

Matthew Moggridge (1803-82) and John Traherne Moggridge (1842-1874)

In researching the life of Clarence Bicknell we see the references to Moggridge the archaeologist and Moggridge the botanist, both relevant to Bicknell's interest. Graham Avery and Marcus Bicknell aided Valerie Browne Lester, Bicknell's biographer, in recording the salient facts about the two experts. This note gives the findings and records available genealogical information

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There were two relevant Moggridges, who are easily confused:

Father. Matthew Moggridge (1803-82): archaeologist His paper ¹ entitled *The Meraviglie* was presented to The International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology whose Third Session opened in Norwich on 20 August 1868 and closed in London on 28 August; the papers were published in London in 1869. The title of the author is given as 'M. Moggridge Esq. F.G.S. [Fellow of the Geological Society of London] (Member of the Italian Alpine Club)'. In the first sentence he mentions that he had been in the Meraviglie region 'for the previous six winters'. Moggridge's work on these rock engravings pre-dated, and informed, Bicknell's work ². Matthew was father of J. T. Moggridge, whom he accompanied to Mentone.

Son. John Traherne Moggridge (1842-1874): an entomologist, botanist and botanical artist, son of M. Moggridge. He wintered in Mentone, and his *Flora of Menton* published in 1864 was mentioned by Clarence in the Preface of his book *Flowering plants and ferns of the Riviera* in 1885. When John became too ill to collect specimens his father did so for him. The son writes ³ "Well-directed research in any definite direction must afford happy employment for the invalid, and tend towards the advancement of knowledge... In the first place, my father was indefatigable in procuring subjects for my pencil, his knowledge of plants and great powers of endurance making him as able a collector as ever searched jungle or climbed Alp."

J.T. Moggridge's work pre-dated and informed Bicknell's botanical work. In 1885 Clarence Bicknell published a selection of his paintings in the book *Flowering plants and ferns of the Riviera* (image, left), splendidly illustrated with 82 coloured plates and accompanying notes on 280 species. He explained in the Preface that he was inspired by the British botanist J.T. Moggridge who, in a *Flora of Menton*, a town just across the border from Bordighera, published in London in 1864, had encouraged others to follow his example in publishing illustrations of the local flora.



The photograph shows John Traherne Moggridge (left) with his younger brother Matthew Weston Moggridge in 1853

¹ <http://www.rupestre.net/tracce/?p=6248> reproduced below in text form

² The existence of these rock figures must have been known in 1520, to account for the name of the Laghi delle Meraviglie being given to the lakes on a map of the period, but they do not seem to have attracted the attention of scientists or students of prehistory until an English botanist names Moggridge, resident in Menton, called attention to the special interest of these strange drawings in a paper he read at the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology held in London in 1868.

³ Source: "Contributions to the Flora of Mentone and to a Winter Flora of the Riviera including the coast from Marseilles to Genoa". The preface is reproduced below and the complete work can be seen at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Moggridge_-_Flora_of_Menton_-_complete_\(1871\).pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Moggridge_-_Flora_of_Menton_-_complete_(1871).pdf)

Genealogical information

Matthew Moggridge (1811-1882) archaeologist

Matthew MOGGRIDGE, a noted archaeologist, was born in 1811. He married Fanny Llewelyn DILLWYN on April 19, 1836. They had three children during their marriage. He died on July 14, 1882, at the age of 71. He was also the father of J. Traherne Moggridge and served as a magistrate during the Rebecca Riots.

https://www.llgc.org.uk/fga/fga_s01.htm

This Matthew Moggridge was the writer of the 1869 article "The Meraviglie" (reproduced below) referenced by Christopher Chippindale in his 1985 article "Una Vita Sacra: Clarence Bicknell and the Discovery of Alpine Prehistoric Rock Art."⁴

John Traherne Moggridge (1842-1874) botanist

His son John Traherne Moggridge (8 March 1842 – 24 November 1874) was a British botanist, entomologist, and arachnologist. A Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, he was known as a keen naturalist with great observational skills, as well as his paintings and illustrations. He wrote several articles on the fertilization of plants, and his paintings of plants of southern France appeared in Contributions to the Flora of Mentone. His two volume study, Harvesting Ants and Trap-door Spiders, among other observations, confirmed that harvester ants are present in Europe, and was one of the first comprehensive treatments of the burrowing behaviour of trapdoor spiders. He was a correspondent of Charles Darwin, who cited his work in his books Fertilisation of Orchids and The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex.

