

*Supplement to Letters from Abroad:
The Grand Tour Correspondence
of
Richard Pococke & Jeremiah Milles*

*Volume 3:
Letters from the East (1737-41)*



Edited by Rachel Finnegan

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Supplement to Letters from Abroad, Volume 3: Letters from Egypt, 1739

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Supplement to Letters from Abroad, Volume 3: Letters from Egypt, 1739

Preface

The following five letters (24-27 from Grand Cairo and 30 from Alexandria) were sent by Pococke to his mother on his return visit to Egypt in 1739. These letters, which are summarised in Volume 3 of *Letters from Abroad*, are transcribed here in full, together with brief explanatory notes.

The editor is grateful to the British Library Board for permission to reproduce this manuscript material (Add. 22998), as well as for permission to quote from the "Minute Book" of the Egyptian Society (Add. 52362).

Thanks are also due to Dr David Wilson, for generously providing biographical information on several of the merchants in Cairo, and in particular for identifying Messrs Upton, Congrave and Vernon who, in Volume 3 of this series had not been identified.

GRAND CAIRO
20/31 January, 1739
Pococke to his mother
Letter 24¹

Honoured Madam,

My last Letter to you was from Larnica [Larnaca] in Cyprus.

Decr. 7th-18th. That day I dined at Mr Luports [Peter Lupart's], & went home & packed up; the Consul went with me in his Chaise to see Dr Perry an English Physician, who has been 3 or 4 months at Jerusalem & Aleppo &c;² he was gone to embark; - we met at the Marine; Perry aboard Captn. Tournies, the vessel I went in from Damiata [Damietta] to Joppa [Jaffa]; we sailed about midnight, & for 6 days had mostly contrary winds, but sick only the first day.

13th-24th. In the afternoon we landed at Limesol [Limassol] in Cyprus, where I first landed, & had been there since, went to the English Vice Consuls.

14th-25th. Captn. Crispin drove in here, with whom I came from this place to Tripoli, came to see me & some French captains came & sat a while with us. I writ. Captain Crispin dined with me.

15th-26th. Captain Crispin came & we went by invitation aboard his ship, dined, called at our own Ship. Captn Crispin came & sat a while with us.

16th-27th. Writ to the Bishop of Waterford [his uncle, Thomas Milles]³ being got only so far as Tripoly [sic] in my Account the first time; Captn. Crispin dined with us. Went on board again, but the wind did not favour.

¹British Library, Add. 22998. The letter number corresponds with the number of the letters summarised in *Letters from Abroad, Volume 3*.

²Dr Charles Perry was later to publish *A View of the Levant: particularly of Syria, Egypt, and Greece...* (London, 1743). This volume, described in *The Gentleman's Magazine & Historical Chronicle* (Volume 74, Part 2, 1804), 644, as "a pompous folio", criticised Pococke for academic malpractice.

³Bishop Milles was Pococke's uncle, and was very close to his only sister, Elizabeth, to whom this correspondence is written.

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18th-29th. Sailed after dinner & being detained by calms & contrary winds, we did not arrive at Damiatia in Egypt [next few words scored out] till the 24th-4th at night.

25th-5th. In the morn went ashore to Signr Hanon Fathers, who put us in lodgings at a Kane [road-side inn]. I am come to Egypt to see the Pyramids & some other things, & then embark for Rhodes, where I hope to be before you receive this. On my arrival here I received with much pleasure your letters of May 28th & July 23^d, so that none of your letters have miscarried; - tho' I fear mine has from Jerusalem. I sent my Lord [Bishop Milles] 4 letters of my expedition into upper Egypt which I fear came not to hand, having received only my letters from Acre &c: in July. I now received 3 from Jerre [his cousin Rev. Jeremiah Milles],⁴ the last dated July 29th. I hope you received the fine flower'd gold Turkish caftan of the Pasha; & also my cloke [cloak], which you mention not, in the box from Cairo; the Nile produces good fish, but the people lazy, [next word scored out] in great plenty at Girge [Girga]; I do not smook but can sit cross-legg'd well, & eat without a knife & fork. I think I writ from Damiatia the beginning of March, which I don't find you received.

26th-6th. Got my things out of the custom house, dined at Signr. Fakers & about 2 set out with Dr Perry in a boat we hired, to Cairo, for about 30s. Consul Butlers Brother of Alexandria who is going to Constantinople came to me just as we were going away.⁵ Sailed well, very pleasant; for it is here a glorious country full of people. I find the Dr to be a very ingenious man, studied at Leiden; & lived many years in Holland, & has published an account of the Spaw waters of those of Aix-Chapelle [Aix-La-Chapelle], & is preparing a curious treatise of the causes of all diseases; & I find him to be very agreeable easy company; he is about 40.⁶

27th-7th. We arrived at night at Saramut having passed by Mansera [Mansoura] where Lewis [Louis] IX was taken prisoner.

28th-8th. Mounted on asses, & in an hour & ½ came to Mehellah [El-Mahalla], a large city on the inside of the Nile, Capital of a Province in Delta; - this is one of the finest countries in the world, level as a Bowling-green, the soil without the least stone, in it a village every mile or half mile, encompassed with groves of Palm trees, all sorts of corn, green, Beans & Lupins in blossom, the former they have now ripe, flax &c: having bore rice Indian wheat & sugar canes & hemp this year before. I went to the house of a Barbary Merchant, to whom I had a letter from Consul Barton;⁷ had Coffee, excellent butter, cakes. Walked out to a Christian to whom I had a letter. We sup'd on Pilaw Quarter of roasted veal, fryed Eggs & fine fish &c:

29th-9th. Mounted on asses & went 3 hours East north East to Balbeit, crossing over the middle branch of the Delta; at Balbeit saw the ruins of a most beautiful Temple, all built of red & greyish Granite, the only one of that kind I have seen, but all in ruins; - very fine Hieroglyphicks & figures on the stones, supposed to be the Temple of Isis of ancient Busiris. Came in two hours to Samanuta; - embarked & went on with litle [little] wind.

⁴The cousin with whom Poccocke had travelled on his first Grand Tour (1733-34) and his second (1736-37). He had returned to Ireland in 1737 on hearing news of a deterioration in the health of Bishop Milles, who suffered from the "gravel" or gallstones, and on the latter's death in 1740, inherited his fortune.

⁵Consul Butler has not been further identified, but he was English Vice-Consul to Alexandria during Poccocke's earlier stay in the city. Likewise, the identity of his brother is not known.

⁶The catalogue for the posthumous sale of Poccocke's library (L. Flin, *A Catalogue of the Library of the late Right Revd. Dr Richard Poccocke, Lord Bishop of Meath deceased*, Dublin, 1766) lists several of Dr Perry's books, and both Poccocke and Perry were founder members of the London Egyptian Society established in 1741. Perry was to make a nuisance of himself over his continued insistence on a law being established to require members to purchase the published works of their fellow members, and it is possibly on account of this that the society suddenly folded up. See R. Finnegan, "The Divan Club, 1744-46", first published in *EJOS*, IX (2006) No. 9, 1-86; now available at: http://www.poccockepress.com/about_editor.php.

⁷Presumably George Barton, English Consul to Cyprus, whom he had recently left.

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30th-10th. Had a good wind, saw several Orange groves covered with fruits.

31st -11th. Arrived at Cairo & went with Dr Perry to the Consuls [Mr Barton]⁸, where I met with a most kind reception. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon junr. Sup'd here, the later [latter] lately come, coz. [cousin] of the other here & brother of him in Aleppo.⁹

Jan. 1st-12th. I wish ye all many happy new years. We breakfasted on tea with the Consul & his Lady.¹⁰ Messrs. Congreve & Vernon junr. dined here. Father Georgio Superior here of propaganda fide, who entertained me so civilly at Achmin [Akhmim] came to see me, & many to compliment the Consul on the new year. Mr Upton, Dr Perry & I spent the even [evening] at Messrs Congreve & Vernon many French there, played at Quadrille [card game] & were very chearful.

2^d-13th. Some rain this day, 2 propaganda Fathers came to see me. We generally play the even at Quadrille, in the Consuls Apartment.

