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ROSE AND ALEISTER CROWLEY'S STAY IN EGYPT IN 1904

A STUDY OF THE CAIRO WORKING
AND WHAT IT LED TO

BY
PERDURABO ST



FRATER PERDURABO, to whom this revelation was made with so many signs and wonders, was himself unconvinced. He struggled against it for years. Not until the completion of His own initiation at the end of 1909 did He understand how perfectly He was bound to carry out this work. (Indeed, it was not until his word became conterminous with Himself and His Universe that all alien ideas lost their meaning for him). Again and again He turned away from it, took it up for a few days or hours, then laid it aside. He even attempted to destroy its value, to nullify the result. Again and again the unsleeping might of the Watchers drove Him back to the work; and it was at the very moment when He thought Himself to have escaped that He found Himself fixed for ever with no possibility of again turning aside for the fraction of a second from the path.

The history of this must one day be told by a more vivid voice. Properly considered, it is a history of continuous miracle.

THE EQUINOX OF THE GODS, 1936 E.V.

Feb. 20. *Began golf.*

The day after that the Crowleys went to Helwan the English statesman, late Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914), visited the new Cairo Museum (Saturday, February 20). He was on a two month holiday and proceeded to Luxor and Assuan.²⁶³

March 16. *Began INV. (invocation). IAΩ.*

[In a note "2" to this on p. 68 in EG Fra. P. has written: "Given in Liber Samekh: see "Magick.""]

In EG we find him saying:

*It is however certain that about the 14th of March he [i.e. Fra. P.] took possession of a flat in Cairo — in the Season! Can bathos go further? So that the entry of March 16th is dated from Cairo.*²⁶⁴

The expression "in the Season" refers to the fashionable season from January to April, the ordinary season for tourists was from the beginning of November to the end of April. In *Confessions* Crowley wrote:

*Ouarda and I left Helwan for Cairo. (Date unascertained, probably on March 11th or 13th [1904].) We had taken an apartment (address unascertained) on Wednesday, March 16th.*²⁶⁵

About renting apartments in Cairo it is said in Baedeker's *Egypt and The Sudân* from 1908 E.V.:

*Private Apartments (mostly unfurnished) are seldom to be obtained for a shorter period than six month. Information as to rooms may be obtained at the chief shops or from agents whose addresses may be best learned at the consulates. A sunny aspect should be chosen in winter, and a detailed written contract invariably drawn up. A bargain as to food may be made with some neighbouring restaurant; for only those conversant with the language should attempt to keep house for themselves with native servants.*²⁶⁶

Either was the renting of the apartment prearranged or they had to stay in a hotel on their return to Cairo during the search for the right apartment. A short stay in a hotel would likely not be mentioned in *The Egyptian Gazette's* hotel lists. If they took a hotel for a day or two it was probably not the Grand Continental since they had stayed there as the Boleskines before going to Port Said and Helwan and now on returning to Cairo they were the Chioa Khans! However, there is a fact which strongly suggests that

²⁶³ Daily Mail. London, England: Daily Mail. ♦ Monday, February 22, 1904, p. 3. ("Mr. Chamberlain at Assuan", p. 3)

²⁶⁴ EG, p. 67.

²⁶⁵ *Confessions*, p. 393.

²⁶⁶ *Karl Baedeker. Egypt and The Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Sixth remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, p. 32.*

they stayed at the Savoy Hotel. As mentioned by Crowley in *EG*, p. 114, Rose and he met a General Dickson during their stay in Cairo:

Otherwise we knew nobody in Cairo except natives, occasionally hobnobbed with a General Dickson, who had accepted Islam,

In *The Egyptian Gazette*, Saturday, March 5, 1904, is found the following:

*Our Visitors. – General and Mrs. Dickson [...], are still staying at the Savoy.*²⁶⁷

Again, Monday, March 14, 1904, is found the following note:

*Personal. – Amongst the many distinguished people at present staying at the Savoy Hotel are [...], General and Mrs Dickson.*²⁶⁸

And again, Tuesday, April 5, 1904 E.V.:

*Personal. – Mrs. Charles and Miss Cochrane entertained a party to dinner at the Savoy Restaurant yesterday evening, the guests including General and Mrs. Dickson.*²⁶⁹

The Savoy Hotel (see Figures 20, 21, 23) was located on Midan Soliman Pasha in the European quarter and was the newest hotel in Cairo, and a hotel often frequented by British officers and officials. It was thus here that the general and his wife were staying when the Crowleys returned to Cairo and it is therefore likely to assume that it was at the Savoy that the Crowleys met the general while staying there during their search for an apartment. I shall return to the apartment where the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* took place later on. But who was this General Dickson who is important since he almost is the only person remembered later on, and furthermore one whom the Crowleys associated with in society. I notice that Crowley's friend the Irish born journalist and author James Thomas "Frank" Harris (1856-1931)²⁷⁰, in his autobiography *My Life And Loves*, which he published privately between 1922 E.V. and 1927 E.V., describes a dinner he had with a General Dickson in London.²⁷¹ Frank Harris achieved the editorship of the *London Evening News* in 1883 (editor 1883-86) at the age of only 27 and writes that almost at the beginning of his work in London he received an invitation to dinner from

²⁶⁷ The Egyptian Gazette. Alexandria: The Egyptian Gazette. ♦ Saturday, March 5, 1904, p. 7.

