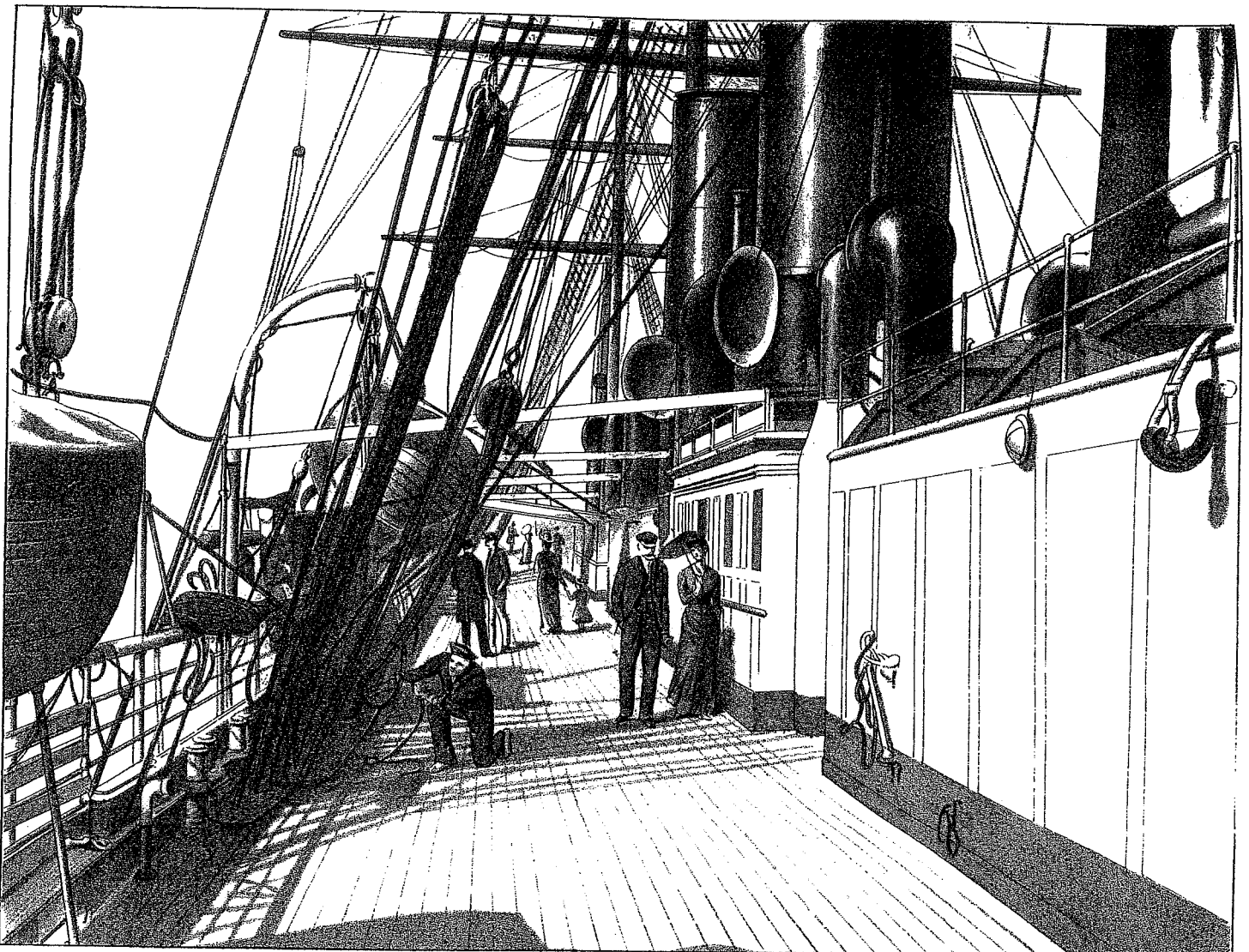


**Bulletin of the Association for the Study
of Travel in Egypt and the Near East:
Notes and Queries**

Number 21

Autumn 2004

S. S. "ORMUZ."



MACLURE & CO LITH. LONDON.

PROMENADE DECK.

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The next Bulletin will appear in January 2005. The deadline for articles and reports is 15 December 2004, but if you send your material earlier it is very helpful to the Editor.

Thanks to Maureen Hadfield, Dr Lisa French Peta Ree and others for assistance with this Bulletin.

ASTENE EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2003-4 Annual General Meeting was held at the National Portrait Gallery on Saturday 25th September following the study day on women travellers.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2003-4

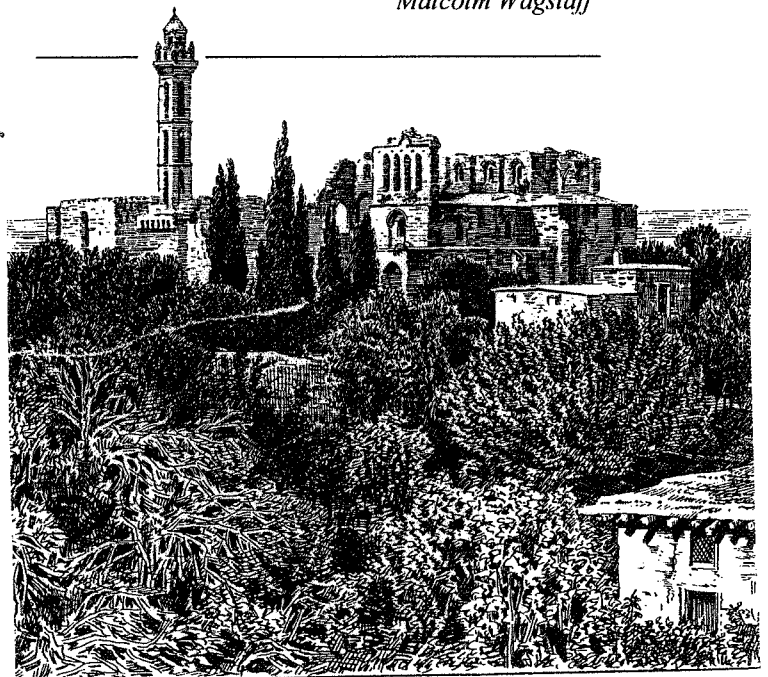
Another good year, would sum it up. We started with an enjoyable evening at the Travellers' Club in October where Neil Cooke and our Secretary, Trisha Usick, talked about Charles Barry, the architect responsible for the Club's building and a traveller in the Near East. In February, we voyaged first to Egypt with a private visit to the Griffith Institute, where our Vice President, Jaromir Malek, showed us some of the treasures, and then, next day, to Nubia by means of a study day arranged through Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education. The talks were interesting and of a high standard but, as seems to be usual, there were problems with the visual aid technology. The Palace of Westminster was our next destination, in April. Many of our travellers were, or became, Members of Parliament or peers. A tour, kindly arranged by Josy Eldred, was the beginning of a full day which also took us to visit Miss Nightingale at St Thomas's Hospital and ended with two papers, loosely connected with Parliament, and a buffet supper on Millbank. Reports on all these events appeared in the *Bulletin*, but we have Elisabeth Woodthorpe to thank for bringing them off. The year also saw – finally – the publication of papers from the Edinburgh Conference under the title *Travellers in the Near East*, edited by Charles Foster and published for us by Stacey International.

Publications have taken up a good deal of the Executive Committee's time, as usual. We finally settled on women travellers as the subject of our next volume, using papers from the Oxford Conference together with a few from Edinburgh and the study day at the National Portrait Gallery. Sarah Searight has kindly agreed to be the editor and preparations are well in hand for publication. Given my track record on these matters, I hesitate to say that the book will be out in time for the Manchester Conference, but that is the Committee's hope. Another perennial topic for the Committee is the Research Resources Project. It is developing well, thanks to Trisha Usick, but it needs more input from members – look at the website to see how *you* can contribute. A boost will be given as the results of the ASTENE Journal Project, announced in Bulletin 20, start to come in. I do

hope that many members will feel able to participate in this initiative. It is worth remembering that the *Oxford New Dictionary of National Biography* with its wealth of information about travellers, to which ASTENE members have contributed, became available in September. I should add that the study day at the National Portrait Gallery on 25 September, though not devoted exclusively to our regions, is nonetheless our initiative and point out that ASTENE members advised on the exhibition, "Off the Beaten Track: Three Centuries of Women Travellers" (7 July-31 October, 2004), curated by Clare Gittings. It is certainly worth seeing.

Finally, I have to announce that the Executive Committee will be losing some more founder members and officers at the AGM, as their term of service comes to an end. They are Neil Cooke, one of those who had the original idea of founding what became ASTENE and who has not only kindly hosted many of the Committee's meetings but also prepared the last edition of the 'Yellow Pages' – a job he will continue; Lisa French, our efficient Treasurer, who has kept us on course and afloat from the beginning; Deborah Manley, who inspires and enthuses us all, and will continue to edit the *Bulletin*, thereby being able to attend Committee meetings; Jennifer Scarce, also in there from the start and our representative in Scotland; and Trisha Usick, our hard-working Secretary and moving spirit of the Research Resources Project. I am personally grateful to all of them for their help and support, more than perhaps they realise, but the Association as a whole also owes them a debt for collectively bringing us into being, filling us with a particular spirit, and launching us on our way.

Malcolm Wagstaff



RUINED MONASTERY AT BELLAPAIS.

THE CYPRUS TOUR 10-19 September

What did we see in Cyprus? What did we not see?

The golden land, basking in the fiery sun, between the azure sky and the azure sea. Glorious sunshine, reviving shade, the splendour of sunset, the shining sickle moon, the soft darkness and the scented air. The countryside: dry dusty plains rearing into massive mountains crowned with the ruins of former strongholds; the streams, lacing the land with greenery fed by waters sunk out of sight; the beaches, sandy or stony, inviting the enjoyment of the refreshing warmth of the boundless sea; and the villages, modern or traditional, basking on the beach, settled inland, embowered in greenery, or clinging to the hillside, rich in beehives.

The people and their homes: the circular foundations produced by the primitive technology and arduous labour of prehistoric times, the cyclopean masses used in later walls, the austere order of the Roman columns, the palatial Byzantine mansions with their brilliant mosaics, the luxurious serenity of Venetian courtyards, and their Turkish equivalents with their private baths; the practical productions of modern times, most brilliantly represented by the house of Rita and Costas, with its treasures, particularly, for us, the prints and paintings of historic Cyprus.

The people and the monuments of their stalwart faith: the classical temples; the medieval churches, with the stately serenity of the saints in icons, and the representations of personal appeal – the child's shoes hanging beside the door, the clew of cotton entwining the building in strands of prayer, and the candles, shining as a spark of hope in the dim light; the magnificent cathedrals, Lusignan or later; and the mosques, testaments to the shifts of history, whether new foundations or entered in older shrines.

The people: split into two camps, each smarting from the hand of fate, but resolutely resolves to repair the breach. Some of the conference papers held hints of this smart, and it was poignantly symbolized by the visit to the beautiful beach at the edge of 'the fenced city' at Famagusta, a childhood playground now inaccessible, and only to be viewed at a distance. There was interesting discussion with the British High Commissioner and some hope for the future bridging of the divide was held out by the Rector of the University of the Eastern Mediterranean in his mission statement.

The people and their hospitality: food in abundance, a liberal parade of meze; a liberal parade of rocket, luscious with tomatoes, savoury with cheese and olives; tasty grilled meat, the rich variety of seafood and firm fresh fish, and the superb trout of Kakopetria; the fruit, delicious fresh and juicy and or dried or candied; the drink, the wine, famous in England since Crusader times, the

coffee, the refreshing juices and, most welcome of all, the clear cool water.

And the people themselves, warmly welcoming, good-humoured, helpful; the chance-met lady acting as guide to a distant shop through the intricate streets of Nicosia; colleagues and friends supplying help and information and at every turn, smoothing our crossing at the miserable borderline, opening the display of the unique wrecked ship at Polis, or staying late so we could visit a museum at Larnaca and at the Bank of Cyprus in Nicosia, coming in on our first night so we could view the remarkable collection of antiquities, beautifully displayed, as with all the museums we visited, and their special display of books and maps. But among all the names which might be listed here, we will all think first of Rita Severis who efficiently organised our wonderful trip, worked tirelessly throughout it to ensure that her plan was smoothly carried out, and enlivened the whole experience with kind words, great knowledge and unflinching good humour.