3^d-14th. A Cophti [Coptic] father from Achmin came to see me. I went & visited Mr Congreve in the afternoon went with the Dr to see the vice-Prefect of Egypt of the terra Santa – not at home,¹¹ read till 8 in Dr Shaw, which is come to Mr Upton a subscriber ye first time I saw it.¹²

4th-15th. The Vice Prefect came to visit me. I visited the President &c: of propaganda fide & also Mr Congreve. In the afternoon went with the Consul to see a fine Mosque north of the Town & 2 or 3 houses near, & with him visited his Druggerman [dragoman/interpreter]. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon spent the Evening here. I writ.

5th-16th. Went with Mr Upton to see some parts of the Town. Father Justo the Cophti had been to see me I went to the Fathers of propaganda in some business; & they brought a Cophti father to me in the even to carry me to a church to see the Cophti ceremonies of the Baptism of Christ on the Epiphany: - which is blessing water in a shallow well in the church, & then the people crowd tumultuously, to put in their legs, & wet their face & bodies with it: - it is in memory, they say, that Christ was baptized, that day, which they remember on our Epiphany & keep Epiphany; at Christmas they have musick of two brass plates, which they beat together, & also give about a piece of board an inch & half wide & 6 inches long & a litle hammer with which they beat on it, as the offices continue long, they lean on crutches; I had one given me, being dressed like a Cophti, as in upper Egypt. They perform their devotions with much irreverence talking & laughing, & a pitcher of water often goes about to drink; -

⁸Robert Barton (older brother to George at Cyprus) was English Consul at Cairo c. 1731-50. See David Wilson, *List of British Consular Officials in the Ottoman Empire and its former Territories, from the sixteenth Century to about 1860* (2011) available at <http://www.levantineheritage.com/>, 43. He married Delitia Bridges in 1714 (the Mrs Barton about whom Pococke spoke so much in his letters) and after returning to England in later life, and building Rownhams House near Southampton, died in 1789 aged ninety.

⁹Francis Congreve (1702-42) became a member of the Divan Club on his return to England. See R. Finnegan (2006, *op.cit.*) 58-59, and his Will: PROB 11/727/314, 30 June, 1743. John Vernon was born in 1720, third son of Henry Vernon (1663-1732) of Hilton Park, and died in Cairo in 1747. He was related to the famous Admiral Edward Vernon (1684-1757) who was a member of the Divan Club. See R. Finnegan (*ibid.*, 53-54).

¹⁰As noted by Pococke in Letter 2, Mrs Barton “dresses after the Turkish manner”.

¹¹Pococke befriended the Franciscans of the Convent of Terra Santa during his earlier visit to Cairo, and had obtained from them letters of introduction to their convents in Jaffa and Jerusalem.

¹²Rev. Thomas Shaw's recently published book, *Travels or Observations relating to Several Parts of Barbary or the Levant* (Oxford, 1738). Shaw's *Supplement to a Book entituled Travels, or Observations, &c....* (Oxford, 1746) was a volume of over 100 pages long, in which he objected strenuously to the content of Pococke's own volume on Egypt (1743). There is no subscription list printed in Shaw's original book, which might have provided a Christian name for Mr Upton. John Upton who was licensed to trade in Cairo in 1742 and subscribed to Perry's book, *A View of the Levant*.

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they always pull up their shoes in the church, matting being spread & now & then sit down on ye ground.

6th-17th. I went with the Dr to the house of a merchant to see the covering of Mahomets sepulchre &c: - carried from the castle where it was worked, to a mosque against the day it is to be carried out to Mecca & Medina; - it is of several pieces of thick black damask worked in gold, Arabick sentences out of the Alcoran [Koran] out of the Alcoran [sic], about 18 inches long, these pieces were carried open, then came the fine canopy richly embroidered on red & green & made like a pyramid on a square base, this was on the camel & 3 or 4 others like it, finely adorned with Brocades follow'd on led camels; - then followed a small canopy in this shape [sketch of shape like a house] embroidered likewise to be suspended over the place of Abrahams who sacrificed Ishmael as they say at Mount Ararat: - & last of all came the magnificent covering of the door of the Mosque, carried like a picture embroidered in Letters &c: in gold in the richest manner, & was indeed a most glorious sight, as well as the covering on the camel. All the shekes with their flags went in procession with musick & people dancing in the most extravagant mad manner in the world, some naked to their trowsers - & all singing; - & one sett made a noise by breathing; all pressed to touch the things as they passed by, & some threw their sashes to touch 'em. We dined there & came home. Mr Congreve sup'd here.

7th-18th. Father Justo the Cophti Catholick & the Cophti Father came to see me. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon dined & sup'd here; rid out with the Consul to the Isle of Rouia to the Mikias to the reservoir of the Aqueduct at Old Cairo, & returned.

8th-19th. Visited the Dr, Messrs. Congreve & Vernon, & then the Vice Prefect & Vice Procurator at terra santa convent. Mr Conduit was Consul Bartons Uncle.

9th-20th. I visited the house of Signr. Bernaki [Bernacci].¹³

10th-21st. Went up to the Castle, dined at Mr Congreves.

11th-22^d. Went with the Dr to see the Beye of the Tribute go out for Constantinople preceded by the seven military bodies a very fine sight; some for Parade accoutered with fine bows & arrows, others in coats of mail made of network of wire, & the tribute carried little chests on thirty mules. I sent a small box from Aleppo, but when I pack'd it, I did not think of sending it [...] to England, otherwise I should have put some small thing in it for you; & I believe there is nothing in it, that will much please your taste. I think there is a catalogue with it, & there are many things of the same kind, to put one or two of the best in the collection will be enough. I write to Mr Milles by this opportunity, & there is like to be very few more for 4 or 5 months, & I much fear my letters are gone to Smyrna [Izmir] or Constantinople tho' I directed them to be sent here; - but some time ago I writ for them to be sent to me hither if any are gone there. I am going to see the Pyramids & some other things near Cairo, & I hope before this comes to hand to be in Rhodes. This country is now exceeding pleasant, being the pleasant part of the spring, like May in England, but the mornings cold. I desire you to take care of your health, by exercise & all other means, & pray let not the least care about me or anything hurt your constitution, that we may all meet together in good health. There is much talk of a treaty with the Turk & that France will be sole mediator, for the Emperor must be utterly incapable of carrying on the war; - & a strange rumour that we are to introduce Spanish troops again to Tuscany & that Corsica will be given to Don Carlos. The handle of a knife of Egyptian pebble I designed for Mr Milles I desired you to send, having another for you in the room of it, you need not send him, unless he desires it, because I have bespoke a larger; so that the two may be for a knife & fork & the desert size, of which you may advise him, if he has desired you to send it. If youf do send one, send the shorter.

¹³This is possibly the Italian merchant who sold Pococke the pair of Egyptian block statues of Osiris and Isis (see *Letters from Abroad, Volume 3*, 228, note 91 and Plates 11 & 12).

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Mr Congreve supp'd here. [Next four lines scored out]. The curiosity of the Wasp – nests & combs are very extraordinary, & I shall be glad to have them in my collection & you will make my acknowledgments, employed all day at home, you may enquire if it would not be better to send my very large box by water to Newbury; - & if so, you may desire Mr Wood [Clerk in London] to put any large box that may come aboard the Barges; but for small ones I suppose it will be best to send by the wagon. The seed of these countries should not be sown till late, about the time you sow kidney beans & in a dry well exposed ground. I thank God I have my health exceeding well, & if any difference inclined rather to grow fat.

12th-23rd. I went out with the Dr & went & saw the new built convent of terra santa; drank Coffee in Mrs Bartons apartment, as I generally do in the afternoon. Mr Congreve sup'd here. [Next line scored out].

13th-24th. The Dr & I went up to the castle, saw the Beys come out from the Divan & some other things; took Coffee at the Pasha's.

14th-25th. Staid within all day; - had a litle shower in the afternoon.

