution which, however unknowingly, purchases stolen property? We know what the position would be if it were you or me. And what about objects which were acquired as the spoils of war, such as the sarcophagus of Nectanebo III, long venerated as the Tomb of Alexander in the Alexandrian mosque from which it was snatched by the French during the Napoleonic expedition to Egypt, only to be seized as part of the Capitulations by the English and shipped to the British Museum.



Found — a Diary



Recently, an anonymous parcel arrived at Claydon House, Buckinghamshire, once the home of Parthenope Nightingale, sister to Florence. The parcel contained a small book bound in maroon leather — the diary Florence wrote on her eight-month trip to Europe and the Mediterranean, covering the period 1 November 1849 to 15 July 1850, for most of which she was in Egypt. The British Library has another diary, for 1850, which thus overlaps the Claydon one, but although the entries are very

similar, they are not quite the same. As the British Library diary contains material lacking in the Claydon one, dealing with Florence's thoughts about what she was to do with her life, it is possible that was a more private version, while the Claydon diary was intended for her friends and family to see. It seems the diary will join other Nightingale artefacts on show at Claydon House, which now belongs to the National Trust, so any inquiries should be addressed to: The National Trust, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL Tel: 020 8315 1111. email: enquiries@ntrust.org.uk



Exhibitions

A Review of the exhibition: *L'Égypte au regard de J.-J. Rifaud (1786–1852)*. Lithographies conservées dans les collections de la Société royale d'Archéologie, d'Histoire et de Folklore de Nivelles et du Brabant wallon

Those of us who attended the 1999 ASTENE conference enjoyed hearing Marie-Cécile Bruwier, Assistante de recherche at the Musée royal de Mariemont in Belgium, speak about Rifaud's work in this exhibition which ran at the Musée Communale de Nivelles, Belgium, from 17 October to 15 November 1998. The catalogue, written in French, and with contributions from a number of different specialists, contains 60 plates from the 199 lithographs which were on show. Rifaud altered some plate numbers and left other numbers unused, which makes the numerical sequence complicated and his prospectus numbering incorrect. The catalogue includes an inventory of the three main deposits of lithographs held in Belgium. The discovery of Rifaud's manuscripts in Geneva has also led to recent research by J. Yoyotte, who spoke about Rifaud at the Durham conference on 'Travellers in Egypt' in 1995, and by J.-J. Fiecher, *La Moisson des dieux. La constitution des grandes collections égyptiennes 1815–1830* (Paris, 1994), which has shed much needed new light on Rifaud's life and work.

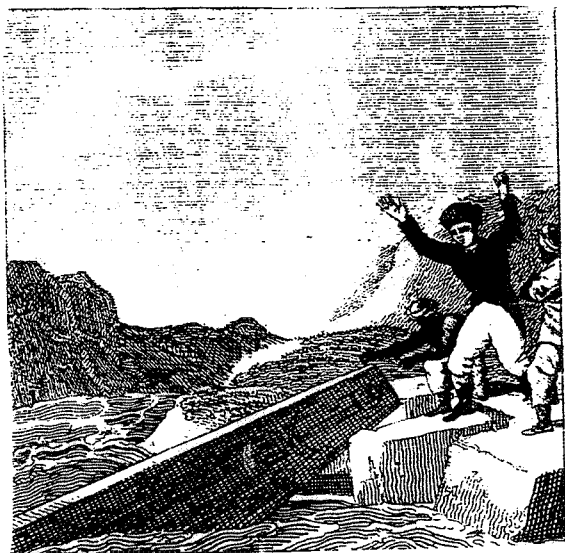
Born in Marseilles, Rifaud is said to have shown more aptitude for art than for mathematics and was therefore trained in carving wood and stone. After having joined the French army, he found his way to Alexandria in 1814 and entered into the service of the French consul, Bernadino Drovetti. He was instrumental in helping him to put together the magnificent collection of antiquities which is now in the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, Turin. Rifaud's travels and excavations took him to Lower Nubia, Thebes, the Fayoum (where he excavated the pyramid of Amenemhat III at Hawara) and Delta sites, including Tanis. His notes and drawings were to be the basis for a work he intended to publish on his return to France in 1827 entitled *Voyages en Égypte, en Nubie, et lieux circonvoisins, depuis 1815 jusqu'en 1828*. In the event, only 223 of 300 lithographic plates from more than six thousand drawings covering botany, zoology, mineralogy, antiquities, arts and the inhabitants and industries of contemporary Egypt were printed, and the projected five volumes of text were never produced. Despite his training, Rifaud's drawings are undeniably crude, particularly in their distortions of the style of ancient Egyptian architecture and reliefs; although others covering the inhabitants of contemporary Egypt and its natural history are somewhat more satisfactory. There is an extraordinary disparity between the quality of some of his zoological drawing, and his draughtsmanship, which is frequently rudimentary and schematic. The plates' value as a scientific record is entirely undermined by their inexactitude. Some of his copied inscriptions are totally fantastical, unlike the accurate records which were being made at this time by travellers such as Salt, Banks, Linan de Bellefonds, Ricci, and Beechey. Many of Rifaud's drawings are simply

'montages' combining elements from several different monuments. His gauche and naive style extends to his ethnographic plates, making some visual aspects, and also his translations of Arabic words, unreliable. (These faults are, to some extent, redeemed by his curiosity and observation.) His contemporaries, wisely, cautioned him to exclude many of his drawings from the proposed book. In the meantime, Rifaud published a prospectus for his project and also a guide-book to Egypt, *Tableau de l'Égypte et de la Nubie*, with much useful practical advice for travellers. He travelled the world seeking subscriptions for his work, but he met with a poor reception and the plates took twenty years to produce. (Even the dates in the title of his *Voyage* are inaccurate. He was actually in Egypt from 1814 to 1826, not 1815 to 1828!) Rifaud came to Brussels in 1849–1852 because it specialised in the recently invented techniques of lithography, and the catalogue includes a section on Rifaud in Belgium.

Despite membership of many prestigious scientific societies and being accorded some recognition and honours, the ultimate academic accolade which he sought eluded him because of the amateur and poor quality of much of his scientific work. He died in 1852, his manuscripts unpublished, and harbouring feelings of bitterness towards Drovetti whom he blamed for negating his achievements in archaeological excavation. Unfortunately, the damage done by his excavations at the Delta site of Tell el-Muqdam were to contribute to the gradual disintegration of the site. Nevertheless, his archaeological work as one of the earliest excavators in the Delta and the Fayoum preserves much information which is useful for Egyptologists, and he himself stated that he attempted to protect some monuments from being destroyed by other eager collectors (English, of course).

The well-researched catalogue of the exhibition is a useful resource for bibliographical references and its assessment of the information contained within the plates shows that, despite all the reservations mentioned above, they remain an important early record both for Egyptology and the study of travel in Egypt. Rifaud's view of the temple of Contralatopolis at Esna (No 19, Planche 148), for example, records it as almost intact, whereas a few years later in 1828, Champollion found it had been demolished, its stones reused to reinforce the quay at Esna.

Patricia Usick



Review of *Explorer L'Égypte et la Nubie au début du XIX^e siècle*

The visitors' guide for this temporary exhibition, *Explorer L'Égypte et la Nubie au début du XIX^e siècle* (Belgium, Musée royal de Mariemont, 1999), which ran from 30 April to 12 September 1999, is based on the research of the same team of specialists who produced the catalogue for the exhibition described above (*L'Égypte au regard de J.-J. Rifaud (1786–1852)*).

Although it featured three pioneers of exploration in Egypt: J.-J. Rifaud (1786–1852), G. Belzoni (1778–1823) and É. Prisse d'Avennes (1807–1879), the majority of the printed matter was by Rifaud who is the main focus of the exhibition. Belzoni and Prisse d'Avennes are only represented by a brief biography and examples of their published work. The exhibition contained Egyptian antiquities, lithographs, nineteenth-century photographs and books. Some of the objects and photographs have been chosen in order to illustrate aspects of Rifaud's lithographic plates.

The first section of the exhibition presented the three explorers; the following sections were under the four geographical headings: the Delta and the Fayoum, the Nile, Upper Egypt, the deserts and Nubia. The final section is entitled: 'J.-J. Rifaud, un aventurier en quête de reconnaissance'.

Amusingly, the guide includes a charming illustration from a French children's book adapted from Belzoni's *Narrative*, and called *L'Égypte et la Nubie, ou curiosités de ce pays, tirées du voyage de Belzoni*. Traduit de l'anglais par M.***, et orné de jolies gravures. Pour servir à l'Éducation de la jeunesse (Paris, 1823). It shows a delightfully imaginative view of the Philae obelisk sinking into the Nile in 1818 to the consternation of Belzoni and his workmen. As the same illustration appears in a similar children's book *Fruits of Enterprize Exhibited in the travels of Belzoni in Egypt and Nubia: interspersed with the Observations of a Mother to her Children*, by Sarah Atkins (London, 1824, fourth edition), perhaps this is a French translation. Stanley Mayes cites other examples of children's books based on Belzoni in his biography, *The Great Belzoni* (London, 1959), 294. Belzoni's life, no doubt, provided a model of self-help and enterprise which accorded well with the coming Victorian ethos. Children's versions of travel literature, intended to inspire and educate, would make a fascinating adjunct to the study of travel in Egypt and the Near East.

Patricia Usick



Croydon Clock Tower. *Ancient Egypt: digging for dreams*, 8 October to 29 January 2001. From schoolchildren to archaeologists, from Afro-centrists to New Age mystics, ancient Egypt continues to maintain our interest and grip our imagination. Croydon Clock Tower advertises an interactive exhibition, questioning how we look at and interpret the past.



Henrietta McCall has contacted us about the exhibition **Agatha Christie & The Orient** at the BM in November 2001. The exhibition began in Essen, was in Vienna, till 17 September, then goes to Basle where it opens on 29 October till 1 April 2001, then goes to Berlin from 15 May to 30 September 2001, and opens at the British Museum at a date to be decided in November 2001. The exhibition is in three parts — excavation life & the part played by Agatha Christie in helping Max Mallowan in Iraq, detective stories with archaeological connections, and the historical background of the English in the orient in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with plenty of detail of travellers to the Middle East. Definitely of interest to members! There is a splendid catalogue — at present in German, copiously illustrated, but the British Museum is producing an English version.

And, of course, there is Henrietta's book on Max Mallowan to be published to coincide with the exhibition! Henrietta can supply more information if you would like to contact her at Henrietta McCall <nineveh@waitrose.com>, and we may well arrange a special visit for ASTENE members in 2001.



Literature of Travel and Exploration

Lesley Henderson, Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 310 Regent Street, London W1R 5AJ. Tel: + 44 (0) 207 636 6627; Fax: + 44 (0) 207 636 6982; Email: <travel@fitzroydearborn.demon.co.uk> is looking for contributors for a small number of entries The website for the Encyclopaedia contains all relevant information for contributors as well as a complete list of entries see <www.fitzroydearborn.com/london/htm>. They are still seeking entries on topics including:— pirates/bandits (1500 wds); Crusades (1000 wds); diplomatic and trade missions (2000 wds); al-Ayyashi (d. 1678) (1000 wds); Baker, Samuel White (1821-1893); Dalrymple, William; Grant, James Augustus (1827-1892); Ignatiev, Nikolai Pavlovich (1832-1908); Mitrovic, V. Bratislav; Stanley, Henry Morton (1841-1904); Young, Gavin (1928-); Institut Geographique National (1000 wds); Royal Asiatic Society (1000 wds); Royal Geographical Society (1000 wds).



Medieval Travel Writing (1096-1492): a multi-disciplinary introduction

A new interdisciplinary collection on Medieval Travel Writing has been slated for publication in 2001; the intention of this collection will be to offer an introduction to the various perspectives on, and concepts of 'Travel' that are represented in literary form, or in other forms of written culture, between the start of the first Crusade and the discovery of the New World. Potential contributors to this book should take into account the pedagogical perspective that will be used throughout, and the fact that this book is to be used both at an undergraduate level and as a tool for researchers. Some of the subjects that will be discussed in the book (the length of the chapters will be of 8.000, 10.000 or 12.000 words, depending on the subject) are the following: Maps, Geographies and the Structure of

the World; The Sense of Cultural Distance and the Perception of the Other: Beauvais, Ramon Llull, etc.; The Representation of the Crusades; : Political Expansion and Cultural Projections; Military and Strategic Travel; Pedagogical Perspectives (1): Medieval Travel and Literary Structures; Pedagogical Perspectives (2): Teaching Medieval Travel in the Post-modern Era. For further information contact Dr. Joan Curbet (Universitat Autnoma de Barcelona) <literature@tecnogrup.com>.



Le Voyage de Jules Touzard septembre 1911-mai 1912

Michael Azim (CNRS-CRA, 250 rue Albert Einstein, Sophia-Antipolis, F 06560 Valbonne, France) has been in touch with ASTENE about possible support for a project by M. Yves Lebec to publish the work of the Journey of Jules Tizard in the Middle East, with chapters to include a biography, the journey to Italy, Athens, Égypt, the Holy Land, Syria and Turkey, with full details of the itinerary; a section on the photographs themselves, with one on photographic techniques used; conclusion, bibliography and technical glossary etc. M. Yves Lebec is responsible for the very rich archives of the Photothèque de l'Institut Catholique de Paris. The details are as follows:

Objet: Valorisation d'un fonds de photographies anciennes prise par M. Touzard, p.s.s. lors d'un voyage en Terre Sainte en 1911 et 1912.

Jules Touzard (1867-1938) est né à Méautis (Manche), son père Auguste Jacques est tailleur de profession, sa mère Marie Victoire Philomène Bucaille est couturière. Ce fils unique part à Saint-Lô en 1878 suivre sa scolarité au collège diocésien. De 1885 à 1889 il continue ses études au séminaire de Saint-Sulpice. Le 20 décembre 1890 il est ordonné prêtre à Coutances. Professeur de philosophie au séminaire de Bordeaux, professeur d'écritures saintes au séminaire de Saint-Sulpice, il collabore à la *revue biblique* puis au *Dictionnaire de la Bible* de Vigouroux. Enfin de 1906 à 1927, il succède à M. Fillion comme professeur d'exèse à l'Institut catholique de Paris. Son article sur « Moïse et Josué », paru en 1919, sera censuré par la commission biblique du Saint Office le 20 avril 1920. Il meurt à Paris le 18 décembre 1938.

C'est cet homme qui part en voyage d'études de septembre 1911 à mai 1912. Le voyage est mûrement préparé avec l'appui de Mgr Baudrillart. Il obtient des lettres de recommandations de M. Hobleau à Athènes et de M. Maspéro qui lui permettent de visiter les musées et les sites archéologiques dans des conditions privilégiées et parfois avec les archéologues en place comme Georges Legrain à Karnak et Louqsor. Il est accompagné de M. L'abbé Tricot (professeur d'écriture sainte au grand séminaire de Poitiers) M. Civiale, le Dr Boutin, l'abbé Marie et M. Chadotte. Ce périple l'entraîne de l'Italie à Athènes, puis d'Égypte à Jérusalem d'où il rayonne pour différentes excursions : caravane du Mer Morte et Jéricho, le Sinaï, la Transjordanie, la Galilée, le Phénicie, la Samarie, et le voyage de Moab et Pétra. Le retour s'effectue par Damas,

Baalbek, le Liban et Constantinople. Le plupart de ces excursions sont relatées en détail dans son carnet de voyage que j'ai retranscrit, ce qui donne une dimension particulière aux photographies : elles prennent vie.

