

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

Notes and Queries

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Edited by: Janet Starkey and Peta Rée  
CMEIS, University of Durham  
South End House, South Road  
Durham DH1 3TG  
e-mail: < j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk >  
Fax: 01388-731-809

## Third Travellers in Egypt and the Near East Conference



Newnham College, Cambridge 15 to 18 July 1999

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## ASTENE Calendar 1999

15–18 July 1999	Third Travellers in Egypt and the Near East Conference, Newnham College, Cambridge
18 July 1999, 9.30 am	ASTENE Annual General Meeting, Newnham College, Cambridge
7 October 1999 17.00–20.00	Visit to Palestine Exploration Fund
20 October 1999 to 17 January 2000	Vivant Denon Exhibition in Paris (Travel discounts)
15 November 1999 18.00	'Vivant Denon and Romanticism', Professor Christopher Thompson at the Egyptian Cultural Centre, London
18 February 2000	<i>Itineraries</i> to Jerusalem and proposed day-school on 'Travel in Egypt'

## ASTENE Information

### Members' Questionnaires

We are including forms for you to update your research interests, publications and research projects. This information is of great interest to other members of the Association so we should be grateful if you would complete the form by 25 August 1999 and return it to the Editors, c/o CMEIS, University of Durham, South End House, South Road, Durham DH1 3TG. Fax: 01388-731-809. e-mail: <j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk>.

If you know anyone else who might be interested in submitting information and joining the Association, please photocopy the form and pass it on! This questionnaire is not issued to non-members.

#### Members of the Committee

Honorary President	T.G.H. James
Honorary Vice-President	Derek Hopwood
Chairman:	Paul Starkey
Secretary:	Sarah Searight
Treasurer:	Lisa French
Events organiser:	Deborah Manley
Editor of Newsletter:	Janet Starkey
Assistant Editor:	Peta Rée
Other members:	Neil Cooke, Okasha El-Daly, Brenda Moon, Jennifer Scarce, Patricia Usick
Foreign correspondents:	John Rodenbeck Jason Thompson, Caroline Williams, Aviva Klein-Franke, Dr Paolo Belli.

### ASTENE Bulletin

The *ASTENE Bulletin* is published twice a year and aims to keep members informed of research interests and queries in the field of travel in Egypt and the Near East. Members are encouraged to submit information and material for the Bulletin relating to on-going research and interests, conferences etc. There will also be a focus on useful subject-related bibliographies and biographies. The Bulletin will contain the following regular or semi-regular features: articles — perhaps on work in progress, which should be no more than 2,000 words; select bibliographies; features on Research Resources; Association news: publications, conferences, seminars, exhibitions etc.; other exhibitions, conferences etc. of interest;

announcements of relevant books/articles: in preparation, forthcoming, recently published; contact/membership list once a year in the October issue; members' notes and queries. For example, we hope to include a review by Briony Llewellyn of *Landscape Illustrations of the Bible* text by Thomas Hartwell Horne, foreword by Charles Newton (R.S. Surtees Society, 1998. 2 vols, each £25) in the autumn issue of the Bulletin.

In the next issues we hope to feature sources in Cairo, Alexandria and Luxor as well as Istanbul and Paris. There will also be an article on a possible bibliography of travellers; information about editorial styles and transliteration for contributions to *ASTENE* publications. Offers of articles, queries and news always welcome!

Deadline for submission of copy for No. 8:  
25 August 1999

### Subscriptions & Back Issues of *ASTENE Bulletin*

The levels of subscription are

Members A:	
from the EU, USA & Canada	£20 per annum.
Members B:	
from elsewhere, all students	£12 per annum
Libraries	£12 per annum

Each subscription covers TWO issues of *ASTENE Bulletin* (with all the information it contains), as well as access to the database of members' interests.

The Treasurer will send a notice to all current members during November to up-date them on their subscription status. Full details of methods of payment will be included. The 1999 subscription was due at the beginning of January so please contact the Treasurer if you have not yet paid! All back issues of *ASTENE Bulletin* are available and may be ordered from the Treasurer for £5 each (inc. postage).

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

**Third Travellers in Egypt and the Near East Conference,  
Newnham College, Cambridge. Draft Programme, 15–18 July 1999**

The conference will follow a similar format to that held in 1997 in Oxford, but we will have a longer weekend period. Newnham College has good facilities and lovely gardens. There will be time for visits to local archives and museums related to our interests. Booking forms are included with this issue of the *Bulletin*. In order to make use of advantageous rates, please return your completed form as soon as possible, that is, by 20 April. For details of conference rates, see enclosed form. If you know anyone else who might be interested, please pass on a copy of the form.

We are delighted to be welcoming participants from some dozen countries (including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Eire, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, the Netherlands, Qatar, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA)—some countries represented for the first time at our conference.

Sessions include the Ottoman Empire, the Levant as well as Egypt, Architecture and Art, Classical Travellers, The Egyptian Society, Mediaeval Travellers, Vivant Denon, the Savants, Literature, Collecting and Collections, the Desert, Women Travellers, Political Figures, and sessions on particular figures such as Disraeli, Denon and Leake—and many more tantalising subjects. Please let us know by 31 May if your paper is not yet listed below or if you still want to contribute a paper.

Just a reminder that papers should last no longer than 20 minutes; there will be a maximum of three papers per session, which will give ample time for discussion. You are welcome to contribute additional information in the form of a poster which can be displayed during the conference. Please ensure that you notify Deborah Manley in good time as to your audio-visual requirements at this conference. For information about the Association and conference booking, please contact Dr E. French, 26 Millington Rd, Cambridge CB3 9HP. Email: <LISACAMB@AOL.COM>. Fax: 00 44 1223 462 749.

There will inevitably be changes and additions to this preliminary draft programme but it should give you an idea of an exciting and interesting programme in store for you!

#### Thursday 15 July

During Thursday and Friday afternoons we offer a range of places to visit in Cambridge related to the travellers, their records and their collections. There will be exhibits of special interest at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the University Library. (Please bring an academic recommendation if you wish to have access to the Library to see the exhibition.)

*An illustrated talk on Sinai* : 'Sinai: the desert as the great preserver' by Emma Loveridge.

Evening: *Keynote address*: Michael Wood: 'In the steps of Alexander, using the sources', chaired by ASTENE's President, T.G.H. James CBE

#### Friday 16 July

##### *Travellers of the Classical World*

'The sarcophagus of Alexander: archaeology and travellers' rumours', Elizabeth French; 'Ancient Greek perceptions of Middle and Near East Zoology' Charles Foster

*The Egyptian Society 1741–1743 and its Members*  
'Richard Pococke in Palestine (1738)', John Bartlett;  
'Captain F.L. Norden in Egypt (1737–1738)', Lisa Maniche;  
'The 1742 Egyptian Society', David Haycock

##### *The Impact of Travel on Architecture, Craft and Literature*

'Primary Colours; the impact of Islam on High Victorian architecture', Christopher Walker; 'The influence of Oriental Ceramics on William de Morgan's work', Sarah Searight

##### *Travellers in the Medieval World*

'Egyptian Deserts in the early Medieval Arabic Travel Writings', Okasha El Daly; 'Two Pilgrims to St Katherine's Monastery, 1349 and 1598', Anne Wolff; 'The description of Bilad el-Sham (Syrian) in Arabic travel logs', Yehoah'a Frenkel.

##### *Artists and Authors*

'John Frederick Lewis (1805-1876): mythology as biography', Emily Weeks; "'Oriental Novellas" in the works of Gerard de Nerval', Marianna Taymanova.



*The Levant*

'Edward Lear visits the Holy Land', Hisham Khatib; 'Artists in Petra', Briony Llewellyn; Philippe Bourmaud, on Dr Madden.

*Before the Savants*

'The Double Voice of James Bruce, Abyssinian Traveller', Carl Thompson; 'Voyages of Chevalier d'Arvieux to Near East 1671', Regine Goutalier; 'Merchants, products and routes' or 'Two Businessmen: John Sanderson and George Baldwin', Kathleen Pickavance.

*Missionaries, Pilgrims and Saints*

'John Lieder and Samuel Gobart: missionary confrontation in 19<sup>th</sup> century Egypt', Paul Sedra. 'Retracing the Bible in a World of Muslims and Jews: Italian Travellers to the Levant, 1815-1914', Barbara Codacci;

*The Savants*

'The Art of Mapping: Vivant Denon and the Acquisition of Egypt', Anne Godlewska; 'Vivant Denon's Voyages as iconographic source', Anna Piusi; 'The forgotten Egyptologists, J.B. Lepere, J.M.J. Coutelle, and the great Giza expedition of 1801', Patrice Bret.

*Travellers from the North*

'Aaron Narov, a traveller to Egypt, 1834-1835, from St Petersburg', Andrey Bolshakov; 'Swedish Travellers in the Near East', Berit Wells.

*Travellers in the Ottoman Empire*

'Ottoman Travellers in the Yemen', Sinan Kuneralp; 'The Orient before Orientalism: M. Olivier's Travels in the Ottoman Empire', Mary Ann Fay; 'Straddling the Aegean: William Gell 1811-13', Charles Plouviez.

*Guest speaker at the Conference Dinner:* Claudia Roden, the doyenne of Middle Eastern cookery

**Saturday 17th July**

*With the Savants and After*

'Edward Daniel Clarke: a civilian in Egypt in 1801', Peta Réé; 'William Eaton and Egypt's Northern Coast (1804)', Cassandra Vivien; 'A Public Pageant: Lord Valentia passes through Egypt in 1806', Deborah Manley.

*The Great Ladies*

'The Norths in Egypt, Palestine and Syria', Brenda Moon; 'Marianne Brocklehurst of Macclesfield',

Jeanne Whitehurst; 'Preparing to be an Egyptologist: Amelia Edwards before 1873', Joan Rees.

*In Search of Scientific Knowledge*

'George Henry Moore in the Dead Sea, 1837: a diary of an Irish gentleman', Haim Goren; 'Scientific travellers from Austria and Germany to the Yemen', Aviva Klein Franke; Sonia Brentjes (subject to be confirmed); 'Giovanni Brocchi, an Italian geologist and naturalist', Paolo Branca.

*Emerging Egyptology*

'Excavators in the Valley of the Kings', P.M.E. Jones; 'Gardner Wilkinson's house at Sheik Abd al-Qurna at Thebes', Jason Thompson; 'John Lewis Burckhardt', Peter Grindelmeir.

*The Romance of the Desert*

'The Anger of Lady Hester Stanhope', Norman Lewis; 'Gold, emeralds and the unknown Ababda', Janet Starkey; Arita Baaijens (subject to be announced).

*Near to Politics*

'Colporteurs in the Near East', Geoffrey Roper; 'Experiences in Egypt of Wilfred Scawen Blunt and Lady Anne Blunt', Arthur Goldschmidt Jnr; "And his wife, Isabel ...": Hamilton en route to Taif 1835', Regina Meisle; 'And Isabel, his wife'—a short assessment of Isabel Burton', Albertine Gaur.

*Political Figures and Literature*

'Disraeli's novelistic use of his travels in the Ottoman Empire', Peter Christensen; 'Benjamin Disraeli and his novels from his Grand Tour', Kay Chubbuck.

*Twentieth-Century Tourism and Travel*

'From pilgrimage to Budding Tourism: the role of Thomas Cook in the rediscovery of the Holy Land in the 19th century', Ruth Kark; 'On Railways in the Near East', Walter Rothschild (discussion leader); 'Madame Valentino and the Grand Tour 1936: the end of an era', Rosalind Janssen.

*Twentieth-Century Political Travellers*

'On T.E. Lawrence', John Rodenbeck; "In a position to fathom the Arabs": Ameen Rihani, traveller to the Arab Near East', Geoffrey Nash.

*The Records and Evidence of Travel*

'Early Photographs of Nubia', Jaromir Malek; 'The Jigsaw of Gournu', Caroline Simpson; 'Letters from a friend: John Bowes Wright', Richard Lamb.

*William Martin Leake*

'Colonel Leake: traveller and scholar', Professor Malcolm Wagstaff; 'Leake in Kythera', Davina Huxley; 'Leake's influence on the Hellenistic revival', Hugh Ferguson.

*Graffiti*

'Travellers' graffiti on the temple of Dendur: the temple that travelled', Susan Allen; 'Discussion on graffiti of Egyptian monuments', with Roger de Keersmaecker as resource guide.