15th-26th. Captn. Lisle has been waiting 4 years to get the south sea ship that was to go to Vera Cruz but the King of Spain will not grant the schedule as he formerly has done.¹⁴ A small box I sent from Alexandretta or Scanderoon contains in it shells, fossils, minerals, a pint of Balm of Gilead, 3 or 4 books, a collection of simples [samples] some few cornelian stones; - of which when you write you may acquaint Mr Wood. The ship will arrive about April or May. As you see I am a Collector of Curiosities so as you have opportunity, you may desire your friends who live in sea port towns, if they meet with anything curious as shells, coralls, medals, ancient or modern &c: to secure them for me & I will pay the cost. The oyl you found in the box was a very small viol of Balm of Gilead broken. We expect a ship soon from Marseilles, by which I hope to hear from you; a litle shower this afternoon. It is said the Grand Vizier is deposed & likewise the Kiessler Aga or black Eunuch, who has long govern'd all; if so there must be tumults at Constantinople, & how they may end in regard to the present Grand Signior no one knows. A proverb for you, They ought never to sow who are afraid of sparrows. [Next half line scored out].

18th-29th. At seven went with the Consul to the Turkish Merchants house to see the Grand caravan go out to Mecca. We had sweetmeats & Coffee & then a collation [picnic] of calves feet boyled, poached Eggs, a great many sorts of sweet puff cakes & Pankakes, puffs of forced meat, preserved plums &c: - & a quarter after 9 the Procession began, with 6 cannon drawn carriages, a great number of camels between, near 1000 finely equipped, many of them carrying provision, water, tents, Litters, kettle-drums & many of them led empty. The Imam Sheke or Chaplain of the caravan rode on a camel Blessing the people with his hand & carrying a Green Banner: - then came the several bodies of soldiers; - then the Beys & last of all the Emir Hadge, or Bey that conducts the Caravan. Then came all the Shekes of Mosques with their Banners, many dancing [next half line scored out] extravagantly & before 'em, & last of all came the camel carrying the covering under an embroidered Pavilion as afore mentioned, with embroidered Trappings, & the like with three others that followed, to do the same duty by turns. The people pressing to touch the cover; & throwing the sash of their Turbans to touch it; - thus ended this extraordinary Procession. We dined there on many good dishes difficult to describe: - a sort of sweet Tart; - Ragou very fine, [...] on skuers [skewers] with onions between, boyle'd, Lamb, roasted fowls, soup Balls of rice & forc'd neat rowled [sic] up in cabbage leaves a Ragou, a stew, a sort of custard called cai-milk, rice milk cold, jellies, fruit-rose water – very fine, Coffee & returned home.; a litle rain before 9, & about 4 for a quarter of an hour.

¹⁴See *Letters from Abroad, Volume 3*, Letter 5, where this matter is mentioned two years earlier.

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19th-30th. I desire you to present my very kind Love to my Sister [Miss Elizabeth/Betse Pococke], & due respects to Whiteoak & all friends. I rid out with the Consul to the tent of the Bey of the treasure at Adalea [Adalia], saw the house there, & the 60 chests of money for Stamble, chained together; took Coffee. Saw a great mans house & came home; at a distance saw the camp of the Mecca Caravan; & the house of a great man returning. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon spent the even here.

20th-31st. Serene cold weather.

I am Dear Madam your most obedient & dutiful Son, Richard Pococke.

I shall seal this letter with the seal of my name in Arabick as is usual in his country.

Abdel messioh

Servus Christi

GRAND CAIRO

1/12 February, 1739

Pococke to his mother

Letter 25¹⁵

Honoured Madam,

My last Letter to you was from Grand Cairo of Jan. 20th-31st. In which I told you I came to this place to see some things I had left unseen, & hoped to be in Rhodes before that letter came to hand. A Greek Merchant came to see me in the afternoon, I had been acquainted with.

Feb. 1st-21st. We all dined at Mr Congreves. When I send you seeds, that you cannot well raise, - as I have sent some melon seed &c; you had best distribute them; & have a share of the fruit, & they may also keep up the kind; but a litle of every sort I would have preferred, only as a specimen; but not to sow. Our cucumber & melon seeds you may keep, because the older the better.

22^d-2^d. I went out to buy some things; drank Coffee with some company above.

23^d-2^d. Went up to the castle reviewed Josephs Hall; - returned & saw some of the best houses of the great people of Cairo on a beautiful Lake in the middle of the city, covered with wild ducks & other fowl. The Houses consist chiefly of 2 or 3 fine saloons all the rest being more for conveniency than ornament. Was visited by the Mehullah Merchant I was entertained by in Delta. I went to see a Greek Merchant, who was not at home; - & after the Fathers of the propaganda fide.

24th-4th. Went with the Droggerman 8 miles out of town to the north to the Birke, a large Lake 12 miles round where the caravan for Meccas is encamped, & thence goes East; the camp is about 3 miles round, it was a fine sight, & diverting to see so many going out on asses, mules, horses & camels, their tents are very fine, they say the Caravan consists of 50,000 people & twice or three times the number from Cairo - about 12000 camels, besides horses, asses & mules & many of the camels carry two. There were also several Litters for the women & great men (see **Plate. 1, below**). I went to the tent of a merchant I was recommended to, & walked about the camp.

¹⁵British Library, Add. 22998.

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25th-5th. Went out to walk about the camp, met Messrs. Vernons, wth whom I joyn'd & went round the camp, they came to my tent & dined; I went about the camp, & they lay in my tent, saw fine fireworks.

26th-6th. Saw corn up here in ear. – We rose early saw the caravan go off towards Mecca & vast numbers towards Cairo. When the Emir Hadge had passed in great pomp; we returned to town & a fine sight it was, to see two such great bodies moving different ways. I drank Caffelet at Mr Congreves, made in this manner; - first you make Coffee of what strength most agreeable, you may try, let it settle & pour it off, & then with that Coffee, make Chocolate, about half the quantity you would boyl in so much water, well sweetened; - it is esteemed more wholesome than either Coffee or Chocolate. In the even I went to visit a Greek Merchant. I find I shall have an opportunity of sending this before I shall be able to fill it, & probably in about 2 or 3 months you may hear from me again. The cold weather is now past, which was a litle severe of late.

27th-7th. I sat a while with the Merchant of Mehalleh, my friend, & in the afternoon I visited Signr. Abraham Delamar a droggerman of the house, & after Messrs. Congreve & Vernons, & drank Coffee.

28th-8th. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon dined & sup'd here; - we all paid a visit to the Venetian Merchant.

29th-9th. Went with the Droggerman to the house of Osman Bey, saw a fine saloon there, did some business with his caia or steward; - & went to another house to meet a person, we found not at home. This country is everywhere very healthy. Mr Congreve came in the evening & we all went to a Merchants house.

30th-10th. We had colly flower [cauliflower] on the 28th. I walked out into the town with the Druggerman. In the even we went all to a merchants house. When I send several things of the same sort, I would have one or two of the best sort, put in my collection & the rest not shown to anybody whatsoever; so likewise of anything I have a quantity of.

31st-11th. Went with the Druggerman to Old Cairo, to the Consuls house & to the house of a Bey. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon spent the even here.

Feb. 1st-12th. I went to Mr Gabrians [Malim Gabrian], & after dinner to see Messrs. Congreve & Vernon.

I desire you to present my very kind Love to my Sister & due respects to all friends.

I am Dear Madam your most obedient & dutiful Son, Richard Pocke.

