

From the Director, Lutgarde Vandeput

Ankara, November 2015

doi:10.18866/biaa2015.104

Dear members,

A lot of changes have taken place in the course of this year. Most importantly, Marc Herzog completed his four-year term as Assistant Director of the Institute at the end of August. Marc did a great job; he realised a wide array of activities on contemporary Turkey, raised the BIAA's profile and built up a solid network of institutions and scientists on which the Institute will be able to draw in the future. We wish him a wonderful future career and hope that he has benefitted as much from his time with us as we have from having worked with him. The torch of Assistant Director has now been handed over to Leonidas Karakatsanis, a name that may be familiar to many of you. Leo was indeed previously a BIAA postdoctoral fellow. This familiarity with the Institute has proved a great advantage, and Leo has been able to hit the ground running since his appointment.



Marc (braving the snow without a coat!) and Leo (in black and white hat) with other Institute staff members and scholars

As always, September saw us welcoming new postdoctoral research fellows. This year, Elisabetta Costa has joined us as the BIAA postdoctoral fellow. She is a social anthropologist and will be working on the use of social media by the Kurdish population of Ankara. We wish her a fruitful year and hope that she will enjoy her stay at the BIAA. A Strategic Research Development grant from the British Academy's BASIS committee has enabled us to grant a postdoctoral fellowship within the framework of a project focusing on diplomatic relations between Turkey and the UK, entitled 'Turkey and Britain 1914–1952: from enemies to allies'. After a thorough selection process, we granted the fellowship to Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal, one of the 2014–2015 BIAA postdoctoral fellows. Together with the management team of the project, Daniel will be a driving force behind the four workshops that are to be organised in the UK and Turkey as part of this programme (<http://fromenemiestoallies.com/>).

You may have noticed that, unlike the previous three years, we have just one BIAA postdoctoral fellow for the 2015–2016 period. Bearing in mind the upcoming spending review, we decided to focus some funds on tackling several pending 'issues' during the current financial year. The first consists of sorting out the legal status of the BIAA in Turkey. This unresolved issue has become a serious problem in recent years and has hindered us in making even the smallest administrative changes. Currently, the Institute's legal advisors are finalising the preparation of an application to become a *temsilcilik*, i.e. a representative body of a foreign organisation (the British Institute at Ankara) here in Turkey. All looks good at the moment and we hope the process will be successfully completed during the current financial year.

Those of you who have not been to the Ankara premises in the past year or so are in for a pleasant surprise when you come to visit us next. New coats of paint and new flooring in many areas have vamped up the premises considerably. In addition, the kitchen has been refurbished and the flat on the second floor redecorated. We now feel as if we are working in a new building!

As in previous years, this edition of *Heritage Turkey* offers an overview of the results of the many research projects carried out in the course of 2014–2015 under the auspices of the Institute. I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

With best wishes,

Lutgarde Vandeput