Le fonds de photographies se compose de 1593 vues stéréoscopiques sur plaques de verre prises à l'aide de son Véroscope Richard. Nous conservons certains de ses négatifs originaux soit sur plaques de verre, soit sur film souple au nitrate de cellulose. Le fonds est protégé dans des boîtes de carton et pochettes de papier neutres.

If anyone is interested to facilitate publication of this enterprise which will be of great interest to ASTENE members could they please contact Michel Azim or the editors of the *Bulletin*? Any suggestions welcomed! Many thanks.

Queries

Does anybody know who this is?

When J.B.S. Morrith was in Athens in 1795, he became acquainted with a French artist, who had been living in Athens for eight years, and, having been frequently employed by the French Ambassador at Constantinople, M. Choiseul-Gouffier, had 'added to his talents a great knowledge of architecture and connoisseurship, with some acquaintance with antiquities.' He had excavated many valuable marbles around the country.

Morrith's letters raise another question. How did the audience sit in a Greek theatre? Near Epidaurus, he remarked how he had often been struck by the shape of the seats, very broad and low and in steps: 'It makes us think that the ancients sat then as their descendants often do now, with their legs under them à la Turque; if they did not, they must kick one another's *derrières* during the whole representation, which I do not find mentioned in any book of the times.'

In 1867, the gardens at Ayn Musa or Moses Well, a beautiful little oasis between Sinai and the Red Sea were, wrote E.H. Palmer, 'kept by a Frenchman and some Arabs, who have provided summer-houses for the convenience of those who resort thither from Suez to enjoy the fresh desert air. They form the market gardens from which the vegetable supply of Suez is principally drawn.' Who was this Frenchman?



Helen Southwood, a PhD student, is researching an anthropological history of Marischal Museum, Aberdeen 1900-2000, which includes archival and oral histories, visitor surveys and object stories. She asks if there are any people (especially students, etc) working in the area of histories of ethnographic museums, being 'particularly interested in studies of institutions where the social and cultural networks and exchanges that make up the museum are in focus.' She would like to find or initiate a network of people working in similar fields for visits, conferences, etc. Helen Southwood, Cultural History

Department, Old Brewery, Old Aberdeen, University of Aberdeen, Scotland; e-mail <h.southwood@abdn.ac.uk>
David Dixon writes: A prolific painter in water-colours of scenes (military, archaeological and other) in Egypt and the Sudan, as well as elsewhere, for example, Cyprus, Crete, the Levant, was Colonel Benjamin Donisthorpe Alsop Donne (1856-1907) of the Royal Sussex Regiment, who served in the Nile Valley from 1882 to 1893 (with short breaks). An excellent account of Donne's life and work, based on his letters and extensive diaries, *The Life and Times of a Victorian Officer*, was edited by Alan Hurfield (Wincanton: Wincanton Press, 1986). On pages 7-9 is printed a 'Chronological List of sketches and paintings by Donisthorpe Donne included in the book'. 147 are of Egypt and the Sudan. The majority of these sketches and paintings were, in 1986, and presumably still are, in the collection of Donne's work owned by his grandson, Colonel William (Tom) Donisthorpe Shaw. However, on pp 220-1 is another list of sketches and paintings not included in the book. It was compiled from a manuscript list, written by him, found with the Donne papers. It comprises 51 works, of which 19 relate to Egypt, Sinai, the Sudan and the Red Sea. Twelve of the 51 are noted as being in 'private ownership', but the remainder are noted as 'whereabouts unknown'. Does anyone know where these are, particularly the Egyptian and Sudanese works?



In the next few months Darf Publishers are to reprint Carl B. Klunzinger's classic *Upper Egypt: its people and its products. A descriptive account of the manners, customs, superstitions, and occupations of the people of the Nile Valley, the desert, and the Red Sea coast, with sketches of the natural history and geology* (New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1878). Janet Starkey would welcome any information about Carl B. Klunzinger (-1914) as soon as possible. In particular she would be interested to locate his archives, presumably in Germany, if they are still extant. Also any other travellers who mention meeting him in al-Qusayr or the Nile valley?



What are the hopes of man?
Old Egypt's King Cheops erected the first pyramid
And largest, thinking it was just the thing.
To keep his memory whole, and mummy hid;
But somebody or other rummaging,
Burglariously broke his coffin's lid:
Let not a monument give you or me hopes,
Since not a pinch of dust remains of Cheops.

Byron, *Don Juan*, canto 219



Alec Conn <aleconn@teesdaleonline.co.uk> We are sorry to say that I have had no feed-back about Hatshepsut - Deir-el-Bahri from the write-up in the last newsletter. I deduce that the travellers being researched by members must not have visited the temple, or if they did, they did not make notes of their first impression. Anyone able to

provide Alec with this information, please contact him direct (Eds).



Who was Mrs D'Arcy, 'Wortley Montague's sister', who married a merchant and resided in Rosetta for many years before 1801? She had a son whom Sir Robert Wilson thought 'may one day be of great utility in throwing light upon that distant quarter.' In her house was 'a most valuable library' according to Wilson, *The British Expedition to Egypt* (Norwich, 1803), 66. What became of her, her son and her library? Was she the sister of which Wortley Montagu? Edward, husband of the famous Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, is too early (1678-1761) and his son, also Edward, had only one legitimate sister, who married the Earl of Bute.



Herbert L. Bodman seeks the help of ASTENE members to track down a presumed publication. Colvill Bridger (1729-1797) appears to have been a merchant factor in Aleppo between 1754 and 1766. Michael Norman seems to have discovered his letters and published them. Harvard University questions whether it was ever published. The details Herbert L. Bodman has are as follows: Title: *Colvill Bridger in Aleppo: his personal letters home to his family in Shoreham, and in Sussex, and to business friends in London, during his stay in Syria, 1754-1766*. Transcribed with notes by Michael Norman. Publication information: Shoreham-by-Sea: [M. Norman?], 1998. 68 pages, illustrated, 30 cm. Herbert L. Bodman is researching eighteenth-century Europeans living in Aleppo for a paper in November at MESA (Middle East Studies Association) and would like very much to include Bridger in it. Any assistance in tracking down Mr Norman or the book would be most appreciated. He can be contacted on <bodman@email.unc.edu>.



Do you know anyone currently teaching either 18th-century travel and/or women's travel? It would be useful to compare syllabi. If interested please contact Betty Hagglund <gcoffi@globalnet.co.uk>



Dora Panayotova, MA needs travel accounts about Bulgaria written during the 19th century for her PhD. Can somebody help? She will be grateful to receive any suggestions. Thanks. <dora_panayotova@yahoo.com>; <Dora.Panayotova@ruhr-uni-bochum.de>; <http://homepages.msn.com/LibraryLawn/dora_panayotova/>.



Marco Zatterin has recently been researching on Antonio Lebolo and Giovanni Battista Caviglia and he has recovered many unpublished documents from the Savoia Archives. He is also working on Burckhardt. Can anyone let him know where his documents, letters and writing are kept? He can be contacted on <marco.zatterin@lastampa.it> or <marzat@yahoo.it> or by snailmail at Via Verdi 12, 10124 Torino, La Stampa 011.656 8258.



Replies to Queries

Two people have sent further information about Ida de Sainte Elme (queries, *Bulletin*, 8). Wolfgang Behn supplied the entry about this singular figure in the *Dictionnaire general de biographie et d'histoire* of Louis C Debroy & Jean L. Bachelet (Paris, 1869): 'dite la contemporaine, aventurière, née vers 1778, morte en 1845, eut une conduite ... , changea plusieurs fois de nom, et dur surtout sa notoriété au livre qu'elle publia sous le titre de *Mémoire d'une contemporaine* (Paris, 1827), récits mensonges, souvent scandaleux, sur l'époque de la Révolution et de l'Empire. Elle mourut à l'hospice des Ursulines de Bruxelles.'

Regine Goutelier sent an article from the biographical dictionary, *Marseilles, vingt-six siècles d'histoire* (Edisul, mars 1999). 'Ida de Sainte Elme, née Elzelina Tolstoi, married Aylde de Jonghe (so called), born Toscane? 1778, died Brussels 1845. She travelled to Egypt, and, in 1833, published her seventh work, *La Contemporaine en Egypte*. An engraved portrait of her is in the Musée Arbaud, Aix-en-Provence.'



Cassandra Vivian has supplied answers to two queries, and a source to find the answer to another. Anyone seeking American (and other) artists working in the Near East, she suggests should try: *Innocents Abroad: Nineteenth Century Artists and Travellers in the Near East and North Africa*, by Caroline Bugler and *The Orientalists: Delacroix to Matisse*, edited by Mary Anne Stevens, (London, Royal Academy of Arts, 1984).



As to the profession of Harding King (*Bulletin* 9), she quotes from an article by Donald White, '1985 Excavations on Bates's Island, Marsa Matruh', in *JARCE*, 23 (1986): 'Bates (an archaeologist) delegated the responsibility of digging the island to his assistant, W.J. Harding-King'. She will also consult Edmond Diemer.



In response to the query in *Bulletin* 8 (page 15) about the identity of 'Carlis', Haim Goren has sent an extract from the *History of the Indian Navy* by Charles Rathbone Low, published 1877. Chapter 2 (Volume II) is an account of the survey of the Red Sea by the Indian Navy in the ships 'Benares' and 'Palinurus' which extended over a period of nearly five years from the autumn of 1829. Lieut. T.G. Carless served as an assistant surveyor in the 'Palinurus', under Captain Robert Moresby. J.R. Wellsted was also a lieutenant on the 'Palinurus', and with Carless 'traversed the desert between Cosseir and Thebes' in 1833 — and there, as recounted by James Augustus St John, met an interesting group of Europeans. Carless later published a *Memoir on the Gulf of Akabah and the Head of the Red Sea* in the *Transactions of the Bombay Geographical Society* from 1836 to 1838.



In *Bulletin* 9, we published a letter written in 1839 by Thomas Burgon giving advice to an unknown correspondent on how one Lieutenant Graves should go

about removing some marbles from a ruined site somewhere in the Ottoman Empire. Dr Bailey had not yet traced Graves. Two ASTENE members have. David Dixon writes that he was 'certainly a naval officer, who can be identified with some degree of confidence. It is clear from Burgon's letter that: 1) Graves was in command of his vessel and therefore in a position to ensure that Burgon's recommendations would be implemented; 2) by 1839 Graves had considerable experience of dealing with Turks and Levantines and had been in the Mediterranean area long enough to have acquired some knowledge of French, Italian and Greek; 3) he had a real interest in the antiquities of the eastern Mediterranean; 4) like many, if not most, naval officers, he was a competent cartographer and surveyor.

I suggest the officer in question was Thomas Graves, to whom O'Byrne devotes a notice in his monumental *Naval Biographical Dictionary*. Graves entered the Navy in 1816 and in 1827 joined the 'Adventure', a surveying-vessel on the South American station. In May 1832 and August 1836 he was successively in command of the 'Mastiff' and 'Meteor', alias 'Beacon', vessels engaged in the survey of the Mediterranean. He did not leave the 'Beacon' until appointed in 1846 to the 'Ceylon', a receiving-vessel at Malta. It was presumably while there that he married on 29 February 1839 the daughter of the Lieutenant-Governor of Gozo. Graves was promoted Captain in 1846.

The use of naval vessels and personnel to assist members of the British Museum in acquiring antiquities from sites in the eastern Mediterranean was not unknown, cf. the activities in 1852-1855 of C.T. Newton of the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities.'

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Jennifer Speake also identifies Thomas Graves, and carries the story further. Graves, as commander of the survey-vessel 'Beacon' (to which he was appointed in 1841) 'was involved in the expedition to Lycia in 1841-1842 to carry off antiquities from Xanthus for the British Museum. This expedition was first mooted early in 1839 when Charles Fellows (1799-1860), who had visited Xanthus in April 1838, presented engravings of the monuments there to the British Museum's Department of Antiquities, and the Trustees were fired with the idea of obtaining the sculptures for the Museum. The practicalities of bringing them back were discussed at this early stage with Thomas Graves, and this is probably the context in which Burgon's advice was sought. The 'locality' alluded to by Burgon in the first sentence would therefore be Xanthus.

In the event Graves and the 'Beacon' played a less than satisfactory part in the actual expedition, although Graves did accompany Fellows to Constantinople to obtain the *firman* that gave permission to remove sculptures from Xanthus. He seems, however, to have been more interested in his survey work than in providing backup and manpower for Fellows, even refusing, when he came to take his men off from the site in March 1842, to pick up the cases of sculptures for transfer to Malta. At this point he asked to be relieved of his responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the Xanthus expedition and another ship was sent by the

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, to retrieve the sculptures.

Burgon's enthusiastic endorsement of Graves does not tally at all with the picture given of the obstructive captain of the 'Beacon' in Enid Slatter's *Xanthus: Travels of Discovery in Turkey* (London, Rubicon Press, 1994), but if this is the same Graves it might be interesting to try to find out why he apparently became so disenchanted with the Xanthus expedition.'

And so it would! Are there any hints in Fellows' two publications, *An Account of Discoveries in Lycia* (1841) and *The Xanthian Marbles, their Acquisition and Transmission to England* (1843)? And can anyone identify Burgon's correspondent — presumably he was either in the Department of Antiquities or one of the Trustees of the British Museum?

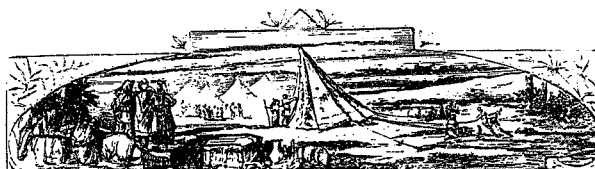
△△△

David Dixon mentions two interesting books. Charles Thomas Newton (1816-1894) was Keeper of Greek and Roman antiquities at the British Museum 1861-1885, and identified the site and recovered the chief remains of the mausoleum at Halicarnassus in the 1850s. He published *Travels and Discoveries in the Levant*, in two volumes in 1865. There is a facsimile reprint, in one volume (Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim, 1989). The second work is, in fact, an important resource for anyone researching Royal Naval officers in the early- to mid-nineteenth century: William R O'Byrne's *A Naval Biographical Dictionary comprising the Life and Services of Every Living Officer in Her Majesty's Navy, from the rank of Admiral of the Fleet to that of Lieutenant, inclusive, compiled from Authentic and Family Documents* (London, 1849).