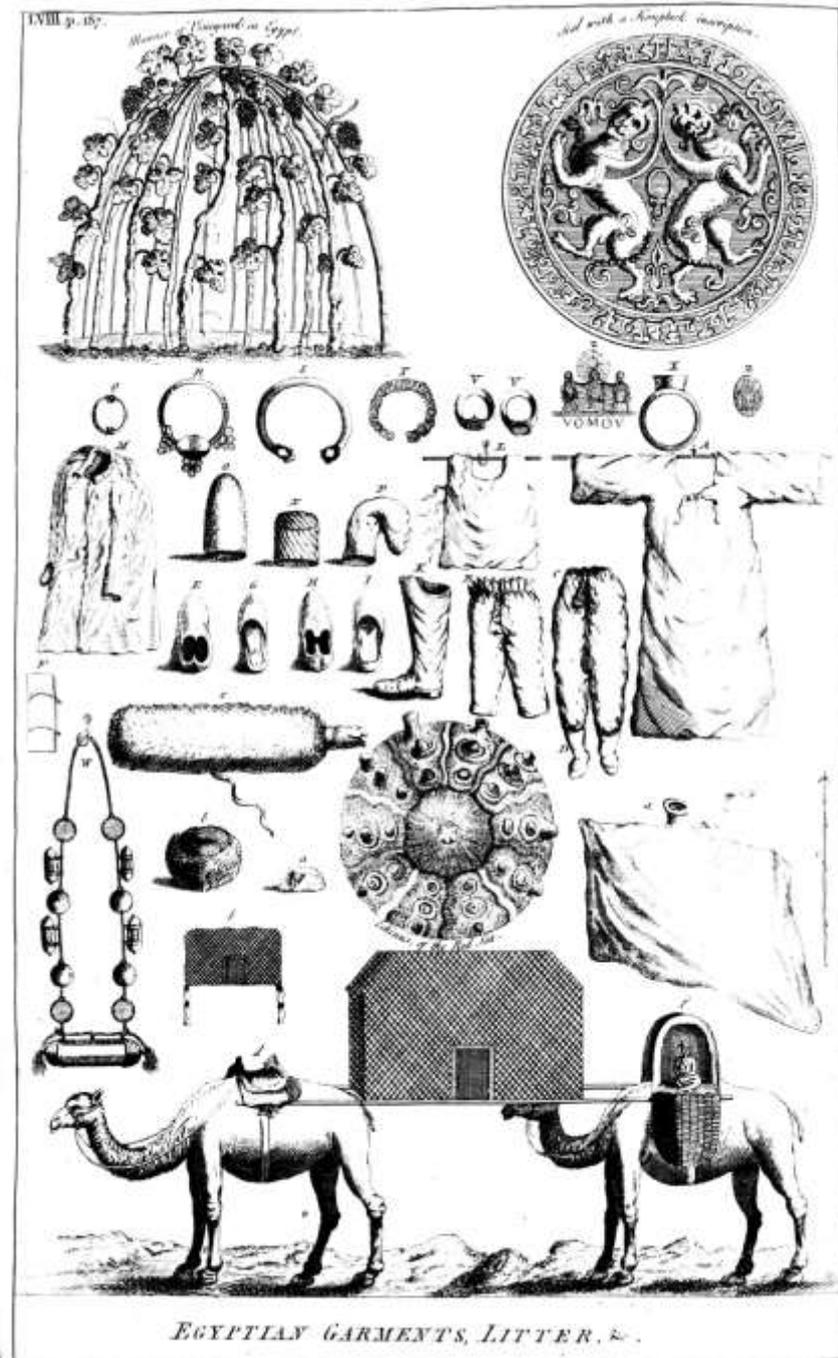


Plate 1: Richard Pococke, *A Description of the East & some other Countries*, Volume 1, Egyptian Garments, Litter, &c. (Plate LVIII)

GRAND CAIRO

2/13 March, 1739

Pococke to his mother

Letter 26¹⁶

Honoured Madam,

My last Letter to you was from Grand Cairo of Feb 1st-12th. That evening I went to Old Cairo, to ye Cashif, or Governor of Fiume [Faiyum], & where I sup'd with him & lay - a very good sort of man: - & as a favour, he gave me a piece of meat in his hand as I was sitting cross-leg'd round with them, & passed me a piece of bread, & to crown all gave me his Pipe: - a high favour of which I took a whiff or two: - I am recommended to him, to go with him two days journey to Fiume.

3^d-14th. I went & saw the Cophti churches of Old Cairo, & 4 monasteries south of it; at Old Babylon in one of which they say St Mark preached, & some think is that church of Babylon which St Peter said, saluted them; returned; - writ, dined; - rid out round two Islands & crossed the river Gilch & had a good view of the Pyramids, six miles off; returned, & the cashiffs departure being put off, I returned to the Consuls in Cairo. Tell Mr Milles I hope he corresponds with Dr Hebenstret [Hebenstreit] of Leipsick [Leipzig]¹⁷, which I could wish he would for some certain reasons as he may be useful in procuring [sic] several things one may want that way.

4th-15th. Breakfasted with Mr Upton on chocolate; - Visited the Dr in the afternoon, went with him to Mr Bec's. Mr Congreve sup'd here.

5th-16th. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon dined here. I went to see an old Palace with Mr Upton, & paid a visit to Mr Vernon.

6th-17th. Breakfasted with the Dr, & we went to see the making of Sal Armoniac, & the hatching of chicken in ovens, & took a circuit into the Town. Mr Upton, the Dr & I dined at Messrs. Congreve & Vernons.

7th-18th. I had a summons again to go to Fiume. I prepared, & at 4 went to Old Cairo, but finding the Cashif did not go tomorrow; - I went to see Mr Vernon at Monsr. Condit's house, there being much company there to go to the Pyramids; - & so I joined company & lay there, & we were very chearfull.

8th-19th. We set out early & passed through a fine country 6 miles west of the Nile to see the Pyramids, built on the low chain of hills that part Egypt from Lydia. When I ascended, the height [sic] so little answered my expectation, that I thought I was not half way up, when I got to the top. The work looks greater at bottom, I think it seems not so high as St Pauls, but the figure deceives, & all the measures are exactly known: A Glorious prospect! The entrance is difficult, being drawn through a narrow hole by the legs; it is hot in winter, cool in summer & great pain to ascend, & a disagreeable stench of large Batts [bats] in the first smaller room; - I went to the Sphynx [sic] the head much worn by time, especially the neck, one just sees the top of the tail & either a tail or a thigh in a sitting posture; - the whole by the nicest culmination I could make seems to be cut out of the rock; - went into some catacombs & round the second Pyramid (see **Plate 2**, below). We dined together & returned; - & being to go to morrow took leave, came to my lodgings & writ.

9th-20th. Set out early with the Governor of the Province of Fiume, cross'd the Nile in about an hour to the south & travelled S.S.E. We stopt; & a long black woollen cloth being laid ["spread" is inserted

¹⁶British Library, Add. 22998.

¹⁷Milles and Pococke had spent many days in the company of the antiquarian and author, Dr Johann Ernst Hebenstreit (1703-57), while in Leipzig in November, 1736. See *Letters from Abroad, Volume 2*, 122-26.

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above the line] on the ground, with bread raw onions & a salt curdy green cheese. I eat with the Governor: - was arrived at a village near which we lay in a Grove of Palm trees.

10th-21st. We set out at day-break, & travelled over the low-hills of stone & came to a village, where the Governor was met by many people, & passing over a sandy plain, it was diverting to see the Arabs divide themselves into two parts & ride backward & forward before the Governor with great speed running at one another in single combat with their long pikes; - we came into an improved country & arrived at the village of Sennours where we went to the house of the Governor of it: here two black cloths being laid on the ground to make an oblong square, a rampart was made round about 8 inches high of about 2 bushels of bread, in cakes; & 60 dishes being set on 4 in a row, & some, one, on another, & 7 or 8 in the middle of boyled mutton, & a Lamb boyled whole; - we sat down on the ground to supper; - except some good dishes at the upper end, the rest were only the same sort of things repeated, perhaps of 5 or 6 different kinds, - Pilaw being a principal one; at top we had roast fowls & meat & a series of thin flummery very good & much ginger in it, rice mil cold, is a great dish; & meat stewed with onions: - when one set has done, another sits down after them; - & then what is left is given to the poor.

11th-22^d. We had a breakfast or collation with bread round, not in such great quantities, but fine white cakes, & on them some made with butter, three or four great dishes of eggs fryed whole, & a great number of plates of olives & honey into which latter they dip their bread. We set out & passed by the very imperfect ruins of two small Pyramids, built of great stones about 115 ft. square; & arrived at Faiume where I am lodged in the Governors house. The two fathers here of Terra Santa came to see me; - they have a litle house or convent here. The President was guardian at Bethlehem when I was there.¹⁸ I dined in the saloon below with the company. I rid out a litle way & went to the silver-smiths to get some medals. The Governors steward came & sat with me. I sup'd in my rook, they having sent my supper up at my request, - not being agreeable to set at it in their manner. I writ.

12th-23^d. I writ; after dinner the steward came to see me, I walked out about the Town, sat a while with the Governor, who had sent for me. A monk of the convent of St Antonio Abbate, west of the red sea came to me, hearing I had proposed to go to their convent, where [next two words scored out] the monkish life was first founded as the Hermits life was by St Paul Eremite, a days journey south of it. I went & visited the fathers of Terra Santa; who were very civil & gave me two sorts of Good white wine, they make here, there being no wine made in Egypt but here, & in some Christian villages near.

