

From the Director, Lutgarde Vandeput  
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Dear members,

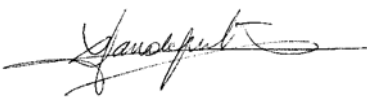
Like last year, 2018 has been packed with events, but this year had a clear peak: the BIAA moved premises for the first time since the early 1980s! It took Gülgün Girdivan (Ankara Manager), Leonidas Karakatsanis (Assistant Director) and myself the best part of the winter and spring to find the location, plan and oversee renovations and finally coordinate ‘The Move’. We closed the library on 1 May and the movers arrived at Tahran Caddesi 24 on 21 May. Before Bayram started on 14 June, everything had arrived at Atatürk Caddesi 154; but it was only once the movers left that the real work started for us. You can find a well-illustrated account of ‘The Move’ and the new premises on the following pages.

In spite of the fact that the past academic year has been unusual, the BIAA postdoctoral fellows have continued their work. John McManus published his book, *Welcome to Hell*, and Peter Cherry has made steady progress with his project, ‘Writing Turkey in British literary and travel narratives (1914–1945)’. His work clearly impressed Bilkent University (Ankara), and Peter took up a position there at the beginning of the current academic year. Whilst this is a wonderful opportunity for Peter, we at the Institute are quite sad to see him go a year earlier than expected. His early departure made it possible, however, for the BIAA to grant two new BIAA postdoctoral fellowships for 2018–2020. The specialisations of the new fellows once again illustrate the wide range of disciplines that is currently supported by the Institute. Gizem Tongo Overfield Shaw (Oxford) is a cultural historian, who started work on her project, ‘Art in Istanbul during the armistice period’, in September 2018, whereas Benjamin Irvine (Edinburgh/Berlin) is a physical anthropologist, who works on the movement of humans and domesticated animals during the Early Bronze Age based on isotope analysis. He arrived at the beginning of October 2018.

Digitisation is one long-term BIAA project that deserves mention here. Although the digitisation of the Institute’s collections started back in 2004, it is thanks to the current Assistant Director, Leonidas Karakatsanis, that it has now been completed successfully. Moreover, in collaboration with the BIAA IT Manager, Hakan Çakmak, he has also set up the infrastructure to enable the Institute to function as a regional digital repository. At the beginning of November, Nurdan Atalan Çayirezmez took up the position of Manager of the newly established repository office, and she will continue to oversee its development. You can find out more about the digital repository on pages 29–30 of the magazine.

I have important news to pass on from the ‘London end’ of the BIAA too. Last year I reported that Claire McCafferty had left the BIAA to return to her native Australia. Unfortunately, another departure needs to be reported for 2018: Simon Bell, Claire’s successor, decided to part ways with the BIAA in summer 2018 and his successor, Vanessa Hymas, took up the position of London Manager in August. Vanessa is, however, no longer the only Institute employee in London. Three days a week she is joined by Martyn Weeds, the BIAA Development Manager. One of Martyn’s first successes was to secure a grant of £50,000 from the prestigious Wolfson Foundation toward the renovations of the new premises in Ankara – a very significant contribution to the renovation budget! You may have noticed an upsurge in BIAA social-media activity, and, if not, please do follow our BIAA Facebook and Twitter pages. We owe this increased activity to Claire Reynolds, our part-time Social Media Manager.

However, as always, the focus of this edition of *Heritage Turkey* is fixed firmly on reports about the research funded or facilitated by the BIAA or realised by its staff, fellows and project-related scholars. I hope that you will enjoy the rich and varied contents of the magazine!



Lutgarde Vandeput

The new Institute premises.