The 'authentic' documents used included the answers to a questionnaire sent out to naval officers both in service and retired — one doesn't know how many replied, and the extent of their co-operation varied. A reprint of O'Byrne, two volumes in a slip case, has been published by J.B. Hayward at £120, and a one-volume facsimile reprint by Naval & Military Press [Vintage Naval Library], Dallington, East Sussex, 1997) at £49. It can, of course, be found in the British Library. In 1861, adds David Dixon, a second edition of O'Byrne's work, in folio format, started publication in parts, this time including Masters, Mates, Surgeons, Engineers, Chaplains, Paymasters, Royal Marine Officers etc. Unfortunately, this edition ceased publication at *Giles*.

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Lastly, in answer to Caroline Simpson's question whether the first base of Chicago House was torn down or still stands, as the Sheikh Ali Hotel, Cassandra Vivian says she was told many years ago by Kent Weeks that the hotel was once Chicago House, and after they had left it, Sheikh Ali would invite the Chicago House staff each year to a fantasia in celebration. Cassandra says that Kent has a lot of good Sheikh Ali stories!



Exotic Costume collected by the Chichester family of Arlington Court, North Devon

At the end of the eighteenth century, a growing fascination for the exotic drew European travellers towards the Near and Middle East lands of the Mediterranean, North Africa, the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan states. Throughout the nineteenth century, increasing numbers of visitors flocked to the area reassured by innumerable guidebooks and eventually aided by railways and Thomas Cook's tours, established in Egypt in 1869.

From Cairo to Constantinople, men and women could be seen to wear their dashing national dress which was often collected and painted by Europeans in search of oriental flamboyance. Cross-currents of culture in costume style and textile techniques were carried between these countries by immigrants and itinerant craftspeople.

In 1849 the young Bruce Chichester and his sister Caroline, then aged seven and ten, were portrayed in exotic dress. The painting, by John Edgar Williams (active 1846–1883), hangs in the music room of their home, Arlington Court, now a National Trust property. The pink-and-green, striped silk, Turkish-style robe which the girl is wearing has survived and is now displayed alongside the painting.

It is thought that the children's parents, Sir John Palmer Bruce Chichester and Lady Caroline, acquired these dressing-up clothes while on an extended sea cruise to Malta and other Mediterranean ports, taken after Sir John's defeat in the 1841 Parliamentary elections. The portrait may well have been painted in England, setting the children against a painted backdrop depicting a terrace overlooking the bay of an exotic city.

Another generation of exotic costumes has also survived at Arlington. In 1999 these pieces were shown in a small exhibition which prompted investigation into their origin. In 1865, Sir Bruce, a boy in the portrait who by now had become a keen yachtsman, took his new wife on a cruise visiting many Mediterranean ports. It is possible that some of the garments were brought back as future play-clothes for their expected family, while others may have been obtained for their aesthetic value and as examples of the skills of weaving and embroidery.

The collection could have been added to when Sir Bruce and his wife made further voyages, well into the late 1870s, by then accompanied by their only daughter, Rosalie. (It was Rosalie who gifted Arlington Court and its collections to the National Trust on her death in 1919.) This group of costumes includes another girl's striped silk *anteri* and a woman's embroidered cotton robe from Greece or Turkey; a man's jacket (*tschepken*) of Albanian origin adorned with gilt and black braiding; three child's embroidered jackets and a waistcoat from Greece or Turkey; and a waistcoat from Malta. There are slippers from Turkey and various hats and stoles, some of which could come from North Africa. The object which has aroused most interest is a three-sided conical bag made of colourful woollen cloths decorated with gilt thread, also

from North Africa. This was used to cover the hands of a young bride during the preparations for her wedding, when her hands were painted with henna dye, until they dried.

Further research into the collecting of these objects will be continued through study of the family documents at Arlington Court. There must be other such collections of costumes brought back to Britain which could be similarly investigated.

Nicola Gentle, Freelance Textile Conservator, Devon

Graffiti in the Western Desert

The recent announcement by John and Deborah Darnell of Yale University should dispel any theory that desert graffiti are unimportant. The Darnells claim that the first alphabet was developed in Egypt. Their evidence is in a desert valley called Wadi al-Hor, Valley of Horror, which was heavily trafficked during the 12th and 13th dynasties, the New Kingdom, and the Islamic period. The Darnells tell us this special alphabet was developed because mercenaries were used as desert police in the area to the west of Thebes and they did not understand Egyptian hieroglyphs; so the ancient scribes invented a new simplistic form of writing that eventually became the Roman alphabet. Desert graffiti yielded this spectacular discovery.

The desert is loaded with thousands of similar inscriptions. Along every desert trail someone in the ancient past left a message on a nearby hill. The Darb al-Ghubari between Kharga and Dakhla was a major crossroad in the desert. Every rock is a billboard. The inscriptions can be territorial like *wasms*, or a warning like men with spears, or more personal like the image of a pregnant woman. The markings along the Darb al-Ghubari were studied by Hans Winkler in 1939 and Ahmed Fakhry in 1942. Near the village of Teneida the two men found an easily accessible rock with a smaller pot-shaped hill beside it, both riddled with inscriptions. At the base of the small hill amid camels, *wasms*, a solitary but exquisite fish, and men with spears we find the name Jarvis 1922, the man who was the British Governor of Kharga and Dakhla oases.

Along the Darnells' road, or the Darb al-Ghubari, or the Darb al-Bahnasa in Baharia Oasis and hundreds of other desert trails we find the words of the ordinary man. This is monumentally important. Some messages are complaints about labour conditions, others are laments about being slaves, or yearnings for home, others leave directions so the stranger will not lose the way. Where else but in graffiti will we find the pulse of the people? Finally the commoner will have his or her say about history. Here we will put together puzzles that have baffled us for years.

Coptic graffiti are overwhelming in the desert. Kharga was a major oasis of banishment for the Christians (so was Siwa). For safety, the victims made their way over hidden roads. The old track that hugs the escarpment in Kharga, often called the Monk's Road, is a historic record of their

banishment. The mountain passes of Gebel al-Teir, where the Copts held their forbidden religious services, have inscriptions and graffiti everywhere. The markings started in prehistory with bows and arrows, giraffes and gazelles, and moved on to a boat, an ancient Egyptian god, then Demotic, Greek, Coptic, and Arabic script. The higher one moves up the mountain, the more the graffiti become Coptic: paintings, prayers, laments, invocations from the fourth, fifth, and tenth centuries. Some are messages by the hermits who inhabited the caves of the mountains, others are words from pilgrims who climbed the mountain to pray.

For those not interested in ancient graffiti or the carvings and messages of indigenous peoples, there are plenty of European graffiti in the desert as well. On almost every monument of importance in the Western Desert we find the names of Hyde, Cailliaud, Houghton, and a host of lesser known adventurers and explorers.

One of the favourite places for graffiti is Deir al-Hagar in Dakhla. The entire Rohlfs's expedition is listed on one of the pillars of this newly restored temple. These graffiti have been used to clarify disputes between nations. Archibald Edmondstone and Bernardino Drovetti both claimed to lead the first foreign expedition into the unknown oasis of Dakhla. At a time when an entire African nation could be claimed by the journey of a single explorer, the significance of who came first was very important. Edmondstone, who journeyed to Dakhla over the Darb al-Tawil, claims he was on his way out of Dakhla, via Ain Amur, when on 21 February 1819, he met Drovetti. Drovetti, published by Jomard, said he took this journey at the end of 1818. The graffiti in the desert tell us the answer. At Ain Amur, where we find tons of graffiti, A Edmondstone scratched February 1819 after his name. Drovetti left only the year, but it is telling: 1819. At Deir al-Hagar where Drovetti left out the year, his travelling companion inscribed not only the year, but the date as well: Rosingana, 26 F. 1819. Drovetti may have left Cairo in 1818, but he entered the unknown oasis of Dakhla in 1819 and he did so after Edmondstone, who was well out of Dakhla by February 26.

When Gerhard Rohlfs reached the end of the Darb al-Farafra and descended into Dakhla he gave the long descent two names. The first, at the top of the pass, was the Bab al-Qasmund, in honor of the German consul in Cairo who assisted his expedition. The second, at the bottom of the pass, was the Bab Cailliaud, after the consummate desert explorer, Frederic Cailliaud. He wrote these names into the eastern wall of the pass in both Arabic and Roman lettering.

At Al-Deir in Kharga Oasis the walls are spotted with graffiti from Turkish soldiers stationed at this old Roman fort during the Ottoman period: men in tarbushes, huge gun boats, and flags. Their handwork is topped by graffiti from British soldiers stationed here during World War I: aeroplanes, more boats, and lots of names. The Turkish soldiers left their markings at Bagawat, too. This fills in a piece of Bagawat history for now we know that the soldiers used the tombs of this ancient Christian cemetery as bivouacs.

Time and space force us to forgo a discussion of all the markings in the southwestern corner where rock art images alone number in the thousands. But I will make one comment in honour of another amazing desert explorer. In the Wadi Faragh, the Empty Valley, at the southern edge of the Gilf Kebir, Count Almasy wrote an inscription in Arabic to celebrate the exploits of his mentor and friend Prince Kamal al-Din.

We cannot dismiss the desert as empty. One million square miles of earth has never been empty. We cannot ignore the desert monuments. There are more standing Roman forts in Kharga Oasis (alone) than in all of Rome's eastern empire. We cannot ignore the desert messages. At the Nabta Playa a stone circle older than Stonehenge has recently been discovered. The images at Uwaynat of giraffes, cattle, and ostrich depict a wetter climate. The underground aqueduct systems of Baharia, Kharga, and Farafra link Egypt to its western neighbours. Once the messages on the billboards of the desert are unravelled, who knows what new insights we will have to the history of man.

My book *The Western Desert of Egypt: An Explorer's Handbook* covers graffiti in most desert places. Lisa L. Giddy's *Egyptian Oases: Baharia, Dakhla, Farafra, Kharga During Pharaonic Times* does too. And, if I am not mistaken, Eugene Cruz-Urbe, who excavated at the Temple of Hibis in Kharga is now working on desert graffiti. For rock art (including inscriptions and graffiti) consult Hans Winkler's *Rock Drawings of Southern Upper Egypt I and II* and Francis van Noten's *Rock Art of the Jebel Uweinat*. 'The Desert smiles and there is no place worth living but the desert.' (Ahmed Hassanein).

Cassandra Vivian

The Rules and Methods of seeing the holy places: as recorded by Father Felix Fabri, 1483

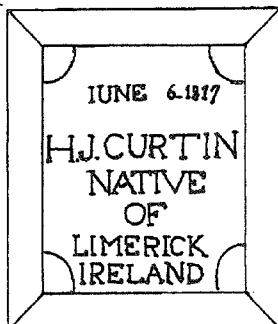
The rules setting forth, under 27 articles, how pilgrims to the Holy Land should behave themselves, particularly towards the 'Saracens', are full of humane good sense. It is probable that the fifth and sixth articles were the most frequently disregarded.

Fifth article. Let the pilgrims beware of chipping off fragments from the holy sepulchre, and from the buildings at other places, and spoiling the hewn stones thereof, because this is forbidden under pain of excommunication.

Sixth article. Pilgrims of noble birth must not deface walls by drawing their coats-of-arms thereon, or by writing their names, or by fixing upon the walls papers on which their arms are painted, or by scratching columns and marble slabs, or boring holes in them with iron tools, to make marks of their having visited them; for such conduct gives great offence to the Saracens, and they think those who do so to be fools.

... my Irish lad ...¹

We were not quite sure where or when he was born. The best we could say was that he was born in Ireland. But from a very nicely cut graffito at Philae we learn that H.J. Curtin's birthplace was Limerick.²



The first time we hear of Curtin is in Belzoni's *Narrative*. He opens his first journey with 'We sailed from Malta on the 19th of May, 1815, and arrived at Alexandria on the 9th of June following; Mrs Belzoni, myself, and James Curtin, a lad whom I brought with me from Ireland, formed our party.'³ Curtin was already with Belzoni in 1812-13 on a trip that took them to Cadiz, Gibraltar and Malaga.⁴ Although James Curtin broke his thighbone during Belzoni's demonstration of his waterwheel⁵ he went with Belzoni on his first trip to Upper Egypt, on behalf of Henry Salt, to bring the so-called Memnon Head from the Ramesseum to Alexandria. They left Cairo on 30 June 1816⁶ but during the work of removing the Head, Belzoni was obliged to send Curtin back to Cairo, 'as he could not resist the climate'. Maybe it was not the climate, but his leg that troubled him.⁷ The next time we hear of Curtin is when Belzoni and his wife arrived in Cairo with the Head of Memnon (in fact, Ramesses II) from Luxor. He was with the Belzonis when they brought the Head from Cairo to Alexandria in January 1817.⁸ When Belzoni started on his second journey south, to work in Luxor, and to try to open the temple of Abu Simbel, he left Sarah and Curtin with the family of Mr Cochini in Cairo.⁹ We hear of Curtin again when, with Sarah Belzoni, he arrived at Philae from Cairo on 5 June 1817.¹⁰ Considering the date on his graffito, we can guess that he made it the day after he arrived. Belzoni left Philae on 16 June, together with Charles Irby, James Mangles, Henry William Beechey, Giovanni Finati ('Mohamed a soldier sent to us by Mr Salt'), leaving Sarah and James in Philae.