*Artistic Interpretations*

'Berths under the highest stars: Henry William Beechey in Egypt, 1816-1819, a better artist than a secretary', Patricia Usick; '19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century interpretations of views of Egypt by Gérome', Caroline Williams; 'Jean-Jacques Rifaud, sculptor', Marie-Cecile Bruwier.

*An evening reception* to host the travellers' descendants. We have invited as the Association's guests the descendants of Henry Salt, Samuel Briggs, Charles Irby, Joseph Bonomi, Lucie Duff Gordon and Thomas Cook. To be followed by dinner and a presentation by 'Dr Edward Daniel Clarke, traveller, Professor of Mineralogy & Librarian of Cambridge University'.

**Sunday 18th July**

AGM of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East chaired by the Association's President T.G.H. James CBE.

*Exploration, Adventure and Invasion*

'Ancient Egypt and the Gordon Relief Expedition', David Dixon; 'Iron expeditions, decadent emperors and the search for Sodom', Bruce A. Harvey.

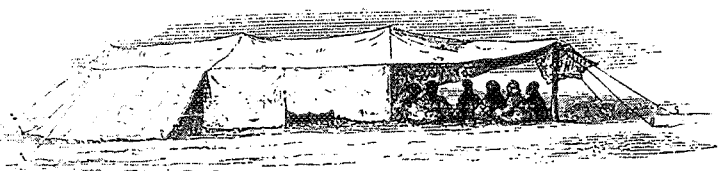
*The Influence of the Travellers*

'Ramesses III, Giovanni Belzoni and the mysterious Reverend Browne', Penny Wilson; 'The Changing View of the Egyptian Past', Antony Sattin; 'Samuel Birch: keeping the home fires burning', Harry James.

After the conference the ASTENE committee will meet. We hope 'foreign correspondents' will stay for the committee meeting.

**Papers accepted for the ASTENE  
Conference, Newnham College,  
University of Cambridge, as at 1 March  
1999 include:**

- Allen, Susan. Travellers' graffiti on the temple of Dendur.
- Bartlett, John. Richard Pococke in Palestine, 1738.
- Bolshakov, Andrey. Avraam Norov in Egypt, 1834-1835.
- Bourmaud, Philippe, on Dr Madden.
- Branca, Paolo. Giambattista Brocchi, an Italian geologist and naturalist (1771-1826).
- Bret, Patrice. The forgotten Egyptologists, J.B. Lepere, J.M.J. Coutelle, and the great Giza expedition, 1801.
- Bruwier, M-C. Jean-Jacques Rifaud, sculptor.
- Christenssen, Peter. Disraeli's novelistic use of his travels in the Ottoman Empire.
- Chubbuck, Kay. Benjamin Disraeli and his novels from his Grand Tour.
- Codacci, Barbara. Retracing the Bible in a World of Muslims and Jews: Italian Travellers to the Levant, 1815-1914.
- Dixon, David. Ancient Egypt and the Gordon Relief Expedition.
- El Daly, Okasha. Egyptian deserts in early medieval Arabic travel writings.
- Fay, Mary Ann. The Orient before Orientalism: M. Olivier's travels in the Ottoman Empire.
- Ferguson, Hugh. Leake's influence on the Hellenistic revival.
- Foster, Christopher. Ancient Greek perceptions of Middle and Near Eastern Zoology.
- French, Elizabeth. The sarcophagus of Alexander: archaeology and travellers' rumour.
- Franke, Aviva Klein. Scientific travellers from Austria and Germany to the Yemen.
- Frenkel, Yehoah'a. The description of Bilad el-Sham (Syria) in Arabic travel logs.
- Gaur, Albertine. 'And Isabel, his wife'—a short assessment of Isabel Burton.
- Godlewska, Ann. The Art of Mapping: Vivant Denon and the acquisition of Egypt.
- Goren, Haim. George Henry Moore in the Dead Sea, 1837: a diary of an Irish gentleman.
- Goldschmidt, Arthur. Experiences in Egypt of Wilfred Scawen Blunt and Lady Anne Blunt.
- Goutalier, Regine. Voyages of Chevalier d'Arvieux to Near East 1671.
- Harvey, Brian. Iron expeditions, decadent emperors, and the search for Sodom.
- Haycock, David. The 1742 Egyptian Society.
- Huxley, Davina. Leake in Kythera.
- James, Harry. Samuel Birch: Keeping the home-fires burning.
- Janssen, Rosalind. 'Madame Valentino and the Grand Tour 1936: the end of an era'.



Jones, P.M.E. Excavators in the Valley of the Kings.  
 Kark, Ruth. From Pilgrimage to Modern Tourism.  
 Keersmaecker, Roger (discussion leader). The Graffiti of Egyptian monuments.  
 Khatib, Hisham. Edward Lear visits the Holy Land.  
 Kunalp, Sinan. Ottoman travellers in the Yemen.  
 Lamb, Richard. Letters from a friend: John Bowes Wright.  
 Lewis, Norman. The Anger of Lady Hester Stanhope.  
 Llewellyn, Briony. Artists in Petra.  
 Loveridge, Emma. Sinai: the desert as great preserver.  
 Malek, Jaromir. Early Photographs of Nubia.  
 Manley, Deborah. A Public Pageant: Lord Valentia in Egypt in 1806.  
 Maniche, Lisa. Captain F.L. Norden in Egypt.  
 Meisle, Regina. 'And his wife, Isabel ...': Hamilton en route to Taif 1835.  
 Moon, Brenda. The Norths in Egypt, Palestine and Syria.  
 Nash, Geoffrey. 'In a position to influence the Arabs': Ameen Rihani, traveller to the Arab Near East.  
 Newton, Charles. (Title to be announced)  
 Pickavance, Kathleen. Two business men: John Sanderson and George Baldwin *or* Merchants, products and routes.  
 Piusi, Anna. Vivant Denon's Voyages as an iconographical source.  
 Plouviez, Charles. Straddling the Aegean: William Gell 1811-1813.  
 Rée, Peta. Edward Daniel Clarke: A civilian in Egypt 1801.  
 Rees, Joan. Preparing to be an Egyptologist: Amelia Edwards before 1873.  
 Rodenbeck, John. On T.E. Lawrence.  
 Roper, Geoffrey. Colporteurs of the Near East.  
 Rothschild, Walter (discussion leader). On Railways in the Near East.  
 Sattin, Anthony. The Changing View of the Egyptian Past.  
 Searight, Sarah. The influence of Oriental Ceramics on William de Morgan's work.  
 Sedra, Paul. John Lieder and Samuel Gobart: missionary confrontation in 19th century Egypt.  
 Simpson, Caroline. The jigsaw of Gournu.  
 Starkey, Janet. Gold, emeralds and the unknown Ababda.  
 Taymanova, Marianna. 'Oriental Novellas' in the works of Gerard de Nerval.  
 Thompson, Carl. The double voice of James Bruce, Abyssinian traveller.  
 Thompson, Jason. Gardner Wilkinson's house at Sheik Abd al-Qurna at Thebes.  
 Usick, Patricia. Berths under the highest stars: Henry William Beechey in Egypt 1816-1819.  
 Vivien, Cassandra. William Eaton and Egypt's northern coast, 1804.  
 Wagstaff, Malcolm. Colonel Leake: Traveller and scholar.

Walker, Christopher. Primary Colours: the impact of Islam on Victorian architecture.  
 Weeks, Emily. John Frederick Lewis (1805-1876): Mythology in biography.  
 Wells, Berit. Swedish travellers in the Near East.  
 Whitehurst, Jeanne. Miss Marianne Brocklehurst.  
 Williams, Caroline. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century interpretations of views of Egypt by Jean-Léon Gérôme.  
 Wilson, Penny. Ramesses III, Giovanni Belzoni and the mysterious Reverend Brown.  
 Wolff, Anne. Two pilgrims to St Katherine's, 1349 and 1598.

#### Guests of the conference

Michael Wood: In the steps of Alexander: from the sources.  
 Claudia Roden, doyenne of Middle East cookery. Conference dinner speaker  
 'Edward Daniel Clarke': Seeking the Stones

#### Descendants and relatives of the following travellers plan to attend:

Samuel Briggs, John Bowes Wright, Edward Lane, Sophia Poole, Harriet Martineau, and others. If you know of other descendants who might be interested to attend, please contact Deborah Manley.

### Connections with Cambridge

Using Maurice Bierbrier's splendid *Who was Who in Egyptology* as the Bible and encyclopaedia, we have traced many of the travellers to Cambridge. We list them here by college with the year of their Egyptian or Near East travel. Those who have not been to Cambridge will find the colleges little changed since the travellers were undergraduates.

**St John's:** Edward Nathaniel Bancroft 1801; Joseph Cook (who died on his camel in the Sinai, 1825); Sir Frederick Henniker, 1820; Reverend William Jowett 1815-1824; Edward Henry Palmer 1868 and 1882, who was also born in Cambridge

**Jesus:** Edward Daniel Clarke, 1801; Sir William Gell; Barnard Hanbury, 1821; John Bowes Wright and his friend William Fisher, 1818

**Trinity:** William John Bankes, 1813-1819; James Burton, 1823 onward; Lord Carnarvon; Spencer Compton, 1849; Thomas Robert Joliffe, 1817; Alexander Kinglake, 1834-1835; Alexander Lindsay, 1836-1837; John Montagu, Earl of Sandwich, 1738; George Waddington, 1821; Robert Walpole, pre-1817.

John Lewis Burckhardt and Giovanni Belzoni also had interesting Cambridge connections of which there will be interesting evidence in the exhibitions. No doubt there are others. Please contact the editors with any other connections known to you!

## Recent ASTENE Event

### A Soirée with the Sarcophagus *Peta Rée*

When Sir John Soane purchased the alabaster sarcophagus of Seti I for his Museum in 1824, he celebrated with a series of elegant soirées, to which London Society was invited to admire his wonderful acquisition. If the comestibles were less lavish, and the company less exalted in Rank and Birth—though not in Intellect nor Appreciation—the gathering of ASTENE members on the evening of Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> last, would, I believe, have pleased Sir John.

The Soane Museum, even by day, is an enchantment of eclectic exotica—gently illuminated, it is magical indeed. Grouped around the Sarcophagus, our party, amplified by some surprised but gratified members of the general Public, were treated to an admirable and lucid exposition of its iconography by John Taylor of the British Museum, while above stairs, Helen Dorey, of the Soane, regaled us with an informed account of Sir John's acquisition of this Marvel of the Ancient World. Relevant documents were displayed for us, as also several watercolour works of Egyptian Monuments, employed by Sir John in his Lectures to Students of Architecture.

We then repaired around the corner to an apartment graciously afforded us by the BEARR Trust, where a cold Collation was enjoyed, spiced by much agreeable Conversation.

Our gratitude is due to Helen Dorey, to John Taylor, to Myra Green and Kyryll Dissanayake of the BEARR Trust, and to Deborah Manley for organising the Occasion.

Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP (tel: 0171 430 0175; fax: 0171 831 3957) is open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 to 17.00 (closed Sunday, Monday, Bank Holidays and Christmas Eve) and from 18.00 to 21.00 on the first Tuesday of each month. Entrance is free, but donations are appreciated. There is a public lecture tour on Saturdays at 14.30; the tickets, limited in number, are sold from 14.00. Access to the Research Library by appointment with the Archivist.

The BEARR Trust shares British voluntary sector expertise with the emerging voluntary sector in Russia, for those most vulnerable in society. Chichester House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7ER, tel: 0171 404 7081.

## Forthcoming ASTENE Events

### Prints, Paintings, photos, maps, manuscripts—and much more

On Thursday 7 October 1999 from 17.00 to 20.00, the Association has arranged a visit to the Palestine Exploration Fund in central London at 2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5RR, at which its curator Rupert Chapman will speak and provide an opportunity to view and discuss their treasures: their archive, their map collection, their museum and their library—with a sandwich and a glass of wine. Further information about the PEF is given in the Research Resources section of this *Bulletin*. Entry has to be restricted to twenty people, so please book soon by sending a cheque made out to the Association (marked for PEF evening): £9 for members; £12 for non-members; £6 for student members to the Treasurer, Dr Lisa French, 26 Millington Road, Cambridge, CB3 9HP.

### Vivant Denon Exhibition in Paris

In search of Vivant Denon or just want to go to Paris? You can help yourself and ASTENE too!

