

WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?

IN THE NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

Dominated as it is by the pyramid that was built between 18 and 12 BC as the tomb of Caius Cestius, the Non-Catholic Cemetery (also known as the Protestant Cemetery) has many graves of people with a connection to Egypt who had settled in Rome¹. Some of the best-known are:

Scholars

David Randall-MacIver (1872–1945). British archaeologist who excavated with Petrie at Abydos and Dendera, 1898-1901, and then for the University of Pennsylvania in Egypt and Sudan, 1907–11. After WWI he settled with his wife in Rome where he became a generous benefactor of the Cemetery.

Gustav F.C. Parthey (1798–1872). German classical scholar and author of a Coptic-Latin dictionary (1844). His headstone shows war damage.

Moritz Meurer (1839–1916). German artist, professor at the Königlichen Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin, and author of studies of plant forms as ornament. His headstone is crowned by a female Egyptian head, with a snake above and a scarab pendant to a necklace below.



The Meurer tomb, top of headstone. (photo: Nicholas Stanley-Price)

Artists

Johann Jakob Frey (1813–1865). Swiss painter who took part in the Lepsius expedition in 1842-43 before ill-health forced his return to Rome. His Egyptian days are alluded to in the Sun-Disk relief on his tomb, which was restored in 2013 with a grant from the Swiss Embassy in Rome.



The Frey headstone after restoration, 2013. (photo: Cecilia Berardini)

Elihu Vedder (1836–1923). American painter, based in Rome, who kept a diary during a visit to Egypt in 1889–90 and made some 200 drawings, many of them exhibited in 2012 at the Hudson River Museum, NY (Elihu Vedder: Voyage On the Nile).

Hermann Corrodi (1844–1905). Swiss painter born near Rome, who produced many paintings in Orientalist style following a tour of Constantinople, Cyprus, Syria and Egypt in 1877.

Gotthard Werner (1837–1903). Swedish painter, a convert to Catholicism, who spent two years in Egypt in the 1880s before settling in Rome².

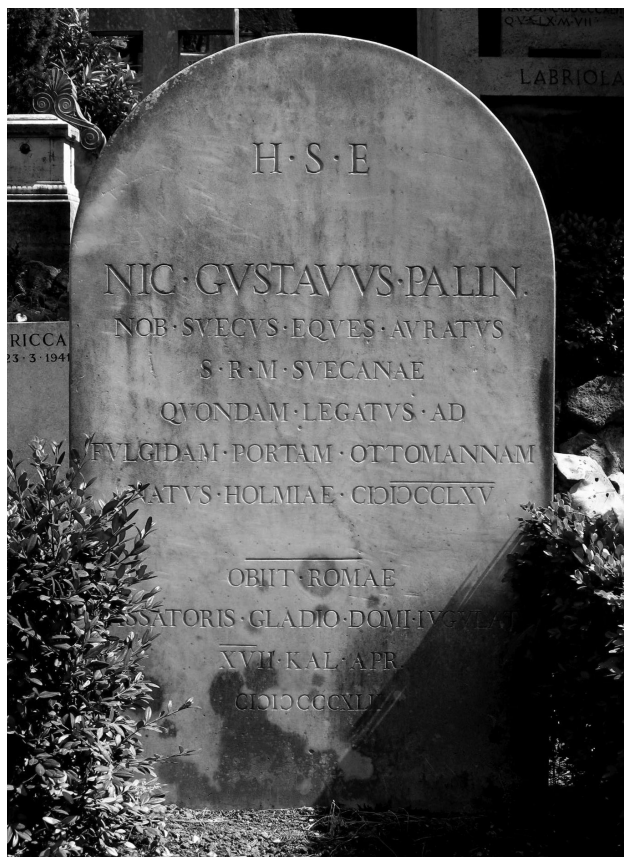
George Alexander Hoskins (1802-1863), British traveller in Egypt and Sudan, author and draughtsman³.

Antiquarians, collectors and diplomats

Johan David Åkerblad (1763–1819). Multilingual Swedish diplomat, antiquities collector and student of Egyptian hieroglyphs and Demotic. His death passed un-noticed in Sweden and only five years later was a gravestone erected, on which his name is spelt 'Ackerblad'.

Nils Gustav Palin (1765–1842). Swedish diplomat, posted for many years to Constantinople, and student of Egyptian hieroglyphs. He was murdered at home by an intruder who stole much of his antiquities collection. The year of death (1842) was added to the inscription only in 1967 on the initiative of the Swedish Institute in Rome. The reverse of the headstone displays mock hieroglyphs which perhaps read 'Palin'⁴.

Jacob Salomon Bartholdy (1779–1825). Prussian Consul-General in Rome from 1816, patron of the Nazarene painters and owner of a large antiquities collection, later acquired by Berlin.



The Palin headstone (photo: Nicholas Stanley-Price)



'Hieroglyphs' on the reverse. (photo: Nicholas Stanley-Price)

August Kestner (1777–1853). Hanoverian diplomatic representative in Rome, 1816–1849, who amassed a large collection of antiquities, now housed at the Kestner Museum in Hanover. The medallion on his tomb was designed by the sculptor Christian Lotsch.

Hussey Crespigny Vivian (1834–1893). British diplomat appointed acting agent and consul-general at Alexandria in 1873 and again in 1876. Died while British Ambassador in Rome.

E. Herbert Norman (1909–1957). Canadian diplomat and scholar of Japanese history. Victim of a McCarthyist witch-hunt, he took his own life while Ambassador to Egypt in 1957⁵.

Record photos and texts of the inscriptions on the tombs mentioned here can be found at :
www.cemeteryrome.it/graves/databases.html

Nicholas Stanley-Price

Notes:

- 1 N.Stanley-Price. *The Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome. Its history, its people, and its survival for 300 years*. Rome: Non-Catholic Cemetery, 2014. www.cemeteryrome.it
- 2 Per Eriksson in *Newsletter, Friends of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome* 28 (in press).
- 3 R.G.Morkot, 'George Hoskins, *Travels in Ethiopia* and the History of Meroe.' In *Souvenirs and new ideas. Travel and collecting in Egypt and the Near East* (ed. Diane Fortenberry), Oxbow Books, 2013, 98–118. For details of the tomb ledger, see *ASTENE Bulletin* 49, 20 and 51, 22.
- 4 If any ASTENE Egyptologists have suggestions on the reading of the hieroglyphic text please send them to the Editor.
- 5 N.Stanley-Price in *Newsletter, Friends of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome* 27 (2014), 2.