Moggridge was born in Swansea, Wales to a family already steeped in natural history. His father, Matthew Moggridge, was a naturalist and geologist, a Fellow of the Linnean, Geological and Zoological Societies, while his mother, Fanny Moggridge, was the daughter of Lewis Weston Dillwyn, a naturalist and member of parliament. John attended King's School, Sherborne (now known as Sherborne School) in Dorset and in 1861 enrolled in Trinity College, Cambridge⁵, but health problems interrupted his studies, causing him to relocate to the warmer climate of Menton, France, in the Provence region of southern France.

He died in Menton of tuberculosis in 1874 at the age of 32, following a lengthy period of invalidity⁶. He was posthumously commemorated in the genus name *Moggridgea*, a group of spiders named by Octavius Pickard-Cambridge, who also named a species of nemesiid spider (*Nemesia moggridgii*, now *N. carminans*) after Moggridge.

⁴ Matthew Moggridge mentions Menton as the starting point in describing the whereabouts of the Meraviglie, indicating he might have stayed there. A year or two later his son John left Cambridge for health reasons and settled in Menton. We do not know whether a person in Menton was the reason for both father and son to be drawn there.

⁵ John Moggridge was not only born in the same year as Clarence Bicknell but could have been, briefly, a contemporary at Trinity College Cambridge. Valerie Lester puts it thus "Incidentally, J.T. Moggridge (born 1842) went up to Trinity a year before Clarence. It's possible that they knew each other because of their mutual interest in botany long before Clarence showed up in Bordighera. But JT had to leave Cambridge because of ill health before he got his degree, so they may have missed each other. JT moved to Mentone for his health, and died there of TB in 1874 aged 32. Thus Clarence would have missed him after his arrival in Italy but certainly knew of his work."

⁶ If John Moggridge was such a notable botanist, he must have started young and must have been exceedingly active. If he left Cambridge in 1861 or 1862, then died in 1874 at the age of 32 "following a lengthy period of invalidity" his work was compacted into a short number of years including when he was an invalid on the Riviera.

John Traherne Moggridge

College: TRINITY. Adm. pens. at TRINITY, Oct. 12, 1860. S. of Matthew, of The Willows, Swansea, Glam. [B. 1842. School, Sherborne.] Did not reside. Died before 1900. (Sherborne Sch. Reg.)

(Genealogy.co.uk)

When John Traherne Moggridge was born in 1842 in Swansea, Glamorgan, his father, Matthew, was 39 and his mother, Fanny, was 34. He had one brother and one sister. He died in 1878 in France, at the age of 36.

(Genealogy.co.uk)

Matthew Weston Moggridge 1838-1891, John Traherne's elder brother, was not the archaeologist:

John Traherne Moggridge's brother Matthew Weston Moggridge was born in 1838 in Swansea, Glamorgan, his father, Matthew, was 35 and his mother, Fanny, was 30. He married Edith Giffard in December 1867 in Kingston, Jamaica. They had seven children in 18 years. He died in 1891 at the age of 53. University of Oxford BA University College 1863. Student of Inner Temple 1861 Journalist & Editor Of Social Notes B A Oxford; Clergyman Curate of Long Ditton, Surrey. When Matthew Weston MOGGRIDGE was born on June 16, 1838, his father, Matthew, was 27 and his mother, Fanny, was 30. He married Edith GIFFARD on December 10, 1867, in Long Ditton, Surrey. They had seven children in 18 years. He died on August 24, 1891, at the age of 53.

(Genealogy.co.uk family trees)

Appendix 1

Contributions to the Flora of Mentone and to a Winter Flora of the Riviera including the coast from Marseilles to Genoa

by J. Traherne Moggridge, F.L.S.

London: L. Reeve & Co., 5, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, 1871.

(About 400 pages with 99 coloured plates of species and an index of the plates)

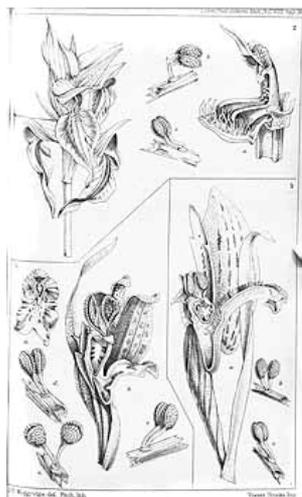
Preface (pages v – vii)

The want of an illustrated Continental Flora has long been felt by tourists, invalids, and others, who fail, either from want of power or inclination, to determine their plants by the present available means. Though unable at present to commence such an undertaking, I hope that the present work may afford some facilities which may induce not a few invalids and others to turn their attention to the study of the wild flowers of the district, and thus find a pleasant subject for recreation.