Ann and John Revell

Beyond Rita, the success of our tour was due to the help of many individuals and institutions, too many to thank all individually. We recognise especial gratitude due to: The Cyprus Tourism Organisation for the provision of transport, guides and information folders; The Cyprus Department of Antiquities and the Turkish Cypriot authorities for entrance to sites; The Municipality of Nicosia for hosting our conference in the beautifully restored Famagusta Gate Cultural Centre; Vassos Cliodes Ltd for providing refreshments in the conference breaks; the Mouflon Bookshop for the book display at the conference; the people who provided fascinating conference papers (many of whom are now members of ASTENE whom we hope to meet again); The University of the Eastern Mediterranean for their welcome in the Nestorian church of Famagusta, the British High Commissioner for his generous reception and informative responses to our questions; The Bank of Cyprus for the opportunity to view their remarkable collections and the generous collation they provided; the Dali Choir for their singing of a welcome and other traditional songs at the Hadjii Georgiadis House; Acolus Travel for providing so much support and, most importantly, our guides Titina Liozides who showed us fascinating aspects of Nicosia on three walking tours, Anna Marangou who showed us highlights of the striking ruins of Salamis, and Demetra who informed us so competently on the second part of our tour, and throughout our driver who brought us safely through some narrow passages.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS STUDY DAY

Briony Llewelyn will describe this excellent day at the National Portrait Gallery in the next Bulletin. Suffice it to say here that we had three excellent papers from ASTENE members: Charles Plouviez on Queen Caroline and Lady Craven; Mary Lovell on Jane Digby and Isobel Burton and Sarah Searight on Lucie Duff Gordon.

FORTHCOMING ASTENE EVENTS

MANCHESTER STUDY DAY

On Saturday, 6th November (10 pm – 4 pm)
ASTENE has arranged a study day with the Manchester University Department of Continuing Education on early travel in Egypt - to be held at the University Architecture Building. The day's programme is:

Dr Philip Sadgrove of Middle East Studies, Manchester University, *The Political Background of early travel in Egypt*

Deborah Manley, joint author of a biography of Henry Salt: *How people travelled in Egypt*
Anne Wolff, author of *How Many Miles to Babylon? : Early foreign travellers: merchants and pilgrims*

Brenda Moon, formerly of Edinburgh University Library: *Thomas Legh of Lyme Park, Disley near Manchester*

To book: Please contact Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL or telephone 0161 275 5728 for an application form.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

In April the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland has invited former ASTENE committee member Jennifer Scarce to give two lectures on Robert Murdoch Smith on whose work at Halicanassus she was been researching.

6 p.m. Monday 11 April 2005: Lecture Theatre, National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh.

7:30 Tuesday 12 April at Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Inquiries to General Offices, Society of Antiquaries, Edinburgh 0131 247 4133 and Neil Curtis, Marischal Museum, Marischal College, Tel: 01224 274 301.

BEYOND THE GRAND TOUR, 15 OCTOBER 2005

Dr Brian Taylor has put together with Oxford University Department of Continuing Education a most exciting study day for next October. A date for your new diary....

From within such a geographically and culturally wide-ranging subject area, four topics have been selected:

Scientific Tourists; the travels of Sibthorp and Hawkins – Professor John Revell
Flowers, the Bible, and fellow travellers: attempting to understand the travels of Irby and Mangles – Dr Robert Morkot

James 'Athenian' Stuart: British architecture and the 'Antiquities of Athens' – Dr Kerry Bristol
Sir Charles Fellows and his discovery of Xanthus – Edith Slatter and Dr Brian Taylor

Application forms will be sent out with the Bulletin next year.

ASTENE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 14-18 JULY 2005

Further and fuller information and the booking form will be given in the Winter and Spring Bulletins, but among plans for this conference are:

A visit to Lyme Park, home of Thomas Legh (1793-1857) who travelled extensively in the Near East, at times with Bankes, Irby and Mangles, Curtin and other travellers.

Brenda Moon will introduce Legh on Thursday 14th July.

Professor John Williams will give the keynote paper on the evening of Thursday 14th July.

Professor Rosalie David of Manchester University has agreed to be our after dinner speaker at the Conference Dinner.



CALL FOR PAPERS

With this Bulletin comes the Call for Papers for the Manchester Conference 14 – 18 July 2005. Please could you take note, offer your paper and then arrange for the Call for Papers to be posted up in your college, university or library department, or appropriate public places where others will see it. This is a special plea to our overseas members, but we hope that British members will also help. Thank you.

CONFERENCE BURSARY 2005

The Association (ASTENE) has decided to award bursaries for the purpose of enabling individuals, who are not able to obtain outside support, to attend its biennial conference to give a paper. The number of awards made at any one time will depend upon the costs of the conference and the number of applications. Not all available funds need to be disbursed for any one conference.

Each bursary will be in kind and equivalent to the cost for the successful applicant of the conference fee, and/or meals and/or accommodation. Travel and other expenses (e.g.

Each bursary will be in kind and equivalent to the cost for the successful applicant of the conference fee, and/or meals and/or accommodation. Travel and other expenses (e.g. the production of the conference paper) are not covered. *Those awarded bursaries will be asked to help at the Conference with various administrative tasks.*

Applicants should write to the Conference Secretary enclosing an abstract (not more than 200 words) of the paper which they intend to present, and giving a brief outline of their reasons for seeking a bursary. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 1 January 2005. Decisions will be made by ASTENE's Executive Committee and shall be final. They will be announced before 31 March 2005.

By e-mail Conference Secretariat: info@oxconf.co.uk
By post: ASTENE, c/o 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE

Please mark your submission ASTENE Conference Bursary.

The scheme will be piloted in 2005 and then reviewed.

OTHER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Example of the Roman finds at Narona in Croatia – from the Ashmolean exhibition.

Rise and Fall of an Imperial Shrine, Oxford

Only a very brief opportunity to catch this exhibition at Oxford's Ashmolean Museum as it closes on 17 October. Sub-titled "Roman Sculpture from the Augusteum at Narona" this is the first exhibition outside Croatia of one of the largest collections of Roman sculpture ever discovered. In 1995, barns on the site of Narona in southern Croatia, were cleared to reveal a stunning find: the foundations of a temple built in the time of emperor Augustus (31BC-AD14). The exhibition includes a reconstruction of part of the temple at the original scale and many artefacts.

Off the Beaten Track: Women Travellers at the National Portrait Gallery

The exhibition which is a real treat – and free – continues at the National Portrait Gallery until the end of October. A review of the accompanying book appears in this Bulletin.

The Trip on the Nile, Hannover

Another exhibition you'll have to be quick not to miss. In 1849 the French government financed the well-known trip of Gustave Flaubert and the photographer Maxime du Camp to the Nile. At the Kestner-Museum, Hannover, Germany, until 17 October are sixty of the photographs from that voyage. The book *The Trip to the Nile 1849-50: Maxime du Camp and Gustave Flaubert in Egypt, Palestine and Syria* is on sale (E18) there.

Sudan: Ancient Treasures, British Museum

Focussing on recent archaeological discoveries, this exhibition highlights the rich and diverse cultures of Sudan, from the grand to the humble with many little-known or newly discovered pieces. Room 5, British Museum until 9 January 2005.

Mummy: The Inside Story, British Museum

Computer graphics and the latest scientific research allow visitors to view "the unwrapping of a 2800-year-old mummy". Until March, 2005.

Tutankhamun – The Golden Beyond

This exhibition – outlined in the last Bulletin – moves from Basel on 3 October to the Kunst-und-Ausstellungshalle, Bonn.

Medieval Views of the Cosmos, Oxford

This exhibition continues until 30 October, providing a rare opportunity to see a stunning display of medieval maps – terrestrial and celestial – exhibiting the Arabs' early knowledge of astronomy and navigation.

Most of the illustrated pages of the 1000-year-old *Book of Curiosities of the Sciences and Marvels for the Eyes* are displayed to the public for the first time, alongside many Western and Islamic manuscripts and artefacts from Oxford collections. Open Monday-Friday 9:30-4:45; Saturday 9:30-12:30. Bodleian Library Exhibition Room. Oxford

Ancient Art to Post-Impressionism, Royal Academy, London

According to the *Sunday Times* the Carlsberg brewery family of Copenhagen collected art – ancient and modern – as ordinary people collect beer mats. The obsession of Carl Jacobsen, son of the founder, was ancient art, including Egyptian masterpieces. While the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek is undergoing refurbishment, the Royal Academy offered a home to the collection. Information 0207 300 8000 or look at www.royalacademy.org.uk

The Queens of Sheba: Traditional Clothes of Yemen, Barcelona

Spectacular display of costumes and textiles from the eight regions of Yemen, with a photographic archive linking textiles to place. Centre de Documentacio Museu Textil, Barcelona, until December. www.cdmt.es

Masterpieces of Islamic Art from the Metropolitan Museum, The Louvre

Some 1000 pieces from the finest collection in America are on view in the Louvre in Paris until the end of April, 2005.

Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World. Provo, Utah

Some 200 pieces from Egypt, Greece and Rome show how civilizations underwent changes on a complex manner, influencing each other through travel and trade. The exhibition traces the rise and fall of power-seekers and the unchanging needs of ordinary people. BYU Museum of Art, Provo, Utah until June 2005.

Palace and Mosque: Islamic Art from the V & A, Washington

More than 100 pieces from the world's premier collection of Islamic art, covering calligraphy, court life, and mosques, shrines and churches and artistic exchange of Islamic, European and Chinese manufacture. A book accompanies the exhibition. National Gallery of Art, Washington DC until 6 February, 2005.

Petra: Lost City of Stone, Cincinnati

This important travelling exhibition of 200 objects from Jordan with a selection of artworks documenting the European discovery of Petra is the Art Museum, Cincinnati until 30 January, 2005.

PHARAOHS, Paris

An exhibition of 200 important pieces from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo tracing major steps in the history of ancient Egypt. Many pieces are being shown for the first time in France. Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris until 10 April, 2005.

Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years, Royal Academy

This important exhibition devoted to the artistic and cultural heritage of the Turkic-speaking peoples will feature objects from the Topkapi Saray and Tyurkish and Islamic Art of Istanbul Museums. It opens 22 January 2005 and runs to 12 April.

CONFERENCES/STUDY DAYS

Peoples of the Red Sea, British Museum

The next session of the Red Sea Project (on 29-30 October) features Islamic and pre-Islamic culture from both sides of the waterway. Organised by the Society of Arabian Studies at the British Museum. For further information please see www.britac.ac.uk/sas.

STUDY DAY IN BRISTOL: The Rediscovery of Egypt, the Pioneering Years, Saturday 20th November

An opportunity to hear four ASTENE members in another setting – organised by Bristol Magpies to raise funds for a new Egyptian Gallery at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. Speakers are; Dr Aidan Dodson (Bristol University) on Champollion; John Ruffle, formerly Oriental Museum, Durham; Dr John Taylor (British Museum) on Henry Salt, and Dr Patricia Usick (British Museum) on William Bankes in Nubia and staff from the Bristol City Museum. Booking form email R.Silvester@bristol.ac.uk or send sae to Rosemary Silvester, 69 High Kingsdown, Bristol BS2 8EP; telephone 0117 926 0990. The cost is £25 for full day; £15 half day.

STUDY DAYS IN OXFORD:

Archaeology of Alexandria on 18-19 December

The Oxford Centre for Marine Archaeology meet at St Hugh's College. Enquiries to jonathan.cole@archaeology.oxford.ac.uk

Sacred Space in Muslim Societies, Saturday, 22nd January 2005

An Oxford University Department of Continuing Education study day on the structure of historic cities which developed under the influence of Islam, illustrating the various elements of mosque architecture, discussing the plurality of architectural expression of Muslim societies, introducing other devotional spaces used by Muslims. Part of a series of day focusing on the outward symbols and expressions of religious practices. Fees from £35. Tel: 01865 270360 and www.conted.ox.ac.uk.

A STATELY HOME CONNECTED WITH THE CRIMEA WAR

Deene Park, home for nearly five hundred years of the Brudenell family, is well worth a visit in its own right, but for anyone interested in the Crimean War has a special fascination, as the home of the famously irascible James Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan. It was he who, at Balaclava in 1854, led the infamously mishandled Charge of the Light Brigade. Unlike the many men who fell, 'unfortunately for his reputation' remarks the (old)



Dictionary of National Biography, 'although he was the first man among the Russian guns, he was not the last to leave them.' His officers and men looked in vain for further orders from their commander, then rode away in small groups – 'Cardigan had played the part of a hero, but not of a general.' (DNB) Of course we do not quote this while being shown around the house.

