

Anatolian Studies: the past, present and future of a journal

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This has been a strange year. Much of what has happened in 2020 has been tragic and frightening, and we have been shaken by major convulsions, both human and natural. One thing that has brought me much joy in these challenging times has been my new role as Academic Editor of the journal *Anatolian Studies*. Taking on this role, one feels an enormous sense of stewardship, overseeing a journal which has for 70 years published the highest quality research on the history and archaeology of Anatolia, and following in the footsteps of scholarly giants such as Oliver Gurney, Anthony Bryer and Roger Matthews.

It seemed like a good time to review the history of *Anatolian Studies* itself – to cast a retrospective eye over the changes and transformations that the journal has gone through and to identify patterns and trends in the research it has published. In the early part of 2020, I therefore spent many enjoyable hours leafing through back volumes, and a good few less enjoyable hours wrestling with a database programme in order to make some sense of the information I found.

Over the 70 published volumes (1951–2020), there are a total of 716 research articles (excluding biographic, bibliographic and summary articles) written by 584 different authors. This works out as an average of 1.2 articles per author, but of course this average masks a wide range of publishing activity. At one end of the scale there are articles with multiple authors (the record is held by a 2013 article listing no fewer than 12 different authors) and at the other end of the scale there are some individuals who have been responsible for multiple articles over the years (the top three contributors being Stephen Mitchell with 16 articles, David Hawkins with 20 articles and James Mellaart with 24 articles).

In terms of their subject matter, these 716 research articles show considerable diversity. There are relatively large numbers of articles that deal with the Bronze Age (164 articles or 30%) and the Roman period (140 articles or 20%) – both subjects that remain perennially popular. There are notably fewer articles on later periods of Anatolian history – for the Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman and modern periods all together there are only 45 articles in total, or 6% – perhaps due to the journal's traditional focus on archaeology rather than history. There are similarly few articles on prehistory (only 78 or 11% deal with the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic) and the Greek period (only 69 articles or 10%), a trend that may perhaps be explained by the tendency for scholars working on these periods to publish elsewhere.

In terms of regional coverage, the published articles over the last 70 years consider the past of almost all regions of Anatolia fairly equally. The main exception to this is the relative paucity of articles dealing with northern Anatolia and the Black Sea coast (only 27 or 4% of articles). Another irregularity is the temporal factor for articles dealing with western Anatolia – these only appear in any substantial numbers after the late 1970s, being extremely rare before this date. These patterns can perhaps tell us where British archaeologists have tended to undertake fieldwork within Anatolia at different times.

And it is worth noting that the journal is linked, of course, to the British Institute at Ankara, and as such many of its authors are either British scholars or scholars working in Britain. Of the 584 different authors published so far in *Anatolian Studies*, the largest national grouping is indeed the British, which numbers 210. The next largest group consists of Turkish scholars (109 authors), followed by Americans (104 authors). Beyond this, other nationalities seem to publish in *Anatolian Studies* only rarely (the next largest national group is of Germans, who number 34; and then the Australians, who number 20). Yet there are considerable variations in this pattern over time. For the first twenty years of the journal's existence, its authors were almost exclusively British. American authors started to appear in greater numbers from the 1970s onwards, but Turkish authors began to appear only from the late 1980s. From the start of the 21st century, the numbers of authors of all three nationalities has been fairly even. The journal, then, has seen an increase in the diversity of its authors in recent decades. This is true also of gender. While only 167 of the 584 authors (28.5%) are female, the gender gap has narrowed over time, and since 2010 we have seen a much more even gender balance.

Anatolian Studies has changed over its first 70 years, and will continue to develop, I hope, over its next 70. We do seem to be appealing to a broad international base of potential authors, although we are maintaining traditional strengths in terms of subject matter and coverage. This year I have been privileged to get a 'sneak peek' at the cutting edge of current research, and I must say that next year's volume looks set to propel us into a bright future!