There is a major exhibition about Vivant Denon and the Savants in Egypt at the Louvre from 20 October 1999 to 17 January 2000 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's expedition to Egypt. Until 10 May this year there is an exhibition of Rameses II at the Louvre, and from 6 April to 12 July, 'Le temps des pyramides' at the Grand Palais.

We have negotiated a special deal with Paris Travel Service by which they will give a 10% discount on each booking to ASTENE for members going to Paris individually or in a group through them—and this offer will continue right through to January 2000 ... ASTENE is offering to share this discount with you.

How can you help the Association—and yourself—when you go to Paris?

1. Pick up a Paris Travel Service brochure from any travel agent or order one by ringing 01992 456022.

2. Choose your package. They vary from two nights by Eurostar to a budget hotel in Montmartre for £130, to 2 nights by Air France to the Ritz for £680. (And on some packages a third night is free and you can stay longer!)

3. Book your package directly through Sheila Lucy on 01992 456022. Tell her you have come through the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East. For the first 10 bookings, you will pay the normal price, but an arrangement

will be made for ASTENE to receive the 10% discount to share with you. (Thus if you stay in Montmartre, ASTENE will share £13 with you; if you choose the Ritz, you and ASTENE will share £68.)

Any queries on how this works, please ring Deborah Manley on 01865 310284.

### Vivant Denon and Romanticism

In conjunction with the Vivant Denon exhibition in Paris the Association on 15 November 1999 is to host a lecture by Professor Christopher Thompson on Baron Dominique Vivant Denon, the artist and archaeologist, who accompanied the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt in 1798. The lecture is entitled *Vivant Denon and Romanticism* and will be presented at the Egyptian Cultural Centre, Arab Republic of Egypt's Education and Cultural Bureau, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1Y 8BR, tel 0171 491 7720 at 18.00 (The time to be confirmed in the next *Bulletin*).

### Itineraries to Jerusalem

In 1458 an Englishman, William Wey, went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. From his experience he wrote a guide book, *Itineraries*, to give English would-be pilgrims useful advice: where to shop, how to book a 'package tour' on a pilgrim galley from Venice, how to change money ... he also made a map of the route from Damascus to the Holy City. In 1857 the Roxburghe Club of London reissued the map to celebrate the fourth centenary of Wey's pilgrimage.

Rosamund Mitchell in her fascinating *The Spring Voyage* (John Murray, 1964), which follows Wey and five other pilgrims in 1458, provided a taste of the map: 'Wey's masterpiece is seven feet long and sixteen and a half inches wide. It begins on the left, that is, north, with Damascus.

It extends to Beersheba, the lower edge showing the sea coast from Sidon to Gaza ... The colours of Wey's map are clear and bright; towers are neatly striped in red and blue, roofs are shingled with blue tiles ... Mountains and plains are green, lakes and rivers a strong blue; the Dead Sea is sufficiently transparent to show the submerged Cities of the Plain.

We are planning to arrange an opportunity to see that map at the Bodleian Library and learn about Wey's advice to pilgrims. This will probably be linked to the projected day school in Oxford at Rewley House (Department of Continuing Education) on 'Travel in

Egypt' on 18 February 2000. Further details on both events will be in the next *Bulletin*.

### A Recent Conference

Anna Puissi

*La France et l'Égypte à l'Époque des Vice-Rois (1805-1882)* organised for l'Institut de Recherches et d'Études sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM) and la Maison Méditerranéenne des sciences de l'Homme (MMSH) by Daniel Panzac, Directeur de Recherche au CNRS, and André Raymond, Professeur émérite de l'Université de Provence at Aix-en-Provence, 5 to 7 July 1998.

The bicentenary of the French expedition to Egypt (1798-1801) has sparked off a series of events to commemorate and investigate the historical link between France and Egypt. Several exhibitions and conferences in Paris focused on the period of French occupation and on French sources. At the conference in Aix-en-Provence, however, the emphasis was on the subsequent period, and on a dialogue between sources under the general aegis 'France-Égypte, horizons partages'.

The material presented was very far-ranging. The first day covered the political relations between the two countries, and technological, military and economic developments in khedival Egypt, and on the influence of French language and culture during the period. The last day presented Egyptology, Islamic art and Egyptomania, and appropriately concluded with an emphasis on the key agents of this Franco-Egyptian exchange: Tahtawi and Champollion.

Daniel Panzac and André Raymond attracted some of the best-known scholars from around the world; the strong contingent of Egyptians, and of many other non-French academics ensured a multiplicity of points of view and lively debates. As a novice in the world of conferences, I felt excited and touched by this gathering—as if many of my books had come down from the shelves and were chatting away amicably, comparing footnotes.

The organisers fostered this exchange of ideas in truly Provençal style: the lovely rooms of the seventeenth century Institut d'Études politiques reflected our voices in a most inventive manner, but the long lunches under the trees of the nearby square gave everybody the opportunity to meet and clarify their points. Professeur and madame Raymond managed the incredible task of hosting a dinner for at least thirty people on their terrace, where the fresh air of the mistral and the copious wine lifted the weight of the otherwise Egyptian temperatures. The exhausted conferenciers found the strength to intellectualise into the wee hours of the morning.

World Cup fever ensured almost total peace for the closing dinner, held in a restaurant in the countryside: few other diners to distract the occasionally vanishing waiters, and the score always discreetly whispered in the ear of the Master of ceremonies. With a look of infinite tolerance, professeur Raymond would rise, command attention, and announce yet another goal, and at the end of the meal it was communicated—for those who might care—that France had entered the semi-final. Or, to put it otherwise, elaborated the professeur, it would seem that France had won. The subsequent match was followed, in his home, with the same amusing detachment. Professeur Raymond only regretfully interrupting the meal in response to the general roar rising from the city, to switch on the TV, admire the replay of the goal, then pull the plug on further distractions. I would love to know if he resisted watching the final, and if he heard of the victory of 'les Bleus' with the same attitude of puzzled pride, and a detached curiosity for the historical consequences of French sporting victories. Zidane's goals sealed as a fact what had been the subject of intellectual discourse: the *métissage* of France with the Middle East.

Publication of the conference was scheduled to be at the end of 1998.

## Forthcoming Exhibitions

### Edward Falkener: a Victorian Orientalist

Room 33a of the British Museum from 16 January to 2 May 1999. Edward Falkener (1814-1896) was renowned in his own time as an archaeologist, architect, artist and author of various books and articles on classical archaeology. He was also a pioneering collector of Islamic metalwork and Oriental games. He travelled through the near East in the 1840s.

The exhibition, organised by the Departments of Oriental Antiquities and Western Asiatic Antiquities, focuses on Falkener as 'Orientalist'. It also includes examples from his metalwork and games collections. There are also some fine watercolours of archaeological sites in the Near East.

### L'Abito per il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito, Islam e Occidente a Confronto

Islam and the West: a Comparison. Arms, armour and costumes from the Stibbert Collection and Turkish dresses from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, Until 30 April. Museo Stibbert, via Stibbert 26,

Florence. Tel 055-486049. 10.00-14.00; Saturday and Sunday 10.00-18.00. Closed Thurs. Tickets 8,000 lire.

### Explorer l'Égypte et la Nubie au début du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle

An exhibition to be held at the Musée de Mariemont, Belgium from 30 April to 12 September 1999 about François Émile Prisse d'Avennes (1807-1879), one of the many European specialists who worked for Muhammad 'Ali. It was the time when various foreign consuls, for example, Drovetti (1776-1852) for France and Salt (1780-1827) for England were obtaining vast collections of Egyptian antiquities with the help of assistants such as J.-J. Rifaud from Marseilles and the Paduan Giovanni Battista Belzoni, better known under the name Belzoni (1778-1823).

The exhibition traces three of these explorers, in particular Prisse d'Avennes, J.-J. Rifaud and Belzoni. Books and documents on exhibit are from the Société royale d'Archéologie d'Histoire et de Folklore de Nivelles et du Brabant wallon, la Société Archéologique et Historique de l'Arrondissement d'Avesnes, la Bibliothèque Universitaire Moretus Plantin des Facultés Notre-Dame de la Paix de Namur, le Museo di Antichità Egizie de Turin, les Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire de Bruxelles, le Musée-la-Neuve, la Faculté des sciences de l'UCL and three private Belgian collections.

The exhibition has been organised by Marie-Cécile Bruwier, one of the ASTENE members who is also giving a paper in Cambridge on Rifaud. The exhibition is open 10 to 18.00 every day except Monday. In addition films on the archaeology of Egypt will be shown at the Museum of Marlemont. On 30 May from 10.30 there will also be a recital by Thérèse Malengreau entitled 'Le rêve d'Égypte des musiciens'.

Madame Diane Harlé, from the Louvre, department of Egyptian Antiquities will give a talk entitled 'Égypte au regard de Nestor l'hôte' on Sunday 13 June at 10.30.

There will also be an exhibition of lithographs entitled 'L'Égypte au regard de J.-J. Rifaud' at the Bibliotheca Wittrockiana, rue du Bernel 21, 1150 Brussels, from 23 April to 12 June 1999 (closed Sundays, Mondays and Public Holidays). For further information on this exhibition phone 02 770 5353. For further information on any of these interesting events, contact M.-C. Bruwier Fax: 00 32 64 262924.

## Cracking Codes: The Rosetta Stone and Decipherment

Patricia Usick

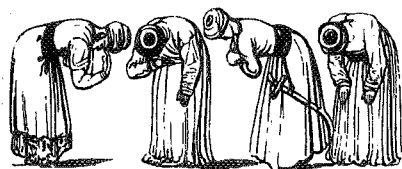
In celebration of the bicentenary of the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in July 1799, the British Museum is holding a major exhibition, 'Cracking Codes: The Rosetta Stone and Decipherment', to run from 10 July to December 1999 in Room 28 (admission charge).

The stone was discovered embedded in the walls of the fort at the port of Rosetta by a French officer, Bouchard. The Stone's inscription, with its three scripts, hieroglyphic, Demotic and Greek, was immediately recognised as a key to the decipherment of hieroglyphs, by then a lost script. On the capitulation of Napoleon's Expedition, it was brought back to England by Colonel Turner. The travellers Edward Clarke, William Hamilton and a Mr Cripps witnessed its handover to the British in Alexandria in 1801.

The stone in its present form has become an icon for decipherment. It is actually part of a stela, probably set up in the temple of Sais, an ancient Delta town, and records the decree of the priests who set up a royal cult for King Ptolemy V in 198 BC in return for remission of taxes. As such it is a product of a multi-cultural society, dominated by Greek culture in government but respecting the ancient hieroglyphic tradition and the everyday Demotic form of the Egyptian language spoken and written at that time.

The exhibition examines the pre-enlightenment view of hieroglyphs and relates the eventual breakthrough resulting from the studies of Thomas Young and J.F. Champollion, who relied on Egyptian inscriptions copied by traveller-scholars, such as William John Bankes. Their difficulties are explained by a demonstration of how the hieroglyphic script actually works, and with the use of some remarkable objects from the Museum's collection the role of scribes and the uses of writing in ancient Egypt are examined.

Although hieroglyphs were no longer an arcane mystery after the publication of Champollion's *Lettre à M. Dacier* in 1822, much work remained to be done. Just understanding the scripts and various stages of the languages is insufficient to overcome the barriers which still divide the reader from the material; the cultural code must also be understood before we can properly understand voices from the ancient past.



## Forthcoming Conferences

### Writing the Journey

10-13 June 1999, University Sheraton Hotel, University of Pennsylvania, 36<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut St, Philadelphia PA 19104. There will be a keynote address by Colin Thubron, author of travel books on Central Asia, Russia, Israel and elsewhere. The deadline for paper proposals was 1 March. Call 215 387 8000 or fax 215 387 5939 before 1 May. For further information contact David Espey <despey@english.upenn.edu>, Department of English, 119 Bennett Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104. Tel: 215 898 7360.

### Visual Encounters

Dr Nebahat Avcioglu has drawn our attention to the forthcoming conference in Oxford on the visual encounters between Europe and the Three Empires of Islam in the early modern period, from 22 to 23 July 1999, at the Headley lecture theatre of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

Speakers include: Leslie Shick, Michael Rogers, Geoffrey Roper, Giles Tilotson, Partha Mitter, Ebba Koch, Robert Irwin, Robin Ostle, Tim Stanley, Robert Skelton, Eleanor Sims, Julian Raby, Amy Landau and Naby Avcioglu.