When Belzoni returned from Abu Simbel in August (the temple was opened 1 August), they went back to Luxor. There Mrs Belzoni decided to make a trip to Palestine with Curtin,¹¹ also accompanied by Giovanni Finati on his way to meet William Bankes.¹² It is bizarre that Mrs Belzoni in her 'account' never mentions Curtin by his name, but always calls him 'my servant', even though they spent so much time together.¹³ In Jerusalem, Curtin entered the service of Thomas Legh.¹⁴ Legh, who had been on a trip that took him and a certain Dr Macmichael on a journey from Moscow to Constantinople, left his travelling companion in Constantinople and went by ship to Jaffa, and from there

to Jerusalem.¹⁵ There he met Bankes, Irby and Mangles and they made preparations for a trip to Petra. 'The party consisted of Captains Irby and Mangles, and their servant Ibrahim, Christian Arab, a native of Tiberias; Mr Bankes, with his domestic, the renegade Hadgi Mohamed, a soldier belonging to the Pasha of Egypt, and acted as his dragoman [Finati]; and myself, with James Curtin my interpreter, the Tartar Mustafa, who had come with me from Constantinople, and Georgiolio, an Armenian, who was to take charge of the horses.'¹⁶ They left Jerusalem 7 May 1818 for Petra, which they reached and visited after great difficulties on 26 May. On 25 June they were back in Acre, from where Legh went on another trip to Damascus, Palmyra,¹⁷ Baalbek and Aleppo.¹⁸ We can be sure that James Curtin accompanied him. George Waddington and Barnard Hanbury arrived in Alexandria in mid August 1820, and we can speculate that our friend James Curtin was already with them. The Journal that they published in 1822 starts on 10 November 1820 in Wady Halfa.¹⁹ 'Left Wady Halfa with dragoman; James Curtin, a young Irishman, who had been some time with Mr Belzoni, and who is mentioned with praise in Mr Legh's account of the journey to Wady Moosa;¹⁹ a Maltese, named Giovanni Fiamingo, and his cousin Giuseppe.'²¹ The trip through the Sudan took the small group as far as Gebel Barkal, and James is mentioned continually as a full member of that group. After four months they arrived back in Wady Halfa on 1 February 1821.²²

On the cover of the ASTENE Bulletin of April 1999 is a print from their Journal. It is interesting to read the explanation that goes with the print. 'Hanbury (beard and Turkish dress) [and Waddington in European clothes, Ed.] The ferryman, a black malicious looking man, with much magic in his eye, is behind us, on the projecting plank, steering with a paddle. In the middle lies a large old camel on its knees, perfectly quiet; and by his side stand James and Giovanni, pulling a rope, attached to another paddle, which serves for an oar, and which a sailor is also pulling with his hands. The dog, 'Anubis', is asleep beyond the camel; then comes Giuseppe, evidently philosophising in silence on the mutability of human affairs, and regretting the pleasures and security of Cairo and of Malta; and at the prow is the camel-driver, standing on the bottom of a long shawl, and stretching out the upper part with his hands, to make a sail; thus do we cross over.'²³



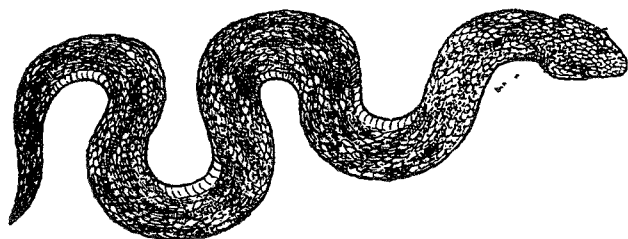
The next news that we have of James Curtin is that he is in Paris in charge of the Belzoni exhibition [of the Tomb of Seti I]; in 1825 he is back in London, helping to construct the second showing of the Tomb there.²⁴ H.J. Curtin left no information about his adventures, although he was one of the first travellers in Egypt, Nubia, the Sudan and the Near East. About his death we have found only one piece of information, in a footnote: 'This young man died afterwards in London.'²⁵

Roger O. De Keersmaecker

Notes

- 1 Giovanni Belzoni, *Narrative of the Operations and recent Discoveries within the Pyramids, Temples, Tombs and Excavations in Egypt and Nubia* (London, 1820; republ. Farnborough 1971), 377.
2. R De Keersmaecker, 915, Philae, Temple of Isis, main temple, first pylon, right side, inside near the top. He made another graffito in the same temple, RDK 1168, on the roof, back of the second pylon. (J Curtin, no date). See also Berlin photo n° 299.
3. Belzoni, *op. cit.*, 1.
4. Stanley Mayes, *The Great Belzoni* (London, 1959), 68. 5. Belzoni, *op. cit.*, 23.
6. *Ibid.*, 29.
7. *Ibid.*, 45.
8. *Ibid.*, 135.
9. *Ibid.*, 139.
10. *Ibid.*, 203.
11. *Ibid.*, 251.
12. Giovanni Finati, *Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Giovanni Finati*, 2 vols (London, 1830), II, 220.
13. 'Mrs Belzoni's Trifling Account of the Women of Egypt, Nubia, and Syria' (in Belzoni's *Narrative*), 441ff.
14. Belzoni, *op. cit.*, 377, 459.
15. Thomas Legh, 'Excursion from Jerusalem to Wadi Musa', in *The Biblical Repository*, III, n° IX-XII, 613-52, 615; first published in Macmichael's *Journey from Moscow to Constantinople in the years 1817-1818* (London, 1819), chapter IV, 185)
16. *Ibid.*, 619.
17. *Ibid.*, 652.
18. Charles Irby & James Mangles, *Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria and Asia Minor during the Years 1817 and 1818* (London, 1823; republ. London, 1985), 486.
19. George Waddington & Barnard Hanbury, *Journal of a Visit to some parts of Ethiopia* (London, 1822).
20. Legh, *op. cit.*, note on page 610: 'By birth an Irishman, who had been for eight years in the service of M Belzoni; his zeal, fidelity, and knowledge of the Arabic language, were of the greatest use to me.'
21. Waddington, *op. cit.*, 2.
22. *Ibid.*, 311.
23. *Ibid.*, 52.
24. Mayes, *op. cit.*, 287.
25. Finati, *op. cit.*, 211.

CESTE EST LA FIGURE D'UNE VIPERE



An eighteenth-century comment on graffiti

'Near the mouth, or rather the head, of the Bosphorus the shores are very wild ... A little beyond the opening on the European side is a small village, with a lighthouse on a high point, corresponding to one in Asia; and opposite it a high rock rises out of the sea with an old marble altar upon it, to which we scrambled. It is called the Pillar of Pompey, but ... it is adorned with the ox's head, festoons, and small annulets, which I do not believe an ornament for the lower part of a column.

On the altar was once, I understand, an old inscription, which is not now legible, partly owing to time and partly to the modern inscriptions of simple travellers who are very fond of writing their own sweet names; so that, in some hundred years, I should not wonder if some learned antiquarian discovered that the altar was inscribed to *Mr. Thomas Dickens* or anybody else of equal note.

[John Bacon Sawry Morrirt, Turkey, 1794]

The scheme is impracticable¹

The engineer Robert Stephenson (1803-1859), son of George Stephenson, undertook many notable projects world-wide. One of the more important was the construction of the railway between Alexandria and Cairo, and two tubular swing bridges over the Nile near Damietta, at Birket-el-Saba and Behna. The latter formed, at that time, one of the largest swing bridges ever constructed, the total length of the swing-beam being 157 feet, with a clear waterway of 60 feet each side of the centre pier. His judgment on matters of engineering could, however, occasionally be at fault.

In 1846, Mr Stephenson carefully examined the country along the line of the proposed canal, from Tineh on the Mediterranean, to Suez on the Red Sea, in company with the agents of M. Talabot, a French engineer, and M. de Negrelli, an Austrian engineer. They ascertained that there was no difference of level between the two seas, and that consequently a canal capable of being scoured by the waters of either was impracticable. On the occasion of Captain Pim's reading a paper on the subject of the revived project of the canal before the Geographical Society on the 11 April 1859, Mr Stephenson took part in the discussion which followed. Stephenson observed:

The Nile brings down millions of tons of mud yearly, and hence the Delta formed at its mouth. The moment you construct a harbour at Port Said and project piers into the sea, you immediately arrest the course of the mud, and will never be able to keep the port open. It would be the most extraordinary thing in the world to project two jetties into an open sea on a lee shore, which has for almost three months in the year a north-east wind blowing upon it. There is no seaman, except in fair weather, who would venture to approach such a place. To render it at all accessible and safe, there must be a harbour of refuge made...But even suppose

such a harbour to be made. The current carries the mud of the Nile in an easterly direction; and if you provide a harbour of refuge, which means a quiescent harbour, it will act merely as a gigantic mud-trap.

I believe it to be nearly if not absolutely true, that there is no large harbour in the world maintained on the delta of a large river. Any such harbour would be silted up in a few years. And whoever has travelled over the district between Port Said and Suez, and seen the moving sands, must see that it would be necessary to dredge, not only that harbour but the canal itself.

Mr Stephenson's conclusion accordingly was that the scheme was impracticable, that it would not justify the expenditure necessary to complete it, and that if ever executed it would prove a commercial failure.

When Stephenson had given the same opinion in Parliament in 1857, in support of the Prime Minister, Palmerston, Ferdinand Lesseps, who was to gain the contract to build the Suez Canal, claimed that Stephenson had accused him of dishonesty, and issued a challenge. Probably astonished at the thought of the Frenchman 'appealing to sword and pistol on a difference of commercial judgment', Stephenson wrote Lesseps 'a reasonable explanation, repeating his view but saying that he had never impugned Lesseps' personal honour and Lesseps had to be content with that.'²

Stephenson's misjudgment, shared by many other well-qualified people, strengthened the British Government's hostility to the Suez Canal scheme, and he must be held partly responsible for the serious diplomatic reverse suffered by the Government with the canal's opening in 1869. Only Benjamin Disraeli's coup, when Britain bought the bankrupt Khedive's shares in the canal in 1874, served to retrieve this setback.

Notes

1. From Samuel Smiles, *The Life of George Stephenson and of his son Robert Stephenson* (London: John Murray, 1868), 518ff.
2. Michael Robinson, *George and Robert Stephenson* (London: HMSO, 1981), 56.

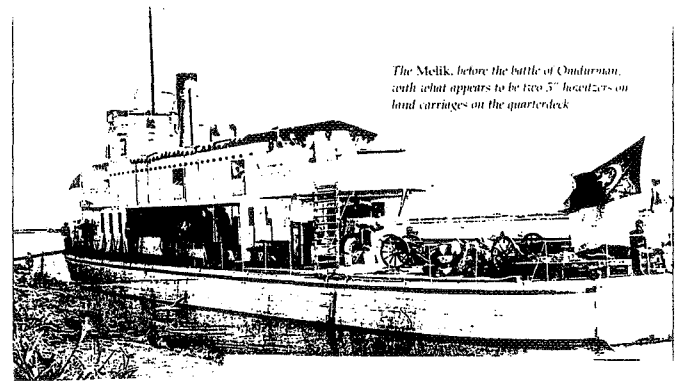


Two Much-Travelled Nile Gunboats and their Personnel

In 1993 a small group of men with a special interest in, and knowledge of, the Sudan and its military history came together to form the Melik Society. Its aim, stated succinctly, is 'to advance public awareness of Anglo-Sudanese history in the period 1883-1899 and subsequently, through the restoration and preservation of the river gunboat 'Melik' and the paddle steamer 'Bordein'.¹

These vessels were, of course, only two of a number of gunboats and other ships that plied the waters of the Nile at this period, but of the whereabouts of the others, if indeed they have survived at all, virtually nothing is known.² The combined length of service in one form or another of the 'Bordein' and 'Melik' spanned some seven decades, and during this time they travelled back and forth over very long distances, ranging from the upper reaches of the White and Blue Niles northwards to the downstream region of Berber on the main river. They participated in many of the major events of this turbulent period in the history of the Sudan. The men who served in them represented, in terms of ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, professions and occupations, and social stations, an extraordinary cross-section of humanity.

In this account of the 'Bordein' and the 'Melik' it would have been logical to deal first with the much older 'Bordein', but since the immediate focus of attention is the 'Melik', the order has been reversed. It is proposed to examine in a future issue of the *Bulletin* the career of the 'Bordein' and those who travelled in her.



The Melik, before the battle of Omdurman, with what appears to be two 5" howitzers on land carriages on the quarterdeck.

Unlike the 'Bordein', the 'Melik' (or Malik, 'King') was designed and purpose-built as a river gunboat. She was one of a class of three twin-screw gunboats to which she gave her name (the other two being Sultan and Sheikh) built to serve in the later stages of Kitchener's campaign to overthrow the Mahdi's successor, the Khalifa Abdullahi, and regain for Egypt possession of the Sudan.

Like her two sister-ships, from which she differed somewhat in detail, 'Melik' was built in England by, in her case, the firm of John I Thornycroft of Chiswick.³ Ordered by the Admiralty in 1896, she was rapidly built and completed the following year. Following successful trials at the mouth of the Thames in September 1897,⁴ 'Melik' (and the two other boats) was dismantled and the

carefully numbered sections shipped to Egypt and from there up the Nile to Wadi Halfa. From there they travelled on the new Sudan Military Railway across the desert to Abu Hamed on the great bend of the Nile. They arrived in July 1898 at the temporary dockyard at Abadiéh, some fifteen miles downstream of Berber. Here they were reassembled under the direction of Major (later Lt. Col.) William Stavelly 'Monkey' Gordon, Royal Engineers, a nephew of the late defender of Khartoum, assisted by naval personnel. Time was short and the work was completed just before the army began its advance upstream.

The three new gunboats joined a fleet of ten older vessels, all stern-wheelers,⁵ and one small paddle-steamer.⁶ The 'Melik's' 'vital statistics' were: length, 145 feet; beam, 24 feet; 300 h.p.; displacement, 134 tons; speed, 12 knots.⁷ Like the other vessels of her class, her engine was better protected than in the case of the stern-wheelers in the flotilla, but it was also more complicated and the engine-room hotter.⁸ Her high-speed engine also required more frequent repairs than the slow-moving and simple engines in the stern-wheelers. Her engineers were therefore required to be more skilled. As for draught, the 'Melik' drew only 2 feet 0 inches in contrast to the 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 9 inches of the stern-wheelers. At low Nile, therefore, her small draught would have been of great advantage. In fact, this advantage was of no consequence during the Omdurman campaign, since it was conducted when the river was at its highest or nearly so. For towing heavy barges the heavier stern-wheelers with their deeper draught were more efficient than the Melik-class boats.

As a fighting vessel, however, 'Melik' was extremely powerful. Her armament consisted of two 12-pounder quick-firing guns, one forward and one aft, with a good command of fire; she had four .303 calibre Maxim guns on a high battery amidships, with alternative mountings lower down; and finally two 5-inch howitzers.⁹

The Events

Moving from camp to camp, Kitchener's entire force reached Jabal Royan (J. Rowiyan), just above the Sixth cataract, by 26 August 1898. Here Major Gordon climbed to the summit of the Jebel and, so it is said, from this vantage point became, appropriately enough, the first man in the Anglo-Egyptian force to set eyes on Omdurman.¹⁰ Through his field-glasses he made out the white dome of the Mahdi's Tomb, the most conspicuous feature of the Khalifa's capital, rising over a hundred feet above ground level and towering over the vast ramshackle collection of mud-brick buildings that constituted Omdurman.

Now a prominent figure in the Anglo-Egyptian Army was Colonel Rudolf von Slatin, the assistant Director of the Intelligence Department.¹¹ Slatin, a former Austrian army officer, had been Governor of Darfur from 1881 to 1883 when he had been obliged to surrender to the Mahdi. He then spent twelve wretched and humiliating years as a prisoner in Omdurman until he succeeded in escaping in 1895 and eventually reaching Cairo.¹² During his long incarceration Slatin had got to know Omdurman very well and he had drawn a pencil plan of the whole city, noting a number of prominent features as targets for destruction. These were selected, among other reasons, for their potential morale-lowering effect on the Mahdists. Top of the list was the Mahdi's Tomb, the focus of dervish devotion and source of inspiration.