13th-24th. I went out to see the fish market, of the fish of Birkacaon [Birket Qarun] all one sort generally, like broad large carp; - I bought 7 for 7 medimns or 3 farthings, & sent them to the Fathers & that I would come & dine with them; - I went to the silver smiths in a vain search after Antiquities; - dined very cheerfully with the Fathers, took Coffee & then went to the gardens & sat in a Grove of Lemon trees, returned to the convent & sat a while with them, & came home. Writ.

14th-25th. Tho' I fear it may be disagreeable, yet I must beg of you constantly to abridge my Letters & send them to Waterford, when you have a sheet full, tho' freedom should not be in; for I have not time to write an Account of things to my Ld, but very slowly, I am now no farther than July last, & this may make amends that they [Bishop & Jeremiah Milles] may not take it ill. I began to write to my Lord Bishop of Waterford an Account of Cyprus, which I could best do without my papers, tho' I have from Mount Libanon to Cyprus to give an account of the travels of 4 months. Hail & rain this morning for 2 or 3 hours, which is extraordinary here, & does harm the water of the Nile being sufficient, as they convey it over their lands. Father Januario came to see me.

¹⁸See *Letters from Abroad, Volume 3*, Letters 12 & 13.

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15th-26th. Father Januarius called on me. I writ to the Bishop of Waterford concerning Cyprus, & after dinner, went & sat with the Fathers: - went to the Governor about my Tour, sup'd with him, the drams went round briskly, but they do not drink after meals.

16th-27th. Set out about 9, with two conductors, we went southward a league to see an obelisk, & thence westward a league to a village & dined with a sheke; - went on a great way through the Groves of Palm trees, & at length came to the canal Joseph from the Nile into Lacus Marcia, & went to the Arab sheke of a village there, to whom I had a letter. I went to the Turkish Governor, who settled affairs for my going to the Lake.

17th-28th. Set out at 4 in the morn South west & passing over the desert, came in about 6 hours to what Lucas calls the Labyrinth¹⁹, but I suppose was only a Temple built to the crocodiles they worshiped from the releif [relief] of the head of one I saw there; but no rooms without [outside] the building, nor many rooms one within another, as he saies, it is probable the Labyrinth might be here, there being great signs of foundations of ancient buildings; - I saw the name of Paul Lucas there, & the only name, nor do I know that any other Frank [foreign resident] was ever there. Thence I went to the Lake, the water of which is salt, by reason of the nitre that is in the soil, & is fresh at the end where the Nile comes in. I saw also an Island in it, in which appeared something like an hill or half built Pyramid; - an Isle being mentioned with two Pyrammids in it: - abundance of fish here, that come out of the Nile, where it is high. We returned to the village about 9 at night, & I lay at the Turkish Governors.

Feb. 18th-March 1st. The Governour accompanied me almost to Faiume where I arrived about noon; - the Fathers came to see me.

19th-2^d. Father Januario came to me. I writ all day.

20th-3^d. Rid out to see the ruins of old Arsinoe, north of the town & to a village beyond it: - returned. - dined. Father Januario came to see me. I took leave of the Governor & called on the fathers, who set out with me tomorrow for Cairo. I prepared for my journey.

21st-4th. Found the caravan would not depart, so I went to the convent, & thence to the silver smiths in search of Antiquity: came home, - writ. Father Januario came from the President of their convent to invite me to dine on a fine fish of the Nile, which I went to see, then went to the silver smiths & returned - & dined, very chearfully with them; - went home by the silver smiths; Father Januario came to me twice. I writ of Cyprus to my Lord Bishop; the Governors steward came & sat a while with me.

22^d-5th. Set out about 8 to return with the caravan, the two Fathers in company; - we went about 5 hours to Tameah, at the entrance of the desert, where I pitched my tent in the Kane, there being no rooms.

23^d-6th. We set out about sun rising, & went 9 hours over the deserts, & two hours further, only taking a litle refreshment of a piece of bread in the way. Lay in a Kane in the open air, there not being room to pitch the tent.

24th-7th. The caravan went on, & I went 2 hours south west to Sacara [Saqqara]; went with a letter to the Sheke, who conducted me to his house, we took a collation of Fryed eggs & dates together & curdy cheese, & the sheke & his men went with me to see a Pyramid on the hill, with 6 steps, each about 25 feet high & 11 broad; went to the top of it, the corners being broke so as to ascend. Viewed some other small ruined Pyramids & returned to Sacara at the foot of the hills.

¹⁹Paul Lucas (1664-1737) travelled in the East, by order of King Louis XIV, during the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

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25th-8th. About 8 set out to the South S. West, on the mountains, saw an oblong square solid building, of ten tiers [tiers] or large stone, each setting in a foot, seems to be an imperfect Pyrammid; - they say Pharaoh promulged his Laws from it. Saw a ruined small pyramid near, which appears as others, the outer stones being taken out like sandy burroughs. Went 2 miles south to a Pyramid near as large as the famous one of the Giseh [Giza] near Cairo, but not so high being a greater slope. There is an entrance in, 225 to a room built in a peculiar manner, & another within it – in the same manner; & one within that by a hole on high, which has been entered. Went to the top of the Pyramid, & then went to another large one a mile south, in this shape [Δ], & then a mile east to one ruined, built of large unburnt brick, made of earth, & chopt straw; - the Pyramid of a middling size & very probably the work of the children of Israel, went to the top of it; returned to Sacara.

26th-9th. Went out near the first Pyramid; - I went to the catacombs of bodies to which one goes down a square well 20 feet deep, & crawling in on the belly, came to the place where the bodies are; - all has been rifled & one sees the bones, skulls, bandage &c: - all is cut out of the rock. Came up & entered the catacombs of embalmed birds in long pots, a more spacious place, but the well 30 feet deep; - brought away some pots of birds, & returned to Sacara.²⁰

27th-10th. Set out for Cairo, in about 3 hours came to the river, crossed over, & in about 2 hours came to the Consuls house. The Dr took tea with me. I sat above with the Consul & Lady.

28th-11th. I went out to Old Cairo, saw all the Copti churches & an ancient synagogue; after dinner went out to buy some things. Mr Congreve spent the even here.

March 1st-11th. I went to the Greek convent, after visited the fathers of propaganda, - & in the afternoon Messrs Congreve & Vernons.

I shall set out in a few days for Alexandria to embark for Rhodes.

I desire you to present my very kind Love to my Sister.

I am Dear Madam your most obedient & Dutiful Son, Richard Pococke.

If the seal comes whole it is an intaglio of a Cupid making a sort of a fillet to bind or blind mankind²¹.

²⁰It must be one of these mummified birds (an ibis) that he discussed and had drawn for the Egyptian Society, at a meeting held on 5 February, 1742. The minutes for that meeting (written in Pococke's hand) state: "Dr Pococke acquainted the society that he had lately open'd an Ibis with great care, & at the same time shew'd the society some drawings which he had caused to be made of it in several different situations; which were ordered to be copied into the book of the society, & are represented in the following leaf [folio 19]." The text continues with a description of each of the seven views (British Library, Add. 52362, 18-19). This illustration was then embellished, engraved and included as Plate LXX in Volume I of *A Description of the East*, with the title "Different Views of Embalmed Birds of Egypt". The remains of this unwrapped mummy is listed as Lot 92, of Day 1, in the catalogue for the posthumous sale of Pococke's antiquities and natural curiosities: see Abraham Langford, *A Catalogue of a Large and Curious Collection of Ancient Statutes, Urns, Mummies, Fossils, Shells, and other Curiosities, of the Right Reverend Dr Pococke, Lord Bishop of Meath, Deceased: Collected by his Lordship, during his Travels*, London, 1766).

²¹The same catalogue (*ibid.*) describes Lot 17 of Day 1 as: "Fifty-four agats, cornelians, jaspers, &c. whereof 19 are intaglios."