The last decades have seen an increasing number of studies on the importance of cross-cultural encounters for the writing of the visual arts. Several of these studies have investigated the ways in which foreign symbols were used in iconographical programmes to project power and status. The aim of this conference is to contribute to this growing body of scholarship by examining the relationship between Europe and the three great empires of the Islamic World in the Early Modern period—Ottoman, Safavid and Mugal.

In Europe and in the Islamic world, different types of political regimes produce different responses to cross-cultural encounters. The conference will investigate how, in their different ways, the Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals absorbed and interpreted European influences, and how both Europe and the Muslim world viewed and depicted each other. Therefore, the speakers are encouraged to pay particular attention to the social and historical context of works of art.

Hitherto scholars working on the Ottoman, Safavid and Mugal realms have often tended to work independently. Even though most of us have become more and more aware of their mutual importance, none of the group has got beyond the stage of seeing



the other's work as more than a resource to be exploited. No real dialogue across the geographical and disciplinary boundaries yet exists. The same is also true of the methodological discussions in each field. One of the objectives of this conference, therefore, is to bring scholars working on the three empires and their relationship with Europe, as it were, face to face, to think about the different codes of cross-cultural interactions. The conference will create an opportunity for a new understanding on the phenomenon of cultural exchanges between European and the Islamic world in the early modern period.

This should be of interest to ASTENE members especially as its rationale is along the same lines as the premises of ASTENE itself.

### Seuils et traverses [Borders and Crossings II]

#### *Call for Papers*

Conférence internationale et pluridisciplinaire sur le récit de voyage. An International and Multidisciplinary Conference in Travel Writing from 6 to 8 July 2000.

This follows the successful conference *Borders and Crossings I* which was held at Magee College, Derry, in July 1998.

Guest speakers will include (to be confirmed): Mary-Louise Pratt, Jean-Didier Urbain and Tim Youngs.

Proposals in the form of abstracts of around 300 words are sought for papers on the following topics: travel in the geographical and social peripheries of Europe, travel writing and translation, generic aspects of travel writing, contemporary travel writing. Proposals on other suitable topics will be considered, provided they address the overall conference theme. Papers, in French or English, should last for 20 minutes.

If you wish to contribute, please send two copies of an abstract, before 15 November to Jean-Yves Le Dizez, Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique (C.R.B.C.), Faculté des Lettres Victor Segalen, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, BP 814, 29285 Brest Cedex, France. Tél: 02 98 01 68 54 /02 98 01 63 31; fax; 02 98 01 63 93; email: <jean-yves.ledizez@brest.fr>.

The Third International Maritime Festival of the city of Brest (Brest 2000, 13-20 July) will take place a week after the conference.

## Lecture Programmes

### British Museum's Arab World Education Programme

The British Museum's Arab World Education programme, sponsored by the Karim Rida Said Foundation, holds interesting events which may be relevant to our society.

They are holding a 'Saudi Arabia' Study Day at the Brunei Gallery lecture theatre, SOAS, Russell Sq, London WC1. Tickets £20/£15 on 10 February 1999 from 10.00. Speakers include Geoffrey King and Salma Samar Damluji.

They are also planning a Study Day on 'The Splendours of Syria' on 2 November 1999 at the Brunei lecture theatre, 10.00 to 4.30, tickets £20 (£15 concessions). Please send cheques payable 'British Museum' to British Museum Education Service, London WC1B 3DG. Booking enquiries on 0171 323 8511/8854. For further information contact Carolyn Perry on 0171 323 8690 or <cperry@british-museum.ac.uk>.

### Travellers and Texts Seminar at Oxford

Travellers and Texts is a new interdisciplinary graduate seminar group which hopes to provide a forum for all those working on topics ranging from travel and travel literature to space, place and writing—all currently areas of growing academic interest. The aim is to bring together students from different disciplines (literature, geography, history, anthropology ...) working on any travel-related topic, so as to allow discussion across traditional faculty divides. If you would like to be involved, and particularly if you would like to give a paper, please contact either Carl Thompson at Pembroke College, Oxford <carl-thompson@sjc.ox.ac.uk> or Sarah Moss at Linacre College, Oxford <sarah.moss@linacre.ox.ac.uk>. They are particularly interested in hearing from any visiting academics in the Oxford area who are working in a travel-related field. This programme begins on 3 February 1999. We hope that this seminar group flourishes for some time.

### Cultural and Education Bureau of the Egyptian Embassy

The following talks will be held at 18.30 at the Cultural and Education Bureau of the Egyptian Embassy, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1. Tel: 0171 491 7720.

Robert Irwin, 'Treasure-hunting in medieval Egypt', on Thursday 4 March.



Alex Wilkinson, 'The Garden in ancient Egypt', on Thursday 11 March.

Paul Robert, 'Letters from the desert: Petrie's correspondence from Hawara', on Thursday 22 April.

Morris Bierbrier, 'The Coptic Collection in the British Museum', on Thursday 29 April.

## Exchanges

It would be useful to set up the exchange of Newsletters from other organisations which may share interests in common with ASTENE.

The Turkish Area Study Group (Secretary: Dr Vanessa Bowtell, Stanton Lodge, Shelveys Way, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5QJ, tel: 01737 361308) are holding a symposium on Saturday 8 May from 10 to 16.30 at Sawston Hall, near Cambridge, CB2 4JR. Tel: 01223 835099, fax: 01223 837424. Sawston Hall is a beautiful Tudor manor house set in 60 acres of fine gardens and grounds. It houses the Turkish International Lycee and the Cambridge Centre for Languages.

Speakers include Colin Imber, John Drake and Mark Hutchings. The symposium will be followed at 19.00 by a performance of Turkish music by the London Academy of Ottoman Court Music entitled 'Western Classical Music from the Ottoman Empire', followed by a buffet dinner for £25 (£15 TASG members). Tickets can be obtained by 30 April from Sawston Hall. Further details of both events can be obtained from Dr Bowtell. Although the topics at this symposium may not be of particular interest to ASTENE members this time, we anticipate future opportunities for co-operation with TASG. The editors hope to be able to ask them for information about research resources in Turkey which might be useful to ASTENE members.

TASG publishes *TASG News* (ISSN 0954-2574) which provides useful information on research resources, libraries, book reviews and information about Turkish related events.

## Useful Websites

Professor Donald Ross, Professor of English and Composition, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455, operates an informal email network for those interested in events about the study of travel and travellers and is always ready to include relevant information. He can be contacted on voice mail (612) 625 5595; email Donald Ross <rossj001@tc.umn.edu>; information on <<http://english.cla.umn.edu/Faculty/Ross/ross.htm>>  
The Journal *Studies in Travel Writing* now has a website at <http://human.ntu.ac.uk/stw/>

Website for Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) at Large: his travels in America and abroad on <http://library.berkeley.edu/BANC/Exhibits/MTP/>

## News

This Spring there will be a TV series on Sudanese Archaeology entitled *The Age of Gold*. A preview of one of the programmes will be shown on Thursday 30 March at 18.00 at the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russell Sq, London WC1. Further information from the Sudan Archaeological Research Society, c/o British Museum WC1B 3DG..

The British Museum Traveller takes tours to various parts of the Arab world, including Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. An illustrated brochure is available from the British Museum Travellers, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QQ. Tel: 0171 323 8895/323 1234.

There was an interesting article in *Al-Ahram*, English Edition 31 December 1998 to 6 January 1999 by Fayza Hassan entitled 'A Propitious wind, and sails of patience' about travellers on the Nile. In *Al-Ahram* 24-30 December 1998 Fayza Hassan also reported on the sixth IASTE Conference (International Association for the Study of Traditional Environment) which was sponsored by Cairo University in December 1998. Speakers included Derek Gregory on 19<sup>th</sup>-century tourists to Egypt, Timothy Mitchell on 'new Gurna', and Janet Abu Lughod, Dalila El-Kerdini and Ali Gabr. Some of the themes discussed are held in common with ASTENE, so it might well be worth planning some future cooperation with IASTE.

Dr Maarten Raven is working on an unknown journal by Jan Hendrik Isinger. It concerns a trip in the Sudan (Wadi Halfa to el-Dabbeh) in 1883, during the time of the Mahdist revolt. He is still working on the Dutch artist Willem de Famars Testas. He is busy with the re-installation of the Egyptian Department in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden.

## ASTENE Publications

### *Travellers in Egypt*

edited by Paul and Janet Starkey

Summer 1998. 256 pp. 1 86064 324 8. (hb) £25.  
A flier is included with this *Bulletin* for further orders!

*Travellers in the Near East and Egypt  
1997 Oxford Conference*

Clement Dodd has recently written 'One of the most trying and foolhardy of academic ventures, as many will know, is to edit a book of articles by others, especially when the articles start life as papers given to a conference.' (*TASG News*, 47 (November 1998), 33). Although the papers given at the Oxford Conference in 1997 are generally of excellent quality, I can only agree with him! However, this two-volume work is now in press with Ithaca Press and is due to be published this summer and should be available, we hope, at the Conference in Cambridge. If anyone is interested in editing the Cambridge Conference papers please let me know! For further information you can contact me at CMEIS, University of Durham or on email: <p.g.starkey@durham.ac.uk>.

*Paul Starkey*

## Obituary

**Professor Charles Beckingham  
(1915–1999)**  
*John Shipman*

Professor Charles Beckingham, who died on 30 September aged 84, spent much of his academic career as Professor of Islamic Studies, first at Manchester University (1958–1965) and later at SOAS in London (1965–1981). During this latter period he was also President both of the Hakluyt Society and of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Beckingham was famous for his lifelong interest in travel and exploration in the Indian Ocean and adjoining countries both prior to and during the arrival of Europeans in the area in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1951, in collaboration with the late R.B. Serjeant, he published a paper entitled 'A Journey by two Jesuits from Dhufar to San'a in 1590' (*Geographical Journal*, June 1950). A later monograph, entitled *Some Notes on the History of Socotra*, published in 1983, continued to reflect that interest as did his *Between Islam and Christendom: travellers, facts and legends* (1983). His last major work was to complete the translation (in 1994) begun by Sir Hamilton Gibb, of the journeys in Asia and Africa during the 14<sup>th</sup> century of the celebrated Moroccan traveller, Ibn Battuta. As Beckingham wryly remarked, completing the project took much longer to accomplish than the duration (some twenty-eight years) of Ibn Battuta's travels.

Beckingham was particularly interested in the legend of Prester John (the mighty Christian

monarch who ruled beyond the lands of Islam) and in Ethiopia, the birthplace of the legend. This culminated in the publication in 1996 of *Prester John, the Mongols and Ten Lost Tribes*, edited jointly with Bernard Hamilton.

These and other publications are indicative of the remarkable range and depth of his scholarship, which he so generously shared with all who came with requests for help with their own researches. All who knew him will miss his wit and humanity and the generosity with which he shared that immense learning.

## Queries

Janice Smithells is researching the Egyptologist and Assyriologist William St Chad Boscawen (1852–1913), who was specially distinguished for his deciphering the mysteries of arrowheads and cuneiform writing and who visited Egypt and Sinai in 1893. Having done her groundwork on the literature she is now 'keen to take advantage of relevant networks'. Are any readers researching in the same field? If so, please contact Janice Smithells, 25 The Mount, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5HL.

[Presumably William is a twig on the family tree of the Boscawens, Viscount Falmouth, of whom the 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount married one sister of William John Bankes, and the 6<sup>th</sup> married the daughter of his other sister, while the 7<sup>th</sup>, an Army officer, served with distinction in Egypt, fighting at Tel-el-Kebir in 1882, and, in the Nile expedition of 1884–1885, at Abu Klea, Abu Kru and Metemma in the Sudan. Ed.]

Paul Byrne is at present working on the Raymond Beberly Sackler Archive Resources for the Royal Society, its database of biographical information on Fellows of the Royal Society. He would be happy to collaborate with any readers if any of them are privy to useful information on past Fellows of the Royal Society. We hope to publish an article by Paul Byrne about this database in the autumn issue.

Marco Zatterin, via Verdi 12, 10126 Torini, Italy  
Tel: 0039 011 6568258 email:  
<starless@marte.aerre.it> is researching Giovanni Battista Belzoni in preparation for a book. Enrichetta Leospo at the Torino Egyptian Museum has suggested that he contacted ASTENE for useful contacts with other researchers or any information about relevant publications. He is also planning to come to London 14–18 April to make direct contact with relevant experts.