²⁶⁸ Ibid. ♦ Monday, March 14, 1904, p. 3.

²⁶⁹ Ibid. ♦ Tuesday, April 5, 1904, p. 5.

²⁷⁰ James Thomas "Frank" Harris (christened James Thomas Harris) (1856-1931). American journalist, critic, biographer and raconteur, born in Galway, Ireland, (most likely) on February 14, 1856. He died in Nice, France, on August 26, 1931. E.V. • For the various birth dates given by him, see: *A. I. Tobin and Elmer Gertz. Frank Harris: A study in Black and White. An "Authorized" Biography.* Chicago, IL: Madelaine Mendelsohn, 1931, pp. 21-2. (*Chapter Three. James Thomas Harris is Born*, pp. 21-9.)

²⁷¹ *Frank Harris* [James Thomas Harris]. *My Life And Loves*. 4 vols. Paris and Nice, France: Privately printed, 1922-7. • Later French edition: Paris, France: The Obelisk Press, 1952, Vol. II, pp. 138-40. (*Chapter XIII. The Prince. General Dickson. English Gluttony. Sir Robert Fowler And Finch Hatton. Ernest Beckett and Mallock. The «Pink 'Un» And Free Speech*, pp. 137-52.) • For *My Life And Loves*, see note²⁸²⁸ below.