At dawn on the morning of 1 September, while Kitchener was marching to his final camp at Egeiga on the right bank of the Nile some six and a half miles downstream of Omdurman, 'Melik' and four other gunboats steamed ahead upriver for a reconnaissance in force, followed by the stern-wheeler 'Tamai' towing barges bearing the 37th Howitzer Battery (Royal Field Artillery) equipped with six 5-inch howitzers. This was positioned on the right bank opposite Omdurman and soon the Mahdist artillery was silenced.¹³

Then the bombardment of the Mahdi's Tomb began at a range of 3000 yards. On the river, in the 'Melik', Major Gordon enthusiastically joined in. The shells used by the artillery and the 'Melik' contained Lyddite, a new high explosive designed for use against fortifications and buildings and now being employed in action for the first time. The results were spectacular; great holes were torn in the dome of the Tomb, bringing down the cupolas and enveloping the entire structure in a cloud of yellow fumes and dust.¹⁴ The damage was visible, both to the Khalifa himself and Kitchener's army from a distance of over seven miles. When from the summit of Jebel Surkab Mahdist soldiers saw the great holes appearing in the tomb, 'voices became gradually hushed ... Dust and smoke covered the *gubba* [tomb] for minutes that seemed like hours. The dust settled and the *gubba* appeared once again. But its tapering cupola appeared to have its top cut off.' At this a heavy silence descended and, as Yusuf Mikha'il wrote, 'There was a natural and embarrassed silence in the ranks of the army.' The Khalifa saw the sight from his headquarters and cried out, 'There is no power, no might except with God...They fear not God but have destroyed the *gubba*.' He soon recovered his composure and, when cries of confusion and dismay arose, he censured his men with the words, 'We built the *gubba* from mud... we will rebuild it with mud.'¹⁵

But Slatin had been right. Over 70 years later, when the Sudanese military historian Major Zulfo interviewed survivors of the Khalifa's army, the shelling of the Mahdi's Tomb and the effect it had on the populace was still vivid in the memories of these now very old men. A brief but graphic eyewitness account of the event from the Mahdist side is given by the well-known Sudanese educationist Babikr Bedri (1861-1954), who at the time was a man of about 37. When the gunboats began to bombard the Tomb, 'we were standing watching in a row, to the south-west of the army ... Ahmad Effendi 'Abd al-Hamid had a pair of field-glasses which we took turns to look through ... When the huge crack appeared in the dome of the tomb, the people were dumbfounded, their shouting ceased, even the neighing of the horses was stilled, and at the sunset prayer I could not hear the first "God is the most great" from the leader'¹⁶

During the afternoon of 1 September, following the bombardment, 'Melik' and most of the other gunboats turned and steamed back downstream to Egeiga, leaving the stern-wheelers to guard the 37th howitzer battery. How much damage was inflicted by the howitzer and the 'Melik' respectively has been a matter of debate. It has been asserted that it was the latter that was responsible for most of the destruction but this has been queried on the ground that 'Melik' had 'only one small howitzer and three small guns'.¹⁷ However, as noted earlier, recent research indicates that she had two 5-inch howitzers. It is certainly true that the battery did inflict heavy damage on the Tomb, but 'Melik' landed her fair share of Lyddite shells on the structure.

On 2 September the battle of Omdurman took place. It has been well described in a number of works¹⁸ and a detailed account is unnecessary here; suffice it to note the role of the gunboats and the 'Melik' in particular. During the first phase of the battle the Anglo-Egyptian army was positioned on the right bank of the river on slightly elevated ground centred on the village of Egeiga. In front was open desert dotted with scrub vegetation. Westwards at a distance of five miles was a group of hills. To the south at a distance of 1,200 yards was the rocky elevation of Jebel Surgham. To the north was rising ground culminating at a distance of two miles or so in the Kahari hills. The Anglo-Egyptian camp itself formed an arc with the ends resting on or near the river, and protected by gunboats.

At 5.30 am the bombardment of Omdurman by howitzers and gunboats, which had begun the day before, recommenced. Soon after the huge Mahdist army advanced to the attack. By 8 am, however, the assault on the arc-shaped Anglo-Egyptian position had come to a halt after suffering huge casualties. But while this main attack was in progress, a large force of Mahdists marched towards the Kahari ridge on the right flank of the arc.

Here the Egyptian Cavalry was positioned along with the Horse Artillery, Egyptian Camel Corps and four Maxim guns. They were soon in trouble, for the Mahdist force of some 10,000 greatly outnumbered them. The Camel Corps and the guns were ordered to fall back to the main position covered by the Cavalry. Delay in getting the camels to move and in moving them and the guns over rough ground resulted in a critical situation with the Egyptian force driven to a point not far from the river.

At this juncture the 'Melik', and another gunboat, which had been told off to protect the right flank of the army, steamed downstream in time to direct from close range a heavy and accurate fire on the mass of the Mahdists, inflicting heavy losses on them. About 450 bodies were afterwards counted in a relatively small area. The gunboat intervention put a stop to the Mahdist advance and enabled the hard-pressed force to reach safety.

As it happened, on board the 'Melik' during the action was the celebrated war artist and correspondent Frederic Villiers who was covering the campaign for the *Illustrated London News*. He drew a number of sketches some of which were worked up by a home-based artist and published in the *Illustrated London News*.

As the army advanced on Omdurman, 'Melik' and the other gunboats moved upstream covering the troops and went alongside the walls of Khartoum, helping to silence fire from buildings near the river. After the victory at Omdurman, the gunboat flotilla set off up the White Nile in immediate pursuit of the Khalifa who had succeeded in escaping from his capital. According to Burleigh, the 'Melik' was among the pursuing gunboats.¹⁹ They departed at 8 pm on the day of the battle, 2 September, and some went upriver for nearly 100 miles before returning. Early on the morning of the 4 September, 'Melik' was at Omdurman to convey Kitchener and the Headquarters staff to Khartoum where a memorial service was held for General Gordon in front of his ruined palace.²⁰ During the solemn and emotive service, which moved even Kitchener to tears, 'Melik' was moored at the bank opposite the Palace and at appropriate points she fired salutes, including a 21-gun royal salute, using live ammunition, no blanks being available. The quick-firing guns, as the war correspondent Bennet Burleigh records, made 'things jump aboard the lightly built craft ... smashing glass and crockery in all directions.'²¹

On 10 September, after receiving reports of the presence at Fashoda on the White Nile of what proved to be a small French force under Commandant Marchand, Kitchener sailed upstream in the 'Dal'. Before departing he gave orders, on 6 September, that what was left of the Mahdi's tomb was to be destroyed lest it become the focus for a revival of Mahdism. And it was again, appropriately enough, to Major 'Monkey' Gordon of the 'Melik' that he entrusted what must have been a most satisfying task. The badly holed dome, the cracked plinth and the remainder of the tomb were blown up with explosive charges. The crudely preserved body of the Mahdi — according to Burleigh, 'the features were said to be recognisable',²² enclosed in a green-painted wooden sarcophagus, was removed, broken up and thrown into the Nile.²³ The Mahdi's rather shapely skull, however, was retained by a British officer and handed to Kitchener as a trophy on his return from Fashoda. According to Kitchener (in a letter to Lord Salisbury),²⁴ 'the skull ... was ... handed over to me for disposal.' Encouraged, however, possibly by a suggestion from some of his 'band of boys',²⁵ Kitchener briefly contemplated having the skull mounted in gold or silver for use as an inkstand or a drinking-cup. (It is not clear who might have been expected to drink from it!) He also toyed with the idea of presenting it to the Royal College of Surgeons where it would fittingly take its place alongside Napoleon's intestines which Kitchener mistakenly thought had also found their way there. However, when this came to the notice of Queen Victoria, she was scandalised and Kitchener was obliged to write her a mollifying letter. The skull was later buried secretly by night in the Moslem cemetery at Wadi Halfa.²⁶

In December 1898 a small but arduous campaign was mounted up the Blue Nile against Ahmed Fadil, one of the Khalifa's emirs. In addition to the land forces employed, 'Monkey' Gordon in command of the 'Melik' steamed up the Blue Nile, along with the 'Dal', to bring reinforcements to Colonel Lewis's force at Roseires, the furthestmost navigable

point on the river.²⁷

With the close of the Omdurman campaign the 'Melik's' fighting days were over. In 1926 she was leased to the Blue Nile Sailing Club and was moored at Khartoum, where she served as a clubhouse. During the filming in 1938 of Alexander Korda's screen version of A.E.W. Mason's novel *The Four Feathers*, 'Melik' suffered the indignity of becoming, in effect, a stage property. During the Second World War, she was used for transporting oil for the Sudan Defence Force. At the end of the war she resumed her role as a clubhouse, being moored in front of the Anglican Cathedral.²⁸ Today 'Melik' sits in a sand berth from whence it is hoped that she can eventually be removed to England for restoration, preservation and return to Khartoum.

The Personnel

Ships, of course, require crews, and this account of a gunboat 'traveller' would be incomplete without some mention of those who travelled in her. The complement of each of the Melik-class boats was about thirty. It might be expected that all the vessels in the Nile flotilla, especially the brand new Melik-class gunboats, would be crewed by a reasonably homogenous company of professional naval and military personnel; instead one is surprised at the rather motley array of people: an English commander, Major Gordon; two non-commissioned officers of the Royal Marine Artillery; Egyptian artillerymen; a working crew of Arab sailors from Shellal (Aswan), about eight in number under a *reis* (captain) and second *reis*. They worked the ropes and anchors and kept the vessel clean. There were also about eight black firemen. Each of the vessels in the fleet carried two European (not necessarily English) civilian engineers who had charge of the engine room. Reference was made earlier to the complexity of the engines in the 'Melik' class and the need for well-skilled men. It is not clear, however, why civilian engineers were employed rather than naval personnel, who could presumably have been made available.

For the campaign two medals were issued, the Queen's Sudan Medal and the Khedive's Sudan Medal. In addition to military and naval personnel, certain categories of non-combatants were also eligible for the medals, including Engineers of steamers and *reises* of steamers. However, in the case of the first medal, there seems to have been a degree of parsimony, or perhaps a change of heart, on the part of those in authority, for although it was granted to 25 civilian engineers on the gunboats and transport vessels, 'the Medal Roll indicates that all of these medals were returned to the Principal Ordnance Officer, Woolwich Arsenal, on 10 January 1900.'²⁹ A number, however, did, sometime later(?), find their way into museums and private collections. It would therefore appear that it was only the Khedive's Medal that the civilian engineers received.

One of the two engineers on the 'Melik' was a Mr S.W. Howell, whose medal, with the clasp 'Khartoum', was eventually acquired by the late Captain Kenneth Douglas-Morris R.N. On his death in 1993 the greater part of his huge collection of naval medals was sold at auction in London, among the items being Howell's extremely well preserved medal³⁰ which passed into private hands. But it was available for examination at the preview. It is impressed in block capitals round the rim S.W. HOWELL CIVILN ENGR H.H.[i.e. His Highness's] GUNBOAT MELIK. The medal, of silver, is 39 mm in diameter, slightly larger than usual (36 mm) and the ribbon is yellow with a broad central vertical blue stripe. The colours are, so it is said (by whom is not clear), symbolic of the Nile flowing through the desert sands.

Another member of the 'Melik's' company for a time was the war artist and correspondent Frederic Villiers (1852-1922). His presence on board was, however, quite fortuitous; he had never intended to be there. By 1898 the marvel of the cinema and moving film had already spread to virtually every quarter of the globe. Villiers, always in the van of new developments, was, apparently, the first man to take a movie camera to war.³¹ During the brief Greco-Turkish war in the spring of 1897 he had tried, with very limited results, to film in the Balkans.³² Now in the Sudan he tried again. He does not say what kind of camera he used nor where nor from whom he obtained it, but it was a matter of intense interest to other, envious, correspondents, from whom he had tried in vain to keep it secret.³³

On the night before the Battle of Omdurman, Villiers, fearing that the exceedingly bright moonlight would ruin his film if he loaded it into the camera outside in shadow or even in a mud hut, obtained 'Monkey' Gordon's permission to load and change his film in the hold of the 'Melik'. 'The films for movies,' he wrote in his *Memoirs*, 'were difficult to fix in a hurry in those days.' Consequently he spent many hours working in the hold where he nearly fainted from the heat and the aftermath of a scorpion sting received the previous day. Prince Francis of Tek,³⁴ who was also on board, hauled him up onto the deck and revived him with water.

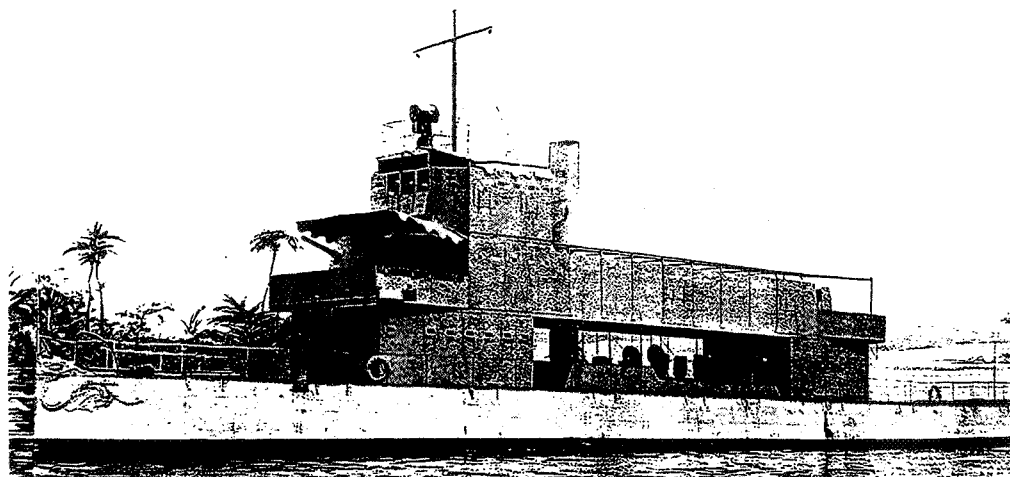
At dawn, Villiers was ready to go ashore with his equipment when, to his dismay, the 'Melik' began to move. Gordon had been ordered to find the Camel Corps which had not returned from a reconnaissance and then to hurry back for the general attack. Gordon allowed Villiers to set up his tripod in the aft battery, which had been put out of action the previous day, and since 'Melik' would be close to the bank, he would be able to see everything. 'I thought it was a good idea,' wrote Villiers,³⁵ 'for I had a level platform and a wonderful coign of vantage. We steamed northward but did not find the Camel Corps, so we returned to our position. The dervishes were now streaming towards us in great force — about ten thousand spearmen — just as I wanted them, in the face of the early sun and in the face of my camera.'

Then, unbelievably, disaster struck. 'I had just commenced to grind the "coffee pot"³⁶ when our fore battery opened fire. The affect on my apparatus was instantaneous and astounding. The gunboat had arrived on the Nile in sections and had evidently been fixed up for fighting in a hurry, for with the blast of her guns the deck planks opened up and snapped together, and down went my tripod. The door of the camera flew open and my films were exposed.'³⁷ What a tragedy!

But Villiers was philosophical about it, turned to his notebook and sketched, and, as already noted, from his vantage point, produced a number of lively sketches, including some of the 'Melik's second foray downstream to rescue the Camel Corps.

