

Dr Lutgarde Vandeput
Director, British Institute at Ankara

November 2011

Dear members,

As you will already have read in the recent letter from Sir David Logan, our Chairman, the Institute was granted a much better financial settlement from the British Academy than we had anticipated. Moreover, this is not only the case for the present financial year, but is secured up to 2014/2015! As you can imagine, the new situation is a great relief and has major consequences for the operation and plans of the Institute in the coming years.

As I write, Andrew Peacock, our Assistant Director since 2007, has recently taken up his new position of Lecturer in Middle Eastern History at the University of St Andrews. A seamless transition! We wish Andrew the best of luck in his future career and thank him for all he did for the Institute during his term of employment here in Ankara. The improved financial settlement allowed the Institute to advertise the post of Assistant Director to find Andrew's successor, contrary to what we had originally anticipated. Marc Herzog arrived in Ankara in September. He is a political scientist who received his PhD from Exeter University. Marc will be working on contemporary Turkey, more specifically on Turkish party politics, during his time at the Institute.

Marc is not the only new arrival! Unlike last year, the Institute can once again 'afford' a BIAA Postdoctoral Fellow. After a tough selection process, Elena Magdalena Craciun was offered the 2011/2012 Fellowship. Magda too is working on contemporary Turkey, specialising in anthropology. With so much expertise on present-day Turkey in house, I am looking forward very much to some stimulating tea-time discussions, which will most definitely touch often on ongoing issues! Some of you may wonder why there is no reference to an 'incoming director', as my five-year term of appointment ended in September 2011. However, I am extremely pleased, as you can imagine, to be able to let you know that my contract has been renewed for a second term.

The start of a second five-year term for the Director indicates that it has been five years since the last review by the BASIS (British Academy Sponsored Institutes and Societies) Committee. In April, the Ankara premises were 'inspected' by a review team of five. I am happy to be able to report that their findings were generally positive and that they found the Institute in good order. One of the general conclusions was that 'the decision to increase the BIAA's financial settlement was the right one'!

Five years is also the duration of the lease on the main Institute premises at Tahrir Caddesi 24. All of you who have visited us here will be pleased to read that the BIAA will stay at the same address for the coming five years. And you will be even more pleased to know that the building has been rewired and has a new roof now!

You have the first issue of *Heritage Turkey*, replacing *Anatolian Archaeology*, in hand. We hope that the title reflects the Institute's activities better than the old title, with its concentration on archaeology. Archaeology has traditionally been – and continues to be – a core strength of the BIAA, but the work of the Institute now covers much more, and we felt that this should be reflected in the magazine's title. With the new name: a new style and a new concept.

I hope you will enjoy reading this first edition of *Heritage Turkey* and learning more about the wide range of research funded or facilitated by the British Institute at Ankara!

Best wishes from Ankara,



The BASIS review panel with the Director in front of the entrance to the BIAA (from left: M. Millet, E. Peltenburg, L. Vandeput, G. Toutziari, L. Brubaker and R. Jackson)