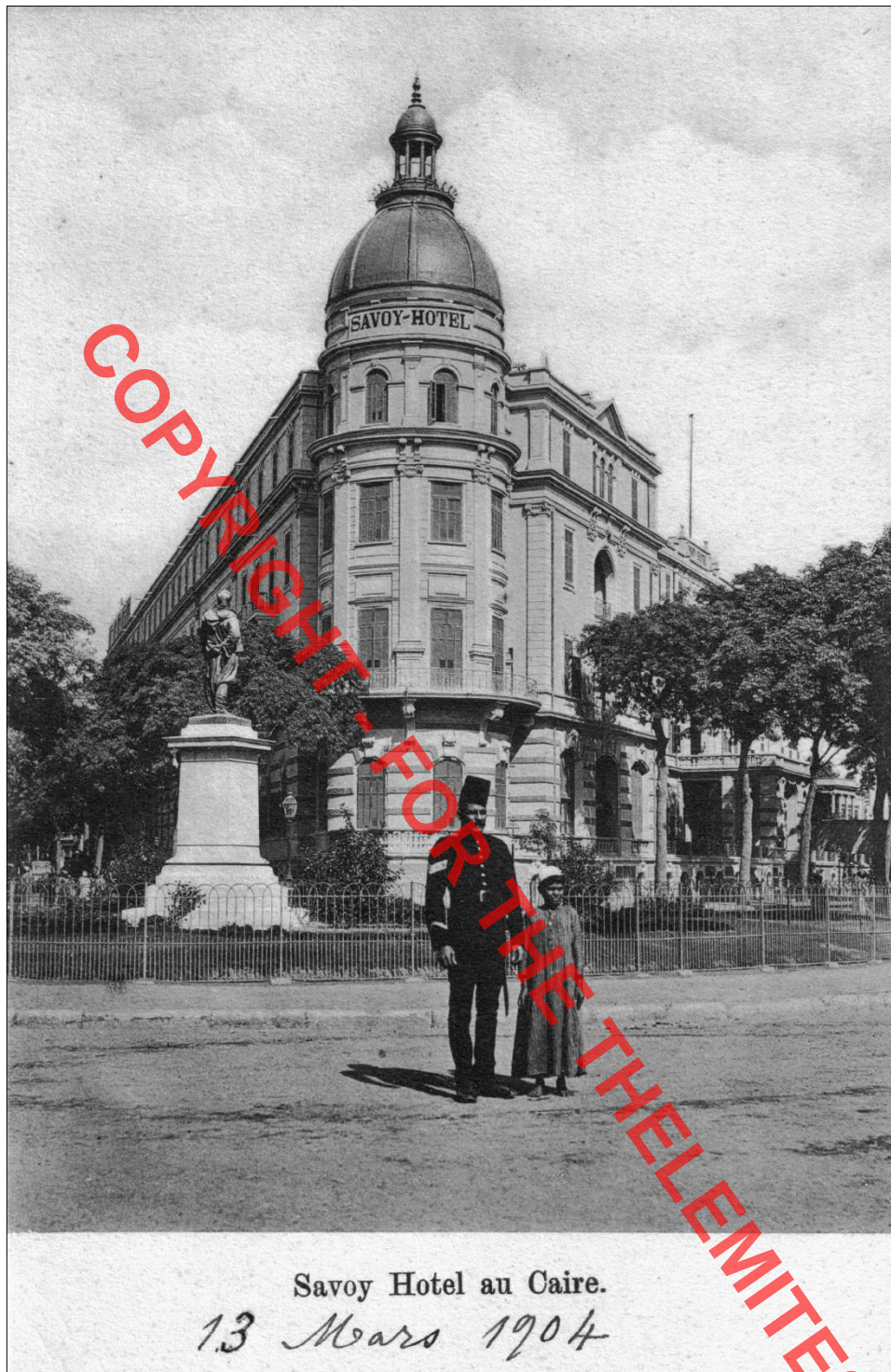


FIGURE 23. *Postcard showing « Savoy Hotel au Caire »
dated « 13 Mars 1904 »*

I once stumbled upon this postcard of the Savoy Hotel on Midan Soliman Pasha, and, interestingly enough, it is dated by hand in French « 13 Mars 1904 » (13 March 1904). It is most likely written by a French visitor staying at the Savoy Hotel, and perhaps on the day when Rose and Aleister Crowley returned to Cairo from their stay in Helwan. According to the *Egyptian Gazette* General Dickson, whom Crowley states they met in Cairo, was staying at the hotel together with his wife and it is therefore likely that they met them while staying at the hotel for a day or two searching for an apartment. Note that the photographer is standing almost in front of the Standard Life Insurance Building, which was on the opposite corner. Postcard marked UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE EGYPTE CARTE POSTALE. © From the author's collection.

a General Dickson, a prominent member of the “*Four-in-Hand Club*” – which was a club that combined gastronomy with equestrianism and chariotting – and judging from his description of him the general was evidently an ageing gentleman:

*He was a fine-looking man above middle height, well set up with broad shoulders; he had good features, too, and his bronzed face was framed by a mass of silver hair.*²⁷²

As to British generals named Dickson, I notice that there was a General Sir Collingwood Dickson (1817-1904), who died 87 years old in London in November 1904 E.V., but he was eighty-six years old in March/April, 1904 E.V., and generally known as ‘General Sir Collingwood Dickson’, and moreover, his wife died in 1894.²⁷³ However, I think that General Sir Collingwood Dickson probably was Frank Harris’s “*General Dickson.*” There was also a Lieutenant-General William Thomas Dickson (1830-1909), but he was some seventy-four years old in 1904 E.V., and therefore not a candidate.²⁷⁴ Furthermore, there was a Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson (1842-1925), who fought in the Second Boer War (1899-1902), commanding the Fourth Cavalry Brigade²⁷⁵, and also a Major-General Edward Thompson Dickson (1850-1938), who commanded 49th and 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, and was appointed to the staff in Barbados as Brigadier-General in 1902, and served there to 1905 E.V.²⁷⁶ Finally, during the Mesopotamian campaign (Iraq) in World War I, 1914-1918 E.V., there was a General William Edmund Ritchie Dickson (1871-1957), but he was only a Captain in 1904 E.V., and therefore not a candidate.²⁷⁷ According to the above, there seems only to be two candidates, namely John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson and Edward Thompson Dickson. However, all seems to point to Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson, C.B., C.M.G., (1842-1925), (Figure 24), who after forty-one years of service in, among other places, India, Egypt, and South Africa, retired in February 1901.²⁷⁸ John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson was born on October 24, 1842, at St. George

²⁷² Ibid., p. 139.

²⁷³ For *General Sir Collingwood Dickson* (1817-1904), see: <http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/kensalgr.htm> • Margaret Baker. *Discovering London Statues and Monuments*. London: Osprey Publishing, 2002, p. 194. • General Sir Collingwood Dickson was married to Harriet Burnaby (1824-1894).

²⁷⁴ For his dates, see: *The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal*. Reading, UK: Printed and published by Chas. Slaughter & Son. • Vol. 21, No. 2, July, 1915, p. 52. (*Beenham House and Manor*. By Mary Sharp, pp. [47]-53.)

²⁷⁵ See: *Charles Sydney Goldman*. *With General French and the Cavalry in South Africa*. London: Macmillan and Co, 1902.

²⁷⁶ See: *The London Gazette*. London, UK: The London Gazette. • 25 November, 1902, p. 7939. (*Colonel E. T. Dickson*, p. 7939.) • E. T. Dickson married in 1878 Helene Frances Harvey (1850?-1919).

²⁷⁷ For General William Edmund Ritchie Dickson (1871-1957), see: *Kermit Roosevelt*. *War in the Garden of Eden*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1919, p. 12. • W. E. R. Dickson was made a captain April 1, 1900. • Hart’s Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1904. Volume LXV. London, UK: John Murray, p. 212. (*Corps of Royal Engineers*, pp. 204-16.)