Among other memorabilia, are a portrait of Cardigan, waving his sword, heroically leading the charge on his noble steed Ronald, his Crimean medal and, dating from his earlier career, the splendid Hussar uniform he designed for his men, featuring more gold braid than you would have thought it possible to cram onto the chest of one gentleman. Fascinating also are about 30 engravings, some coloured, of the Crimea, by the artist, William Simpson, whom we have already met in Greece and Abyssinia (see Bulletins 14, 15).

Still in the hands of the Brudenell family, Deene Park is open on the Easter, May, Spring and Summer Bank Holiday Sundays and Mondays, and every Sunday in June, July and August, from 1-5 pm. For further details, please write to The Housekeeper, Deene Park, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 3EW; Tel: 01780 450223/450278, or visit the website: www.deerepark.com. *Peta Ree*

victorianturkishbaths.org

The travellers brought the idea of the Turkish bath from the Near East to Britain and elsewhere. Some still survive and can be located on <http://www.victorianturkishbaths.org> This website provides a directory of Victorian Turkish baths in the British Isles (and a list of special types arranged alphabetically) and a brief checklist of Turkish baths outside the British Isles.

We had hoped there would be one in Manchester for the conference members to visit. There does not seem to be. However there are Turkish baths in Carlisle, Birmingham (Erdington), Harrogate, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northampton, Rochdale, Whitley Bay and Worcester.

(See Sir Robert Wilson's experience below.)

PUBLIC COURSES IN MANCHESTER

Apart from our own study day on 6th November, there are other occasions at Manchester University's Centre for Continuing Education that will interest members. The weekly courses include: Roman Syria – looking at its rich sanctuaries, engineering masterpieces, long distance trade and the rise of pilgrimage during the Christian era; An Introduction to Hieroglyphs; Modern Standard Arabic. The Manchester Museum includes in its 'Showcasing' series a talk by Professor Rosalie David: 'Egyptian Mummies: A Resource for Studying Lifestyle' at 7pm on Thursday 14 October. On five Saturdays through the autumn and winter Bob Partridge, Editor of Ancient Egypt is

running a series of study days 'Insights into Ancient Egypt'; one looks at 'How our modern knowledge has been obtained by treasure hunters, explorers and archaeologists'.

For more information, see www.man.ac.uk/cce.

AN EXHIBITION TO WATCH FOR

Harrogate Museum, Yorkshire decided to mount an exhibition of items owned by a wealthy farmer, Benjamin Kent, who lived at Tatefield Hall, Beckwithshaw and died in 1968 after bequeathing his collection to Harrogate. The items were thought to be possible fakes and the Museum considered a display of fake artefacts. But when tested, all but one turned out to be genuine – including a vase – now on display in the Royal Pump Room Museum, Harrogate – from a very early burial in the Predynastic era, around 3200 BC. The Museum is planning a major Egyptology exhibition next year. Its core collection is "one of the best in the country outside the British Museum." (*Harrogate Advertiser*, August 2004)

RESEARCH RESOURCES

THE ASTENE RESEARCH RESOURCES PROJECT

The ASTENE Research Resources Project is now up and running. Like many other organisations we have turned to our website to provide our members with information on resource material through an easy to research facility. Now all we need is your contributions.

We aim to highlight archives and other places (sometimes quite unexpected ones) where information on travel and travellers can be found. As you will have seen we already include some of these resources as a regular feature of our Bulletin. During your own research you may have stumbled across fascinating caches of material not immediately relevant to your present work but which could be invaluable for other researchers. Members who know each other have always been able to pass on information informally. Now we are able to give members all over the world the chance to share these vital snippets of knowledge.

The information you provide is only available to ASTENE members who have received the password with their membership. Just click on 'Research' on our homepage, put in your password, and you will find full instructions for providing us with your material on our specially designed forms. The forms can be filled in and sent electronically or just grab your pen and hope the Royal Mail is still functioning here in the UK. We will be doing some judicious editing, so please don't send us lengthy tomes as we want you to distil the main sources.

You will also find out how to search and access information yourself. Do try it out and tell us about your discoveries so that ASTENE members can continue to exchange information to their mutual benefit.

Patricia Usick

Those who do not have e-mail themselves can access the website on library or colleagues' computers and, using the password, also share the material.

ASTENE JOURNAL PROJECT

So far we have been able to welcome a handful of willing researchers to this project who have offered to cover Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Devonshire, Lincoln, Yorkshire, Somerset, West Sussex and Hampshire, and some research at the British Library. Work has started with some exciting results. The first reports will be on the ASTENE Research Resource website soon.

Please refer to Bulletin 20 to see if you can offer help near you. We are particularly keen to recruit people in Wales, Scotland and London (National Army Museum, British Library and other archives.) If you would like to be involved, contact D. Manley on 01865 310284 or at 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE. Information about how this will appear on the website will be given in the New Year.

NB: There are journals recorded in USA archives and we would like help with those too, please. The Huntingdon Library in California holds much relevant British material.

JOURNAL ENTRY : JANUARY 1819

Reverend Robert Master was told how, in about 1800 when the plague carried off an estimated 30,000 souls in Cairo, and spread along the Nile, "the flocks and herds were seen pitifully descending to the river side at the usual time of watering, without a shepherd or driver." (f. 162, BM Add Ms 51313 [Moffit Collection]).

JOURNAL DISCOVERIES

In the Lincolnshire Archive Peta Ree has found the Journal of Sir Richard Worsley, Bt., of 1785.

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

While working on something rather different, I came upon a further unconsidered journal. Though well known to the Cambridge college where it lies, it has not to their knowledge been looked at for some years. We have passed on this information to a local ASTENE member and hope to be able to report further in a future Bulletin. *Ed.*



BELZONI STRAYS IN DEVON: a note on the Royal Memorial Museum, Exeter and its collectors (I)

As someone with a long-standing interest in the temples of Abu Simbel it was rather gratifying to find that James Mangles (1786-1867), involved with Belzoni, d'Athanas, Finati and Beechey in the first European survey of the temples, had settled in Exeter. His house, Fairfield, which appropriately for a naval man, commands a view of the Exe at Countess Weir, is now St Loye's College. Mangles' fellow traveller, explorer of Abu Simbel, and later brother-in-law, Charles Irby (1789-1845) made his home at Torquay. On their journey downstream from Abu Simbel to Cairo in 1818, Irby and Mangles stayed for a short period with Charles Brine in Middle Egypt. A Devonshire man by birth, Brine had entered the service of Muhammed Ali, settling at Ramarun, just north of Mallowi, in 1817. Brine introduced sugar cane and its production to Middle Egypt, and also acquired antiquities for Henry Salt. Irby and Mangles give the first account of the celebrated scene at the tomb of Djeuhty-hetep at al-Bersheh showing the transportation of a colossal statue of the tomb owner. The actual 'discovery' of the tomb was probably made by Brine, as Irby and Mangles state quite clearly that it was opposite where he lived. As yet, no artefacts or papers relating to any of these men has come to my attention here in Exeter; but they were not the only people with a Devon connection to travel in Egypt, or collect its antiquities.

Over the past few years, as time permits, I have been preparing a full catalogue of the Egyptian antiquities in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter. The collection and its records have suffered over the years, and the task of uniting the archival documentation with the artefacts has been difficult. Much of this was achieved by John Allan, until recently the curator of archaeology. He has encouraged me to work on the material and publish it. My thanks go to him and to his volunteers who have prepared a working catalogue from many sources.

The Egyptian collection in the RAMM comprises several hundred objects, mostly unprovenanced, some damaged, some fakes. To an Egyptologist looking through the shelves and boxes in the stores, it is not a particularly thrilling collection. But, like most of the small provincial collections that have

been built up through donations, it does have some unusual, interesting and aesthetically appealing pieces, and certainly merits publication.

In many cases the documentary evidence associated with donations gives little more than the names of the donors, and sometimes the original collectors of the objects (usually parents or spouses). Some donors were prominent in county, or national life, but many remain rather obscure.

I would be interested to hear if any ASTENE members have further information on any of those I mention here – or if they themselves are interested in the individuals. One satisfying outcome has been finding a piece that was originally in the collection of Rev. G. A. Browne, who was the subject of a paper by Penny Wilson at the 1999 ASTENE Conference in Cambridge.

The first phase of the RAMM was completed in 1868, but it was not the first repository of antiques in Exeter. The Devon and Exeter Institution was founded in 1813, and its collections (formed before 1830) were transferred to the RAMM between 1868 and 1871. These included one of the most significant of the Exeter Egyptian pieces: a granodiorite head of a late 18th Dynasty pharaoh, which was originally part of a larger group. Unfortunately there is, as yet, no information on when, where or by whom it was acquired, although an early 19th century date is certain. Another early acquisition, originally in the collections of the Institution, was a mummy and coffin acquired by the Revd [Robert] Fitzherbert Fuller 'from Thebes' in 1819. The inner coffin was given by the RAMM to the University of Wales at Swansea and is now displayed in the Egypt Centre there.

Donors in the early days of the museum included: F.W.L. Ross of Topsham (d. 1860); F. Harger, whose collection was donated between 1868 and 1873, although a note associated with one object indicates that it was acquired in 1829; and the heirs of Admiral the Lord Clarence Paget, and the Revd. Mackworth Trefusis. Lieut. Teschemaker's collection was given around 1870, but the objects were acquired in 1849. Winslow Jones (1825-95) was an Exeter attorney and one of the founders of the RAMM, and donated a substantial number of antiquities to the museum in 1874.

Robert Morkot

This article will continue in the next Bulletin, but in the meantime if any reader has information which might be useful to Robert Morkot's researches please communicate to him at the Department of Lifelong Learning, St Luke's Campus, Heavitree Rd, Exeter EX1 2LU.

TRAVEL JOURNAL, 1819

At Dendera we spent a little time in purchasing antiquities, by the sale of which the people of the country, heretofore miserably poor, have been enabled to purchase flocks, and have become comparatively rich... Mummies excellently preserved were to be had at about 15 shillings and sixpence each. Revd. Robert Master, f. 263

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The collections of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) fall into five groups. First, there are the books: over 150,000 titles and 800 journals. Then there are the maps: roughly a million sheets, together with 3000 atlases and over 1000 gazetteers. Third, is the picture library, with over 500,000 images from all over the world, many of them historic. Fourth, we have the manuscript archive, including not only the papers of the RGS itself but also the manuscript diaries, letters and journals of travellers, particularly those of the 19th and 20th centuries. Finally, there are the artefacts associated with some explorers and travellers. All this material is now accessible again, after a few years of closure, at the conclusion of a Lottery funded project entitled 'Unlocking the Archives', costing £7.1 million.

Physical access is through a glass pavilion towards the Hyde Park end of Exhibition Road, London, though the catalogues are available on line at www.rgs.org. Readers are required to sign in at the desk. Behind it is a small exhibition space, currently devoted to displaying the nature and development of Geography. However, the real centre of activity is the Foyle Reading Room. This is built into about half the garden of the RGS's house, and is reached down a spiral staircase or a lift. Here the overhead lighting is subdued and the air conditioning moderate.

The Reading Room has two arms leading from the help desk where the friendly and helpful staff are based. Each arm contains a table big enough to lay out large maps and files of documents. There is seating for 30 people, with additional places beneath the windows looking out on the replanned garden. The arm on the right of the help desk, looking outwards, contains a basic reference collection on cartography, together with sets of travel guides and gazetteers. In the arm to the left of the help desk are the new books acquired by the Society, reference books on travel (including atlases showing how Europeans and Americans explored the world) and sets of the *Journal of the RGS* (1831-), *Proceedings of the RGS* (1856-), Lists of Fellows from 1876, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, (1935-) and *Area*

(1969-). Workstations are lined up beneath the windows opposite the help desk. These allow you to search the collections. Despite the electronics, though, orders are placed with paper forms and the staff fetch the items requested.

