

From the Director, Lutgarde Vandepuit  
Ankara, November 2014

Dear members,

We have had a year full of events, workshops and lectures at the BIAA. The largest amongst them was the international conference entitled ‘Pathways of communication: roads and routes in Anatolia from prehistory to Seljuk times’. It was organised in collaboration with Ankara University (20–22 March 2014) and was the most important academically-driven event on an archaeology-related topic to take place in Ankara for several decades. Over three days, about 450 participants attended! What made the event special though, was the very high quality of the papers and discussions.

But the activities did not end with this conference. Over two days in late September many promising young scholars, as well as several well-established ones, presented their work at the workshop ‘In motion: movements, crossings and transfers in Turkey, from prehistoric heartlands to modern nation-state’, organised in collaboration with the Dutch Institute for Higher Education in Ankara. Like the routes and roads conference, this workshop was organised within the research framework of Divisions, Connections and Movements: Rethinking Regionality, a strategic development project funded by the British Academy. The smooth running of both events was ensured by the relentless efforts of one of our post-doctoral fellows, Leonidas Karakatsanis, who did a terrific job and without whom none of it would have been possible. You can read more about both events in the following pages.

Equally active was the BIAA’s other strategic development project, Balkan Futures, a joint BIAA/British School at Athens programme organised in collaboration with l’École française d’Athènes. A second successful Balkan Futures workshop, ‘The state in the Balkans: public service institutions, their role and development’, took place in the British School at Athens in March 2014 and a final event is scheduled for December 2014 at l’École française d’Athènes. For more information, please see Marc Herzog’s report on Balkan Futures on page 13.

The BIAA has a strong engagement with cultural heritage management in Turkey. As you will see from reading this issue of *Heritage Turkey*, the projects at Boncuklu and Çatalhöyük both take site presentation and preservation very seriously and invest heavily in sustainable programmes. The BIAA itself runs a cultural heritage project which has both a practical and a theoretical focus. The project is managed by another of our post-doctoral fellows, Işıl Gürsu, and is largely funded by the Headley Trust. Işıl is in charge of the practical case studies and is also heavily engaged in furthering theoretical debate on cultural heritage and its management in Turkey. You can read her report about activities this year on pages 37–38.

Amongst the many events of the past year, one more should be highlighted. On 10 October, the BIAA held a dinner at the British Academy in London in remembrance of Alan Hall. Alan was an epigrapher who worked in Turkey and served as the Institute’s Honorary Secretary from 1973 to 1985. This event gave us the opportunity to gather together many long-term BIAA supporters and Turkey-lovers, and to thank our sponsors. We had a very pleasant evening and some of us even danced a little!

The BIAA sees investment in promising young scholars as one of its principal purposes; and our latest post-doctoral fellows have recently arrived in Ankara and started work on their projects. Orlene McIlpatrick is an archaeologist from Edinburgh University and is working on themes of continuity, movement and interaction in the Iron Age of central Anatolia by utilising a distribution analysis of Iron Age painted pottery types within the Kızılırmak bend. Daniel-Joseph McArthur-Seal is a historian from Cambridge University who will be working on smuggling and the reordering of the eastern Mediterranean between 1912 and 1940. I would like to take this opportunity to wish both of them a lot of success!

Unfortunately, I also have to report some less positive news. The General-Director of the Department for Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism has told us that no new British archaeological or museum-based projects will be considered until the current restitution issues with museums in the UK are resolved. These are of course issues over which we have no control and which are, indeed, not our business. We are in touch with those directly involved on both sides, but can only keep our fingers crossed that these matters are resolved shortly!

The reflection of a very full year of research awaits you in the pages of this issue of *Heritage Turkey*. I hope you will enjoy reading about the wide variety of topics studied by scholars funded or facilitated by the BIAA.

With best wishes,