²⁷⁸ For Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson (1842-1925), see: *Celebrities of the Army*. Edited by Commander Chas. N. Robinson, R.N. Toronto, Canada: The Publishers’ Syndicate Limited, 1900, pp. 103-4. (*Major-General J. B. Dickson, C.B.*, pp. 103-4.) • *British Army Lists*, October 1902. The National Archives of the UK. • Dickson, John Baillie Ballantyne, CB, CIE, p. 1962. (*NON-EFFECTIVE OFFICERS; RETIRED PAY; COLONELS (with honorary rank of Major-General)*, p. 1962.) • *Reign of George V: Representative Subjects of the King*. 2 vols. London: Dod’s Peerage Publishers, 1912-3. • Vol. I (1912), p. 159. (*Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson, C.B., C.M.G.*, p. 159.)



**FIGURE 24. Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, C.B.
Commanding Fourth Cavalry Brigade, South African Field Force.**

A photograph of Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson, C.B., C.M.G. (1842-1925), dating from 1900. J. B. B. Dickson retired in 1901 after forty-two years of service in, among other places, India, Egypt and South Africa. J. B. B. Dickson who was married to Australian-born Kathleen Frances Dickson, née Browne (1861-1953), is clearly the "General Dickson" whom Aleister Crowley writes that he and his wife "*occasionally hobnobbed with*" in Cairo. According to the *Egyptian Gazette* "*General and Mrs. Dickson*" were staying at the Savoy Hotel in Cairo in March/April 1904 E.V. © From the Author's collection.

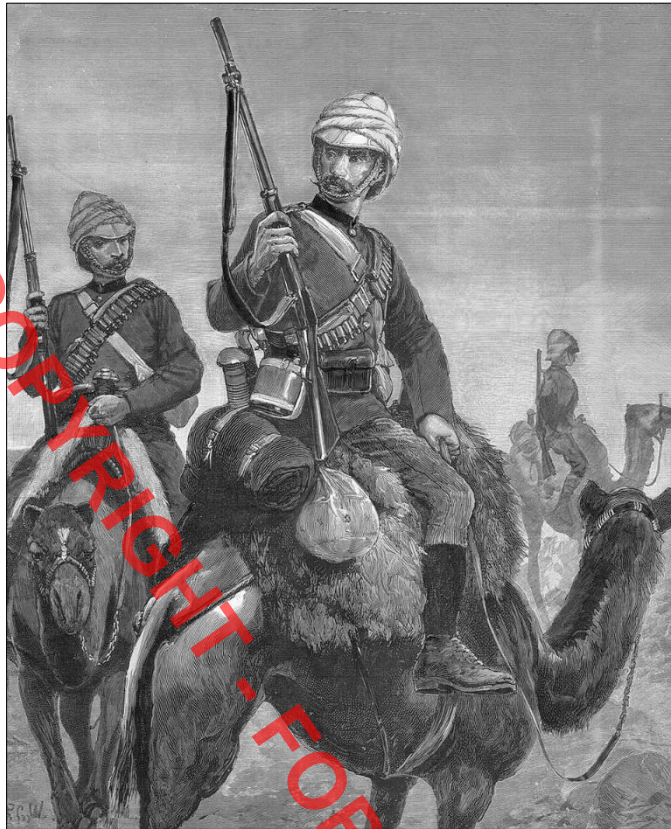
Hanover Square, London, as son of S. Dickson, M.D. of the Dicksons of Hartree, Peeblesshire, Scotland, and Eliza Dickson, née Johnstone.²⁷⁹ He was married twice. His first wife, Marian Huth (1847-1876), died in March, 1876, and a daughter died shortly after. The couple also had two sons, one of them was killed in action during WW1. In 1889 Dickson married the Australien-born Kathleen Frances Browne (1860-1953), daughter of the English Doctor, grazier, and pastoralist William James Browne M.R.C.S. (1815-1894). There were no children of the second marriage. Dickson was appointed cornet in the Bengal Cavalry in 1860, and having been adjutant in the Lahore Light Horse and the Eighteenth Bengal Lancers, he exchanged into the Royal Dragoons and served at the Cape in 1879. In the Zulu War, 1879, he did duty with the Native Carrier Corps at the front and gained the Zulu Medal with Clasp. When in 1884 it was decided to make up a Camel Corps for service in the Nile Campaign, Dickson, who at that time was Major, volunteered to go out in command of the detachment furnished by the Royal Dragoons. He was severely wounded at the battle of Abu-Klea in Sudan. We are informed by an eyewitness, Lieutenant Count Gleichen of the Grenadier Guards, that Major Dickson, who was attached to the Intelligence Department, in the beginning of the battle was shot through the knee.²⁸⁰ For his service he received the War Medal with Two Clasps, and the Khedive's Star, and was in 1885 specially promoted to the Second Lieut.-Coloneley of the 5th Dragoon Guards – the regiment, which he commanded from 1887-93. In 1899 he was appointed to the command of the troops in the Straits Settlements of the Malaya Peninsula with the temporary rank of Major-General, and the year after, in 1900, he was selected to proceed to the Cape to take over command of a reinforcing Brigade of cavalry, which was sent out from England, the Fourth Cavalry Brigade, and the same year he was created Military Governor of Middelburg, Cape.²⁸¹ Dickson was made a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (C.M.G.) in 1901. He retired with the honorary rank of Major-General on February 2, 1901, at the age of fifty-eight, and after forty-one years of service.²⁸² The General was sixty-one years old in April, 1904 E.V., and his wife, Kathleen, only some forty-three years old. As mentioned, so was General Dickson according to *The Egyptian Gazette* accompanied by his wife in Cairo. I think that there is every probability that it was Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson (and his wife) with whom the Crowleys "occasionally hobnobbed" in 1904 E.V. At the time of the Crowleys visit the General was probably enjoying his retirement with his wife in the season in Cairo. I first thought that his stated acceptance of Islam probably was due to the confidence alluded to by Crowley. However, I discovered an article which affirmed that Major-General J. B. B. Dickson in fact had accepted Islam as Crowley writes. In April 1926 E.V. the American newspaper *The Altoona Mirror* quotes the Englishman, converted Mohammedan, and Iman, Khalid Sheldrake, London, for saying:

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ *Count Gleichen. With the Camel Corps Up the Nile. With Numerous Sketches by the Author.* London: Chapman & Hall, Limited, 1888, p. 123. (CHAPTER XI., pp. [118]-24.)

²⁸¹ *The Illustrated London News.* London, England: The Illustrated London News. ♦ August 11, 1900, p. 187. (PERSONAL; Major-General J. B. Dickson, C.B., p. 187.)

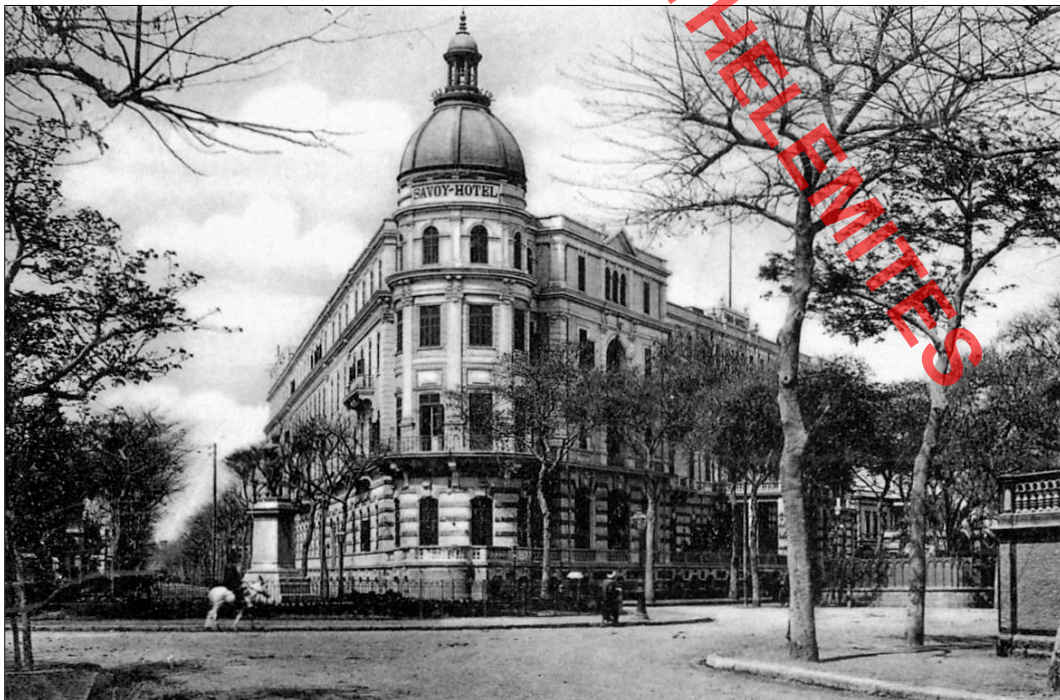
²⁸² See: British Army Lists, October 1902. The National Archives of the UK. ♦ Dickson, John Baillie Ballantyne, CB, CIE, p. 1962. (NON-EFFECTIVE OFFICERS; RETIRED PAY; COLONELS (with honorary rank of Major-General, p. 1962.)



The British Camel Corps from the Sudanese War. Two scenes from the Battle of Abu Klea on January 17, 1885. Engravings by Richard Caton Woodville from *The Illustrated London News*.



Colonel J. B. B. Dickson, C.B., on his way to command the 4th Cavalry Brigade in South Africa in 1900.



