

From the Director, Lutgarde Vandeput
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Dear members,

It is a pleasure for me to write a letter for yet another *Heritage Turkey*. Things have moved on swiftly over the past year at the British Institute at Ankara, and I would like to focus on individual people this year. We had to say goodbye to Leonidas Karakatsanis at the end of August. Leo was the Assistant Director for four years and had been at the Institute as a Fellow beforehand, which means that he really has occupied a central role at the BIAA for quite some time. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for all the work he did on upgrading the structures behind the website, improving processes at the library and so much more. Most of all though, we all miss him sorely. Leo has always been much liked and managed to merge seamlessly leadership with genuine human concern for his colleagues and staff.

Leo's successor, Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal, is no stranger to the Institute either. He was the BIAA Postdoctoral Fellow in 2014 and coordinated the 'From Enemies to Allies' project from 2015 to 2017. Daniel received his PhD in history from the University of Cambridge, and, before he returned to the Institute as Assistant Director, he was Research Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History at Hong Kong Baptist University. Upon taking up his new position, he hit the ground running and immediately focused on updating the Institute's email system. We wish Daniel every success in his new role at the BIAA!

Thinking of success, I would like to place two more people 'in the spotlight'. Ian Hodder, long-term director of the BIAA-funded archaeological project at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük, was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) by Her Majesty the Queen at the Birthday Awards on 10 October 2019. He received the award for services to archaeology and UK/Turkey relations. An interview with Ian, reflecting on his career, is available on the Institute's website. Furthermore, the BIAA Patron, Bettany Hughes, has been awarded an OBE for services to history.

Meanwhile, at the Institute in Ankara, Nurdan Atalan Cayırezmez has now held the position of Digital Repository Manager for a year, and she has made important progress in this time. The previously digitised material actually needs more work before it can be uploaded and presented, and this means that Nurdan is now working hard to 'clean' these data alongside creating standards for the digital repository. Nurdan is also the Institute's representative in the SEADDA COST Action. This is a large-scale COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) project – 'Saving European Archaeology from the Digital Dark Age' – which enables repositories to work together on how to safeguard the future of digital-born archaeological data. Nurdan is co-chair of one of the working groups.

The individuals working on SARAT – the BIAA-led Cultural Protection Fund project – also deserve mention. The team members have conducted a number of workshops with local journalists, as well as a series of meetings entitled 'Archaeology in a Local Context', at which they have worked together with local NGOs and other organisations on how to increase the meaning of local heritage for present-day populations. In addition, over 8,000(!) people applied for the one-year, SARAT-developed online course in 'Safeguarding and Rescuing Archaeological Assets' – clearly an overwhelming success!

Last, but not least, in the name of the Institute, I would like to welcome Laura Patterson, the new BIAA London Manager!

This letter highlights the contributions made by individuals, but the body of this magazine is once again filled to the brim with reports on the research that has taken place under the auspices of the Institute over the past year. The articles cover a wide range of topics and disciplines and should provide some interesting reads. Enjoy!



Lutgarde Vandeput



Ian Hodder receiving his award.