The Foyle Reading Room is open 10.00 – 17.00 Monday to Friday except on public holidays. Anyone can use it, but a new reader must have proof of identity (driving licence, passport, student card, utility bill) or a membership card (if a Fellow of the Society), and be willing to have their photograph taken. Entry is free to educational users and RGS members, but members of the public must pay a fee of £10.00 per day. There is also a charging policy where readers require one-to-one help, research and lengthy enquiries. Photocopying is possible, depending on the physical condition of the item concerned, and charged at a standard rate, but cameras and other forms of copying equipment are not allowed. Enquiries and reservation of material may be made by telephone at +44 (0) 207591 3040.

Malcolm Wagstaff

DOCUMENTS ON LINE

Since the creation of the National Archives in April 2003, a new website has been set up, which should by now be available:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Already available is DocumentsOnline which allows you online access to the National Archives' collection of digitised public records, including both academic and genealogical sources. For example, more than one million digitised wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) before 11th January 1858, can be searched. If you want a copy of one, you identify it by the name of the testator and (approximate) date of probate, pay £3.50 with your credit card and give an email address. Within minutes, the will can be printed out. It beats a long trek to the Family Record Centre in Islington, with no certainty that the will you want will be there... Website:

DocumentsOnline@nationalarchives.gov.uk
email: documentsOnline@pro.gov.uk Peta Ree

Further information on uses of the National Archive website: you can sign up for your Reader's ticket; order up any of their 9 million records before you visit; see the latest news and document releases; buy your own digital copies of documents; buy books from their shop; subscribe to their newsletter.

***Is there any similar service in other countries?
Please let us add it to the record of Research Resources***

ONLINE BRITISH LIBRARY CATALOGUE

In June the British Library launched its new Integrated Catalogue, replacing the previous Reading Room OPAC and ordering system. It will replace the PL Public Catalogue on the web during

the year. Staff in the reading rooms will assist readers in the use of the new catalogue.

TRACINGS AND OBJECTS UNVEILED

On 30 July two archive projects were unveiled at the Griffith Institute, Sackler Library, St John St., Oxford.

One project was work on some 850 tracings made by Norman and Nina de Garis Davies in various Theban tombs that have been cleaned, restored and re-housed. Many of these tombs have deteriorated and the tracings represent an extremely valuable source of information.

The second project was the database of all 5398 objects found by Howard Carter in the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. It can be consulted on <http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/gri/4tut.html>. These records are now generally available for the first time. This project was under the direction of our Vice President Jaromir Malek with editing by ASTENE member Dr Diana Magee.

EUROPEAN ARTISTS

There are a number of European artists who worked in the Near East but are little known – as yet – in Britain. If any member is working on such artists, it would be interesting to hear of their work at the next conference. Here are some of these travellers:

Austrian artists

Ludwig Deutsch (1855-1935) Egypt
Ludwig Fischer (1848-1915) in Egypt several times in 1875-7

Hans Makart (1840-84) accompanied a 'train princier' to Egypt 1875-6

Leopold Muller (1834-92) was in Egypt including Upper Egypt in 1873 and 1886

Alois Stoff (1846-?) painted Edwardian tourists at the Pyramids

Belgian artists

Jacob Jacobs (1812-79) to Constantinople in 1838, and then Greece, Asia Minor, and Egypt
Jean-Francois Portaels (1818-95) visited Egypt, probably before 1849

Franz Vinck (1827-1903) Egypt

French artist

Charles-Theodore Frere (1814-88) in 1851, visited Malta, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Nubia. Returned several times. Set up studio in Cairo. Painted inauguration of the Suez Canal in 1869.

EGYPTIAN MIRAGE - LEVANTINE MIRAGE

The Griffith Institute in Oxford has one of the largest collections of 19th century 'studio photographs' of Egypt and the Levant. From these they have created two data bases of 19th century photography. These studio photographs were taken

by professional photographers who had studios in the major tourist centres such as Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Luxor and Aswan between 1860 and 1890. The Egyptian photographs show ancient Egyptian, Christian and Islamic monuments, as well as scenes of contemporary 19th century life. The Levantine photographs show similar scenes.

The purpose of these databases is twofold: To make a large and important collection of photographs available to scholars and other interested persons; to provide an easy-to-consult corpus of 19th century photographs which will help in the study and preservation of other photographs of this type elsewhere.

The two websites are:

Egypt:

<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/gri/4mirage.html>

Levant:

<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/gri/4mirlev.html>

The Griffith Institute would be very grateful for any corrections or additional information. Please e-mail to: griffox@herald.ox.ac.uk

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST, FROM THE SARS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

This is the title of a public lecture at the British Museum to be given by Dr David N. Edwards at 18.00 on 21 October in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre at the British Museum. Tickets are £15; £10 for SARS members, £12.50 for BM Friends, and can be booked from The Sudan Archaeological Research Society (SARS), British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. Please send cheque to SARS and stamped addressed envelope.

CONWAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION, COURTAULD, LONDON

The Collection at Somerset House, Strand holds 19th century photographs of Egypt and the Near East by well- and lesser-known photographers. Viewing is by appointment only. Many of the photos are on the Courtauld website: www.artandarchitecture.org.uk/images.

AN IMPORTANT NEW ARCHIVE PARTNERSHIP: RIBA AT THE V & A

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), founded in 1834, is the oldest professional body for architects in the world. For 170 years, its Library has been collecting books, drawings, manuscripts, photographs, etc, related to its purpose of the promotion of architecture. The Drawings and Manuscripts collections of the RIBA Architectural Library now amount to about a million and a quarter items.

The whole collection is in the process of moving to the Victoria and Albert Museum, in South Kensington, London, to a 300 sq. metre permanent Architecture Gallery, with another 50 sq. metres of temporary exhibition space. RIBA study rooms,

offices and storage areas will be arranged in and around the V & A's Prints, Drawings and Paintings Collections (to which ASTENE members recently had a visit, introduced by Curator, Charles Newton). It is hoped to open the RIBA Archive to the public in November, but it may turn out to be somewhat later. When it happens, the RIBA's former opening hours will be doubled. There is to be a joint RIBA/V & A Education Officer, "who is developing programmes for a wide spread of groups, from primary school children to Third Agers" – (and ASTENE persons in between?) Nineteenth century architects are particularly well represented and many of them travelled to the Near East. These are a few of them:

Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860) in the Near East 1819-20; Henry Parke (1792-1835) travelled up Nile in 1824 with Joseph John Scoles (1798-1863). They were also together in the Levant.

John Dibblee Crace (1838-1919) in the Near East 1868-9; Owen Jones (1809-1874) in Egypt 1833 and also in Turkey

Peta Ree

GRAVESTONES AND MEMORIALS

Occasionally one comes upon the record of a traveller in a churchyard or in a church memorial. Such records can seem very personal, like this one we came across unexpectedly in the church at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland:

MARGARET
BELOVED WIFE OF MITCHELL HENRY
OF KYLEMORE CASTLE
DIED AT CAIRO DEC. 4, 1874
AGED 45
MITCHELL HENRY
DIED NOV. 22, 1910
AGED 85

Some British travellers' graves and memorials.

Lord Byron (1788-1824): St Mary Magdalen, Hucknall Torkard, Nottinghamshire; Sir Stratford Canning (1786-1880): St Alban Frant, East Sussex; Dame Agatha Christie (1890-1976): St Mary's Cholsey, Berkshire; Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881): St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden, Buckinghamshire; Lord Elgin, 7th Earl (1766-1841): St Mary, Maulden, Bedfordshire; T.E. Lawrence (1888-1935): St Nicholas, Moreton, Dorset; Edward Lear (1812-1888): San Remo Cemetery, Italy; Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860): nave of Westminster Abbey; Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV (1768-1821) Brunswick, Germany; Sir Richard Burton (1821-1890): St Mary Magdalen's, Mortlake, London; Sir Hudson Lowe (1769-1844): St Mark's, North Audley St., London; Florence Nightingale (1820-1910): St Margaret's, East Wellow, Hampshire; Charles Piazza Smyth (1819-1900): Sharrow, Ripon, N. Yorkshire; W.M. Thackeray (1811-1863) and Anthony Trollope (1815-1882): Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Does anyone want to add to this list in future Bulletins?

BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

"O that my adversary had written a book," is an exclamation which betrays no slight knowledge of Reviewers. (Sir Frederick Henniker's Preface to his own book, Notes during a Visit to Egypt, Nubia, the Oasis, Mount Sinai and Jerusalem, 1821.)

The Bulletin Review Editors are Edwin Aiken, School of Geography, Queen's University, Belfast and Dr Kathryn Ferry (art and architecture), 20 Castle Street, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8EZ.

ASTENE'S OWN TITLES

A small number of the three books which ASTENE self-published are still available through Oxbow Books, Park End. Oxford OX1. For other details and North America, see Bulletin 20.

Travellers in the Levant: Voyagers and Visionaries edited by Sarah Searight and Malcolm Wagstaff, ISBN 0 9539700 1 9 Included are papers on William Martin Leake and associates, William Gell, Lady Hester Stanhope, Marianne North, Edward Lear, J.F. Lewis, Muslim Travellers, Italian Travellers, Pilgrimage to Tourism.

Desert Travellers from Herodotus to T.E. Lawrence edited by Janet Starkey and Okasha El Daly, ISBN 0 953900 00 Papers in this volume include: Medieval Arabic and European travel writing, James Bruce, G.B. Brocchi, Linant de Bellefonds, Ameen Rihani, the Gordon Relief Expedition, and, of course Herodotus and T.E. Lawrence.

Egypt through the Eyes of Travellers edited by Paul Starkey and Nadia El Kholy, ISBN 0 9539700 2 7 includes papers focusing largely but not exclusively on 19th century travellers and their attitudes to the country.

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

In September to a great fanfare across the British Isles and beyond a vast publishing venture and updated national institution was launched: the New Dictionary of National Biography funded by the British Academy and Oxford University Press. The New DNB boasts 50,000 biographies, 10,000 contributors – not a few of them ASTENE members – 10,000 portrait illustrations. The 60 volumes of the print edition is among the largest works ever printed in English. Oxford DNB online offers advanced search options with extensive online help, plus 24 hour support – and regular updates. It is available by annual subscription from September. The preliminary web page featured Lawrence, Thomas Edward...

For more information go to www.oxforddnb.com or to Oxford DNB Enquiries, Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK.

Off the Beaten Track: Three Centuries of Women Travellers

by Dea Birkett, hardback, 144 pp., illustrated, National Portrait Gallery, London £18.99, ISBN 1 85514 526, "This book ... celebrates people so determined to explore other places and countries that they overcame enormous barriers – whether physical or social – to pursue the excitement of discovery," writes Sandy Nairne, Director of the NPG, in the introduction of this book, linked to the NPG exhibition.



Many of these determined women were travellers in our region. In this well-presented and illustrated book Dea Birkett has included quotes which clearly underline the task they faced, and pictures or accounts which show their vulnerability. Lady Hester Stanhope in 1813, for instance, advised Mary Rich on her way to Baghdad how to travel in the desert and most particularly how to deal with the 'loo' problem. Princess Caroline of Brunswick (1768-1821) departed from a miserable marriage to the Prince Regent to travel around the eastern Mediterranean, leaving a trail of irritated consuls, bad debts and gossip in her wake.

Using the travellers' portraits, paintings and artefacts, Dea Birkett and the Gallery have created a knowledgeable and most attractive book to read and wander through. The photographs include a touching one of Isabella Bird as a little old lady – yet, when she died in 1904, her bags were packed for a journey to Morocco. *Deborah Manley*

A Victorian Traveler in the Middle East: The Photography and Travel Writing of Annie Lady Brassey by Nancy Micklewright, Ashgate, 256 pp., b&w photographs, hardback £50. 2003, ISBN 0754632024

Married to a wealthy industrialist, Annie Lady Brassey (1839-1887) was highly esteemed among her contemporaries for the popular books in which she documented her extensive travels. Of themselves, these five publications provide plenty of interest for the historian of travel, but it is the survival of 70 volumes of photographs collected from around the world by Lady Brassey, and now housed in the Huntingdon Library, San Marino, California, that really make her an outstanding case study.

As the subject of her recent book, Nancy Micklewright has chosen to focus on the eight Brassey albums dedicated to Middle Eastern subjects, seven of Egypt and one of Turkey, some 637 photographs in all. The content of these volumes is examined following on from an overview of Lady Brassey's life and projects and succeeded by a comparative study of other photograph albums relating to the region from a similar date. This structure works well and, as the subject demands, is supplemented by a good number of illustrations.