Early 1900s photograph showing Savoy Hotel on Midan Soliman Pasha in the European quarter of Cairo.

At the close of the Great war, the English men and women who had embraced the Moslem faith were a mere handful; today they number more than 3,000 definitely known to us, [...]. Among well-known English people who have found their spiritual home in Mohammedanism are: Lord Headley; Sir Archibald Hamilton, Bart; Lady Hamilton; Lady Evelyn Cobbold; the late Major General J. B. B. Dickson of the regular army; Marmakduke Pickthall, the novelist and Dr. H. M. Leon, the scholar, secretary of the Society of Philology. Some have been converted by their travels in moslem lands; others by the more or less accidental perusal of the Holy Qur-an."²⁸³

Note that there is no mention of Mrs. Dickson! It seems that the Major-General converted in 1905 E.V., taking the name "J. B. B. Muhammad Dickson".²⁸⁴ At the time of the Crowleys meeting with the Dicksons in Cairo the couple was living with three servants in Sussex Gardens, Paddington, London.²⁸⁵ From 1911 E.V. they lived in Keevil Manor, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England, where the Major-General died at the age of eighty-two on August 15, 1925 E.V.²⁸⁶ A memorial plaque of him inside St. Leonard's Church, Keevil, ends with the words:

*The Philosophy he drew from the wisdom of both East and West endowed him with such warmth of human sympathy that his friendship was a privilege, his influence an inspiration.*²⁸⁷

It has been mentioned that Dickson, who fought in three wars, was one of the most popular General Officers on the list of the British Cavalry²⁸⁸, however, it has also been mentioned that he was an unpopular leader of the 4th Cavalry, known to some of his officers as 'the old beast'²⁸⁹ – I wonder if it was because he had accepted Islam! Mrs. Kathleen Francis Dickson died at the age of ninety-three at Keevil Manor on October 21, 1953 E.V.²⁹⁰

Later, I also discovered that one of General Dickson's friends, the Indian Moslem writer and Sufi, Muhammad Sarfarāz Husayn Qārī (1867-?), in 1910 E.V. in Calcutta

²⁸³ The Altoona Mirror. Altoona, Pennsylvania: The Altoona Mirror. ♦ Friday, April 9, 1926, p. 14. (*LEADER OF ISLAM CLAIMS CONVERTS*, p. 14.)

²⁸⁴ See: The Aligarh Magazine; Muslim University, Aligarh. Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India: Muslim University, Aligarh. ♦ Vol. 44; No. 2, Autumn, 1934, p. 121. (*A New Muslim World in Making. By Hafiz Mohammad Fazlur Rehman Ansari, B. A. Final Class.*, pp. [117]-26)

²⁸⁵ 1901 Census from "37 Sussex Gdns", Paddington, London.

²⁸⁶ The London Gazette. London, UK: The London Gazette. ♦ 22 December, 1925, p. 8517. (*Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson C.B., C.M.G., Deceased*, p. 8517.) ♦ The Wiltshire Times. Wiltshire, England: The Wiltshire Times. ♦ Saturday, August 22, 1925, p. 7. (*DEATH OF MAJOR-GENERAL DICKSON; Distinguished Military Career; Funeral at Keevil*, p. 7.)

²⁸⁷ "TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN BAILLIE BALLANTYNE DICKSON | MAJOR GENERAL C·B· C·M·G | B: 24TH OCTOBER 1842 | D: 15TH AUGUST 1925" ♦ Memorial plaque inside St. Leonard's Church, Keevil, Wiltshire, England.

²⁸⁸ *Celebrities of the Army*. Edited by Commander Chas. N. Robinson, R.N. Toronto, Canada: The Publishers' Syndicate Limited, 1900, p. 103. (*Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, C.B.*, pp. 103-4.)

²⁸⁹ *Marquess of Anglesey. A History of the British Cavalry, 1816 to 1919*. 8 vols. London, UK: Leo Cooper, 1973-97. ♦ Volume IV (1986); 1899 to 1913, p. 164. (*CHAPTER XI, v*), pp. 162-93.)

²⁹⁰ The Wiltshire Times. Wiltshire, England: The Wiltshire Times. ♦ Saturday, October 24, 1953, p. ELEVEN. (*DIED AT KEEVIL MANOR; Mrs. Kathleen Francis Dickson, Aged 93*, p. ELEVEN.) ♦ Kathleen Francis Browne was born on October 9, 1860, in South Australia as youngest daughter of William James Browne and Mary Browne, née Nixon.

had published a short essay in English titled *ISLĀM*, and which had as frontispiece a portrait of "Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, C.B., C.M.G."²⁹¹

