

BSMES, 12, 1985

to the photographic archive of the explorer, linguist, and archaeologist Gertrude Bell, which is now housed in the Department of Archaeology of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

After graduating from the University of Oxford in 1888, Gertrude Bell began to travel widely in Europe and the Middle East, and also began to make a photographic record of her travels. By the turn of the century she had become an accomplished photographer, and sometimes carried two cameras on her journeys, one of which took panoramic views; she often photographed the people she met, and, since her main interests were those of the historian and archaeologist, she made many detailed studies of buildings and ancient sites.

Some details about the background to the Bell archive are given in the preface to the catalogue, where such matters as the provenance and the physical format of the collection are dealt with. This is followed by a brief but useful introduction by Lynn Ritchie, giving a biography of Gertrude Bell and some practical information about the arrangement and use of the catalogue.

The catalogue itself lists over 6,000 photographs dating from the period 1899 to 1914, and covering Europe, Turkey, the Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and northern Najd. The arrangement of the material is, happily, that introduced by Gertrude Bell herself. The user has, however, been given every assistance by the compilers, who have headed each page with details of covering dates and the countries represented, as well as picking out town, village, and site names in large type within the body of the text. Of further assistance to the user are the inclusion of the classical names of sites, and Gertrude Bell's original version of Turkish and Middle Eastern place names.

This is a welcome guide to an important collection.

ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

GILLIAN GRANT

OBITUARY

SUSAN SKILLITER (1930-1985)

On 16 September 1985 Susan Skilliter died at the age of fifty-four. Deep sorrow at her death will be felt far beyond her own University, and, indeed, far beyond her own country. Susan was, above everything, a friend and colleague of those whose interests she shared, devoting great energy to keeping up with her large circle of friends in Turkey, Eastern and Western Europe, and the United States. There can be few people who worked in her field who could not tell some story to illustrate her kindness, generosity and willingness to help. She maintained close contact with many former students whose studies and later careers she helped with an almost maternal devotion. She was always willing to give her services and was active on committees, such as those of the Royal Asiatic Society and the Hakluyt Society. She particularly enjoyed bringing people together and proved a most efficient organizer of such successful gatherings as the Third International Congress on Turkish Art, held in Cambridge in 1967 and the Sixth Symposium of CIEPO, held also in Cambridge in 1984. She also did not neglect the convivial side of such occasions, being usually to be found in the middle of the liveliest group.

After reading Oriental Studies at Cambridge (1949 to 1951), Susan worked in the University Library there for a decade. During this period she acquired the enormous and precise bibliographical knowledge that was always at the disposal of anyone who sought information. In 1962 she was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Manchester, where at the same time she worked on her doctoral dissertation. Then, in 1956, she returned to Cambridge as Lecturer in Turkish, spending the rest of her life there apart from a year at an American University. She was passionately devoted to her subject in all its aspects and saw the general decline of interest in Turkish studies with unconcealed regret. Apart from her thesis, her written legacy comprised a notable work sponsored by the Oriental Documents Committee of the British Academy, namely *William Harborne and the Trade with Turkey 1578-1582. A Documentary Study of the First Anglo-Ottoman Relations* (Oxford UP for the British Academy, 1977) and a large number of meticulously-researched articles in academic journals. But perhaps even more important her legacy will be the memory of someone who could always find the time to listen and help. *Requiescat in pace.*

Robin Bidwell

Skendi, Stavro, born 20 August 1905 at Korçë, Albania, he was educated in his home town, and received a B.A. in 1928 from Robert College, Istanbul. After studies at Genève he taught for a number of years at a commercial college at Vlorë and the French school at Korçë. In 1943 he emigrated, and by way of Turkey reached the United States in 1946. He became a graduate student at Columbia University, where he received a Ph.D. in 1952 with a thesis entitled *Albanian and South Slavic oral epic poetry*. After a one-year lectureship at the University of Toronto, he was appointed a lecturer in the Central and Middle European Program of Columbia University. His writings include *The political evolution of Albania* (1954), and *The Albanian national awakening, 1878-1912* (1967). He died in New York City on 18 October 1989. ConAu 25-28; DrAS, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1982F; IntAu&W; 1977; IntWWP, 1977/78, 1982; Südost-Forschungen 49 (1990), pp. 369-370; WrDr, 1976/78-1990/92