Notes and References

1. *The Gunboat Newsletter. The Newsletter of the Melik Society*, 1 (December 1999), [2] (hereinafter *GN*).
2. The 'Metemmeh', a stern-wheeler, may be at the bottom of the Nile near Khartoum North railway bridge. *GN* 1 [5]
3. R Hill, 'A Register of Naval Power-driven River and Marine Harbour Craft commissioned in the Sudan, 1856-1964', *Sudan Notes and Records* (hereinafter *SNR*) 51 (1970), 131-146 (145); 53 (1972), 204-14. Plans of the 'Melik' are held at the National Maritime Museum, London (Historic Photographs and Ship Plans Section), and are available for purchase.
4. Photographs showing 'Melik' moored on the Thames during builders' trials are held at the National Maritime Museum and may be purchased (Negative n^{os} G12598 and G12599). The Museum also holds the Full Report, dated 11 September 1897, of the Contractor's Steam Trial of the 'Melik' on the River Thames.
5. 'Zafir'-class: 'Zafir', 'Nasr' and 'Fatteh'; 'Tamai'-class: 'Tamai', 'Metemmeh' and 'Hafir' (formerly 'El Teb'); small stern-wheelers: 'Dal', 'Kaibar' and 'Akasha'.
6. The 'Tahra'.
7. R Hill, *SNR*, 145; *GN* 1, [4].
8. National Maritime Museum Document: 'The Operations of the Gunboats during the Soudan Campaign', 1. During her trials on the Thames the maximum temperature in the engine-room was 94 (Forward and Port Side) and in the Boiler Room 80 (middle of Stokehold), with a mean of 87 and 77 respectively (*Trials Report*, 11 September 1897).
9. The details given here follow recent research (*GN* 1, [4]).
10. Charles Royle, *The Egyptian Campaigns 1882 to 1885*. New and revised edition, continued to December 1899 (London 1900), 555.
11. On Slatin see Richard Hill, *Slatin Pasha* (London, 1965), mainly on Slatin in the Sudan; Gordon Brook-Shepherd, *Between Two Flags, The Life of Baron Sir Rudolf Von Slatin Pasha GCVO, KCMG, CB* (London, 1972).
12. R Slatin Pasha, *Fire and Sword in the Sudan* (Revised Edition, London, 1897; Facsimile reprint, London, 1991), chapter 18, 372-401.
13. Lt-Col. E.W.C. Sandes, *The Royal Engineers in Egypt and the Sudan* (Chatham, 1937), 259.
14. *Ibid.*
15. Ismat Hasan Zulfo, *Kabari: the Sudanese account of the Battle of Omdurman* (London, 1980), 147-8.
16. Yousef Bedri and Goerge Scott [translators], *The Memoirs of Babiker Bedri* (London, 1969), 234-5.
17. Sandes, *op. cit.*, 259.
18. See, for example, Charles Royle, *op. cit.*, 539-74; Sandes, *op. cit.*, 262-71; Bennet Burleigh, *Khartoum Campaign 1898* (London, 1899), chapters 9-13; P. Ziegler, *Omdurman* (London, 1973); H Keown-Boyd, *A Good Dusting* (London, 1986), 219ff; Zulfo, *op. cit.*; W.S. Churchill, *The River War* (London, 1899); H.S.L. Alford and W.D. Sword, *The Egyptian Soudan, its loss and recovery* (London 1898).
19. *Ibid.*, 253.
20. *Ibid.*, 254ff.
21. *Ibid.*, 257.
22. *Ibid.*, 237-8.
23. According to Royle, *op. cit.*, 582, it was the Mahdi's ashes that were cast into the Nile after his remains had been burnt in the furnace of one of the steamers. If so, could the furnace in question have been that of the 'Melik'?
24. Quoted by Sir George Arthur, *Life of Lord Kitchener*, 3 vols (London, 1920), I, 259-60.
25. Young officers with whom Kitchener occasionally relaxed.
26. For details of this gruesomely entertaining episode, see P. Magnus, *Kitchener, Portrait of an Imperialist* (London, 1958), 133ff, and the references there given.
27. Sandes, *op. cit.*, 289-90.
28. *A Guide to Khartoum* (Khartoum: Sudan Publicity, 1955), 5, 47; *GN*, 1, [5].
29. E.C. Joslin, A.R. Litherland and B.T. Simpkin, *British Battles and Medals* (London, 1988), 181.
30. Norman Webb Dix, *The Douglas-Morris Collection of Naval Medals*, Part II (12 February 1997), lot 323.
31. S. Herbert and L. McKernan (eds), *Who's Who of Victorian Cinema: a worldwide survey* (London: [British Film Institute Publishing] 1996), 147.
32. Frederic Villiers, *Villiers: his five decades of adventure*, 2 vols (New York and London, 1920) II, chapter 10, 159ff.
33. Two of Villiers' rivals who had rather naively wired to Cairo for a movie camera were somewhat deflated when their box arrived and on being opened turned out to contain a lantern projector and what Villiers delicately describes as



'quite an amusing series of films of a racy terpsichorean nature to please an Egyptian audience' (Villiers, *op. cit.*, 260).

34. Portrait in H. Keown-Boyd, *A Good Dusting: the Sudan Campaigns 1883-1899* (London, 1986), 221. His Serene Highness Francis Joseph Leopold of Tek (to give him his full drum-roll of a name) (1870-1910) was a brother of Princess Mary of Tek who became the wife of King George V. (H. Keown-Boyd, *Soldiers of the Nile: a biographical history of the British Officers of the Egyptian Army 1882-1925* (Thornbury, 1996), 187). He was a cavalry officer but owing to an attack of fever, had been obliged temporarily to leave his squadron; hence his presence on the 'Melik' where he was 'convalescing' (Burleigh, *op. cit.*, 252).

Another 'convalescent' on board was Lieutenant E. Seymour of the Grenadier Guards. The depot at Jebel Royan, above the Sixth Cataract, was not only for stores; it was also a sanatorium where sick officers were sent to recover. On 30 August Kitchener had sent an order to Royan to find 8 officers and 235 men who, although not yet fit enough to bear the strain of marching, were well enough to serve in the gunboats as amateur marines. The same day, 25-40 men were marched on board each of the gunboats (Burleigh, *op. cit.*, 250). Lt Seymour became 'marine officer' on the 'Melik' in command of 20 other 'convalescent' Grenadiers.

35. Villiers, *op. cit.*, 264.

36. *Ibid.*, 182-3: 'you have to fix [the camera] on a tripod and get everything in focus before you can take a picture. Then you have to turn the handle in a deliberate, coffee-mill sort of way, with no hurry or excitement.'

37. *Ibid.*, 264.

Note

Although not directly concerned with the 'Melik', this is perhaps an appropriate context in which to note a successful attempt at filming at Omdurman. Captain John Montague ('Mad Jack') Bennett-Stanford (1870-1947), before leaving England, borrowed a film camera from John Prestwich, 'an engineer of outstanding ability, who constructed some of the finest cinematographic apparatus of cinema's first decade'. With this he filmed Kitchener and the Grenadier Guards fixing bayonets and marching off on the day before the Battle of Omdurman. This short film was a great success, being shown at many venues in England. Sadly, it does not appear to have survived. The British Film Institute does not possess a copy nor (for the information of other researchers) do the following: British Pathé-News Archive, London; Movietone-News Archive, London; the Imperial War Museum (Film and Video Archive); National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford (though the Museum is not a film archive). However, there remain a number of promising leads to follow up and hopefully a copy may yet be traced. On Bennett-Stanford and John Prestwich, see Stephen Herbert and Luke McKernan (eds), *Who's Who of Victorian Cinema* (London, 1996), 22-3, 113-14.

Another brief, 30-second film by Bennett-Stanford relating to Omdurman has, however, survived. This shows the return to Cairo, after the battle, of the Seaforth Highlanders. It is of remarkably good quality. The British

Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, London W1P 2LN, possesses a copy which may be viewed by appointment and on payment of a moderate fee.

Research Resources do not always appear in the *Bulletin* in a section specifically called that. You have above in David Dixon's article a most useful bibliography of Anglo-Sudanese history and mention of several archives. The Melik Society's *Newsletter* mentions several other recently published books connected with the subject: Terry Brighton, *Last Charge* (Queen's Own Royal Lancers) Harrington and Sharif, *Omdurman 1898: The Eyewitnesses Speak* (Greenhill Books); John Meredith, *Omdurman Diaries 1898* (Leo Cooper); John Pollock, *Kitchener: the road to Omdurman* (Constable); Edward Spiers, *Sudan: the Conquest reappraised* (Frank Cass).

The *Newsletter* also notes that Osprey's Men at Arms series includes: N° 201, *The British Army on Campaign 1882-1902*, an excellent guide to British weapons and uniforms from the occupation of Egypt to Omdurman; N° 215, *Queen Victoria's Enemies (2): North Africa* contains references to weapons and appearance of Mahdiyya warriors, and also photographs of some items from Blair Castle. Blair Castle in Perthshire holds an extensive collection of Sudanese relics brought there by John Stewart-Murray, Lord Tullibardine, later eighth Duke of Atholl (1871-1942) who served in the Egyptian Cavalry in 1898, and, as an extra ADC to the Sirdar, was present at the Battle of Omdurman. Among other items is a cloth embroidered with an Arabic inscription: 'Presented to His Grace the Duke of Atholl by girls of the Omdurman Girls Training College in grateful acknowledgment of great kindness shown by him in saving the life of an Arab girl in 1899. Be charitable, for God loveth the charitable.'

Research Resources

The Melik Society

In 1993 a visitor to Khartoum sight-seeing on the Nile noticed a battered-looking vessel perched up on the river bank. A keen student of the Sudan campaigns of the 19th century, he recognised this as one of the flotilla of gunboats which had been so crucial to the success of Kitchener's expedition of 1896-1898. She was the 'Melik', which having been retired from active service in 1926, had subsequently served as the Clubhouse of the Blue Nile Sailing Club. In 1989 her hull had started to leak, and she might have sunk, but, by good fortune, an exceptionally high flood had swept her up onto the bank.

The 'Melik' is the only gunboat of the flotilla of which the fate is known. The aim of The Melik Society is to advance public awareness of Anglo-Sudanese history in the period 1883-1899 and subsequently, through the restoration and preservation of the ship. The Sudanese Ministry of Transport and their Department of Archaeology and Museums are taking an interest. The Society's proposal is that the vessel should be lent or chartered to the Society for a number of years, during

which she would be transported to the United Kingdom for complete refurbishment, if possible including a 'period' engine and weapons. She would then be put on public view, perhaps moored off the Thames Embankment, before returning to a permanent berth on the Nile at Khartoum. During her stay in England she would continue to fly the Sudanese flag and might be used, for example, as a Sudanese cultural or commercial centre, or for social functions.

The Society is also interested in gathering information about Sudanese military artefacts, diaries, records, etc., an interest in which ASTENE might well share! This sounds an exciting scheme, in which one can become involved by joining the society (Registered Charity 1049646). The annual subscription is £30/US\$50. Apply to: The Secretary, Friends' Office, The Melik Society, 202 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JW.

Useful Societies

We aim to compile a list of other societies in the UK with similar interests to ASTENE. Please let us know of any others associated with other parts of the Near East in UK and worldwide for inclusion in future issues. Those interested in Egypt (with thanks to the Egypt Exploration Society, The Secretary Dr Patricia Spencer, 3 Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG. <eeslondon@talk21.com>, website at <www.ees.ac.uk>) include:

- The Ancient Middle East Society, The Secretary, Mrs S. Kirk, 2 Seathorne Crescent, Skegness, Lincs, PE25 1RP.
 Durham Ancient Egypt Forum, c/o Barry Hetherington, 22 George St, Darlington, Co. Durham.
 The Egypt Exploration Society: Northern Branch, Dr Rosalie David, Manchester Museum, The University, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL.
 The Egypt Society of Bristol, c/o Linda C. Pike, Dept of Archaeology, University of Bristol, 43 Woodland Road, Bristol
 The Egyptian Society (UK), c/o Miss Linda King, Hatton Villa, Westleigh, Tiverton, Devon EX16 7HY; 117 St Michael's Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 4LN
 The Friends of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, c/o Jeanette Taylor, The Petrie Museum, University College London, Gower St, London WC1E 6BT.
 Leicestershire Ancient Egypt Society, The Programme Secretary, Mrs June Joyce, 1 Ashmead Crescent, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4GS
 Manchester Ancient Egypt Society, The Secretary, Mr Victor Blunden, 12 Thornleigh Rd, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 7RD.
 N.E.M.E.S. (North East Manchester Egypt Society), c/o Mrs Susan Bell, 11 Ruskin St, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 2RQ.
 The North Yorkshire Ancient Egypt Group, The Chairman, Mrs Anne Murray, East Garth, Forest Moor Rd, Knaresborough, North Yorks HG5 8JY.
 Northampton Ancient Egypt Historical Group, c/o The Revd Douglas G. Catt, 195 Billing Rd, Northampton NN1 5RS.
 The Plymouth and District Egyptological Society, 34 Higher Port View, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4BX.
 The Poynton Egypt Group, The Secretary, Mrs E. Sherman, 7 Craig Rd, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7XN.

Prestwich Egyptology Club, c/o Mr H.L. Berg, 48 Perrymead, Prestwich; 27 Willingdon Drive, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1PA

Selket Egyptology Society (South Yorks, Notts), c/o Mr A. Cadwell, 37 Windermere Court, North Anston, Sheffield, S Yorks S25 4GJ; 55 St Mary's View, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S61 4NH

The Society for the Study of Ancient Egypt, The Chairman, Mrs Margaret Bargh, 16 Newbold Avenue, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7AR; 51 Park Rd, Boythorpe, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2LP

Southampton Ancient Egypt Society, The Secretary, Mr Norman Pease, Brambletye, Whitenap Lane, Romsey, SO51 5ST

Staffordshire Egyptology Society, The Chairman, Mr Paul Badham, 26 Montville Drive, Castlehouse Gardens, Stafford ST17 9XH; 19 Clair Rd, Stafford ST16 1PX

The Sussex College of Egyptology, c/o Mr Robert Scott, 5 Pavilion Rd, Worthing, East Sussex BN14 7EE

Sussex Egyptology Society, Acting Chairman, Mrs Janet Wilton, Downsview Cottage, Wappingthorn Farm Lane, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3AG; Overlea, Bracken Lane, Storrington, Sussex RH20 3HS.

The Tameside Egypt Group, The Secretary, Mrs Anne Marie Lancashire, 152 Victoria St, Newton, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 4AS.

Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society, The Secretary, Mr Philip A. Wickens, 467 Basingstoke Rd, Reading, Berks RG2 0JG. <www.tvaes.cwc.net>

The Three Counties Ancient History Society: Egypt, the Aegean and Near East (Worcs, Herefords, Glos), c/o Mrs M. Griffiths, 6 Fairways, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1HA; Box Farm House, Birlingham. Nr Pershore, Worcs.

Wessex Ancient Egypt Society, (Dorset, Wilts, Somerset), c/o Mrs Angela Dennett, 4 Maclean Rd, Bournemouth BH11 8EP.

The West Cornwall Egyptian Society, Treem Cottage, Zennor, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3DE.

Similarly, we aim to compile a list of bookshops worldwide which specialise in books of relevance to ASTENE members.