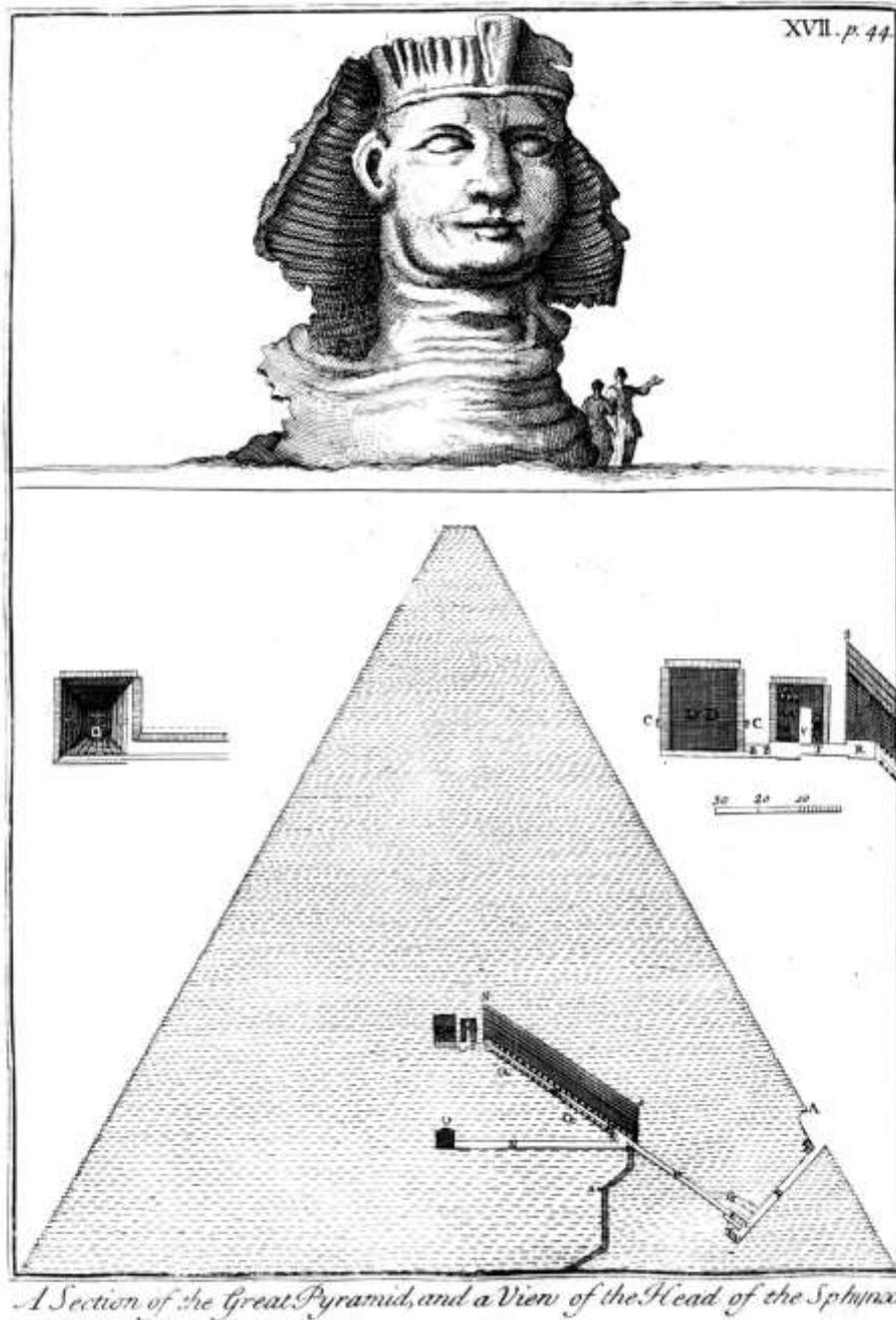


Plate 2: Richard Pococke, *A Description of the East & some other Countries*, Volume 1, A Section of the Great Pyramid, and a View of the Head of the Sphynx. (Plate XVII)

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GRAND CAIRO

26 March/6 April, 1739

Pococke to his mother

Letter 27²²

Honoured Madam,

My last letter I sent you March 2^d-13th from Grand Cairo – I went out about a litle business; - sat above with the Consul & Lady [at] Matare [Al-Matariyyah] a 2 leagues, which is the ancient Heliopolis, saw the Obelisk & broken Sphinx there; & came back half a mile to the garden where is the tree & well where it is said the Holy family were; - & in garden the Balsam trees brought by Cleopatra to Egypt;²³ - dined there & called at two or three places coming home. Messrs. Congreve & Vernon spent the even here.

4th-15th. Messieurs Congreve & Vernon & Orbus, the last from Alexandria an Hamburger dined here.²⁴ I packed up a box for Constantinople. Writ; two french Gentlemen sup'd here.

5th-16th. I went to see Mr Orbus & the Vice Prefetto of Terra Santa; if you have not mentioned to Mr Milles that I designed one of those handles of knives for him of Egyptian pebble, say nothing of it, but keep it; & it will be better to have the blades put in when I come home – after dinner I went out in business; two french gentlemen spent the even here. I writ. I believe I need not desire you to preserve all your curiosities for me & part with none; - such as your sea-feather [crinoid] &c: - the best cuts [prints] I have, particularly the three or four sent from Venice, very fine ones, will keep well in the large Map-book or some other large book of mine.

6th-17th. I went out with the Dr; - we saw the Mikias or measuring pillar of the Nile at Old Cairo; - then to a large mosque in which are near 400 pillars; after to the castle, saw Josephs Well again. Visited a Turk merchant; dined; - went out in business, drank tea with the Dr. – Mr Orbus came to see me.

7th-18th. Went out to the Kane of the people from Sennar & Ethiopia, saw the black slaves there to be sold. The Dr called on me; dined. Signr. Gabrian came to me. Mr Congreve spent the even here.

8th-19th. Employed all day in settling my affairs. The Consul & Lady going to be at the Drogermans on account of the marriage of his son. The Dr & I spent the even at Mr Uptons room.

9th-20th. Went very early & saw the ceremony of the Jewish marriage in the house, breakfasted there. Spent an hour with Mr Upton.

10th-21st. Breakfasted on chocolate with Mr Upton. Writ all day. Messrs Congreve & Orbus spent the even here.

11th-22nd. About 11 went with the Consul & all the English to the marriage feast of the Drogermans Son; dined & sup'd at the house; much good cheer. What was most particular was Puffs made with brains, & Ragou with preserved Apricots; a stewed dish with young tender Artichoaks – eat leaves & all; Pilaw with currants sugar & grated Cinamon on it; & eat with White wine very good.

12th-23rd. Rid out after dinner to Bulac [Bulaq] with the Dr, we spent the even at Mr Uptons room Mr Orbus & Malim Elias being there.

²²British Library, Add. 22998.

²³Mark Anthony is said to have taken the precious balsam trees away from the Jews, in Jericho, and given them to Cleopatra.

²⁴Mr Orbus is described in Letter 2, however, as “a Dutchman, a factor”. He has not been further identified.

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13th-24th. After dinner visited Messieurs Congreve & Vernaon. The Consul came home from the wedding house. Sat with him & his Lady.

14th-25th. I made a visit to one Signr. Agib; & after waited on the Copti Patriarch of Alexandria about some affairs from the society of propagating religion in foreign parts; dined; rid out with Mr Upton to the myrtle garden. Went with the Consul to wait on the Prefetto of propaganda fide.²⁵ I writ. Mr Congreve spent the even with us. Mr Upton is the person who had an intrigue with Miss Heathcote, after divorced from Sr William Young, of which you must have heard.

15th-26th. Drank tea with Mr Upton after dinner. I went to a few Suez merchants, & thence to the Greek convent; - sat with Mr Upton & Mr Orbus & then with Consul & Lady.

16th-27th. Writ all day.

17th-28th. Went with Mr Upton & the Dr in the even to see Malim Eias, the broker of the house; & being the Roman Easter, during the Holy days, a table is always spread with cakes & sweet meats for all covers: We eat & took a glass of wine. Mr Congreve spent the even at our house.

18th-29th. We dined at Messrs. Congreve & Vernon.

19th-30th. Called at Mr Congreves, his brother is fellow of All Souls, Chaplain to the Primate & Archdeacon of Armagh; - a young man, but two years in Ireland.