Philippe Bourmaud, a new ASTENE member, would like to hear from anyone who has information on bibliographies of medicine in travels to the East, and especially concerning Palestine in the early nineteenth century. He is also working on Dr Madden and hopes to present a paper on him at the Cambridge conference. Perhaps anyone who can help can contact him on email: <bourmaud@clipper.ens.fr> or arrange to talk with him at the forthcoming conference?

I have this query from Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein <agoldstein@orangenet.co.uk> who was awarded his PhD from Leicester University in July 1998. In 1827–28 Moses and Judith Montefiore travelled to the Holy Land via Malta and Egypt. It was to be the first of seven such journeys and his recently completed PhD entitled 'Travel to the Holy Land 1799–1831: a case study—the Journey of Moses and Judith Montefiore in 1827–28' is based on their first journey and investigates the practicalities of such a journey in that period before steam ships made travel easier.

Their travelling companion was Louis Mazarra, an Italian they had first met in Marseilles in 1816. He went with the Montefiores from England to Rome in 1823. In 1827 he joined them in Malta and travelled with them to Egypt but seems to have been afraid to go on to Palestine. He waited for them in Alexandria and returned with them to Italy. He did not join them on later journeys, yet was in contact with them in 1862.

Have any readers any more information about this Mr Mazzara? Please contact Andrew Goldstein on the email address above if you have.

Caroline Simpson has been researching in Paris and has compiled an excellent and useful list of relevant items in the Bibliothèque nationale, Département des cartes et plans and also in the Département des estampes et de la photographie. The latter holds Sir J.G. Wilkinson's drawings and watercolours in Seymour de Ricci's collection. She had hoped to find personal sketches of Wilkinson's Gurni neighbours, 'supper with Sheikh Osman, Sh. Lazim on his camel, the house of the people who lived just below him. But No. Not interested in what modern people were doing! ...'. We plan to publish Caroline's excellent information in the Research Resources Section of the autumn issue of the *Bulletin*.



BRISMES has forwarded an enquiry they received from Manuela De Leonardis of the Ass.ne Naz. le Allevatori Cavallo Trottatore [ANACT <info@anact.it>] to ASTENE. She is an art historian and expert in historical photo archives. At the moment she is working for Fototeca Nazionale, Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali in Rome on their archive collection of over 7000 negatives which belonged to an interesting man called Tony André. He was born in Annecy in 1868 and died in Florence in 1953. André was a theologian and teacher as well as a photographer. He travelled in the Middle East between 1908 and 1910, especially in Palestine, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Before the First World War he visited Egypt and Tunisia. Unfortunately it is very difficult to find information about him. If anyone knows anything about Tony André or might know someone who does, please could you email Manuela or contact the editors. Thank you.

## Travel Writing as a Source of Geographical Information

*J.M. Wagstaff*

*Geographical* information is any information which is spatially referenced. It includes not only topographical features such as mountains but also meteorological data, as well as information of an economic, social or political character about particular places. Travel writers, then, have inevitably presented geographical information to their public, but their purpose in travelling (for pleasure or for business, say) often conditioned what they observed and noted down. The background of the traveller often affected the accuracy of observation and record.

Three or four potential uses for travellers' information in writing geography may be suggested. One is the construction of geographies (real or imagined) of particular places, on a variety of scales or for different dates. A second use of the travellers' information is in the compilation of Handbooks meant to guide other travellers or, like the British Naval Intelligence Handbooks, to inform military planning. Where the requisite data are available, a third possible use is the reconstruction of local climates, perhaps using modern climatic norms to study change. Finally, travellers' information allows the study of

the geographical knowledge of past readers to establish how much was known about particular places at certain dates and how that knowledge varied over time.

All these possibilities depend upon establishing the accuracy of the information found in travel writing and solving various technical problems relating to it. For example, travellers were not always accurate in fixing named places with the result that they cannot now be located. They were not always scrupulous in noting which instruments they were using to measure, say, temperature and whether they standardised their recording times. Whilst travellers were often on a steep learning curve and their understanding improved as they journeyed, they frequently carried so much intellectual baggage with them that they found what they expected to see and were not free of bias and prejudice. Their recording of information and their presentation of it were often tailored to meet the perceived expectations of their audience. Travel information, then, is not unmediated. It must always be evaluated before being used, perhaps particularly as a source of geographical information. This is because of the compelling claim that, having seen something, the traveller wrote the 'objective' truth about it.

[Professor Wagstaff gave a paper on this theme at the ASTENE one-day conference in Birmingham in 1998 and is organising a session on Leake at the Cambridge Conference this year. Ed.]

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## A Giraffe for a King

Deborah Manley

This Christmas one of the best-selling titles was *Zarafa: the true story of a giraffe's journey from the plains of Africa to the heart of post-Napoleonic France* by Michael Allin (London: Headline, 1998), pp.215. £12.99hb. *The Sunday Times* acclaimed it 'an intriguing tale that reminds us that, once upon a time, exotic new creatures had the power to enchant and astound', whilst the critic in *Independent on Sunday* found it 'wonderfully entertaining. A vivid cabinet of curiosities, full of intriguing oddities'.. It was 'a charming tale ... Utterly enjoyable, often spell-binding', according to the *Financial Times*. *Zarafa* also means 'charming' in Arabic.

The book tells the tale of the giraffe that Muhammad 'Ali sent to the French king Charles X in 1826. It was the first giraffe to be seen in Europe for 350 years.

Only fleetingly is it mentioned that the Pasha gave a giraffe to George IV too—the first live giraffe to come to Britain. The philhellene Britons forgot who it was that sent it and welcomed it to their shores.

The English giraffe had been captured along with the French giraffe in south east Sudan in autumn 1824, then taken to Sennar. Both were sent, trussed up on camels and by boat to Alexandria in the summer of 1826. There—as one was smaller than the other—the two Consuls General, Bernadino Drovetti and Henry Salt, drew lots on behalf of their respective monarchs. Britain received the smaller animal, but Salt was discreetly assured that it was the 'handsomer of the two'. The young giraffe was then about a year old, stood about ten feet in height and was, in Salt's view 'perfectly domesticated'.

He arranged for it to over-winter in Malta, sending with it two Arab keepers, an interpreter, and two milch cows with their calves 'in the character of wet nurses'. From Malta the merchant ship *Penelope* was fitted out with a tarpaulin awning to protect the giraffe from the elements. On 11 August 1827, the *Penelope* berthed near Waterloo Bridge. Her important passenger caused a great stir and a noisy crowd gathered outside. The giraffe heard their shouts from the warehouse where he spent his first night ashore, and looked round anxiously. But 'he no sooner bent his elegant head down to his keeper and ascertained that he had a friend close by his side, than he became quite composed and easy.' Two days later,

he was loaded onto a carriage drawn by four horses and trundled the two dozen miles to Windsor Park. The waiting king was very excited and hastened to inspect 'his extraordinary acquisition, and was greatly pleased with the care that had been taken to bring it to his presence in fine order.'

The Pasha's gift was celebrated in words and pictures. Thomas Hood wrote in its honour; Jacques Laurent Agasse, the Swiss animal artist, painted its portrait—a fine, colourful painting in HM Queen's Collection—leaning down towards Cross, the animal dealer; its keepers with attendant Egyptian cows in the background.

Although when it reached London, the young animal was 'exceedingly playful', it grew in height (18 inches in under two years), but not in strength. Its legs lost the power to support its body and a pulley had to be constructed to suspend it from the ceiling. In the autumn of 1829 it died 'in that utter silence that is the lot of all giraffes from their first breath to their last.' Thus it was only after the taxidermist, John Gould, had restored power to its legs that the giraffe went to the Zoological Gardens and on public display.

The French giraffe travelled from Alexandria to Marseilles in 1826, then walked 550 miles in 41 days to Paris in June 1827 where it was brought to live in the Jardin du Roi and became a celebrity. The French giraffe still lived happily in Paris for eighteen years and to assuage British envy, the hunt was on for a replacement. The hunt was not successful until 1846 when at dawn on a bright June morning, Professor Richard Owen (the comparative anatomist) and his wife watched 'the most lovely procession imaginable' as four 'graceful, bounding, playful giraffes' from the Sudan arrived at the Gardens in Regent's Park. They were given Egyptian names and lived in a special house designed appropriately by Decimus Burton, architect brother of the Egyptian traveller, James Burton.

(This article is based mainly on four sources: William Blunt, *The Ark in the Park* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1976) which drew on 'A Giraffe for George IV' by L.S. Lambourne, and 'The Year of the Giraffe' by Sheila Cunningham Scriven, *Country Life* (2 December 1966 and 12 July 1973) and Henry Salt's letters to the Foreign Office (PRO FO78 1826-7.)

## Copyright: an Open Question

Frank Harris

So many questions are raised about copyright these days that many users are concerned about what they can legally do. The creators of certain kinds of material are automatically given the protection of copyright. There is no need, in the United Kingdom for example, to put a 'c' in a circle, viz:

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at the end of your work in order to protect it, although it is a useful reminder to users that they must respect your ownership of that work.

A work is normally regarded as protected for seventy years after the death of an author or seventy years after its publication. However, the typographical copyright of a work out of literary copyright, e.g. one of Charles Dickens' works, lasts for twenty five years from its printing and, that applies to music in print, too. So beware of photocopying your Beethoven Symphony, if it was typeset in the edition you decide to copy in, for example, 1980. That edition cannot be copied until after 2005! You can, of course, make a copy by hand of such a work without breaching copyright!

However, there were some concessions for 'fair dealing' made in the United Kingdom in the 'Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988' where section 29 allows anyone to copy from literary, dramatic, musical, or artistic works, including typographical arrangements for 'research or private study'. The amount is not specified but must be 'reasonable'; and not deprive the rights' owner of a fair financial return for his work, i.e. do not photocopy the whole work unless you have the necessary written permissions to do so.

Section 30 allows, within specified limits, copying for other purposes, e.g. criticism or review or for reporting current events but these if used require acknowledgement to be made. Both these sections of the Act refer to a single copy being made and not multiple copies, unless they are covered by a specific licensing scheme. For example, the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) makes arrangements for certain material to be

copied by schools and higher education institutions under a paid-for licence.

However, much of this could change if the European Parliament passes a Directive on the Harmonisation of copyright which is presently under consideration. Reasonable access to educational and cultural materials could be blocked and the traditional fair practice exemptions for copying for research or private study that we have discussed above and the conversion of works into digital form for archive or preservation purposes, or copying of a reasonable part of digital works on paper or disc for normal use could be prohibited.

No one should condone piracy and there is no doubt that the creators of copyright works must be given strong protection of their right to exploit those works, but such rights have, and must always be balanced by, the public interest in access to those works. That is why copyright has a limited duration and the Berne Convention expressly permits reasonable exceptions to be made.

If the proposed Directive goes through the European Parliament unamended by some of the more reasonable amendments, the United Kingdom Parliament will be required to make changes to the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 under secondary legislation. The situation is very serious and, unfortunately, a lot of people won't know of this threat until it is too late. You may well ask 'what can we do about it all?' Well, you can tell your MEP what you felt about the issue and press them to do something about it. The elections to the European Parliament take place later this summer, so they should listen!

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[Frank Harris is the Chair of the Educational Copyright Users' Forum which brings together all the major educational bodies and local government organisations in the United Kingdom to advise H.M. Government on copyright issues. We hope to include further articles on copyright re photographs and drawings in future *Bulletins*.]



## Letters to a Friend

*Deborah Manley*

Among the descendants of the travellers in Egypt and the Near East at the conference will be Richard Lamb whose great grandfather, Joseph Lamb, was a great friend of John Bowes Wright and accompanied him on some of his European travels. Wright was a student and later a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. In 1818 he and another friend from Cambridge, Fisher, travelled to Egypt, via Italy and Malta. They went on to Syria and eventually returned from Constantinople in 1819. A mummy Wright purchased at the Denon sale is now in the Hancock Museum in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and may possibly be loaned to the Louvre for the Denon exhibition.

Wright wrote three long letters to Joseph Lamb in Newcastle—letters that appeared to act as a substitute for a diary. Richard Lamb is giving a paper on these letters at the Conference, but has allowed us to offer a few excerpts to give a foretaste of that paper. Mr Lamb very much hopes that these papers will one day be published for wider circulation.