When considering the thousands of idle hands which every winter pull myriads of flowers to pieces south of the Alps, and the thousand restless energies all craving for employment in weary satiety of absolute rest, it becomes quite a marvel that these hundred-handed colonies of English should so rarely be set to work at drawing for publication some few of the wonderful objects of Natural History by which they are everywhere surrounded. In the water, the earth, the air, unknown wonders await diligent search and investigation, while the host of things half-known teems with opportunity for scientific inquiry. Well-directed research in any definite direction must afford happy employment for the invalid, and tend towards the advancement of knowledge. Being therefore convinced that I had better do a little as well as I could, than sit down and lament that that little was indeed so small, I began collecting the drawings for the present work, in the hope that I might lay a pebble towards founding the great illustrated Flora of Europe, which I long to see commenced in earnest, and with the intention of offering to the lover of Nature some account of a few of the rarities and beauties by which I was every day encompassed.

I had great advantages before me, such indeed as can rarely, I think, present themselves to many. In the first place, my father was indefatigable in procuring subjects for my pencil, his knowledge of plants and great powers of endurance making him as able a collector as ever searched jungle or climbed Alp.



Besides his all-important help, I was most deeply indebted to M. Honore Ardoino ⁷, who, though himself engaged upon a Flora of the Department, spared me both time, and specimens from his valuable herbarium, at once becoming one of the readiest promoters of my scheme. I take the present opportunity of thanking him most warmly for his kindness and liberality. With the aid of a catalogue of the plants of the neighbourhood, published by him in 1862, it was easy for me to work up the descriptions in the "Flore de France," of Grenier and Godron, and a few other books, of the greater number of Mentonese plants. I hope it will not be long before M. Ardoino will give to the world his " Flore du Departement des Alpes Maritimes," which will include Cannes, Nice, and Mentone. The student of Botany will then have no difficulty in naming most of the plants likely to be discovered in this last corner of South Eastern France.

The descriptions of the plants figured in the present work are, of course, for the most part compiled from a variety of authors, every part being, however, checked by comparison with the actual plant. I have sometimes been obliged to make more guarded statements and occasionally to differ altogether from my authorities. In all cases my drawings were made from freshly-gathered specimens, so that the peculiarities of the lines which give so much character to different styles of growth might be if possible rendered. All the dissections are represented as being magnified to a greater or less degree, except in a very few instances when special mention is made to the contrary in the accompanying letter-press.

I can only hope that the Reader may find that an ever-increasing, ever-widening interest attends his researches, till many other branches of science link themselves into his original study, and make the pursuit endless though never in vain.

September, 1864

Source

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Moggridge - Flora of Mentone - complete \(1871\).pdf](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Moggridge - Flora of Mentone - complete (1871).pdf)

⁷ Honoré-Jean-Baptiste Ardoino (1819-1874) a résumé les connaissances de la seconde moitié du XIX^{ème} siècle sur la flore des Alpes-Maritimes, la première pour la région. Présent dans nos collections, son herbier se compose de 23 casiers et correspond en grande partie à son ouvrage, la « Flore analytique du département des Alpes-Maritimes » (1867). Ardoino a trouvé et fait connaître le *Potentilla saxifraga* Ard., décrit plusieurs espèces nouvelles endémiques de Provence et de Ligurie comme *Cytisus Ardoini* et *Leucojum nicaense*. L'herbier original de cet auteur n'est pas connu et sans doute perdu.
<http://cps.univ-amu.fr/herbier-h-ardoino-alpes-maritimes-france>

"The Meraviglie" by Matthew Moggridge, 1869

The Meraviglie

By M. Moggridge, Esq., F.G.S.

(Member of the Italian Alpine Club.)

Having for six winters been prevented by the snow from visiting the Laghi delle Meraviglie, of whose marvels I had heard much from the natives, I determined on a Midsummer expedition for that purpose in 1868.

About thirty-two miles to the north of Mentone, a town now in the south-east corner of France, is a beautiful 'pension, at the upper extremity of gorges which rank among the finest in Europe, those of Saorgio and Paganin ; the latter deriving its name from ' paga niente,' i.e. pay nothing, because in the olden time it was included in the territory of Tende, where the tax-gatherer was unknown. This pension is S. Dalmazzo di Tende, and is placed at the junction of two lateral rivers with the Roya. The western of these streams descends from the Laghi delle Meraviglie, which are six hours from the pension.