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We published an article by Frank Harris in Bulletin 7 on the possible changes in the laws of copyright to be instituted by the European Parliament. We thought it might be useful to our members to have a summary of the rules at present, in the EC countries at least.

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b. The text is cited only for the purposes of **criticism and review** and does not exceed 400 words of continuous prose, or 800 words in total from any one work, made up of no more than 300 words per passage, or 25% of the whole.

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The Invasion of the Record-Snatchers? A point of view

Let us imagine a scenario. A scholar, arriving after a long and arduous journey from Iceland or Cape Town to spend one glorious day in the world-famous ... library, approaches a Librarian.

S: Where, please are the books of indexes?

L: Oh, we have now put all the catalogues on computer for your greater convenience.

S: But you do still have the indexes? I'm afraid I do not comprehend the working of computers, also my eyesight is poor and I need a magnifying glass even to read books.

L: Oh, no, we have thrown the old volumes away, they took up room we needed for the computers.

S: (somewhat desperately). Well, could you very kindly assist me to find what I want in one of these machines?

L: Gladly, if I could. Unfortunately, they went down a week ago, and our technicians have not yet been able to locate the problem.

S: So how do I find the books I need?

L: I'm afraid you'll have to come back—say next week?

But—next week the scholar has to be back in Cape Town (or Iceland).

Of course this nightmare scene is just a fantasy, because no library or institute of learning, knowing of the risks of computers losing files, by mistake or by malice, or of not being able to make the files available because the computer is down, would be so catastrophically careless as to dispose of the printed records of its collections.

You think not? Nor surely would hospitals—yet one Hospital Trust in England recently lost all the patients' records for several weeks while the technicians laboured to find the bug (not a millennium bug, just an any-year bug) which had brought the hospital record system down. It is

right that records are being put on computer, which can do some things written indexes cannot, but it is vital that the paper records be retained, as an unalterable record, and also that they should remain readily available to those who simply prefer the old, quick, straightforward way of getting at information, which requires no more specialised knowledge than the sequence of the alphabet. We should all be wondering what the research libraries we use are doing about their indexes. What, indeed, are our local libraries doing? Perhaps we should ask, and certainly, if not for ourselves then in the interests of knowledge and civilisation, we should protest if we discover the back-up paper records are being discarded. It seems there is everything to be lost except time. If the destruction of printed or manuscript catalogues really is taking place as the material is being put on computer, it is clearly a matter of serious importance to all of us. We invite correspondence on the subject.

Peta Réé.

Books and Media Section

Pietro Lorenzo Pincia, Provost of Ivrea Cathedral

Signor Boaglio has drawn ASTENE's attention to a manuscript describing 'A Journey to Palestine, Egypt and the Sacred Mount Sinai made by Pietro Lorenzo Pincia, this day Provost of the Cathedral of Ivrea, during the years 1719, 1720, 1721.' The manuscript has been in the Diocesan Library of Ivrea (Piedmont) since 1924. It is over five hundred pages long, written by Pincia himself, and is divided into six 'books':

Book I tells of his departure from Rome on 2 September 1719 and his visit to Cyprus and Lebanon; Book II describes his visit to Damascus, Galilee and Sudan; Book III is devoted to Jerusalem; Book IV is devoted to other holy places in Palestine; Book V is concerned with Egypt; Book VI describes Sinai, the monastery of St Catherine and his return to Italy on 22 October 1721. On the reverse of the frontispiece there is a 32 cm long graduated line and the words: 'Measurements of the 12 inch Paris foot, by which the measurements told in the present report have been taken.'

Pietro Lorenzo Pinchia (or Pincia as he signed himself and liked to be known) was born in a well-to-do middle class family which in 1722 received the title of Count. In 1849 a Pinchia was mayor of the city of Turin and in 1903 the last member of the family was in the Giolotti government of Italy. The religious career of Pietro Lorenzo saw him initially a member in Rome of the Congregation of the Mission (or 'Vincentians') but from 1729 onwards he was Provost of the Cathedral of Ivrea. The manuscript has neither drawings nor plans and the writing has no corrections at all. It appears to be the fair copy of notes taken during the journey itself, perhaps on rough paper, so far undiscovered.

When I examined the manuscript my interest as an amateur Egyptologist was mainly in his description of his long stay in Egypt and in particular of his journey to Upper Egypt as far as the First Cataract, which he made with the French Jesuit Claude Sicard. Sicard had been appointed Superior of the Jesuit Mission in Cairo in 1712; his main object was to make converts among the Copts but he was also ordered 'by the Regent of France ... to survey the monuments of Egypt and to make plans and drawings of them' (Bierbrier, *Who was Who in Egyptology*, 1995 p.390). He had made twenty-two journeys throughout the country but he and Pincia were the first Europeans to visit the Aswan area in modern times. Theirs was a dangerous journey, often disguised as Ottoman merchants to counter local suspicions that they were sorcerers. They went to places where, as the manuscript tells us, 'there was no recollection that any other French, or European Christian, had ever arrived.' For some of these places their report is the first by modern travellers.



After his death from plague in Cairo in 1726 most of Sicard's papers disappeared, along with the description of places visited. Three letters survive, however, in which Sicard mentions 'Pincia', as he always called the Italian, as 'homme savant et grand amateur de l'Antiquité'. The same 'Pincia' appears in Lumbroso (*Descrittori Italiani dell'Egitto e di Alessandria* 1878) and in Martin/Saumeron's work on Sicard (*Œuvres*, 3 vols (Cairo: IFAO, 1982)). French scholars also refer to nine pages in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, describing the visit made by the two priests to the area of Thebes on 1 and 2 January 1721; the description is almost identical with that in the Ivrea manuscript but there is no mention of the latter. The origin of these pages is not known and needs to be explored as well as a comparison made between the two scripts to see if they came from the same hand. The difference in names (Pincia and Pinchia) could also confuse research.

The first mention of the Ivrea manuscript appeared in a local bulletin produced in Ivrea (in an article by R. Domilano about 'our long forgotten priest, Pietro Lorenzo Pinchia'), but the significance of the visit to Upper Egypt was underrated. So far only Books I, V and VI of the manuscript have been published, leaving for later the part relating to Damascus and Palestine.

Pietro Lorenzo's aim was 'to visit the Holy Places of Palestine, and this was no passing fancy: it was fixed and permanent'; it was achieved because of the deep faith with which he faced the great difficulties of his journey. In the manuscript he proves to be a careful and intelligent observer, giving us lively descriptions of the places and people he met and, most important, leaving a testimony of a world almost disappeared.

Signor Giovanni Boaglio, Turin

Signor Boaglio has presented ASTENE with a copy of *In Egitto primo di Napoleone: viaggio della Palestina, Egitto e Sacro Monte Sinai fatto da Pietro Lorenzo Pincia oggi Prevo della Cattedrale d'Ivrea nel corso degli anni 1719, 1720, 1721*. The volume, published in Turin in 1998, contains Books I, V and VI of Pinchia's manuscript as well as a number of essays about Pinchia including three by Signor Boaglio; an analysis of the manuscript, an appreciation of Sicard's work in Egypt and a description of eighteenth-century Egypt, by Signor Boaglio. Further information about the volume can be found at the site <www.egyptbook.it> or email <galleria.del.libro@flashnet.it>.



In the nineteenth century, the monthly journals reviewed many travellers' books at length, and these articles are an interesting source of information about the travels themselves and the contemporary attitudes to them. Thus in October 1824, when the *Edinburgh Review* took note of *Scenes and Impressions in Egypt* by Moyle Sherer, the reviewer used the opportunity to express his opinion on what a travel book should be, to appeal to the ordinary reader.

These are very amiable books:— and besides the good sentiments they contain, they are very pleasing sentiments of a sort of travel-writing, to which we have often regretted that so few of those who roam loose about the world will now condescend — we mean a brief and simple notice of what a person of ordinary information may see and find in passing through a new country, which he visits without any learned preparation, and traverses without any particular object.

There are individuals, no doubt, who travel to better purpose, and collect more weighty information, — exploring and recording as they go, according to their several habits and measures of learning, the mineralogy, antiquities, or statistics of the different regions they survey. But the greater part even of intelligent wanderers are neither so ambitious in their designs, nor so industrious in their execution, — and, as most of those who travel for pleasure, and find pleasure in travelling, are found to decline those tasks which might enrol them among the contributors to science, while they turned all their movements into occasions for labourious study, it seems reasonable to think that a lively and succinct account of what actually delighted them, will be more generally agreeable than a digest of the information they might have acquired. (Such books) are not books of travel, in short, but works of science

and philosophy; and as the principal delights of travelling consist of the impressions which we receive...and the reflections to which they spontaneously give rise, so the most delightful books of travel should be those that give us back these impressions in their first freshness and simplicity, and excite us to follow out the train of feelings and reflection into which they lead us, by the direct and unpretending manner in which they are suggested.'

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Le Voyage à Smyrne. Un manuscrit d'Antoine Galland (1678). Avant-propos d'André Miquel. Introduction, transcription et notes de Frédéric Bauden (Paris: Editions Chandeigne (Collection Magellane), Septembre 2000), 352 pp., plus de 40 illustrations. Prix : 180 FF. Editions Chandeigne, 10 rue Tournefort, 75005 Paris Fax : 00-33-(0)1 43 36 78 47

'Le traducteur des Mille et une nuits, Antoine Galland (1646-1715), fut un voyageur invétéré qui arpenta pendant presque quinze ans, et à de multiples reprises, les échelles levantines: Istamboul, Smyrne, Alep, Alexandrie ... Son second voyage, entrepris en 1678, le conduisit à Smyrne où il résida quelques mois. Smyrne est à cette époque une ville cosmopolite et fourmillante où les Occidentaux ont parfois l'impression de se sentir plus chez eux qu'en Orient. Curieux de tout, notre jeune savant y écrit une relation de son séjour qu'il intitule *Smyrne ancienne et moderne*, restée inédite jusqu'à ce jour. Il dresse de cette ville un tableau tout à la fois vivant et scientifique, étudiant aussi bien les ruines antiques que les mœurs des autochtones, les résidents étrangers que les institutions locales et leurs représentants officiels. Aucun aspect de la vie sociale, culturelle, politique ne lui échappe. Les ingrédients classiques des récits de voyages — rencontres avec les corsaires, tempêtes ... ponctuent également la première partie de la relation. Enfin, Galland clôture son ouvrage par une comparaison des mœurs françaises et turques, véritable enquête ethnologique avant la lettre où il fait montre de perspicacité et de clairvoyance et prouve que pour mieux comprendre les autres, il est d'abord requis de bien connaître les siens. Tous ces éléments font de cette relation inédite, à laquelle sont également joints des extraits de son troisième voyage au Levant (1679-1680), la description la plus complète qui soit pour la ville de Smyrne au XVII^e siècle.'

For further information contact: Frederic Bauden, President of Melcom International, Maître de conférences, Chef d'U.D., Université de Liège, Langues et littératures orientales, Place du 20 Août, 7 Bat. A 1, B-4000 LIEGE, Belgique/Belgium. e-mail: <F.Bauden@ulg.ac.be>. Tel: (00 32) 04/ 366.53.32; fax: (0032) 04/366.56.55.

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Marco Zatterin has written to inform us that his book *Il Gigante del Nilo* [The Giant of the Nile], on the times and life of Giovanni Battista Belzoni was published on 6 June 2000, 320 pages. It is going well and it looks as if it will be reprinted in September! The publisher (Mondadori) has

sold it to Spain where it will be available on the bookshelves by Christmas. The press received it very well and it won a special award in the biography section at the Premio Chianciano 2000. ASTENE is acknowledged in the postscript. Congratulations to Marco. Would anyone be interested in reviewing a copy for the next *Bulletin*? If so, please get in touch with the editors.

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In 1990, Cassandra Vivian wrote and published *Islands of the Blest: a guide to the oases and Western Desert of Egypt* (Maadi: Trade Routes Enterprises, 1990) which became an overnight best-seller and an instant and delightful classic. I found it an indispensable item to be taken on any desert trek into the Western Desert (Ed.). Now retitled, reorganised and substantially expanded, *The Western Desert of Egypt: an explorer's handbook*, is the most comprehensive guide for travellers west of the Nile. With some 50 maps and over 270 drawings, the guide covers natural and human history of the deserts and its oases. Chapters include the oases of Kharga, Dakhla, Farafra, Bahariya, Fayoum, and Siwa; the desert areas of al-Diffa (the northern, semi-arid edge of the desert), the Darb al-Arbain caravan route in the south which eventually goes through to Darfur, in Sudan, and Uwaynat, including Gilf Kebir, in the south west. Cost \$29.50 plus \$4.00 postage and packing in US, \$5 in Canada and \$10 in Europe by international money order or personal cheque only. Please order direct from the author Cassandra Vivian, 333 Manown St, Apt 102 (E), Monessen PA 15062, USA. E-mail: <cass@telerama.com>, instead of <Amazon.com> or other bookshop.

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Landscape Illustrations of the Bible, 2 vols (1836; repr with foreword by Charles Newton, by The R.S. Surtees Society, Somerset, 1998). Each volume £25. ISBN 0 948560-31-2.

The publication is a near facsimile of one of the most popular and influential illustrated texts of nineteenth-century Britain. Originally published in 1836, its intention, as stated in the introduction, was to provide visual images of 'nearly one hundred of the most remarkable places mentioned in the Bible, as they actually exist, and very few of which have hitherto been delineated.' As such, it shaped how large numbers of the middle-class, church-going public envisaged the topography of the Holy Land. Then almost every one, regardless of Christian denomination, was familiar with the events, personalities and localities of the Bible, through repeated readings and sermons in their homes and at churches and chapels. The Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Plain of Jezreel, Jacob's Well, Arimathea and Laodicea—all these were as well known to them, in their imaginations, as their own towns and villages were to them in reality.

By the 1830s, increasing ease of travel, through the development of railways and steamships, was beginning to put the physical reality of these distant places within the grasp of those who possessed the resources to undertake the journey. Travellers, some of them artists, returned with sketches of the places they had visited; these were

gathered together by the publisher, John Murray, and the engravers, W. and E.F. Finden, and handed over to several well-established artists such as J.M.W. Turner, Sir Augustus Wall Callcott, Clarkson Stanfield, David Roberts and J.D. Harding, to be worked up into more 'pictorial' views, suitable for publication. For example, the architect Sir Charles Barry's pencil sketch of the Convent of St Saba (R.I.B.A., London) was transformed by Turner, through the manipulation of light and shade and the addition of a landscape setting and a procession of monks, into a visually dramatic image redolent of the 'Wilderness of Engedi's' past. Similarly, a rather dull ink and wash sketch by an unknown amateur artist, 'Mr Maude' (Searight Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum, London), of the two remaining standing columns of the Temple of Artemis at Sardis, became barely recognisable in the hands of Clarkson Stanfield who added a flash of lightning, storm clouds and a terrified horse with thrown rider. Such images both exploited and reinforced the interest of the increasingly literate public in the lands of the Bible.