The British physician, converted Mohammedan, and Imam, Khalid Sheldrake, née Bertram William Sheldrake (1888-1947), mentioned above, had converted to Islam in 1913 E.V. He was the founder of the English branch of the Western Islamic Association, and whose President he was. Dr. Khalid Sheldrake was in fact a King who lost his Throne. In March 1934 E.V. he was offered the Throne of Sinkiang (Chinese Turkestan) by the 10,000,000 Moslem inhabitants after they had revolted against the rule of China. However, he lost his Throne when Chinese troops reconquered the province in August the same year.²⁹²

As to Major-General Dickson, he was back in England shortly after the Crowleys departure from Egypt, and June 9 he attended the annual dinner of the Bengal Cavalry, held at Hôtel Métropole in London.²⁹³

March 14th was a Monday, and the invocation of Wednesday, March 16, took accordingly place in the rented apartment in Cairo.²⁹⁴ In *EG* Crowley says concerning the invocation:

March 16. Tried to shew the Sylphs to Rose.¹ She was in a dazed state, stupid, possibly drunk; possibly hysterical from pregnancy. She could see nothing, but could hear. She was fiercely excited at the messages, and passionately insistent that I should take them seriously. I was annoyed at her irrelevance, and her infliction of nonsense upon me. She had never been in any state even remotely resembling this, though I had made the same invocation (in full) in the King's chamber of the Great Pyramid during the night which we spent there in the previous autumn. [The note¹ reads: "I invoked them by the Air section of Liber Samekh, and the appropriate God-names, Pentagrams, &c."]²⁹⁵

"The Book of Results." in *EG* has the following:

March 16th Die ☩¹ I invoke IAΩ. (Fra. P. tells us that this was done by the ritual of the "Bornless One," identical with the "Preliminary Invocation"² in the "Goetia," merely to amuse his wife by showing her the sylphs. She refused or was unable to see any sylphs, but became "inspired," and kept on saying: "They're waiting for you!")

(Note. The maiden name of his wife was Rose Edith Kelly. He called her Ouarda [Arab. وردة, ouarda, a rose²⁹⁶], the Arabic for "Rose." She is hereafter signified by "Ouarda the Seer" or "W." for short. Ed.)

W. says "they" are "waiting for me."

²⁹¹ *Muhammad Sarfarāz Husayn Qāri*. *ISLĀM*. Calcutta, NP, 1910. • *Muhammad Sarfarāz Husayn Qāri*, who was born in Delhi in 1867, was an initiated member of the Chistiyyah Nidhāmiyyah [Chishtiyya Nizamiya] Fraternity, a Sufi order. • *Ibid.*, p. iii.

²⁹² See: *Western Morning News and Daily Gazette*. Plymouth, Devon, England: *Western Morning News*. ♦ Thursday, August 23, 1934, p. 6. (*OUR LONDON LETTER; King Who Lost His Throne*, p. 6.)

²⁹³ *The Morning Post*. London, UK: *The Morning Post*. ♦ Friday, June 10, 1904, p. 4. (*MILITARY DINNERS*, p. 4.)

²⁹⁴ See note⁴⁰⁶ below.

²⁹⁵ *EG*, p. 115. • See also note³⁹⁹⁸ below.

²⁹⁶ For وردة ouarda, see note⁸ above.

[The note¹ reads: "I.e. Wednesday." The note² reads: "See "Magick" Appendix Liber CXX."]²⁹⁷

For their night together at Gizeh in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid on Sunday, November 22, 1903, where it seems that the Cairo Working was unconsciously conceived by Fra. P.'s full reading of the "Preliminary Invocation" of *The Goetia*²⁹⁸, see: *Confessions*, pp. 371-3., and *Magick.I-IV.*, p. xxxvi. (Extract from "Crowley, diary, June 1903-Feb. 1904 E.V., typescript.")²⁹⁹

I note that on Sunday, November 22, the sunset at Cairo was at 4:56 p.m., local time, and the sunrise the following day was at 6.25 a.m., local time, so they had a long night together in this the most fascinating of places. On November 22 the moonrise was at 8:58 a.m., local time, and the moonset was at 7:52 p.m., local time. It had been New Moon three days before on November 19. It was at a time of the year when the temperature in the desert was moderate since it was at the beginning of the winter period. However, Crowley confessed later, after having described the very successful invocation where the astral light filled the chamber:

*For the rest, the floor on the King's Chamber is particularly uncompromising. [...] I must confess to having passed a very uncomfortable night.*³⁰⁰

Six years later on December 1, 1909 E.V., Fra. P. was back in the King's Chamber, but this time in the vision beheld during the 18th Aethyr called "ZEN", and invoked in the desert at Bou-Saada, south of Tunis in Tunisia. Two days later during the 14th Aethyr took the birth of NEMO place and thus the annihilation of Fra. P., which I shall return to later.³⁰¹

Eventually, the incidents of Wednesday, March 16, are thus the start of what usually is defined as the Cairo Working.