20th-31st. Went a second time to the Pyramids with the Consul &c: dined under out tent. I went into the Pyramid again, & to the top of the 3^d Pyramid. Returned. Messieurs Congreve & Orbus supp'd with us.

March 21st-April 1st. Went with the Dr to the Miknias [Mikias] of the Nile, or its measuring Pillar, & to the castle of the Aqueduct; - dined, called at Mr Congreves.

22^d-2^d. Within all day, the air is mighty sweet now the Oranges are in blossom.

23^d-3^d. Writ; the Dr called on me. Messrs. Congreve & Orbus spent the even here.

24th-4th. Went out early with the Dr to see a great burial place of the Turks, mostly the Beys, which have fine cupola's built over them. Went up the hill over the castle; & the Nile to the fine Aqueduct from the Nile to the castle of near 300 Arches. Came home. Saw sage & borage flowers good to make tea with, 1 ounce of Balm, 1 ounce of mint, ½ an ounce of the flowers of sage ½ ounce of borage flowers good to strengthen the nerves & for weak digestion.

25th-5th. Messrs. Congreve, Orbus & Vernon din'd here. I rid out with Mr Upton. I went to the Greek convent & having an opportunity to send this, conclude it. I desire you to send my kind Love to my Sister; & due respects to al friends.

I am Dear Madam your most obedient & Dutiful Son, Richard Pococke.

I expect your Letters from Smyrna writ since July 29th.

²⁵The Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith had a community in Upper Egypt, and Pococke befriended its Procurator and former Procurator, Fathers Jacomo and Francisco, during his travels.

ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT

2/13 July, 1739

Pococke to his mother

Letter 30²⁶

Honoured Madam,

My last Letter to you was of May 1st-12th from Suez on the Red sea – with a postscript from Cairo of May 10th, giving an account of my arrival from Mount Sinai.

2^d-13th. With the officers of the Custom house I went aboard the ships a league off; they are mostly built in the Indies, & in some things differ from ours [sic] ships. The father of the convent came to see me, as he did also – when the pilgrims from Mecca came to Arsinoe 3 hours off.

3^d-14th. The Pilgrims seizing on all camels that came, their own being weak; my Arab could not carry me, so lost the opportunity of going to Cairo with them.

7th-18th. Spent all the days past in writing. A greek sailor came to me, for a cold in his bowels; & tho' I told him I am no Physician, he would make me give him my advice, which was a Brandy posset & sweat.

8th-19th. Found a caravan would go to Cairo at 10; - about 6, I went to the house of the Governor, who was to go, & had been very civil to me. As soon as it was dark we went, & lay abroad ½ a mile out of the Town.

9th-20th. We travelled & stopt; 4 hours, till 2 a clock in the morn.

10th-21st. At sun rise went on & at noon came within 4 hours of Cairo, to the Birke or Lake where I had seen the Hadgies [Hajjes] for Mecca encamped; - stopt a while & arrived at Cairo – about sun sett.

11th-22^d. Messieurs Congreve & Orbus, came to see me in the even.

12th-23^d. The Prefetto of propaganda fide & Father Georgio came to see me, & in the even another of that society; with a Neapolitan cavalier of the family of [word missing] who was in the German service, & was advised to go to Mount Sinai for a consumption.

13th-24th. Mr Congreve came to see me, & in the even Mr Orbus & Mr Vernon.

14th-25th. Busy about settling my affairs.

15th-26th. I visited Messrs. Congreve, Vernons & Orbus; & the Prefetto of propaganda fide & the Neapolitan cavalier.

16th-27th. Messrs. Congreve, Vernon & Orbus sup'd here.

17th-28th. I went with the Dr to see the measuring place of the Nile.

18th-29th. Drank tea with Mr Upton in the even. We all go to bed after dinner, which is very refreshing, & enables one to bear the fatigue of the heat for the rest of the day.

²⁶British Library, Add. 22998.

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20th-31st. Mr Du Liege dined with us. I rid out in the morning early, when it is very pleasant. Walked in the Jesuits garden. Signr. Gabrian came to see me.

May 21st-June 1st. I rid out. The two officers of the Pasha, from whom I received civilities, came to see me.

22^d-2^d. Messrs. Congreve & Orbus sup'd here. One Captn. Of Boyle of Southampton was here whilst I was at Mount Sinai, & wanted much to see [me], remembering me he said at Southampton; but I don't know, or remember anything of the family; tho' his wife is there.²⁷

23rd-3rd. [No entry]

24th-4th. I visited Messrs. Congreve & Vernons.

25th-5th. Went out about business.

26th-6th. Went with Mr Upton to the shops. Pray when you write to Mr Milles [Jeremiah] desire him to have another Licence of absence taken out, & registered & attested as a true copy by the Register: if my first was not actually sent or cannot be sent: - for a copy from the original copied into the Registry is of no force, nor can the Register attest it; - desire him not to fail in this, for it is a matter of importance &c:²⁸ - Mr Congreve came to see me.

27th-7th. I rid out about the Town. Messrs. Congreve, Vernon & Orbus dined here.

28th-8th. Rid out; began to write to my Lord [Bishop Milles] about Mesopotamia, & so design to continue on about Syria. We have had fine cool weather many days past. I am detained here by reason of soldiers landed from Constantinople, at Alexandria who will soon be here; - & it is not good to meet them on the road.

29th -9th. Signr. Bernacci sup'd here.

30th-10th. Went to see Messrs. Congreve & Orbus & then the Prefetto of propaganda fide.

31st-11th. I went & breakfasted with Messrs. Congreve & Vernon.

June 1st-12th. A Prince of Achmim & Malim Soliman my great friend there came to see the Consul & I went to them. I dined by invitation with Messrs. Congreve & Vernons, as did the Dr.

2nd-13th. I called at Mr Congreves – He Messrs. Vernon & Orbus sup'd here.

3^d-14th. Went to take leave of the Prefetto of propaganda fide, & after of Signr. Bernacci & the Neapolitan cavalier; dined. – Went to see the Mikias or measuring part of the Nile with Messrs. Congreve & Vernon. Went to a garden; - returned. Mons. Leige [Du Liege] sup'd here. I had visited Malim Elias, Mr Upton being there, sent for me.

²⁷Pococke was born in Southampton, where his father (Rev. Richard Pococke) was Headmaster of King Edward VI School, and lived there until the age of six. On his father's death, in 1710, his mother moved to Highclere to look after father, Rev. Isaac Milles, whose small private rectory school Pococke attended until he went to Oxford. After her father's death, Mrs Pococke moved with her unmarried daughter Betse (the sister referred to at the end of each letter) to the parish Newtown, in the extreme north-west corner of Hampshire, bordering with Berkshire. Any local news such as this would have been of interest to her.

²⁸This license was to formalise Pococke's absence from his ecclesiastical duties in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, where he had held several lucrative preferments since 1725, without ever having taken up residence there.

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4th-15th. Visited the Vice Prefetto of Terra Santa, & after took leave of Messrs. Congreve & Vernons house. Settled my affairs, - & sent away my baggage. Went & took leave of the Prefetto of propaganda fide. The fathers of that person [?] returned my visit & the Neapolitan cavaliere & Signr. Bernacci came to see me; dined; - Messrs. Congreve, Vernon & Orbus came to see me. About 5 I set out to Bulac, & all the English came with me to the Galiote [barge], in which I had taken the cabbins; - we drank a bowl of Punch together, & took leave. A lay Italian Brother of Terra Santa convent, went with me, to whom I gave a place in my cabbins: - about 9 we put off for Rosetto.

5th-16th. Entered into Rosetto branch & went slowly.

6th-17th. Went slowly, - but made about half way.

7th-18th. Made litle way, - but got near two thirds of our voyage. Would you have a royal dish, half fry, chickens or pidgeons or any meat cut small; fry shred onions about a few, then put your meat to boyl in water, enough to cover it till near boyl'd enough; put to it a few currants, some pounded spice, the juyce [sic] of Orange, the yolk of 2 eggs beat, & the fried onions, & a litle white wine, this makes a fine soup & dish; this our great dish now on the Nile; - pidgeons 3 farthings a piece.