Skene, James Henry, born in 1775, he was a British resident of twenty years in the East. His writings include *The Three eras of Ottoman history* (1851), its translations, *Les Trois époques de l'histoire ottomane* (1851), and *Die drei Epochen der osmanischen Geschichte* (1852), *Frontier lands of the Christian and the Turk* (1854), its second edition entitled *Anadolu, the last home of the faithful* (1854), and *Μνημεια και τοπια της Ελλάδος, 1838-1845* (Athens, 1985). He died in 1864. BritInd (1); LC

Skene, R., born 19th cent., he was a British civil officer of experience who had a thorough knowledge of Swahili. His trace is lost after a publication in 1917. Note

Skertchly, J. Alfred, born 19th cent., his writings include *Dahomey as it is; being a narrative of eight months' residence in that country* (1874), *Melinda the caboceer, or, Sport in Ashanti* (1876), and he was joint author of *Natural philosophy* (1873). BLC; NUC, pre-1956

Skilliter, Susan Anne, born in 1930, she was a graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge, and read Turkish and Ottoman history at SOAS. After working in the Cambridge University Library for ten years, she was appointed in 1962 to a lectureship at the University of Manchester, where at the same time she completed her doctorate with a thesis entitled *The Turkish documents relating to Edward Barton's embassy to the Porte, 1588-1598*. In 1956 she returned to Cambridge as a lecturer in Turkish, spending the rest of her life there apart from a year at an American university. Her written legacy comprised a notable work sponsored by the Oriental Documents Committee of the British Academy, namely *William Harborne and the trade with Turkey, 1578-1582* (1977). She died of cancer on 16 September 1985. Her private library went to Newnham College, where it is housed in the Skilliter Library for Ottoman Studies. BiIn, 15; BRISMES bulletin, 12 (1985), p. 251; ConAu, 117; JRAS, 1986, pp. 93-94; *Materia Turcica*, 11 (1985), pp. 171-173; Private; Sluglett

Skinner, Cyril, born in 1924 at London, he studied at SOAS, Leiden, and Jakarta, and from 1963 to his death in Aix-en-Provence on 21 December 1986 held the chair of Indonesian and Malay literature at Monah University, Melbourne. Archipel 34 (1987), pp. 3-5; Index Islamicus (1); WhoAus, 1965-1985

Skinner, David Elmo, born ca. 1935, he received a Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of California, Berkeley, for *Islam in Sierra Leone during the nineteenth century*; he was in 1995 a professor at the Department of History, Santa Clara University, Cal., a post which he still held in 2000. He wrote *Thomas George Lawson, African historian and administrator in Sierra Leone* (1980), and he was joint author of *Community leadership and the transformation of Freetown, 1801-1976* (1978). NatFacDr, 1995-2000

Skinner, Elliott Percival, born 20 June 1924 at Port of Spain, West Indies, he was a graduate of New York University and Columbia University. He was a professor of anthropology at N.Y.U. from 1959 to 1963, and from 1963-1966 and again from 1969 to his retirement at Columbia. He repeatedly conducted field-work in West Africa. From 1966 to 1969 he was ambassador to Upper Volta. His writings include *The Mossi of Upper Volta* (1964), *African urban life* (1974). AmM&WS, 1973 S; Shavit - Africa

Skiotis, Dennis Nikolaou, born in 1936, he received a Ph.D. in 1971 from Harvard with a thesis entitled *The lion and the phoenix; Ali Pasha and the Greek revolution*.

Skærvø, Prods Oktor, born 30 December 1944 at Steikjer, Norway, he received a doctorate in philosophy in 1981 at Oslo, and Dr.habil. in 1984 at Mainz. He was a sometime collaborator with the *Cyclopaedia Iranica*. He was joint author of *The Sassanian inscription of Paikuli* (1978-83), and *Studia grammatica Iranica; Festschrift für Helmut Humbach* (1986). MESA Roster of members, 1990

Składanek, Bogdan, born 21 August 1931 at Warszawa, he studied Persian, Arabic, and Turkish at Uniwersytet Warszawski, where he received an M.A. in 1956, and in 1965 a Ph.D. with a thesis on feudal land-estates in Persia down to the Seljuks. He subsequently became a professor of Iranian history and Islamic studies. He conducted field-work at Leningrad and Tehran. His writings include *Dokryny i ruchy społeczno-polityczne "wieków milczenia"; pol. VII-pol IX w.; formowanie się podstaw politycznego odrodzenia Iranu* (1980). BioB134

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*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1986 i,  
pp.93-94