Later I will discuss the date of the Crowleys arrival in Egypt in 1903, together with the dates of their departure and arrival in Colombo, Ceylon – in fact, it turns out that Crowley has left us with enough information in various sources to figure these problems out, also the date of their departure after the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* in April 1904 E.V., and I have discovered a fantastic source, which gives invaluable data on

²⁹⁷ EG, p. 70.

²⁹⁸ The "Preliminary Invocation", the first line of which says: "Thee I invoke, the Bornless one." was included by Crowley in his issue of *GOETIA* in 1904 E.V. and was not a part of the original text of the "Goetia". • The Book of the Goetia of Solomon the King. Translated into the English Tongue by a Dead Hand and Adorned with Divers Other Matters Germane Delightful to the Wise. The Whole Edited, Verified, Introduced and Commented by Aleister Crowley. [Translated by S. L. Mathers]. Boleskine, Foyers, Inverness, Scotland: Society for the Propagation of Religious Truth, 1904, pp. vii-ix. • Reprinted in facsimile with Crowley's holograph annotations: First Impressions Series, Vol. N° 17. [Essex House, Thame, Oxon, UK: Mandrake Press Ltd and Edmonds, WA, USA: Holmes Publishing Group], 1993.

²⁹⁹ *Magick.I-IV.*, p. xxxvi, Extract from "Crowley, diary, June 1903-Feb. 1904 E.V., typescript." (Note †)(Editor's Introduction, pp. xxiii-lxxxiv.) • See also note⁸⁸⁴ below.

³⁰⁰ *Confessions*, p. 373. • The King's Chamber reminded Crowley of "Brand" – Henrik Ibsen's play named after its protagonist, the priest *Brand* – which he alludes to on another page in *Confessions*. • See p. 123 in *Confessions*!

³⁰¹ See note⁴⁰⁵³ below.

ship routes and dates.³⁰² Finally, it shall also be mentioned that the English astronomer Charles Piazzi Smyth (1819-1900), together with his wife, Jessica Smyth, née Duncan (1812-1896), and two guardsmen, spent a night on the top of the Great Pyramid in April 1865.³⁰³

March 17. *θωουθ* [Θωουθ] appeared.

[In a note “³” to this on p. 68 in EG: “*Thoth, the Egyptian God of Wisdom and Magick.*” EG has the Coptic Θωουϑ for θωουθ [Θωουθ].

Crowley stated in EG:

*March 17. More apparently nonsensical messages, this time spontaneous. I invoked Thoth, probably as in Liber LXIV, and presumably to clear up the muddle.*³⁰⁴

And “*The Book of Results.*” in EG has the following:

[March] 17. *⌘*³ It is “*all about the child.*” Also “*all Osiris.*” (Note the cynic and sceptic tone of this entry. How different it appears in the light of Liber 418!) *Thoth, invoked with great success, indwells us. (Yes; but what happened? Fra. P. has no sort of idea.)* [The note³ reads: “*Thursday.*”]³⁰⁵

On publishing EG Fra. P. suggested, as seen above, that the ritual used to invoke Thoth probably was *Liber LXIV*. This ritual which was published in the same number of *The Equinox* as TSK1912 was composed by Fra. P.’s mentor and friend Frater Iehi Aour [‘Let there be Light’], (Charles) (Henry) Allan Bennett (1872-1923), London-born analytical chemist, magician, and Buddhist, who joined the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn in 1894, and who has been mentioned as the “*Saint Augustine of Buddhism*”.³⁰⁶ Crowley later rewrote it with the title “*Liber Israfel SVB FIGVRÂ LXIV*” and with the information that:

*This book was formerly called “Anubis,” and is referred to the 20th key, “The Angel.”*³⁰⁷

– “*The Angel*” was later retitled “*The Aeon*” in *The Book of Thoth*. I notice that on this day, Thursday 17th, the Moon was new! (7.39 a.m., local time.)]

³⁰² For this, see the end of CHAPTER 5.

³⁰³ *Charles Piazzi Smyth. Life and Work at the Great Pyramid during the months of January, February, March, and April, A.D. 1865: With a Discussion of the Frits ascertained.* 3 vols. Edinburgh, Scotland: Edmonston and Douglas, 1867. ♦ Vol. I, p. 453f. (CHAPTER XV. ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS, pp. [425]-68.)

³⁰⁴ EG, p. 115.

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 70.

³⁰⁶ *The Maha-Bodhi.* Founded by the Anagarika H. Dharmapala. Calcutta: Maha Bodhi Society. ♦ Vol. XXXVII, No. 6, June, B. E. 2473; C. E. 1929, p. 297. (*PINKAMA IN LONDON*, pp. 294-8.) • For Allan Bennett, see note⁴²⁸⁹ below.

³⁰⁷ [Aleister Crowley, et al.] *The Equinox.* Vol. I., No. VII. London: Wieland & Co., March MCMXII O.S. (1912 E.V.), *Liber Israfel SVB FIGVRÂ LXIV*, pp. 21-7. • For the 20th key, see note⁷⁸¹ below.