Nowadays, the original publication is a 'rare book', often broken up by dealers for individual framing of the prints, and it is useful to be able to acquire new copies of the two entire volumes, though, in comparison with the originals, the plates seem grey and lacking in contrast. An incisive new introduction by Charles Newton sets the publication firmly in its nineteenth-century context, analysing the reasons for its success and describing the process by which the illustrations evolved and were printed. By presenting places in the Middle East through the eyes of the early Victorians, the images and text afford an insight into contemporary religious preoccupations. They are now a poignant reminder of how utterly changed these places and preoccupations have been by the encroachment of the modern world.

Briony Llewellyn



Miles Bredin, *The Pale Abyssinian: A Life of James Bruce, African Explorer and Adventurer* (HarperCollins), hb 290 pp. ISBN 0-00-255671-5

Few British travellers are as colourful as James Bruce (1730-1794), the prickly Scottish laird who in 1770 "discovered" the source of the river Nile at Gische Abbey, near Lake Tana, in present-day Ethiopia. What Bruce actually found was the source of the Blue, as opposed to the White, Nile, the lesser of the two tributaries which make up the Nile proper, but neither this fact nor the fact that others had already visited the spring – the Abyssinians themselves, the Jesuits in the early seventeenth century – should detract from what was by any standards an epic undertaking. Abyssinia when Bruce visited it was a nation that had shut itself off from the outside world: not since 1698 had a European entered Abyssinia and returned to tell the tale. When Bruce travelled there, moreover, Abyssinia was in the throes of a vicious civil war. Atrocities and reprisals, often medieval in their ingenuity, were commonplace. Yet in this fraught atmosphere, Bruce did more than just survive, he positively thrived. Over the two years spent in Abyssinia, from late 1769 to 1771,

skilful politicking, bravado and sheer physical presence – Bruce stood 6 feet 4 inches tall and could duel, ride and shoot as well as anyone – won the traveller honours and the friendship of all factions. As a consequence, Bruce was able not only to visit the Nile's 'coy fountains' but also to amass a wealth of information on a variety of subjects. A scholar as much as an explorer, he combined his geographical, botanical and zoological inquiries with an exhaustive study of Abyssinian documents and antiquities; alongside seeds, specimens and sketches he also brought home the apocryphal Book of Enoch, lost for centuries in Europe.

Bruce's story, then, is very much one of heroism and achievement, yet what lends it a particular piquancy today is that it is also, paradoxically, a tale of failure, infused everywhere with a mock-heroic aspect. Bruce himself tells his story this way, in his monumental five-volume *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile*, published in 1790 some 16 years after Bruce's return from Abyssinia. The reason for the delay, and for the curious oscillating tone of *Travels*, is the reception Bruce met with upon his return. The more lurid details of Abyssinian life – notably the claim that the Abyssinians cut meat from their oxen whilst the animals were still alive – provoked incredulity in sophisticated London. Johnson, Boswell and Horace Walpole all took against Bruce, not least because of his readiness to call a man out if he felt offended, and soon it was fashionable to bait the hapless traveller. Many even doubted that he had ever been to Abyssinia. Later travellers and scholars were to vindicate most of Bruce's claims, but this process of rehabilitation did not really begin until 1804, when Alexander Murray produced a second edition of *Travels* which contained a mass of corroborative documentation. By this date, Bruce had been dead some ten years. The traveller himself knew only his rejection at the hands of the London literati, and as a consequence a certain retrospective despondency suffuses his narrative. Even as he stands over the object of his quest, the Nile's source, Bruce cannot help but style himself as Don Quixote, a figure of ridicule in pursuit of illusory goals – an appropriately ambiguous climax to a narrative that fluctuates wildly between epic and farce, grandiloquence and bathos, hysteria and irony.

This whole curious history is efficiently recounted in Miles Bredin's praiseworthy, if flawed, biography of Bruce, *The Pale Abyssinian*. As the first account of Bruce's life for 32 years, *The Pale Abyssinian* deserves credit simply for rescuing its subject from relative obscurity. Further to this, Bredin makes a good job of condensing the five densely-written volumes of Bruce's original account into a well-paced, and usually well-written, narrative which should not prove daunting to the general reader. Bredin also incorporates much manuscript material from the Bruce archive held at Yale, and whilst there are caveats to be made about the handling of these sources, they certainly shed a revealing light on Bruce's career and personality prior to his North African adventures. The period after Bruce's travels is perhaps dealt with less satisfactorily – personally I think there is a fascinating cultural history to be written about the various stages of Bruce's reception

and rehabilitation – but Bredin gives us the gist of what happened. Over the course of the narrative, moreover, he offers a balanced review of the accusations brought against Bruce, and on topics such as Bruce's denial, in the face of incontrovertible evidence, that the Jesuits had reached the Nile's source, and his treatment of his Italian draughtsman, Luigi Balugani, Bredin reaches verdicts which are broadly sympathetic to the traveller without being blind to his many idiosyncrasies.

As an introduction to Bruce's career, then, *The Pale Abyssinian* has much to recommend it. That said, even those who seek only an introduction to Bruce should be cautioned about one aspect of this biography. As if Bruce's life were not colourful enough, Bredin has contrived to weave new strands of intrigue and speculation into the web of controversy already outlined. Settling on the traveller's Masonic connections, he fashions – rather in the manner of recent Holy Grail fanatics – an intricate history linking the Abyssinians, the Jews, the Freemasons and the Knights Templar, and centring on the lost Ark of the Covenant. The Ark, according to Bredin, was the real object of Bruce's quest to Abyssinia. As he writes: 'I believe that Bruce ascertained that the Ark – or something the Ethiopians claim to be the Ark – was in Axum [the ancient capital of Abyssinia] and that the entire nation would sacrifice itself before yielding it to another. Assured of its safety, his search for the Ark was complete, and thus he could continue with his journey' (100).

For Bredin, then, James Bruce is Indiana Jones *avant le jour*. There is not space here to engage with this claim in detail, but a few points should perhaps be made. Firstly, Bredin's thesis relies principally on silences and omissions in Bruce's narrative: for example, why does Bruce not describe the pyramids at more length? Why does he say so little about Axum, the supposed site of the Ark? The argument thus has the merit and/or demerit of being largely unfalsifiable. Bredin has done a valuable service to Bruce scholars in highlighting lacunae in Bruce's version of events, but whether one should accept Bredin's interpretation of these gaps is a very different matter. Some aspects of the Indiana Jones thesis are plausible, others far less so, and Bredin's tendency to lapse into rhetorical questions and a highly tangled syntax when advancing his claims suggest a certain lack of confidence even on the part of the author.

Further to this general point, one might raise two more specific issues. In the first place, why did it matter so much that the Ark was safe in Abyssinia? Why did Bruce feel he had to visit the Ark to check that it was stoutly defended? Basic questions, perhaps, but they are never addressed by Bredin, and thus the whole complex edifice he erects is undermined by this simple issue of motivation. In the second place, why was this aspect of the journey never mentioned in all the controversy that followed Bruce's return to London? I find it hard to believe that the faintly histrionic figure who emerges from the pages of *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile* would not have alluded to this grand quest in order to defend himself. Equally, why do his detractors never refer to it? Boswell was a member of the same lodge as Bruce, but if there was any Masonic

business going on in Abyssinia, he presumably did not know it, or else did not let it affect his dealings with Bruce in any way.

With this major caveat, then, *The Pale Abyssinian* is to be recommended to the general reader who seeks a clear, lively outline of Bruce's career and achievements. Readers with more specialised interests will also find much that is useful in Bredin's work, particularly in the manuscript material he incorporates – although here, unfortunately, the volume's helpfulness is considerably reduced by the absence of footnotes and the failure to identify his sources properly. But simply for bringing the traveller to a wider audience, one must be grateful to this biography: Indiana Jones or not, Bruce is one of our most curious, enigmatic explorers.

Carl Thompson



Mary Chubb, *Nefertiti Lived Here*. Repr. Libri, 1998. ISBN 1-901965-01-5 £9.95. Mary Chubb, *City in the Sand*. Repr. Libri, 1999. ISBN 1-901965-02-3. £9.95.



Nefertiti Lived Here has been for many years my favourite book, winning over its companion *City in the Sand* because of the delightful drawings by Ralph Lavers. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Libri for re-issuing these titles with the added bonus of new comment by Mary Chubb herself. The author, a junior helper with the Egypt Exploration Society in 1930, was enlisted to go on the excavations at Tell el Amarna to render secretarial and other assistance – to avoid the problems the London office was having with the reports and lists made in the field. The idea was highly successful; Mary Chubb obviously made herself both popular and indispensable and thus, when the dig at Amarna was closed down, she was invited to join another in Iraq. It was only much later in the 1950s that she published her accounts of these seasons in the field.

If you want to know what excavation in the Near East in the 1930s was like, then read these books. They manage to evoke the whole environment, both setting and people, the locals and the archaeologists, seemingly effortlessly with charm and accuracy. Moreover, they convey the sheer joy of the enterprise, often amid much hardship and difficulty. This is not just nostalgia on my part; this is truly what it was like. The excavation directors,

Pendlebury and Frankfort, from whom lengthy letters with the latest news added spice to the breakfast table during my childhood, were two of the small group of brilliant archaeologists working in the 1930s, all of whom died before their time. Dilys Powell, who put 'Weep not for Anonais' on the tomb of her husband, Humphrey Payne, another of this group, has tried to bring this period to life, but failed sadly in comparison with these less pretentious and until now less well known books. Archaeologists then were of those who 'travel not for trafficking alone ... [but] ... for lust of knowing what should not be known.' For those of us who study travel, these two books bring an understanding that is otherwise elusive but this in no way diminishes the fact that they are an extremely good read.

Lisa French

Other books of interest to members include:-

Kathry Bard, *Encyclopaedia of the Archaeology of ancient Egypt* (Boston: University of Boston Press), £150.

Eduard Glaser, *My Journey through Arhab and Hasid*, translated by David Warburton 1993 (xi + 31pp. ISBN 1-882557-02-6). \$5. Obtainable from The American Institute for Yemeni Studies, P.O. Box 311 Ardmore PA 19003-0311, USA. Email <mellis@sas.upenn.edu>; <http://www.aiys.org>

Jane Fletcher Geniesse, *Freya Stark: passionate nomad* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1999), £20. ISBN0 701 13710 X

Teresa Heffernan, 'Feminism against the East/West Divide: Lady Mary's "Turkish Embassy Letters",' *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 33:2 (1999-2000), 201-15

Azza Kararah, translator. *Harim Muhammad Ali Pasha: Rasa'il min al-Qahira (1842-1846)* [Muhammad 'Ali Pasha's Harem, Letters from Cairo (1842-1846)], by Sophia Lane-Poole, introduced and translated by Azza Karrera (Cairo: Sotour Publications, 1999),

Edward W. Lane, *Description of Egypt*, edited by Jason Thompson (Cairo: American University Press, 2000).

A.L. Macfie, *Orientalism: a reader* (Edinburgh, EUP 2000) Hb £50.000 ISBN 0-7486-1442-7; Pb £16.95 ISBN 0-7486-1441-9. A selection of key readings from the recent debate on the theory and practice of representing 'the Orient' in European thought.

Nabil Matar, *Turks, Moors and Englishmen in the Age of Discovery* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999) £21. ISBN 0 231 11014 6. A survey of the extensive contacts, at all levels, between the three groups of protagonists in the title, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Donald B Redford (editor in chief), *Oxford Encyclopaedia of Ancient Egypt*, 3 vols (Oxford: OUP, 2000) £275.00. ISBN 19-510234-7. Claims to be the most comprehensive reference source available on ancient Egyptian civilisation.

John O Udal, *The Nile in Darkness: conquest and exploration, 1504-1862* (Norwich: Michael Russell, 1998).£55.00

John Udal has a lifelong interest in Sudan, serving in the Sudan Political Service from 1950 to 1955, where his father served before him between 1906 and 1930. This book is the first of a proposed two-volume study from 1504 to 1899. The Nile and its progressive discovery forms a thread to the book and descriptions are populated with Turkish travellers such as Evliya Çelebi (c. 1671-1672), Egyptians and Ethiopians, local kings and shaykhs, as well as British, French, Austrian, German, Italian, Belgian and Americans who were travelling through the area. Conquests and reconquests are recounted, local insurrections and commerce, political organisation are outlined as are the adventures of Bruce, Burton, Speke and Grant.

Anyone interested in reviewing any of these or other relevant books for future issues of the *Bulletin*, please contact the editors.

Websites

Palestine Exploration Fund website

The Palestine Exploration Fund, which was shy about publicising its address and phone number for many years because of concerns about the risk of becoming a target for terrorism, now has a website, which even has a TEL page: <<http://www.pef.org.uk/>>. Rupert Chapman of the PEF tells me that the site is not yet on many of the search engines, but is part of a policy of 'outreach'.

T E Lawrence Studies List <TELAWRENCE@HERMES.CIRC.GWU.EDU>

<http://www.geocities.com/paesante/belzoni.html> A new website on Belzoni in Italian.

Studies in Travel Writing. Tim Youngs, <Tim.Youngs@ntu.ac.uk> Web site: <<http://human.ntu.ac.uk/stw/>>

Journeys, The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing, <journeys@roehampton.ac.uk>

Literary Traveler, Francis McGovern <<http://www/literarytraveler.com>>

www.archaeology.dig

www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/archaeology

www.archaeology.co.uk

The Magazine *Archaeology* website at www.archaeology.org. Special web coverage of ongoing excavations e.g. at Petra, Jordan.

<http://www.powerup.com.au/~ancient/books.htm>. Rigby's Egyptian Bookshop where he helps you select appropriate books and then you can purchase them on line using amazon.com.

<<http://english.cla.umn.edu/Faculty/Ross>

/ross.htm>. Donald Ross, co-ordinator of an excellent interest group on the email can be contacted at the English Department, DGS; Minor in Composition, Rhetoric and Literacy Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455 USA. Voice Mail (612) 625-5585

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Fourth Biennial Conference on Travel in Egypt and the Near East
will be held at
Pollock Halls, Edinburgh,
Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 July, 2001

The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE) brings together people from many disciplines and interests: historians and geographers; anthropologists and ethnographers; archaeologists and Egyptologists; craftsmen and musicians; classicists and theologians ... Some travellers in the region explored the cultures and the countries over several years; many stayed only a few weeks, but their records stand in archives and books. Artists and novelists were influenced by the Orient and their works have coloured Western impressions.



A CARAVANSARY.

Sessions at the conference will be grouped into three broad themes, probably: Travels from the earliest times; Artists, writers, architects; Researchers and scientists (in the broadest sense). There will be special presentations on Edward Lane; the Crusaders through Muslim eyes; Ottoman Greece and the Balkans; and a specially arranged session on travel in North Africa.

For further details and to offer papers (20–25 minutes long), with abstracts (of which no more than 100 words will be made available to participants at the Conference), please contact Deborah Manley, 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE, fax 01865 310284, or e-mail Janet Starkey at <j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk> .