In Naples Wright and Fisher met the Belmores, just returned from Egypt and Syria in 'his lordship's yacht'. Belmore's party included his half-brother, Captain Corry RN—whose graffiti we see so often along the Nile. The young men listened to Corry's 'most interesting account of their tour' and picked up a few tips.

It is perfectly safe travelling in Egypt and very easy, as you are always upon the Nile in a large commodious boat, some of them being near 70 feet long. Provisions are amazingly cheap, a sheep not costing above a dollar; it is however necessary to go armed and in the Oriental costume and to let your beard grow. From Cairo you cross the desert on Camels and large asses, which are uncommonly swift.

Arrived in Egypt:

We experienced great hospitality from Mr Lee, our Consul in Alexandria, and were very much pleased by visiting the antiquities of the ancient city. It is a great pity that the Needle of Cleopatra, which has been thrown down, was not conveyed to England, as once proposed; it would have been an infinitely finer and more interesting monument than anything that will be produced by our modern architects, and under the circumstances much more appropriate.

Wright and Fisher had two unusual experiences: they were in Cairo in November 1818 when Ibrahim Pasha returned from his defeat of the Wahabees and they met Abdullah, the Wahabees' imprisoned leader. Theirs is one of the few eyewitness accounts of this occasion. In the spring of 1819, not far from Jerusalem, they came upon the Pasha of Damascus.

... encamped with five thousand men in the famous plains of Esdraelon, he had been eight days here and was proceeding towards Jerusalem. The scene was grand and Oriental, the camp extended from the skirts of the Samaritan mount to the plain, the gilded pavilion of his Highness stood in the centre, about five hundred camels were ranged in a circular line on one side, and a little beyond were the tents of the Cajia Bey and the other principal officers. The rest of the ground was covered with tents and men and horses. We were received by the Pasha with the most distinguished attention, as being English and bearing the letters of Mohammed Ali of Egypt, his friend and near ally.

There is much, much more in similar vein, casting a personal light on a period of Egyptian and Near Eastern history.

## Two New Lectureships in University of Durham

Two new posts have just been advertised in Durham in the Department of History which was rated a 5 at the last RAE. The closing date for applications is, I believe, 16 April and they have just been advertised on the WWW on <http://www/dur.ac.uk/History/jobs.htm>

One is a lectureship in Britain in the Wider World since 1750 i.e. International or colonial/imperial history (non-fixed term!). The second is a Research

and Development Associate in the History of British Colonial Administration in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (three-year fixed term in the first instance) The post is based on the many archives we have including the Sudan Archive, Grey, MacDonald and Baring papers. The posts will complement the existing strengths of CMEIS and East Asian Studies departments. For further details please email <david.rollason@durham.ac.uk>



## Research Resources

### Corvey Travel Archive at Sheffield Hallam University

The English Department at Sheffield Hallam University has recently purchased the Corvey Archive of Travel Literature. This archive will support the existing research strengths of the British Academy-funded group working on the Corvey Literature Archive, a collection of over 9,000 volumes of poetry, literary periodicals, chapbooks, memoirs, travel journals, novels and drama, which was acquired in 1994. The Corvey Literature Archive contains material published between 1770 and 1850 and is a facsimile microfiche version produced by the University of Paderborn, Germany of the extensive library amassed by Victor Amadeus, the landgrave of Hesse-Rotenberg and his wife Elise, Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. The collection also contains 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> travel texts published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including Lady Mary Wortley Montague, Frederick Marryat etc. For further information contact Paul Stewart, Mary Badlands Learning Centre, School of Cultural Studies, Sheffield Hallam University, Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield S10 2BP. The Corvey Travel Archive catalogue can be accessed on the Corvey website: <http://www.shu.ac.uk/corvey/> or contact <Sara Mills@shu.ac.uk>.

### Italian Resources

It is, apparently, quite difficult to track down details about Italian travellers, but we have been informed that there are two sources which may prove invaluable.

1. *Archivii biografici Italiani* is an alphabetical index of persons and places where biographical details may be found on microfiche. It is presumably available at reference libraries in Italy.
2. *Index bio. Bibliographicus notorum nominum*—the same must apply, and it is also available in the British Library.

[Information provided by Ronald Ridley. Ed.]

### Duke Humfrey's Library, Oxford

At the moment, and until July this year, Duke Humfrey's is closed while it is under repair. Duke

Humfrey's readers are being accommodated in the north east wing of the Bodleian Upper Reading Room. Inside the plastic chains which divide the area from the rest of the Upper Reading Room, Duke Humfrey's rules (no bags, pencils only) apply. The Duke Humfrey's Reserve staff and the Superintendent are based there, if further information is required.

### The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin

The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin now has a permanently displayed small but rich collection of Egyptian antiquities. The nucleus of the collection was formed by 19<sup>th</sup>-century collectors, one of whom was Lady Harriet Kavanagh, who, with her son Arthur, travelled up the Nile as far as the Third Cataract, as well as to Sinai, Jerusalem and Beirut, 1846–1848. They are a fascinating pair, she a highly intelligent and determined lady, and he, although born with only rudimentary arms and legs, travelled widely in the Far East as well as the Near East, was an MP in Ireland from 1866 to 1880, and was, says the *Dictionary of National Biography*, 'an enthusiastic and experienced yachtsman'. Surely somebody should be doing research on them?

### British Library

*Peta Rée*

96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. General enquiries, reader services and advance reservations tel: 0171 412 7676; fax: 0171 412 7609.

The new British Library is now almost entirely open, with only various science departments still closed until mid-1999. Anyone who has already used the new building will probably agree that, however uncompromisingly redbrick the exterior, inside the reading rooms are spacious and comfortable, if totally lacking the atmosphere of either the Round Reading Room (Eight Wonder of the World?) Or the wonderfully 19<sup>th</sup> century gentleman's club-like old Mss. Reading Room. The most striking feature in the building is the great tower of books which dominates the entire interior space, with reception, reading rooms and restaurants wrapped round it, and cloakrooms discreetly below.



The Oriental and India Office collections are now housed here, moved from the hideous and crumbling 1950s concrete box south of the river in which they used to languish. It is worth remembering that many of our travellers journeyed on much further east than the boundaries of our Association extend. For example, it was in the India Office library that I found a note of the inscription on the grave of John Hyde, who was in Egypt in 1819, travelling beyond Wadi Halfa with William John Bankes and Henry Beechey, and who died in India in 1825. Records relating to Oman and the Gulf are also to be found in the India Office Collections.

Readers require passes, which can only be issued in person, at the readers' admission office. The pass, and access to the reading rooms, is free. If you have never visited before, you are asked to contact the Readers Admissions Office in advance so that they can advise you on whether the Library can grant access and if you will need to supply any letter of recommendation. Tel: 0171-412-7677; fax: 01710-412-7794. Email: <reader-admissions@bl.uk>

Opening Hours: *Humanities Reading Rooms*: 9.30–18.00, Monday and Thursday; 9.30–20.00, Tuesday and Wednesday; 9.30–17.00, Friday and Saturday. *Manuscript Reading Room, Oriental and India Office Collections, and Maps*: 9.30–17.00, Monday to Saturday. There is at present some industrial action by reading room staff, so check before you go.

The British Library is almost next door to St Pancras Railway Station. Kings Cross, St Pancras and Euston are the nearest underground stations; bus routes 10, 30, 73 and 91 pass the building. There is no car park, but a covered area for bicycles. The nearest public car park is in Marchmont Street under the Brunswick Shopping Centre.

### Palestine Exploration Fund

2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5RH. Tel: 0171 935-5379; Fax: 0171 486-7438.

The Palestine Exploration Fund was founded in 1856 to promote research into the archaeology, manners and customs, topography, geology and natural sciences of Palestine. ASTENE plans an event at the Fund on Thursday 7 October 1999 from 17.00 to 20.00 (see ASTENE Events, above).

The Fund has a comprehensive library which contains an excellent collection of travel books from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with some earlier. They also have a growing archive of maps, documents, objects, and perhaps most interesting to us, photographs. There are photographs of explorations carried out in Palestine by men such as Wilson, Conder, Kitchener, Schumacher, and from the expeditions led by Petrie, Bliss, Macalister, Duncan, Garstang, Crowfoot, Kenyon and others. There are many photographs of monuments and biblical sites taken for the famous *Survey of Western Palestine* (1882–1888) by C.R. Conder and H.H. Kitchener. This has recently been republished in near original size jointly by Archive Editions and the PEF in 13 volumes with 3 map boxes (3760 pages) and remains one of the great standard works of reference for Middle East studies. For further information on this and related publications, contact Archive Editions Ltd, 7 Ashley House, The Broadway, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3PQ. Tel: 44 1753 646633; fax: 1753 646746; email: <ArchiveEdn@aol.com>

To return to the PEF, there are records of buildings and scenes no longer in existence; there is a large collection of prints, going back to the 1850s, by well known photographers such as Bonfils, Frith, Graham, Bedford and Beato.

It appears that all this is freely available to us—though perhaps one should ring the Secretary first? If you should want to become a subscriber to the Fund, it costs £25 a year—apply to the Secretary for details.

### The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies

*Briony Llewellyn*

Dr K. Fleet, Skilliter Centre, Newnham College, Cambridge CB3 9DF. Tel: (0) 1223 335804. Fax: (0) 1223 357898. Email: KF11 <cus.cam.ac.uk>

The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies, the only research centre of its kind in the United Kingdom, was founded after the death in 1985 of Dr Susan Skilliter, Lecturer in Turkish at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge, and Bye-Fellow at Newnham College. Dr Skilliter, whose own work concentrated on the diplomatic relations between England and the Ottoman Empire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, left money and a large collection of books to found a centre for research in Ottoman studies. The Centre is based in purpose-built

premises within the College where its specialist library is housed. The centre holds one-day seminars, international conferences and has an annual award scheme. It has hosted many visiting scholars from abroad and plays an active role in the promotion of Turkish studies, both within the university and within the academic community in general, in the United Kingdom and abroad.

#### *The Library*

The Skilliter Centre collection consists of approximately 4,500 books, concentrating on Ottoman history and travel accounts. The collection is being kept up-to-date as far as possible, with emphasis being placed on the purchase of collections of facsimiles and transcription of documents, such as those produced by the Başbakanlık Archives in Istanbul. The rare books collection, comprising nearly 180 volumes, includes books dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Scholarships*

As part of its policy to promote Ottoman studies, both in this country and abroad, the Skilliter Centre grants a number of research awards annually for research in any aspect of Ottoman Studies. In granting these awards, preference is given to younger scholars at the beginning of their academic careers as this is considered to be the most effective way of assisting the younger generation of Ottomanists. To date nearly 50 awards have been given to scholars from 16 countries.

#### *Seminars*

In 1994 the Skilliter Centre began to hold one-day seminars. While, due to budgetary constraints, these tend to be based round scholars working within the United Kingdom, involvement by

scholars from abroad is encouraged as much as possible. There are two seminars per year, one at the beginning of December and one at the beginning of February. The seminars have covered: Documentary sources for Ottoman History; The Loss of the Provinces: Ottoman Fragmentation to 1918; Spying in the Ottoman Empire; Ottoman Cities; Aspects of the Late Ottoman Economy; Emerging Identities in the late Ottoman Empire.

#### *Conferences*

The Skilliter Centre has held several conferences, the first of which was in April 1992 on 'The Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth century'. Since then there has been a further conference in March 1996, on 'The Ottomans and the Sea'. The next is being held from 17 to 20 March 1999 on 'The Ottoman Frontier'.

### Cambridge Resources

Those attending the conference will be interested in exploring the collections at the Fitzwilliam Museum. Mrs Jill Butterworth of Cambridge University Library has been busy preparing a small exhibition of library material. Ms Briony Llewellyn is hoping to work alongside staff at the Fitzwilliam Museum to elucidate what might be of interest to members as well as inform the museum of our interests. We will feature Cambridge research resources in more detail in subsequent issues.

Whilst on the subject of resources in Cambridge, we should like to draw your attention to Adab Books, PO Box 16, Cambridge CB3 9QQ. Tel: 44 (0) 1223 323 047. Email: <dmr.adab@geo2.poptel.org.uk>. Antiquarian and out-of-print books on the Middle East and Muslim World.