Accompanied by M. Dieck, an able and intelligent Prussian naturalist and a near relative of Count Bismarck, with a porter and a guide, I left the pension for the highest ' vacherie ' in that western valley, four hours distant. One glance at the miserable hovel, occupied, during the short summer, by those in charge of the cattle, sufficed to show that the open air would be far preferable, and instructing the guide how to erect some sort of shelter against the storms, thunder, lightning, hail and rain, which came on every afternoon, we went on to explore. The result may be best blended with that of subsequent days. On our return, we found a tolerable cottage prepared for our reception. It is true that the rain penetrated the roof, but my mackintosh served to fend it off ; and those who are particular might

360 The ' Meraviglie:

have objected to the wind, which came in from all quarters, but our safety consisted expressly in that the wind did come in from all quarters, one current so neutralising another that there was no draught. On the whole we were well off though standing was out of the question, sitting practicable only under the ridge-pole. We were here at a height of 6000 feet above the sea, and two hours from our work.

From our cottage we passed the next morning through a tortuous valley, exhibiting marked traces of glacier action, until we arrived at an open space, full of small lakes evidently dug out by the ice, and surrounded by mountains of about 10,000 feet. Here we found proofs of the presence of the French in 1793. Passing on to the upper end of this open space, and leaving the river on our right, the rocks were still

polished by the extinct glacier up to a height of 8000ft. above the sea ; and on these rocks so prepared are many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of strange designs, the ' Meraviglie,' samples of which I have now the honor to lay before you, believing this to be the first time that they have been copied.

Though provided with ample means for taking rubbings, casts, &c., the weather was so bad that little could be done in that way. I went to work with the pencil, but soon found that M. Dieck was much quicker than myself, and at least as accurate. Therefore, confining myself to the task of finding fresh subjects, I have to acknowledge my obligation to the Prussian for the drawings.

I could discover no writing, in the common acceptation of the word. If any meaning is to be attached to these designs they must be read as hieroglyphics. The fact that the figures are frequently repeated and in different combinations, just as our letters are to form words, may accord with the supposition that they have a meaning.

The inscriptions are generally on the horizontal surfaces of the polished rocks (which are mica-slate), sometimes on the sides, never where rope or ladder is needed in order to reach them. They are not carved or cut, but were effected by repeated blows of some bluntly pointed instrument.

The tradition of the country is that they were the work

The ' Meraviglie: 361

of Hannibal's soldiers, but I am bound to say that Hannibal, in that country, plays the same role as Caesar, Oliver Cromwell, and his Satanic Majesty in England, to one or other of whom is popularly assigned the authorship of those things which cannot otherwise be accounted for. We have, however, among these designs, the Egyptian symbol for water, and the twisted horn of the antelope, both savouring of Africa. North of Scarsena, at about half-way between the Meraviglie and Nice, is a place where an altogether independent tradition says that the rocks were worked away to widen the path for the passage of the Carthaginian troops. Hannibal, it is believed, passed through a widely different country. After his great victory over the Gallic Celts at the passage of the Ehone, he marched to the north and north-east for a considerable distance. Then, turning southward, he crossed the Alps, probably at the Bernardine ; and going south or south-west, found himself in the plains of Italy, where he must have seen between him and the sea the Maritime Alps, much lower than those mountains which he had traversed, and inhabited by the friendly Ligurian Celts, affording a line of march whereby two-thirds of the distance might be saved. He might therefore have sent back, to desire his brother Asdrubal, who commanded one body of his supports, to take the short cut over the lower mountains,

the Eoman army at Marseilles, which caused him to make that great detour, being withdrawn for the defence of Italy. In this case the two before-cited traditions might well be true. Another suggestion has been made by a gentleman who passed many years in India, viz. that the Meraviglie may have originated in a singular custom, similar to one which has for ages existed and still exists among the higher mountains, where, when the snow has melted, the natives flock to that lofty region to engrave upon the rocks certain mystic sigus ; this they regard as a notification to posterity. Some support may be derived for this idea, from the fact that one of the figures (in the upper part of the first plate) is the counterpart of an engraving in an old book in the great library at Turin, where it is called ' Idol Sarde.' The inscriptions, too, are obviously not all of the same date. For

362 TU ' Merav'ujUe:

myself I have no wish to express an opinion one way or the other, but merely to state facts fairly, in the hope that those more competent may arrive at a satisfactory solution as to the question of origin, and possibly obtain a clue to enable them to decipher those strange designs, the Meraviglie.