8th-19th. Wind rose, & we lay by all day.

9th-20th. Went on slowly all day – forced to lye by from ten a clock; a young Goose dressed [prepared] as above, today.

10th-21st. Arrived at Rosetto about 10 in the morn, went to the house of our Consul. Signr. Fabri of Pisaro, who is married since I saw him, dined;²⁹ Fra. Ambrosio came to the house. I visited the French Consul [Monsieur Teissan]. Walked out with our Consul, eat mulberries; - took a walk in a pleasant garden.

11th-22^d. Some weighty things, that is five boxes will come from Egypt, I have desired may be sent by water to you;³⁰ - [next line scored out] that nothing may be damaged by land carriage: - unless you should write to Mr Wood to send them by land. I desire you to advise Mr Wood to whom they may be addressed in Newbury to give you notice when they come; & you may send a cart on purpose. A box of Papers markt RP you may open first, for at the top of it you will find a catalogue & an account of all the things. In the afternoon the French Consul with this Droggerman & chancellor came to see me, & after Monsr. Shabere. I writ; - returned the visit of the latter & took a walk with the Consul & some French.

12th-23^d. After dinner Monsr. Tisan [Teissin] came to see, me in the even we cross'd the river to the Island, where the French had a Festino, being St Johns Eve, we staid a while & returned.

13th-24th. Writ all day & walk'd in the even; - the country here is now very pleasant, the rice being up & green; - & at Cairo there is none, the corn harvest is past, & nothing green on the ground; - but the country looks black as they pull up the corn by the roots.

14th-25th. The Bishop of Paphos in Cyprus came to the Consul, at whose house I was at Busa or Paphos, - but he was not there.

²⁹See *Letters from Abroad, Volume 3*, Letter 4, where Monsieur Fabri was at the time Vice-Consul.

³⁰These boxes contained items for his collections, including his Egyptian antiquities, such as the statues of Osiris and Isis, possibly his two mummies, and other smaller pieces described and depicted in *A Description of the East*, Volume 1.

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15th-26th. I walk every evening; - the French came to our house & made a sort of a concert. In the even went to see Monsr. Shabere, who showed me his Antiquities: the walks pleasant, fine lanes, & the most agreeable place in Egypt. [Next two lines scored out].

16th-27th. I visited the French Consul in the Evening, who showed me his medals & antiquities: treat, wine & water & then a sherbet; walk'd out with our Consul into an Orange Garden.

17th-28th. Apples here full ripe. At 5, went a league to the castle with our Consul & Lady & family; the French Consul & some french; - took a collation near the river of fruit &c: - walked in the Palm Groves & returned; the rice begins to rise.

18th-29th. In the evening went to visit Monsr. Tisan; – not at home.

19th-30th. Visited the French Consul, & in the even the President of Terra Santa convent. Took a walk with Monsr. Tisan.

June 20th-July 1st. Visited Monsr. Shabere, who was not at home: - dined at the French Consuls by an invitation.

21st-2^d. In the even visited Monsr. Jobere, & took a walk with him & heard his litle concert at the Consuls.

23^d-3^d.³¹ Our Consul went with me to take leave of the French Consul, Messrs. Shabere, Legran, Coigny & the President of the Convent. After dinner they all returned my visit, & about 5 the Consul went a mile out of Town with me in the way to Alexandria, & a french gentleman going, many french went with him; - we took some refreshment, before we took leave; & I went in a chaise the Consul of Alexandria [Mr Butler] had sent for me, & a Maltese merchant went with me in it³²; - We came to the madea or Ferry half way about nine, sup'd in the Kane, & went on about midnight, arrived at Alexandria, about sun rising

24th-4th. & went to the house of Consul Butler, whose Lady [was] with him; - breakfasted on tea with them. In the even rid out with the Consul & Mr Scot round the outside of the walls of the Old city.

25th-5th. In the evening walked out with the Consul & Lady &c:

26th-6th. In the evening took a walk with the Consul & Lady.

27th-7th. Went out with Mrs Butler in a chaise, the Consul & Mr Scot on horseback.

28th-8th. Walked on the Strand in the even; - met Monsr. Chassini [Cassin] the French Droggerman – who since I saw him had been in Paris & at Versailles in his Turkish dress.; had much discourse with him.

29th-9th. Went with Mr Scot aboard Captn. Aish, drank tea; - went aboard 2 or 3 other ships – rid out in the even with the Consul.

30th-10th. Breakfasted with Mr Scot, rid out to the pillar (see **Plate 3**, below). I went to an English house, in business. Walked out with Mr Scot.

July 31st-Aug. 11th. In the even walk'd out with the Consul & Lady.

³¹An error is made here in the dates, whereby a day is missed and is not made up.

³²See note 5 above.

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Aug. 1st-12th. Rid out in the even with Mrs Butler in the chaise to the canal the Consul being with us.

2^d-13th. I am embarking aboard an English ship for Canea [Chania] in Candia [Crete].

Pray my kind love to my Sister & due respects to all.

I am Dear Madam your most Dutiful Son, Richard Pococke.

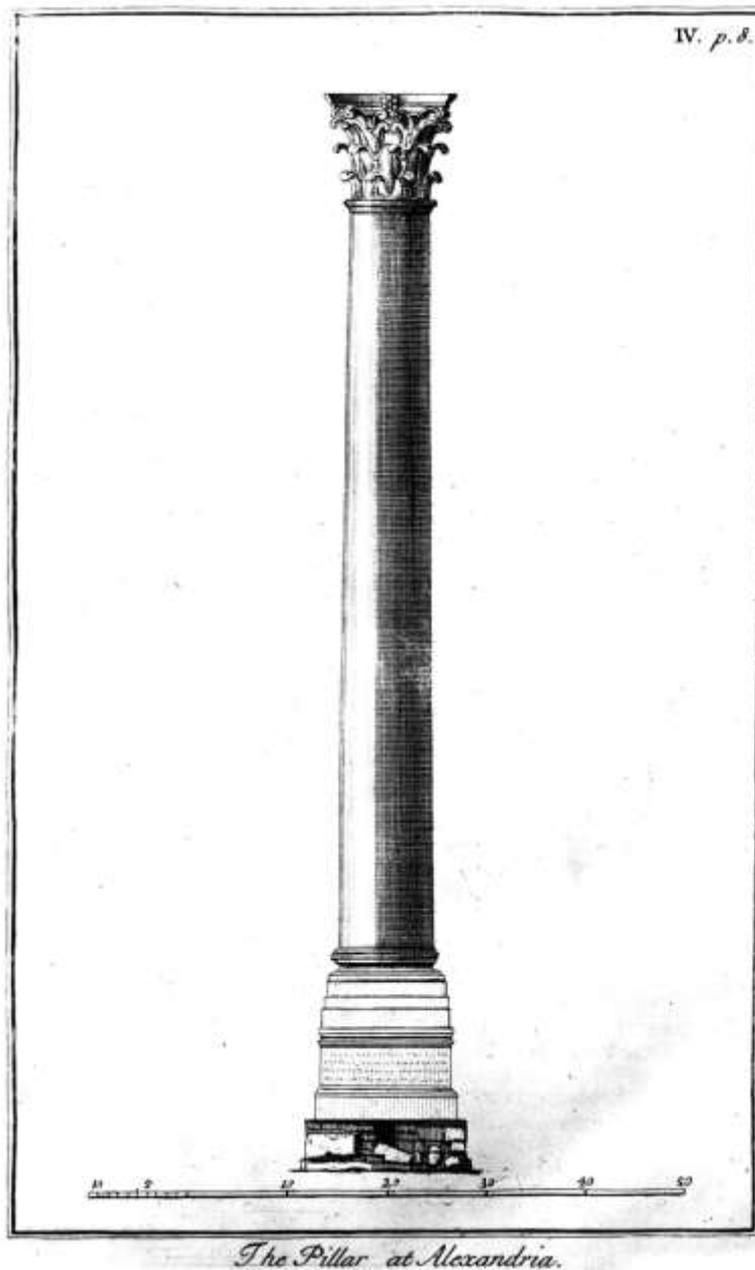


Plate 3: Richard Pococke, *A Description of the East & some other Countries*, Volume 1, The Pillar at Alexandria. (Plate IV)