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## Interesting and Amusing Snippets

The editors welcome contributions from members of *short* extracts from travellers' accounts of their experiences of travel in Egypt and the Near East and/or brief historical notes for the edification of members.

### Abu Simbel—night in the temple (1862)

John William Burgon (1813–1888)

At about ten o'clock in the evening of this most interesting day, a strong wish came over me to go back, and pay one more visit to Rameses the Great. Two of our party expressed their willingness to bear me company. We furnished ourselves with a slender pole, to the extremity of which we secured a candle: left our shoes behind us—(the sand was so warm and soft to the feet, and walking with shoes was so very inconvenient)—and after the most noiseless fashion imaginable, took our starlight way towards the Temple.

Having entered, we made a complete survey over again of every part; leisurely exploring the walls in every direction with our solitary candle, so as to obtain a notion of what was anywhere incised upon them. The silence was intense: the whirring of the wings of a nervous little bat, who made the circuit of the Temple with us, the only thing audible. We found our way into the remotest chamber of all,—the shrine; where four gloomy gods face you, in a sitting posture. Quite awful was it to find them still sitting there in the dark, as twelve hours before, we had left them motionless, in grim majesty. 'And there they will sit' (we said to ourselves) 'unconscious of change, until the ages shall have run out, and the end shall be!'

The last thing I did on leaving the great hall of the Temple was the first thing I had done on entering it,—namely, to obtain a careful survey of the features of the colossus on the right, by lifting up the candle above the head of the figure. I cannot express how striking was the result. In that vast, mysterious, cavern-like chamber the only object in bright relief was the countenance of the monarch who, 3,200 years ago, had caused this mighty fabric to be wrought out of the solid rock. The serene majesty of those features was even affecting. It was the deep repose, the profound calm, of death. Making the boatman who waited on us hold the light for me, I drew for a few minutes—minutes which seemed like hours; so many solemn thoughts crowded themselves in, unbidden. None of us spoke. The silence was so intense that one might have heard the ticking of one's watch. What is strange,—at last, on looking up from my papers, I thought I saw the beginning

of a smile on the lips of Rameses. Intently I gazed, and of course recognised the sufficiently obvious fact that the supposed smile was merely the effect of my own imagination. But it is just as certain that I gazed on until,—I am half ashamed to write it, but it is true—until the features seemed to me to smile again. Then they grew graver than ever: but at last I felt sure that they relaxed—just a little bit—again. One's nerves were getting over-strung. I invented a sentiment for the lips to utter, and felt sure that I was interpreting their most expressive outline rightly. I daresay, if I had been alone, and had stopped long enough, I should have heard Rameses speak. It would have been somewhat to this effect: — 'You seem astonished, Sir, at what you are beholding in this remote corner of my dominions. No wonder; for with all your boasted civilisation and progress, you could not match this edifice in the far-away land to which (as I gather from your uncouth dress and manners) you and your friends belong. I have been reposing here in effigy for upwards of 3,000 years. I have seen generation after generation of ancient Greeks, and generation after generation of ancient Romans, enter this hall; peep and pry,—as you have done this evening; and then vanish at yonder portal,—as you will yourselves do a few minutes hence. If I smiled for an instance just now—(it is not my wont to smile)—it was only because you really looked alarmed as well as awed at my presence. But I shall not smile again. So now, go home, Sir,—go and write a book, like the rest, about the little you have seen in Egypt; but let it humble you to remember that Rameses will be standing here, unchangeable, long after you, and your book, and all that belongs to you is utterly forgotten. You may go, Sir. It is getting late—for *you*. You had better go, Sir. Good night!'

We lingered: retiring a few steps, and then turning again to look; profoundly conscious that we were looking our last; that we should never fasten our eyes on those glorious forms again. I fancy too that we were, all three, impressed with an uneasy suspicion that it was not mere lifeless stone that we had been visiting, and were now leaving to profoundest silence and utter gloom ... It was a relief to emerge into the fresh evening air; to survey the starry heavens overhead, Orion, and the rest; and to recognise our two boats, bright with lights, beneath us, moored to the banks of the broad shining river' [From *John William Burgon, late Dean of Chichester. A biography* (London: J. Murray, 1892) by Edward Meyrick Goulburn, Dean of Norwich].

Excerpt from *The Bertrams*  
Anthony Trollope

'There is something enticing to an Englishman in the idea of riding off through the desert with a pistol girt about his waist, a portmanteau strapped on one horse before him, and an only attendant seated on another behind him. There is a *souçon* of danger in the journey just sufficient to give it excitement; and then it is so un-English, oriental, and inconvenient; so opposed to the accustomed haste and comfort of a railway; so out of his hitherto beaten way of life, that he is delighted to get into the saddle. But it may be a question whether he is not generally more delighted to get out of it; particularly if that saddle be a Turkish one.'

A. Trollope, *The Bertrams: a novel* (1859; repr. Oxford University Press, 1991), 65–66.

The First Egyptian Society

On 11 December 1741, the physician, antiquary and divine, William Stukeley, was appointed secretary of The Egyptian Society or Egyptian

Club. The society's purpose was to examine Egyptian antiquities and—no doubt—to share experiences of Middle Eastern travel.

The Society had its origins—'as so many other societies have had'—at a dinner. This one was at Lebeck's Head Tavern, Chandos Street, London. Lord Sandwich (Fourth Earl, 1718–92, in Egypt 1738–9) presided. Also present were Dr Richard Pococke (1704–65, in Egypt in 1737, 1738, 1739, *a Description of the East*); Dr Charles Perry (d. 1780, medical writer and traveller, in Egypt, Palestine and Greece 1739–42, *View of the Levant*); and Captain Frederik Norden (1708–42, in Egypt for the Danish king, 1737–8).

The society's life was brief and in 1742 it was dissolved.

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Warren R. Dawson, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, 23 (1937), 259.

*Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 7 (1852), 145–58.

William Stukeley, *Medallic History of Carausius* (1757–1759), preface, p. vi.

John Nicholls, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century* (1812), 334.

Book Reviews

Howard Carter, *Tut. ankh. Amen. The Politics of Discovery*, Libri Publications. £17.95. ISBN 1 901965007.

In 1905, soon after his move from Thebes to Cairo, Howard Carter became embroiled in a semi-diplomatic dispute over an affray at Saqqara, involving French and Belgian visitors and Egyptian Antiquities Service guards. Obstinate, and convinced of the rightness of his position, he refused to modify his position, was 'exiled' to Tanta in the Delta and subsequently resigned from the Antiquities Service. In justification he compiled a dossier of letters and documents charting the course of the dispute and its outcome up to his move to Tanta. He did no more than preserve this dossier as a record of a bitter occasion; it is now in the Griffith Institute, Oxford.

In the winter of 1923–1924, Carter was again involved in a dispute with the authorities in Egypt. On this occasion he was initially supported by some British and American

Egyptologists, who were motivated as much by sympathy for Carter as by resentment at the changes in excavation policy being promulgated by Pierre Lacau, Director-General of the Antiquities Service. For Carter, the difficulties connected with the tomb of Tutankhamun stemmed largely from the arrangements for publicity and access made while his Patron, the Earl of Carnarvon, was still alive. Inspired by posthumous loyalty, and stirred by his own natural perversity and stubbornness, Carter behaved arbitrarily—or bravely, according to one's point of view—in countering or defying the various instructions he received from Lacau and senior government officials. On 13 February 1924 he closed the tomb after he was not allowed to show the opened sarcophagus of Tutankhamun to the wives of his associates. Court cases followed, and when Carter left Egypt in late April to return to Britain, and subsequently to embark for America, the whole future of his work on the tomb was uncertain.

Again, to justify his actions, he compiled a dossier of documents relating to the dispute. It was privately printed as *Statement with Documents as the events which occurred in Egypt in the Winter of 1923-24, leading to the ultimate break with the Egyptian Government*. It was 'for private circulation only', and Carter received some copies shortly before he left America for Britain in late June. A few only were circulated, hailed with moderate enthusiasm by a few recipients, but condemned by others, notably former supporters in the Metropolitan Museum, as a shocking betrayal of confidences. Carter was persuaded to modify it, and he never circulated it beyond a small group of supporters in Britain and America.

The *Statement* presents a sorry tale of personal intransigence and official interference. The documents cover the saddest period in Carter's career; at the time of compilation he had little reason to believe that he would be allowed to return to the tomb. Today it offers salutary lessons about forbearance and understanding. It is now reprinted in this volume with an informative introduction by Nicholas Reeves, and incorporating translations of the many French documents. The great Chicago Egyptologist, James Henry Breasted, wrote to Carter that the *Statement* 'will always be a monument in the history of research in the Near East'. You may judge what he really meant according to how you may individually view the behaviour of the various parties in this miserable episode.

Harry James

Mary S. Lovell. *A Rage to Live: a biography of Richard and Isabel Burton* (London: Littler, Brown, 1998), 910 pp. Appendix, chronology, source notes, index and illustrations. ISBN 0 316 64385 8. £25.

This is both a sympathetic and meticulously researched book. Most of all, it welds a complex story into a concise and logical narrative, in itself no mean achievement, considering the personalities of the two main characters, and the overwhelming amount of material they left behind; much of it, partly because of the lack of understanding by a truly ungrateful nation, is today scattered over at least two continents. The refusal of the British Library to buy the Burton Library (which has now found a sympathetic home in the

Huntington Library in California) is but one such example. Both Isabel and Richard Burton have been the subject of numerous (often grossly biased) biographies but the author, who has been able to add a wealth of new and hitherto unknown source material, has, throughout the book, remained firmly non-judgmental.

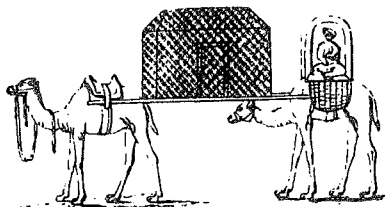
Burton's achievements as linguist, explorer, soldier, translator, scholar, undercover agent for Napier, adventurer, his pilgrimage to Mecca (which, contrary to the Foreign Office's opinion did not jeopardise his position in Damascus), and into the interior of Africa in search of the headwaters of the Nile (which resulted in the unfortunate and highly damaging quarrel with the clearly psychopathic Speke) are well known, though not always properly understood. Burton not only seems to have had a talent for making enemies, he also, at times, chose his friends rather unwisely. All this has been documented in great, sometimes overwhelming, detail in Burton's own writing, and anybody who has read all his books not to mention his other publications, can only marvel at Mary Lovell's patience and talent in turning them into a readable story. What drove Burton? Probably more than anything else, sheer, overwhelming curiosity—all who suffer from the same affliction will recognise it. He did, in all likelihood, convert to Islam at one time, became in turn a true Sufi, a Sikh, at least tried to join the Mormons, and probably also underwent some sort of conversion to Catholicism, perhaps in Goa—religion, like ethnology and the lore of sexual practice being something one has to experience to gain true understanding. Only one conversion, which surprisingly has always been accepted without controversy, namely that to Hinduism and the granting of the 'Brahmanical thread' is highly unlikely. Quite apart from the fact that one has to be born a Hindu, only the highest castes can receive the sacred thread of the twice-born. As far as the controversy about his sexual preference is concerned, he may well have been bi-sexual, but, be that as it may, driven by his relentless curiosity, it is highly unlikely that he did not at least experiment with homosexuality. That he never 'came out' is perfectly understandable considering the fate of Oscar Wilde and others; in any case Burton (and also Isabel) were exceedingly adept in writing copiously about every detail of their lives, without telling anything about what Isabel would probably have called the 'most private and delicate' details.

In the case of the notorious 'holocaust' of unpublished material in Trieste after Burton's death, Mary Lovell firmly, and quite rightly, comes down in favour of Isabel. Whatever Isabel may or may not have burned in those first weeks of overwhelming grief and sudden vulnerability, we would have lost much more than the translation of the *Scented Garden* and some private notes and diaries, had she not devoted much of her life to editing Burton's manuscripts, which were simply left in her charge to prepare for publication whenever he embarked on a new travelling venture.