Lady Brassey first visited Egypt in 1869, spending further time in the country during 1877 and 1883, visiting Turkey in 1874 and 1878. As Micklewright points out, this was a particularly interesting period in the history of photography when the choice of images for the compilation of souvenir albums was largely dictated by the availability of commercial views rather than a traveller's personal interpretation of a given place. A broader range of subject matter appeared after commercial photographers began to move to the Middle East in order to sell their products on the spot, but it was still not until 1888, with the advent of the first Kodak box camera, that travellers were able to take their own photographs with any great facility. Micklewright therefore looks at the Brassey albums as evidence of personal choice as well as wider currents of consumer demand determining the subjects offered for sale.

Significantly, in none of the albums discussed by this book do the stereotyped images predominate. Portraits of locals are less common than 20th century studies would lead us to expect and the photographs of women purchased by travellers like Lady Brassey do not generally promote the exotic, erotic fantasy. Nor do the views of cities and their buildings support the Orientalist paradigm of stasis: modern architecture and landscaping feature alongside photographs of ancient and Islamic Egypt. In the Turkish album Lady Brassey included a series of eleven photographs of the newly built Ciragan Palace on the Bosphorus, most

of which have never been published but provide valuable documentation of the building in its original state.

There is much in this book to interest ASTENE members, both in terms of shedding light on an important but lesser known traveller and also, by reference to the visual record, in illuminating some of the complexities inherent in the way travellers sought to remember and transmit their experiences of Egypt and the Near East.

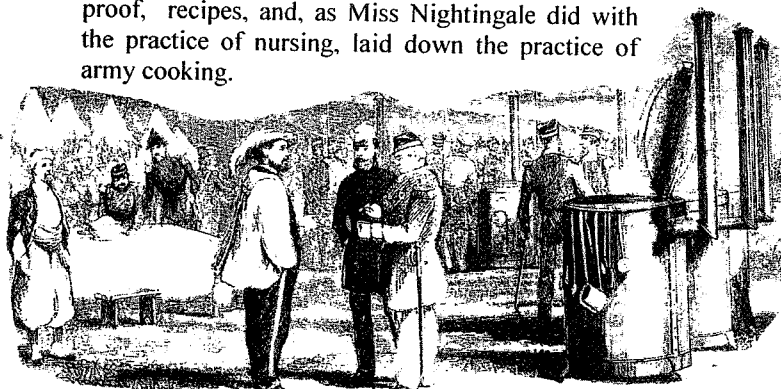
Kathryn Ferry

[By happy coincidence this review was delivered in the same mail as the piece about the Griffith Institute photographic data bases of Egypt and the Levant presented in Research Resources. Ed.]

The People's Chef: Alexis Soyer, a life in seven courses by Ruth Brandon, 320 pp., illustrated, ISBN 0-470-86991-7, £16.99

The renowned French chef of the Reform Club (where in 1846 he had cooked for Ibrahim Pasha) seems a most unlikely subject for an ASTENE review, but in 1855 Alexis Soyer volunteered his services to the British army hospitals at Scutari, and – with his proven experience in designing relief mass feeding during the Irish famine – was accepted. In Ruth Brandon's most readable account, the longest chapter or 'course', entitled 'Entremets: Turkish Delights', is devoted to this period of his life.

At Scutari Soyer turned his skills to feeding soldiers and invalids. He invented a stove so practical that a variant of it was still in use during the Gulf War. Like Florence Nightingale, whose high standards he had to satisfy, he had an eye for essentials and endless capacity for work. His main stumbling block was the complete inability of the British soldier to appreciate how good, cheap food could be created. He devised detailed, indeed fool-proof, recipes, and, as Miss Nightingale did with the practice of nursing, laid down the practice of army cooking.



With French flourish, he held a party for the official opening of the hospital kitchen at Scutari, and then, with Florence Nightingale, set off on 2 May, 1855 for the Crimea. There, despite the weather, the war and the bureaucratic army hierarchy, they organised nurses and set the kitchens in order. And Soyer became such a great success that, the war over, he was invited to the British Embassy ball at Pera.

Exhausted by his Eastern travels, Soyer lived only a short time after returning to London. He died on 5 August, 1858, aged only 48.

Ruth Brandon's is a lovely book and a wonderful introduction to Soyer's own *Culinary Campaign*, (1857, re-issued Lewes, 1996) on which she draws extensively – making one want to go on to enjoy the whole of the original. *Deborah Manley*

Zieht hin und erforscht das Land: Die deutsche Palästinaforschung im 19

Jahrhundert by Haim Goren, translated from the Hebrew by Clara Naujoks, 432 pp. including bibliography and Index, Goettingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2003, E44.00, ISBN 3-89244-673-3

Haim Goren's study, commissioned by the Institute of German History at the University of Tel Aviv, is an historical survey tracing the pioneering German exploration of Palestine in the 19th century.

Beginning with Ulrich Seetzen, contemporary and colleague of Humboldt, and the 'Arabiser' Johann Burckhardt, Goren offers many fascinating accounts of the earliest explorations and many interesting insights into the considerable physical and intellectual dangers and difficulties faced in the attempt to penetrate the prevailing Islamic culture. Noteworthy is the remarkable range of developing disciplines brought to bear: archaeology, linguistics, physical and historical geography, cartography, botany, biology and microbiology, and geology, as well as the increasing volume of theological and biblical insights.

Goren outlines at length the eras succeeding the pioneering period of lay travellers and pilgrims and highlights the crucial role of the universities in the development of professional disciplines, and the vital contribution of systematic publication, initially at Goettingen, then most significantly at Berlin (1835-75). He then traces the consular interest, developed by the Prussian and newly-formed German governments, which provided vital funding, as increasing interest in the region, and in particular in mineralogy and geology, raised the ever-contemporary issue of the relationship between political interest and scientific inquiry.

Among the interesting insights offered by Goren are the influence of the German Romantic movement, and its fascination with the Oriental and Hellenic worlds; the contribution of the Knights Templar who built up valuable information on plant life in the search to understand and control the malaria which had decimated their numbers; and the not inconsiderable influence of the religious orders and their successful efforts to found and fund research institutes in Palestine.

Goren's work is an interesting survey of the history of German exploration of Palestine, if at times too generous in detail. More frequent comparison with contemporary British, American or French research would have been beneficial.

While Goren concludes by regarding the overall contribution of this Palestinian research as of limited value in the light of modern technological advances, he does recognise the complex, many-faceted achievements of this period, for example, the development of cartography, and the invaluable provision of climatic data and cataloguing of flora and fauna as a major contribution to historical studies. This fascinating book has much that will prove of interest to the German reader and the German-reading student, as will the extensive bibliography. *Noel M. Williamson*

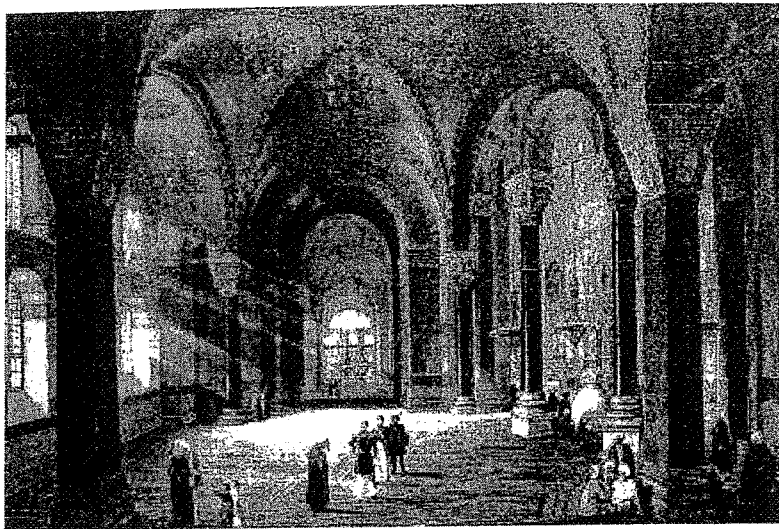


Illustration by J.W. Whymper from Tent Life in Palestine: A Record of Discovery and Adventure by C.R. Conder. 1878

Byzantium Rediscovered by J.B. Bullen, Phaidon Press, 240 pp., c. 220 colour, 30 b&w ills., hardback £45, 2003, ISBN 0714839574

The 19th century interest in Islamic or, in broader terms, Oriental art and architecture has been identified and well documented. There can be little doubt of the impetus this current received from travellers' accounts and the journeys of discovery undertaken by the artists themselves. Reactions to the monuments of Byzantium, however, have received far less critical attention and in this beautifully illustrated book, J.B. Bullen gives a fascinating survey of this parallel trend.

The book's scope is ambitious, covering the 19th and early 20th centuries in Germany, France, Britain and America. In European terms Byzantium offered exoticism without being too remote from western tradition, a sort of middle ground between the Gothic and Oriental whose meanings were subject to personal and local interpretation. In this context it is interesting to see the inclusion of men better known for transmitting their knowledge of Islamic styles. Architect Pascal Coste, for example, who had spent nearly a decade in the service of Muhammed Ali, was consulted by Leon Vaudoyer about the designs for a new cathedral in the French port of Marseilles, a city that self-consciously styled itself as the gateway to the Orient. Sainte-Marie-Majeure (1852-93) with its rounded arches, domes and bands of horizontal colour represents an amalgamation of ideas taken from measured drawings of Greek Byzantine churches, French Romanesque examples and drawings of Hagia



Gaspare Fossati, plate from Aya Sofia as Recently Restored, 1852, showing the north aisle. Bullen, p32

Sophia sent by the French ambassador in Istanbul, shaped according to local needs and myths.

As Bullen makes clear, not all exponents of the adapted Byzantine style travelled as far as Constantinople for inspiration; the lure of Sicily, Ravenna and especially Venice as eulogized by John Ruskin, was extremely strong. Nevertheless, the significance of the Justinian basilica of Hagia Sophia, illustrated in 1852 by Gaspare Fossati following its restoration, remained crucial in senses both real and mythic. Visiting Constantinople in 1906, Virginia Woolf had been struck on her first morning by 'St Sophia, like a treble globe of bubbles frozen solid, floating out to meet us... For it is fashioned,' she continued in her diary, 'in the shape of some fine substance thin as glass, blown in plump curves, save that it also as substantial as a pyramid. Perhaps that may be its beauty...' (p. 182)

Byzantium Rediscovered adds a compelling new dimension to the artistic outcomes of 19th century travel to the Near east. Bullen convincingly links well-known artists such as Klimt with the Arts and Crafts Movement, William Morris and W.R. Lethaby and the Art Nouveau of Louis Comfort Tiffany, also discussing less prominent buildings such as the parish church of Hagia Sophia in Lower Kingswood, Surrey, which features nine original Byzantine columns brought back from Turkey. This broad overview leaves the reader wanting to know more about specific examples, but the identification of these links between artists, travellers and ideas of Byzantium may provide fruitful grounds for further investigation by ASTENE members.

Kathryn Ferry

Travellers in the Near East, edited by Charles Foster, 305 pp., B/W illustrations, Stacey International, London, ISBN 1-900988-71-2, £18.50

This book may be viewed as the long-awaited selection of Proceedings of ASTENE's 2001

conference, for which we have bided. And our patience has been rewarded. *Travellers in the Near East* has exceeded expectations and will quickly become a fundamental resource for anyone interested in Near Eastern travel.

I was speedily seduced by the sheer scope of the chapters and the surprising diversity of content: some authors demonstrating an enviable flair with the use of archival resources, and others making manifest a pellucid and incisive scholarly precision.

Photography, cartography, Egyptology, archaeology, theology, espionage, architecture and simple, pure curiosity are the travel motives explored in the twelve self-contained chapters. While each chapter is based on a conference paper, and so some, overall, discontinuity may be expected, this is carefully minimised by Charles Foster's careful editorial selection and the overarching sense of focus that is one of ASTENE's strengths.

All the chapters contain a full set of references and comprehensive bibliographies and the work as a whole is generously illustrated and handsomely produced. This is a book of enduring quality and great appeal to the researcher; I got so caught up that I began to take notes, forgetting that I was supposed to be writing a review. The book is a real page-turner, and mine is already well-thumbed; one hopes a handsome tribute to the scholarship within.

A fine work has been produced of which ASTENE can be justifiably proud. I only have to ask why it has been limited to twelve papers? And how long do we have to wait for the next one?

Edwin Aiken

The Cyprus Mail of 10 September devoted a whole page to ASTENE's previous three titles on desert travellers, the Levant and Egypt, alongside Rita Severis and Lucie Bonato's Along the Most Beautiful Path in the World: Edmund Duthoit and Cyprus (Bank of Cyprus Group, £Cy 31.50) and Archaeology Lives in Cyprus, edited by Anne Glynnis Fawkes (Hellenic Bank, £Cy £26.25)

Lancashire: Manchester and the South-East, Yale University Press, ISBN 0 300 10583 5, 800 pp., 120 colour illus., maps and plans, £29.95, November, 2004

For those who want to get the full benefit of one of Britain's great cities next July, this comprehensive guide, based on the original Pevsner Architectural Guide, is most welcome. It details the buildings of this area, with full accounts of Manchester's proud municipal, industrial and transport heritage and innovative new architecture. It also stretches out into the surrounding cities, towns and hills and up the steep Pennine valleys.

PAST REVIEWS

Travels in Egypt and Nubia, Syria and Asia Minor, during the Years 1817 and 1818 by the Hon, Charles Irby and James Mangles 560 pp., – Printed for Private Distribution.

The Literary Gazette in 1824 (p. 690) commented: The above four words of black-letter demonstration in the title-page of this volume, would prohibit criticism, had criticism aught else to do on the occasion than to bestow the highest praise. But the work of these two gallant Officers is alike honourable to their spirit and talents. Imbued with a laudable thirst for knowledge, and inspired with a love of science, when their own noble profession no longer claimed their exertions, they ventured forth in search of information in lands where it is most difficult of attainment. They found, as every one will find who engages in literary and scientific pursuits, increase of appetite grow with what it fed on; and during four and a half years they devoted themselves to travel and inquiry, principally in the interesting regions to an account of which these pages are addressed.

A MUSICAL NOTE: An addition to review of *The Rise of International Travel*, Bulletin 20. Readers of Professor Maclean's book might like to indulge themselves further by listening to two new records, - both come with interesting cover notes.

Dream of the Orient by the combined forces of Concerto Koln and the Turco-German ensemble Sarband (Archiv 474 992-2) is a mixture of traditional Turkish music and European pieces of the 18th century. Mozart's Overture to *Die Entfuhrung aus dem Serail* – with full Turkish percussion, is probably the most familiar, and reflects the fascination with – and fear of – the Ottoman empire. Most of the other European works, by Gluck, Kraus, and Sussmayr, belong to a similar 'exotic' and pastiche oriental genre. The 'Concerto Turco' published in Venice in 1787 is a rather enchanting piece of Orientalism based upon real Turkish sources. Most of the traditional Turkish music here was notated by Dmitrie Cantemir (1673-1723), a Moldavian Prince who spent several decades in Constantinople.

Invitation to the Seraglio by the London Academy of Ottoman Court Music (Warner Classics 2564 61472-2) is rather different: a group of 19th century pieces, mostly by European composers working for the Porte, and reflecting the lament quoted in the notes that "the ancient Turkish music is in its death throes ... Sultan Mahmud loves Italian music..." There are several pieces by Turkish composers: the *Invitation to the Waltz* by Sultan Abdulaziz (c. 1861) and others by Ida, wife of Omer Pasha. Ida was a Hungarian pianist who had studied with Carl Czerny, and went to

Istanbul/Constantinople to teach. ... Plenty more people for ASTENE members to research here!

Robert Morkot



Portrait of a European man. Levni, c. 1720.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Who was Who – and Where?

Who was Who in Egyptology, first edited by Warren R. Dawson, has become the standard biographical dictionary for the lives of Egyptologists, travellers to Egypt, and collectors of Egyptian antiquities. It has gone through three editions, the last in 1995. Research however does not stand still. While new entries are being added to the database, old entries are continuously revised in the light of new publications. New entries do not just comprise recently deceased individuals but also biographies of early travellers whose importance has just been realised or have now come to light through manuscript discoveries.

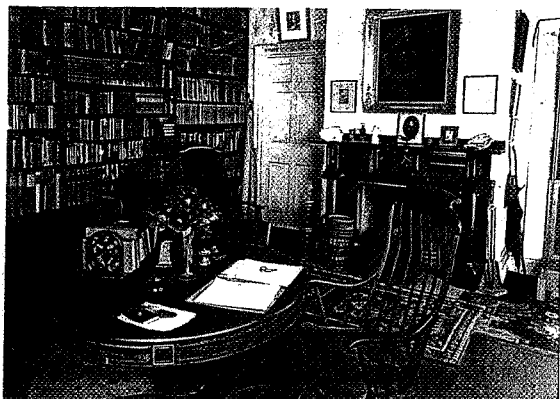
These can be sent to Dr Morris Bierbrier at the Egypt Exploration Society, 3 Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG. Stocks of the current edition are now running low, but a few copies remain available at £40 or £34 to members of the Egypt Exploration Society.

M.L. Bierbrier FSA, Editor, *Who was Who in Egyptology* and ASTENE Committee member

Thomas Sandwith, (1831-1900)

I am working on Thomas Sandwith, a consul in the Levant throughout his career: various posts in Syria (1857-64), Cyprus (1865-69), Tunis (1885-88), Odessa (1888-91). Travellers sometimes recorded visits to the local British diplomat. I have identified those with Sandwith: Tozer, M.A, Walker and Crowder. Does anybody know of published and unpublished travellers' journals/manuscripts etc which might refer to Sandwith over the years?

Stephen Boys-Smith (boyssmith@ntlworld.com)



Emerson in Egypt

A Canadian friend sent me this postcard of Ralph Waldo Emerson's study in Concord, Massachusetts with this message:

Just out of the camera shot on the left was an Egyptian artefact - a box painted with hieroglyphs and an explanation making Emerson one of your 'travellers'. As you may know, in 1872 his house in Concord suffered a fire, and while it was uninhabitable, he and his daughter, Ellen, took an extended tour abroad (his last) - to Europe and to Egypt including Alexandria and a Nile excursion. Ellen wrote to her sister that they were recipients of "much spoil" - stone carvings, wooden statues and bits of mummy cloth wrapping - gifts from various Consuls along the way. *What else is known of this tour?*

Deborah Manley

Robert de Rastafjael FRGS

Any information about the Egyptologist and collector Robert de Rastafjael (aka Robert Fawcus-Smith, Roman Oebeliani) would be greatly appreciated. Believed to have been based in the USA from the 1920s onwards, some of his collection was left to the Rosacruzian Museum in San Jose. A picture of the man himself would be particularly welcome. Further details can be found on the ASTENE website research pages.

Lorien Pilling (lorienp@aol.com)

Francis Barthow Update

Cassandra Vivian would welcome information on the American traveller in Egypt Francis Barthow.

She would particularly like any information filling gaps in her researches so far. Cassandra's e-mail is cass@telerama.com

For an update on information about the American Francis Barthow, I can now report the following:

Francis Barthow was the son of Peter Barthow and Mary Sprung Barthow of Bellevue (not Bellview or Bellesview), New York. The date of his arrival in Egypt is still unclear, but, as speculated at ASTENE last July, he may have been the Captain Barthoro reported by William Eaton in 1805. As is known, he was with Thomas Legh and Rev. Charles Smelt in 1812-13 on their journey up the Nile to Ibrim, the first known foreign travellers to visit the site in modern times. Barthow also guided William John Bankes in another Nile journey two years later in September of 1815.

The American consular records indicate that in 1819 he registered as an American citizen in Egypt through the Austrian embassy (consulate) as there was no American consul in the country at the time. Barthow bought a bakery from an Austrian citizen in Alexandria in 1820. While living in Alexandria, Barthow sold antiquities to Jean-Baptiste de Lescluze around 1828 and to Mendes Cohen in 1832.

Additional consular records indicate that Barthow married and had two sons: Joseph and Victor. In 1844 Victor Barthow appeared at the American consulate requesting an American passport for himself. Both his father, Francis, and his brother, Joseph, were dead. Attached to his petition were two passports, one for Francis acquired on 23 June, 1819 from the Governor of Makow (?) at the "request of the American Vice Consul of that city." The second passport belonged to Joseph and was prepared by the Vice Naval Agent of the United States residing in (I cannot decipher the name or the residence of this agent).

I speculated at the ASTENE conference in 2003 that a bakery incident recorded by the American consul in the late 1840s may be related to Barthow and, in fact, it is. Victor Barthow asked for help from the American consul because the Egyptian government took the Barthow bakery without proper compensation. This was an incident that lasted a number of years and culminated with the American Consul taking down the American flag to solve the problem. In the end, Victor Barthow was properly compensated.

In 1871 Victor Barthow became the American Consul. The saga continues... *Cassandra Vivian*

"The Hermit of Mount Lebanon"

The European Magazine of October 1822, p. 353, published this brief article. Do any readers know more about this Gazette?

Syria

A French monk, of Mount Lebanon, has conceived the design of writing a periodical paper, to contain

everything new in literature and politics, which can be interesting to that part of Syria. It is, perhaps, the first Gazette ever circulated in the interior of the Ottoman empire. It is rendered into French, and has been published for several years, in numbers of one page each month, and under the title "The Hermit of Lebanon".

The Antipodes to Baghdad

Margaret Edgcumbe's letter arrived from Auckland just as the Bulletin was going to press. She hopes one of our readers may be able to help her find out about a man who possibly travelled in our region during the period 1830-37.

Robert Tod was an early settler in South Australia and New Zealand, but it is difficult to find out his dates and place of birth because South Australian death certificates are not very informative.

In 1842 he bought land in Auckland and advertised it for sale as the village of Parnell, with streets called Groves, Calman, and Cronan (sic). As you will know, these are the names of the participants in a rather ill-judged attempt to proselytise in Bagdad 1830-6. The names may be just coincidence or mis-spelt, and only the name of Parnell survived as the name of the whole suburb, but we have recently discovered that Tod had conversations with Governor George Grey about travel in Egypt and Syria, and his only surviving letter reveals a fondness for horsehair caps. The Houghton Library in America has a letter from a Robert Tod to Eli Smith, and there is a short story by Roseanne Saad Khalaf which mentions a journey undertaken by Mrs Sarah Smith and a British official named Tod. (I am still waiting for copies of these items to reach New Zealand, and fear that I am on a wild goose chase anyway.)

Robert Tod might be connected to Alexander Tod of Tod, Rathbone & Co in Egypt, and when he went bankrupt in Australia he owed money to one of the Cowans in Edinburgh, but it is difficult to trace his family since we lack dates etc.

If you know of anyone who might suggest further avenues, I could follow in my search, I would be very grateful. I may add that the whole topic of missionary activity in the Middle East is proving of some dreadful fascination. My great-great-grandmother's sister married George Percy Badger and I have just been reading an incomplete letter from her describing their evacuation from Beirut in about 1850.

Please reply to the Bulletin and to Margaret Edgcumbe, 66 Alton Avenue, Northcote, Auckland, New Zealand. e-mail m.edgcumbe@actrix.gen.nz

REPLIES TO QUERIES

THE STATE VISIT TO THE DOME OF THE ROCK, JERUSALEM

Dr Jan Anckaer replied from Brussels about the state visit of the future King and Queen of Belgium to the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem in 1855, as recorded by James Finn, British Consul in Jerusalem. This led to a longer article which is given later in this Bulletin – and which we hope will lead to a paper next year in Manchester.

Until his coronation in 1865, Leopold carried the title of Duke of Brabant and between 1854 and 1861 he travelled extensively in the Near East and Egypt. Of his voyage to the Holy Land in 1855 not much has been recorded. Lieutenant F. Jolly, who was the liaison officer accompanying the future king, left some letters to his father, General A-E Jolly, in which he describes the voyage. These letters are apparently still in the Jolly family archives. Then there are various sources in the Royal Archives in Brussels, mainly letters from other members of the royal party present, and in the Archives of the Belgian Foreign Office. An overview of the trip is to be found in E.A. Jacobs, *Le Premier Voyage du future Leopold II en Orient (1854-1855)*. Academie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer, Commission d'Histoire, nr. 106, Brussels, 1965.