Much has been written about the Burton marriage, mainly to the detriment of Isabel, especially by Burton's family and a small coterie of his men friends. Mary Lovell rightly considers it a successful union—after all, a marriage lasting some thirty-five years can hardly be deemed a failure. Isabel, who called her husband her 'early god', was far from being the neurotic Catholic prude some of Burton's friends saw in her. As a teenager she wrote in her diary, 'I want to lead a wild and lawless life'. Lacking Jane Digby's £3,000 a year, she found it at Burton's side. Burton in turn gained a loyal and highly capable amanuensis. For a girl of her class, well connected to poor Catholic nobility, Isabel was far from uneducated, having attended a proper school instead of being handed over to a governess whose only qualification was that of being 'a lady'. There is no doubt that in Trieste, and probably much earlier, Burton began to depend on her, and whether she had or had not read the *Arabian Nights*, without her tireless promotion at a time when she was already far from well, they would never have been published. Similarly nearly all Burton's postings, including Damascus, were obtained through Isabel's skill at using her connections.

It is extremely difficult to do full justice to Mary Lovell's book without writing at least a lengthy essay on all the various points she examines in such detail, and give equal justice to all the new material she has unearthed, and the new conclusions she draws. But this is certainly a work nobody who is interested in Isabel and Richard Burton can ignore.

Albertine Gaur



Ronald T. Ridley. *Napoleon's Proconsul in Egypt: The Life and Times of Bernardino Drovetti*. London: Rubicon Press, 1998. xii + 372 pp. 34 illus. Pb £20.

It was the Napoleonic Expedition, the conquest of Egypt in 1798, that led to the opening up of Egypt to European eyes, especially the antiquity of the country and its artefacts. One of the most important and recurring names in the literature of the many contemporary accounts of the period, is that of Bernardino Drovetti. He arrived in Egypt in 1803 soon after the treaty of Alexandria had handed Egypt back to Turkey, and Muhammad 'Ali was just beginning to lay the foundations of a dynasty that was to last until the exile of King Farouk in 1952. Drovetti was not the architect of the changes but certainly a moving force behind Muhammad 'Ali and whose advice was sought and usually acted on. Drovetti's background was that of a soldier and lawyer in Napoleonic Europe and he was to be Napoleon's Proconsul in Egypt on and off for some thirty years. In such a position of power he naturally was often the object of hostile accounts by those who would seek to influence him. He appears quite frequently in the *Narrative* of Giovanni Belzoni, and it must be remembered that they were rivals in collecting antiquities; contemporaries described how areas for antiquities hunting seemed to be parcelled up between the pair of them.

Drovetti was to form three major collections of Egyptian antiquities, the principal one becoming, via the Kingdom of Piedmont, the foundation of the superb Turin collection. Other major items collected by him ended up in Paris and Berlin. In *Napoleon's Proconsul in Egypt: the life and times of Bernardino Drovetti*, Professor Ridley has brought Drovetti back into the light. He has assiduously researched Drovetti's earlier years and puts him solidly into the context of Napoleonic Europe in upheaval, and then, largely through Drovetti's own *Episolario*, fills out a detailed picture of a man who previously was largely seen more as a haunting shadow in the annals of early Egyptology.

The book has been most assiduously researched and has a detailed apparatus of footnotes referring back to the many original sources cited. Much use is made of Drovetti's own accounts, and good translations, from those sources and others, occur frequently throughout the text. For some odd reason, in just a few places Professor Ridley suddenly decided not to give the quotations in translation but in the original French, although the

original sources are cited in the footnotes. This is not only strange but decidedly infuriatingly to the reader (even if one does read French) e.g. p. 79, a quotation from Cailliaud, described as 'the liveliest description of antiquarian rivalry in Upper Egypt ...', is followed by over half a page of original text—very odd, since elsewhere Cailliaud appears in translation. However, one

must not cavil at an overall excellent piece of scholarship. Egyptologists will find, perhaps, that the military and diplomatic side of Drovetti is rather heavy, but it is all part of the picture of a remarkable man. It is on people such as Drovetti that so many of the early Egyptologists and explorers relied and to have the first, and detailed, biography of him available is very welcome.

Peter A. Clayton

## Titles of Publications Submitted to ASTENE

I am sure that this list is far from complete! Please contact the editors with amendments, corrections and additions and we will amend our records accordingly. We hope to publish an up-to-date list in April 2000. Please remember to keep us updated by completing and returning the enclosed questionnaire as other members are most interested to know research activity in the Association, thank you!

- Abdel Hakim, Sahar Sobhi, 'British Women Writers in Egypt in the Middle Decade of the Nineteenth century: Sophia Poole, Harriet Martineau and Lucie Duff Gordon', PhD thesis
- Adams, William Y., *Nubia: Corridor to Africa* (London: Allen Lane, 1977)
- Bietak, Manfred — has submitted a long list with over 13 monographs and over 110 articles. Full information from ASTENE secretary.
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- , *The Splendor of Egypt. A Commentary on Napoléon Bonaparte's expedition (1798-1801) and the 'Description de l'Égypte'*, Delmar, NY: Caravan Books, 1975), 212 pp, 100 plates.
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- Kettel, Jeannot, '«Le grand noeud goudien délié?»: L'énigme des canopes, Horus Apollon et les alphabets orientaux: une lettre de Champollion à Antoine-Jean Saint Martin' *poikila: hommage à Othon Scholer* (Etudes classiques VIII, sous la direction de Colette Bodelot, Robert Koch, Joseph Reisdorfer et Edouard Wolter) (Luxembourg: Centre universitaire, 1996 [1997]), 103–36, figs.
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## Books

Information collected by Sarah Searight and Janet Starkey

If any member has access to review copies of books, please could you contact Sarah Searight. Please let us know of any new publication which comes to your attention which might be of interest to other members.

John Ash, *A Byzantine Journey* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1995), 352 pp. ISBN 1 86064 015 X. hb £16.95. Both a travelogue and a cultural history of Byzantine Empire. The book is elegant, erudite and compulsively readable.



Mary Chubb, *Nefertiti lived here* (London: Libri Publications, 1998), 181 pp. £9.95. ISBN 1-901965-01-5. In 1930 Mary Chubb joined the dig at Tell el Amarna. This is her charming account (first published in 1954) of an experience which inspired a lifelong, if unscholarly, enthusiasm for archaeology in general and Egyptology in particular.



William Dalrymple, *From the Holy Mountain* (Flamingo, 1998), 483 pp. £8.99. In 587 AD a monk called John Moschos and his pupil left Istanbul to visit Christian communities in the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt and experienced a variety of threats on their way. Excellent prose style, well researched from a well established writer.



William Facey and Gillian Grant: *Kuwait by the First Photographers*, (London, I.B. Tauris, 1998) £25. ISBN 1 900404 14 1. This documents the period between 1900 and 1950, which saw Kuwait's emergence from a vulnerable shaykhdom negotiating a precarious independence amongst neighbouring powers to a nation state with the highest per capita income in the world; it is a visual record of a crucial period before the ancient way of life, based on pearling, fishing, boat-building and trade, was swept away. The nationality of the earliest photographers reflects the political interest in Kuwait by outside powers— Russian, German and particularly British.



Katherine Frank, *A Passage to Egypt: the life of Lucie Duff Gordon* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1994), 361 pp. ISBN 0-54688-5.



Khaled Fahmy, *Mehmed Ali, his Army and the Making of Modern Egypt* Cambridge, 1997.

£40. ISBN 05211560071. A new interpretation of modern Egyptian history and the rise of Egyptian nationalism, based on previously neglected archival material. The author demonstrates how Mehmed Ali (*sic*) built up the Egyptian army, often with crucial advice from European officers, to further his own ambitions rather than as a means of gaining Egyptian independence.



Jennifer Glynn, *Tidings from Zion: Helen Bentwich's letters from Jerusalem, 1919-1931* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1997), 192 pp. ISBN 1-86064-349-3. Hb £25. Letters from the wife of the British Attorney General in Palestine during the British Mandate.



Gianni Guadalupi, *The Discovery of the Nile* (Vercelli, Italy: White Star S.r.l. 1997; Shrewsbury: Swan Hill Press, 1998), 345 pp. £35. ISBN 1-84037-045-9. Both this book and Max Rodenbeck and Alberto Rossi's book (mentioned below) are essentially 'coffee-table picture books' but what pictures! The commentaries in both books are intelligent and informed. There is a lavish selection of contemporary drawings, paintings and maps showing the lands along the Niles as seen through the eyes of the explorers.



Michael Haag, *Alexandria: city of Durrell, Forster and Cavafy*, (London, I.B. Tauris, 1998) 320 pp. £19.95. ISBN 1-86-64-037-0. In the decades before Nasser's seizure of power and the Suez crisis Alexandria was the cosmopolitan centre of the Levantine world. Using interviews, diaries, letters and photographs, Michael Haag recreates this city in its heyday.



Donald Hawley, ed., *Sudan Canterbury Tales* (Wilby: Michael Russell, 1999) £18. A collection of twenty tales by British men and women who were working in the Sudan in the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium period, with a preface by Sir Donald Hawley.

Carole Hillenbrand, *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives*, Islamic Surveys Series (Edinburgh University Press, 1999) 224 pp. h/b £40. ISBN 0-7486-0905-9. P/b £14.95. ISBN 0-7486-0630-0. In looking at Islamic perspectives Dr Hillenbrand exposes the foundations of some of the misunderstandings between East and West that bedevil those relationships today.



Tim Macintosh-Smith, *Yemen: travels in dictionary land* (London: John Murray, 1998), 280 pp, £18. This book is not so much about travelling as about being there, though he made some wonderful journeys around Yemen and back through time. An entertaining and enlightened view.



Abdullah Mansur (*alias* G. Wyman Bury), *The Land of Uz*, Introduction by Clive Smith (Reading: Garnet, 1998).



Nabil Matar, *Islam in Britain: 1558-1685* (CUP, 1998), 226 pp. £37.50. The origins of British attitudes to Islam presented in an 'astonishing compendium of ground-breaking research' (William Dalrymple, *Sunday Times*) reveal that Britain was closely engaged with the Islamic world from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards as the Ottoman Empire expanded westwards.



Christopher Ondaatje, *Journey to the Source of the Nile* (London: HarperCollins, 1998). A survey of historical journeys, based on the author's own travels in the region.



Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The First Crusaders 1095-1131* (Cambridge, 1997) ISBN 0521590051 £30.00. This aims to provide detailed answers to such questions as the reasons crusaders went on crusade, how they prepared, how they reacted to their experiences; it offers a systematic reading of contemporary source material. The author identifies family clusters of crusaders across Europe.



Max Rodenbeck and Alberto Rossi, *Egypt, Gift of the Nile* (New York: Harry N Abrams, 1992) 205 pp. ISBN 0-8109-3254-7. A fine visual survey of ancient monuments, including many aerial photographs. Rossi's photographs show Egypt as she is now.

G.A. Russell, *The 'Arabick' Interest of Natural Philosophers in seventeenth-century England*, (Leiden, 1994). See *BSOAS* review 61:1 (1998), 137.



Mohammed Sharafuddin, *Islam and Romantic Orientalism: literary encounters with the Orient* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1996).

'Did European writers and scholars create an image of the Islamic world as a place of tyranny, unreason and immortality, destined to be subjected to and exploited by the West? This work looks at some of the main literary texts of the Romantic movement in order to explore this question.'



Abderrahman Salaoui, *The Orientalist Poster* (London: I.B.Tauris 1998) 144 pp. £29.95. ISBN 1-86064-239X



A. Sonbol, trs. & ed., *The First Khedive of Egypt: Memoirs of Abbas Hilmi* (London: Ithaca, 1998) 352 pp £35 ISBN 6372-208-3. A record of this crucial period in Egyptian history, 1892-1914, and of the Khedive's resistance to British domination.



Thompson, Jason, *Sir Garner Wilkinson and his Circle* (University of Texas Press, 1992), ISBN 0-292-77643-8. 228 pp.



Christopher J. Walker, *Visions of Ararat: writings on Armenia*. 220 pp. ISBN 1-86064-111-3. Hb £19.95. A collection of British writing on Armenia, it includes accounts by travel writers, early anthropologists, historians, soldiers, poets, lawyers, clergymen and politicians.



Janet Wallach, *Desert Queen, the extraordinary life of Gertrude Bell etc* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1996; Phoenix, p/b 1997; Nan A. Talese, 1996) 419 pp p/b. ISBN 0-75380-247-3. In this major reassessment of the life of Gertrude Bell, a woman as vital to the history of the Middle East as her friend and colleague T.E. Lawrence, Janet Wallach reveals a woman whose achievements and independent spirit were remarkable for her times, and who brought the same passion and intensity to her explorations as she did to her rich and romantic life.

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