It is interesting also that before travelling to the Holy Land Leopold spent some time in Egypt with Linant de Bellefonds. Later on (1860) he travelled to Constantinople, but, more important, again to Egypt (1862-1863). His doctor, Stacquez, left us a thrilling narrative of this trip (*L'Egypte, la Basse Nubie et le Sinai: Relation d'apres des notes tenue pendant le voyage que son altesse royale monseigneur le Duc de Brabant fit dans ces contrees, en 1862 et 1863*, Liege, 1865.)

JOURNAL ENTRY, 1819: ARRANGEMENTS IN JERUSALEM

Many travellers told of their stay in the Convent of the Terra Sancta in Jerusalem, and recorded the names of former travellers carved on the door of the guest chamber over the centuries. Few, if any, describe the more detailed arrangements, so Reverend Robert Master's description is useful – it gives the sort of detail one might write in one's journal but not transcribe to a published account.

The pilgrims' chamber, or reception room of strangers, afforded an excellent refectory. An adjoining room was assigned to our servants and a separate kitchen and special cook, so we were enabled to take our meals at our own convenience, without interfering with the routine of the fratri. One (Father Pedro) was in constant attendance

upon us, anticipating and supplying our wants. A printed placard, in Latin, hung up in the pilgrims' chamber, limited the stay of guests to one month. (BL Add MSS. 51313 f. 236)

A TURKISH BATH AT DAWN, 1813

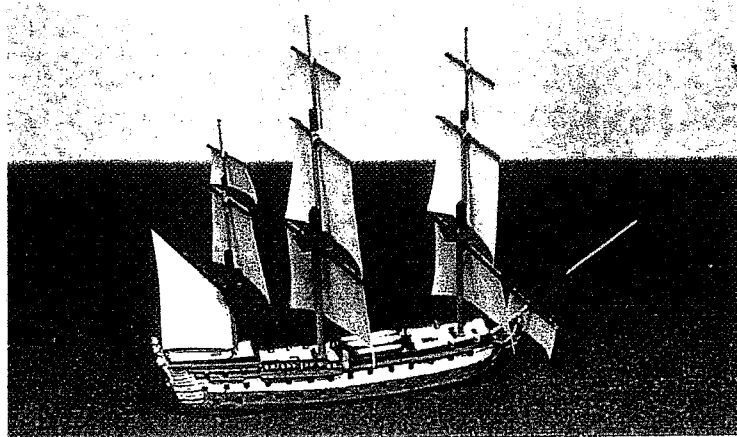
After a bad night in a caravanserai, dozing on a plank resting upon two stones to discomfort "the grey and sable swarms that expected to make me their prey", Brigadier Robert Wilson rose at four and went to the bath prepared for him.

When undressed I was taken into the sweating room, with an apron girded round me and a cloth twisted on my head in the fashion of a turban. After waiting a few minutes, the bather habited like myself, commenced his operations by pressing both hands upon my chest and stomach, and thence all over the body; this was twice repeated. He then threw some warm water over me which ran through a pipe into a font just by me, and, putting a cloth bag on his hand, rubbed me down with a very severe force from head to feet. This part of the process being complete, he deluged me with hot water; then, making a great bowl of lather, he dipped some Egyptian flax in it, and covered me so that I was more like an alabaster figure than a living man. An inundation of hot water followed, then more rubbing, and, finally, ablutions so rapid as quite to take my breath away. From this apartment I went to the outer room, where the turban which had been removed after the first ten minutes, was replaced, and I was rubbed dry. Clothes were then thrown over me, and I concluded with a pipe and a cup of coffee.

I think this purification was more complete than any I ever had in my life, and I felt light as a feather.

Wilson's was a very different experience to those recounted by other travellers – perhaps such experiences might be a subject for a paper. If you want to know more about Turkish baths in Britain, look at victorianturkishbath.org.

H.M.S. Defence



HMS DEFENCE AT THE BATTLE OF THE NILE, 1798

The famous Battle of the Nile was fought on 1-2 August 1798 when Nelson defeated the French fleet at anchor in Aboukir Bay off Alexandria.

On board *HMS Defence* under Captain John Peyton there was a Petty Officer William Sands, a relative of mine by marriage. *HMS Defence* was designed by Sir Thomas Slade and built in Devonport in 1763. It had a displacement of 1,630 tons and carried 74 guns with a complement of 530. *Defence* took part in many naval battles, including Trafalgar, but foundered off the Danish coast in 1811 when only five of the crew survived. The accompanying illustration seems to be a photograph of a model of the ship which, together with the above information, appears on the internet from where I have obtained further details about the issue of a commemorative medal and the drawing of one.

I have the gilt-bronze medal of the Battle of the Nile awarded to William Sands, but I have been unable to trace him and have no idea whether he landed in Egypt. However, during research at the National Archives, Kew, I found the ship's log (ref. ADM 51/1266). In this bound volume, written by Captain Peyton himself, there is a matter-of-fact account of the battle which may be of interest to members of *ASTENE* since it gives a first-hand commentary like a journalist on the spot but hardly mentioning the horrors of the occasion. It comes as some surprise to me that this battle was fought mainly during darkness, hostilities having started in the late afternoon. The French fleet was at anchor in Aboukir Bay lined up parallel to the coast. The French Commander-in-Chief, Francois Brueys d'Aigalliers who died during the battle, considered it impossible for the British fleet to sail between him and the coast. But that was precisely what Horatio Nelson on *HMS Vanguard* decided to risk in the shallow waters, thereby pounding the French from both sides.

Instead of quoting Captain Peyton verbatim without punctuation, with many abbreviations and curious spelling making reading rather difficult, I paraphrase some parts and quote others, as indicated, with modified punctuation and spelling.

The afternoon of 1 August was fine with a moderate breeze off Alexandria. HMS "Zealous made the signal for 16 sail of the line east and the Admiral [Nelson] made the signal to prepare for battle at 4" [pm]. "The body of the enemy squadron [lay] SE and E or 10 miles [away]. At 4:20 pm "the Admiral made the general signal to prepare for battle and to anchor. Admiral made the signal to engage the navy [?] and centre of the enemy."

At 6:20 pm "made sail for the enemy's fleet in the line of battle at anchor. The enemy opened their

fire upon us, the *Goliath* our leading ship began to engage the van of the enemy. At half past 6 Admiral made the signal to engage close, at 10 minutes before 7 the *Colloden* made the signal for being aground. At 7 came to an anchor with the sheet cable out of the gun room port. Engaged our opponent until 10 o'clock, when they ceased firing, being totally dismantled. At the same time our fane [pennant] top-mast went over the side. At 5 minutes past 10 veered away on the sheet cable in order to get alongside the next ship of 80 guns. At half past 10 the S. Admiral of 120 guns, the French Commander, in Chief's ship, took fire. At quarter past 11 the 80 gun ship hailed us to say she had struck; sent the 1st Lieut. on board & took possession of her – she proved to be the Sc. *Franklin* of 80 guns, Vice-Admiral Blanquet & 2nd in command.

“The rear ships continued firing until half past 2 am when the firing ceased. At 8 o'clock [in the morning] nine of the enemy ships of the line in our possession most of which were totally dismantled & 1 frigate sank near the *Orion* [perhaps *L'Orient*, the French flagship]. At 10 [am] the enemy on board a frigate in schocs[?] discharging her guns struck her colours, quitted and set fire to her.

“Answered the signal for all Lieuts employed clearing the wreck etc [presumably the wreckage on board]. Found the lower masts and bowsprits very much wounded; buried 4 men killed in action; received prisoners from the *Franklin*.

The enemy consisted of 1 first rate, 3 ships of 80 guns, 9 of 74 guns, 4 frigates & 4 mortar brigs.”

That ends Captain Peyton's log for the battle. His next entry covers 2-10 August: “Anchored off the island of Bequier SW 2 miles extremities of Rosetta [now Rashid] ESE 5 or 6 miles.” Unfortunately, he adds that “several sailors died”, presumably from their wounds during the battle. About 3000 French sailors died and as many were taken prisoner.

After this naval battle, as well as others such as Trafalgar, there was much booty to be dealt with by a Prize Agent. Nelson had a wealthy Scottish friend by the name of Alexander Davison, whom he had met in Quebec during 1782. Davison became Nelson's prize agent, obviously making a huge profit since he minted at his own expense of some £2000, the commemorative medal with his name inscribed along the edge “from Alexr. Davison Esqr., St James's Square, Tribute of regard”. A gilt bronze one was awarded to petty officers. The medal measures 1 7/8th in (47 mm) diameter, 1/8th (3mm) thick. Obverse is inscribed “Rear Admiral Lord Nelson of the Nile”, with embossed figure of Britannia holding an olive branch and an oval shield showing a bust of Nelson and inscribed “Europe's hope and Britain's glory”. Reverse has an embossed picture of the two fleets lined up for battle and in the sky above “Wm. Sands, HMS

DEFENCE” is engraved; around is the inscription “Almighty God has blessed His Majesty's arms” and “Victory of the Nile August 1, 1798.” The medal is protected by an openable glass case (like a waistcoat watch) which is enclosed in a padded crimson leather hinged case. *F. Nigel Hepper*



A TRAVELLER FROM EGYPT

On 25th May 1850 a traveller from Egypt arrived at London Zoo in Regent's Park. He was a young hippopotamus named Obaysch after the island in the White Nile where he was born. People knew about such creatures from Herodotus, but Obaysch was the first ever seen in Europe since the days of Imperial Rome. Nor did Herodotus' description give an accurate picture in George Rawlinson's 1858 translation:

It is a quadruped, cloven-footed, with hoofs like an ox, and a flat nose. It has the mane and tail of a horse, huge tusks which are very conspicuous, and a voice like a horse's neigh. Its size is equal to the biggest oxen, and its skin is so tough that when dried it is made into javelins.

The British Consul General, Sir Charles Murray, (1806-1895) in Egypt 1846-53 is reported to have made an exchange with Mehemet Ali's successor, Abbas Pasha: Obaysch and some other animals for a stud of greyhounds and deerhounds and their trainer. Obaysch's journey to England had begun early in 1849 up the Nile in a boat especially constructed for him and his wet-nurse cows, escorted by a company of infantry. Arrived at Cairo and the Consulate, his daily milk intake was 7-8 gallons. His keeper, Hamet, slept close beside him each night.

Murray warmed to the stout young creature – already about seven foot long and as much in girth:

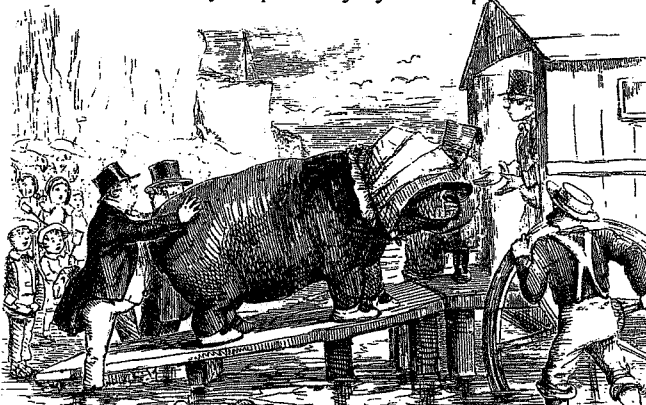
“The hippopotamus is quite well,” he reported, “and the delight of everyone who sees him. He is as tame and playful as a Newfoundland puppy; knows his keepers, and follows them all over the courtyard; in short, if he continues gentle and intelligent as he promises to be, he will be the most attractive object ever seen in our Garden, and may be taught all the tricks usually performed by the elephant.”

It was early 1850 before Obaysch, Hamet and two further attendants (who doubled as snake charmers) sailed on the P & O steamer *Ripon* to Southampton,

with a special pool for the star passenger. Reaching his new home, Obaysch (described as “the great overgrown dropsical baby” and “the uncouth and powerful amphibious monster”) followed Hamet and a trail of dates to his cage with its specially heated pool. The *Times* of 6 June 1850 carried a long account of his first experiences in the Zoo, and soon 10,000 people a day came to see him. – though not all to admire. The journals took up the tale. *Punch* published stories and cartoons; *Household Words* carried articles. There was a ‘hippo craze’ in London, with silver models of Obaysch and a Hippopotamus Polka.

According to P.L. Sclater, secretary of the Zoological Society, when Murray returned to England, he frequently visited Obaysch, “shouting to him in Arabic, when the enormous creature would come towards him, grunting loudly in recognition of one of his earliest friends.” Murray wrote himself in March 1857 about his own celebrity when he brought Obaysch to England and was widely known as ‘Hippopotamus Murray’.

By the mid-19th century, the wild hippopotamus was a seriously threatened species: vulnerable to guns, desired for its flesh and valued for its hide and tusks, and regarded, rightly, as a great danger to boatmen and others. Even Obaysch, in the Zoo, showed signs of this fierce character and was treated very respectfully by his keepers.



In 1854 Abbas Pasha sent another young hippo (Adhela or ‘Dil’) to the Zoo – a bride for Obaysch, but it was 17 years before the pair produced their first progeny – a calf who lived only two days. Another baby, born the following January, also died. However, a third robust calf, born as normal for a hippo in the pool, in November 1872 survived – at birth over a yard long and weighing about a hundred pounds. After an awkward introduction, when the parents fought dramatically in front of their offspring, ‘Guy Fawkes’ (who was in fact a female), ‘Dil’ and Obaysch lived happily together at the Zoo until Obaysch’s death in 1878.

Deborah Manley

References:

A.D. Bartlett, *Wild Animals in Captivity*, London, 1899
 Wilfred Blunt, *The Zoo in the Park in the 19th century*, London, 1976

Sir Herbert Maxwell, *The Honourable Sir Charles Murray KCB: A Memoir*, London, 1898

ADDENDA

In October 1818 Charles Barry and his companions were told of a remarkably large hippopotamus being shot by the Arabs near the second Cataract. It was at that time going by ship to Rosetta “as a gift to the Emperor of Austria from the Pasha”. Did it ever arrive? (Information from Charles Barry’s Travel Journal.)

THE FUTURE KING LEOPOLD II OF BELGIUM AND HIS TRAVELS IN THE NEAR EAST

Responding to a query in *ASTENE Bulletin* 20 (Summer 2004) on the state visit of Leopold to Jerusalem, I came upon sources permitting me to sketch briefly his travelling days in the Orient before he became King of Belgium in 1865.

Between 1854 and 1865 Leopold, then Duke of Brabant and heir to his father Leopold I, travelled extensively in the Mediterranean, Egypt and Palestine. on 14 November 1854 the Duke and Duchess Marie-Henrietta, a member of the Austrian imperial family, only 19 and 18 years old, leave Brussels. After spending some time with the in-laws in Vienna, they embark from Trieste for Alexandria on 27 January, 1855. Arriving there on 2 February, they are welcomed by the Viceroy Said Pasha and the Consuls of Belgium and Austria. The following days they visit several monuments, public buildings, hospitals and Christian schools before quitting Alexandria for Cairo.

In Cairo they are received in the Palace of Kas-el-Nil and for some days they visit the numerous monuments. On 10 February they embark on a steamer, this time for Upper Egypt, in the company of the famous Linant-Bey de Bellefonds, probably the best guide available in Egypt. For three weeks they visit the classic sites (Karnak, Luxor, Valley of the Kings ...), before returning to Cairo on 3 March. After visiting Suez and the Pyramids and, again, encounters with the Viceroy, the Duke decides to leave Cairo for Damietta, only accompanied by Linant-Bey, the Duchess and his doctor (the steamer provided by the Egyptian government was too small to accommodate his retinue). On 19 March the group is reunited and it sets out for Rosetta. On 22 March the group reaches Alexandria again. The Duke and Duchess spend their last days in Egypt in the palace of Ras-el-Tin, before going on to Palestine on the yacht of the Khedive. From 27 March to 16 April they are in Palestine visiting the important sites. The next two weeks they are in Syria (Damascus) and Lebanon; on 3 May they are off to Cyprus, Rhodes, Smyrna, Greece, and the Greek islands. Returning home they also visit Malta, Sicily, Rome and

Naples. Finally they reach Brussels on 25 August 1855. (1)

Leopold's second voyage to the Orient took place in the spring of 1860. It was limited to a month in Constantinople. In his personal journal, written in the form of a long letter to his father, Leopold I, all kinds of information is to be found. (2) It is noticeable that he preferred Cairo to Constantinople, especially the monuments of the former. The journal is above all important for Leopold's slumbering ideas on colonisation (he tries to obtain land concessions in Cyprus and Crete).

During the winter of 1862-3 Leopold returns to Egypt. This time he is accompanied by, amongst others, Dr Staquez, who left a detailed narrative of the journey. (3) The group starts off from Brussels on 21 October 1862. In Marseilles they embark for Algiers. After a short stop there and also in Malta, they arrive in Alexandria 9 December. Then it's off to Cairo, Aswan and Philae. This time Leopold's main guide is the famous Auguste Mariette. Returning they visit the building site of the Suez Canal and make an excursion to Mount Horeb and the Sinai Desert. Finally the group returns to Brussels, arriving there on 30 May 1863.

Jan Anckaer

References

- 1 The sources for this voyage are to be found mainly in the Archives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Brussels.
- 2 *Voyage a Constantinople (1860)*, ed. Sophie Basch, Brussels, 1997.
- 3 *L'Egypte. : la Basse Nubie et le Sinai: Relation d'apres des notes tenues pendant le voyage que Son Altesse Rpyale Monseigneur le Duc de Brabant fit dans les contrees, en 1862 et 1863, par le docteur Staquez, Leige, 1865.*

A RATHER LESS ADMIRABLE ROYAL VISIT

Diana Souhami relates in her very well researched and entertaining book, Mrs Keppel and her Daughter (Harper Collins, p/b £9.99), how 'Bertie', the future King Edward VII was sent off to Egypt and the Near East after the death of his father, Prince Albert in 1861, which Queen Victoria partly blamed on "her chinless son".

"He was told to travel incognito, avoid all society except royalty and people of superior character, listen to a sermon every Sunday, visit ancient monuments, read serious books.

Away five months, he grew a beard to hide his want of chin, enjoyed shooting crocodiles, quails and vultures, and resisted pressure to visit the ruins at Thebes. 'Why,' he asked his equerry, 'should we go and see the tumbledown old Temple? There will be nothing to see when we get there.' " (p.31)

OBITUARY: Professor Mohammed Nabil El-Hadidi, 1934-2004

Nigel Hepper writes: Nabil Hadidi, who died in January 2004, studied in Cairo under the enthusiastic Swedish botanist Vivi Tackholm. When she died, he created a 'shrine' to her in the Department of Botany, University of Cairo, and founded the botanical journal *Taeckholmia* in her honour. After doing a PhD in Vienna he became Keeper of the University Herbarium and author of many publications on the flora of Egypt. In more recent years he encouraged some of his students to do higher degrees in archaeobotany, identifying material from the tombs.

FOOTSTEPS – INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL

EUROPEAN MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 1822

The Canal of Alexandria last year received, in honour of the Sultan, the name of Mahmoudie. It terminates a few steps from Pompey's column, and begins near the Nile, and under the town of Saone. Its length is 41,706 toises, its width 15 toises, and its depth 3 toises. One hundred thousand men began it in January, 1819; this number was increased the following month to two hundred and sixty thousand; the workmen received a piastre a day. In the month of May, thirty thousand other workmen, from Upper Egypt, were added to the number; and on the 13th September the work was completed. Six European engineers directed the work.

In Bulletin 19 Dr Alix Wilkinson described her recent survey of the Canal with Yvonne Neville Rolfe.

OVERLAND ROUTES - EAST TO WEST AND WEST TO EAST

As this is one of the topics we hope to cover during our Manchester Conference, this early description has a special interest. One of the earliest European accounts of such a journey was that by Marco Polo. Some descriptions were of actual experiences, some were from hearsay. Here is a description (in Marsden's English translation from Italian first published in 1818 of the merchants' route from 'Aden' (Yemen) to Alexandria).

In this kingdom there are many towns and castles, and it has the advantage of an excellent port, frequented by ships arriving from India with spices and drugs. The merchants who purchase them, with the intention of conveying them to Alexandria, unlade them from the ships in which they were imported, and distribute the cargoes on board of other smaller vessels or barks. With these they

navigate a gulf of the sea for twenty days, more or less, according to the weather they experience.

Having reached their port, they then load their goods upon the backs of camels, and transport them overland, thirty days' journey, to the river Nile. Here they are again put into small vessels, ... in which they are conveyed by the stream of that river to Kairo (sic), and from thence, by an artificial canal, named Kalizene, at Length to Alexandria.

This is the least difficult and the shortest route the merchants can take with their goods, the produce of India, from Aden to that city. In this port of Aden likewise, the merchants ship a great number of Arabian horses, which they carry for sale to all the kingdoms and islands of India, obtaining high prices for them, and making large profits.

(The Travels of Marco Polo, revised from Marsden's Translation and Edited by Manuel Komkroff, Jonathan Cape, London, 1928.)

AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

In The Literary Gazette and Journal of the Belles Lettres 1825, a report appeared extracted from Pilgrimages in the East in 1815 and 1816 by Otto Frederick Von Richter whose "untimely death" had been reported in the first number of the Gazette. His papers were sent to the University of Dorpat and his tutor, Professor Evers, had selected material from his letters and manuscripts to publish as a book. M. Lidman, Richter's fellow traveller, Professor of Linkneping University had promised also to publish an account, which had not then appeared. Here is the published extract recounting a visit to Lady 'Esther' Stanhope.

I found her with two slaves and two little pages, in a wretched hut (at the convent of Maschmash) ... She had recently returned from Palmyra and this was the main matter of their discussion. She continued about the political relations of the neighbouring tribes. ... she especially boasted of having in her service the most desperate rogues, robbers, and assassins - which gave her great power. She had just sent some of them to procure information respecting Mr Bautin (sic), a French traveller, who was reported to have been assassinated in the mountains of Annsarieh, while he was pursuing his bold resolution of visiting these famous mountains in Caramania. (Colonel V.Y. Boutin (1772-1815) had travelled in Egypt (with Drovetti), in the Eastern desert, Sinai, Siwa and Syria and was murdered in April 1815. Who was Who in Egyptology, M. Bierbrier.) Lady Hester then sent for the Abbe Gandolpho, "a Roman Missionary, who at that time resided with her" and they supped together. Otto Richter's conclusion about Lady Hester was:

"She appeared to me a person of superior understanding; but, with her head full of strange ideas, she does well to remain where she is."

GAMES THAT TRAVELLED

In April in a beautiful garden near Cairo with ASTENE friends, Dr Nadia El Kholy spoke of her sister-in-law's prowess at croquet. In early August the *Guardian* devoted a whole page to the sport. So unusually I read it and learned about the thrilling game of 'golf croquet' developed at Cairo's Gezira Country Club in the 19th century. Its impact on the game has been immense, and the *Guardian* tells us that "last month, when the sixth world golf championships kicked off in Brighton ... most spectators had come to see the Egyptians..." Sport also travels. Polo, for example, came west; croquet has gone east. Perhaps a whole new ASTENE subject area? *Ed.*

FROM CORFU TO EIRE

Lady Harriet Kavanagh who organised the tour through Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean in 1846-8 of Arthur and Tom Kavanagh (described by Edwin Aiken at the ASTENE meeting this spring). brought back with her from Corfu specimens of old Greek lace. This lace - "modified by her taste and skill, to suit the fashion" - she taught the village women of Boris in County Carlow to copy. Arthur's wife Frances continued encouraging the making of 'Boris lace' to add to the meagre weekly earnings of the villagers.

THE GREAT 'BOOK' AT ABU SIR

Emily Beaufort and her sister, daughter of Admiral Beaufort of the Beaufort Wind Scale and author of Egyptian Sepulchres and Syrian Shrines by Viscountess Strangford, reached the Second Cataract and the great rock at Abu Sir in the spring of 1858....

But before we retraced our steps there was something to do, to accomplish which I had armed myself with a hammer and chisel, not knowing in the least how to sue them, but resolved to leave our names among the pilgrims who had rested on that narrow ledge of rock before us. A mighty company of names are gathered there, and a feeling of something awful came over one in the sight of the hundreds recorded on that unchanging stone - abiding there still like tangible shadows of those who carved them when in health and vigour, yet of whom so many have now already passed away! For only a few years - twenty at most - has that ancient river been open to travellers, yet already, like the Volume of the Great Book, that rock, the record of those who spent but one short hour of their brief existence there, is crowded with the names of the dead! Of those we had personally known by far the greatest number were gone into that land whence none return; and it was with a feeling of sad pleasure that we placed our names among them - thus making a sort of reunion in matter as well as thought - a silent, half-living companionship. (p.32)