

Ankara, November 2022

Dear Members,

This year's newsletter necessarily starts with very sad news, news that shocked all of us at the BIAA: in February 2022, we lost Gina Coulthard, the BIAA's long-serving editor of annual publications. While many will remember Gina in this role, her relationship with the BIAA goes back much further. When I took up the position of BIAA director in 2006, it was Gina who 'showed me the ropes' as manager of the London Office. She was already producing the BIAA publications on top of her full-time job in the office, because the publications were always what she liked best. She loved reading about new discoveries, theories and results of fieldwork. At heart, she always remained an archaeologist, dedicated to Türkiye.

As manager of the BIAA London office, managing was exactly what Gina did – not only the office, but also the council and the committees, all in the gentlest but firmest of ways. I remember looking forward to our regular Friday afternoon calls, when we caught up on the BIAA, gossip and life in general. In between meetings in London, we had many good times when Tamar Hodos, then BIAA Honorary Secretary, Gina and I went back to her office in the basement of the British Academy to prepare for the next session or to work on BIAA-related matters. One of Gina's colleagues asked her afterwards, 'Why aren't my lot more like yours? You seem to be having fun and you work so well together. Mine never laugh!'

After Gina moved to Australia, our exchanges were less frequent. But whenever we did talk, it was as if no time had lapsed. Gina somehow always made my day better and brighter. She had that effect on everyone around her, a gift that precious few people possess. We all miss her.

I would like to follow this deeply sad news with a professional success story. Işıl Gürsu became the BIAA's Assistant Director for Cultural Heritage Management in April 2022. Işıl has worked at the BIAA since January 2013 and has been instrumental in the Institute's heritage management-related projects. The outcome of one of these projects, the *Pisidia Heritage Trail* guidebook, has just been published and is now available as hardcover and e-book via the BIAA website, in both English and Turkish. If you like hiking, I highly recommend checking it out! Işıl was also successful in her application for a British Academy Mid-Career fellowship, a very prestigious and highly competitive award and a great achievement. She will take up the year-long fellowship in January 2023.

In other good news, Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal, Assistant Director for Ottoman and Contemporary Turkey, extended his contract with the BIAA for another year, until September 2023. In 2022, he organised and co-hosted two international conferences. One of them, focusing on *Occupied Istanbul*, was originally scheduled for 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic. It eventually took place as a hybrid event and was a big success. In addition to his own work, Daniel also

continues as the BIAA representative on the Istanbul Feriköy Project, which involves several international institutes working together to document and preserve this historic cemetery.

In January 2022, I was honoured with an honorary MBE for services to UK/Turkey Cultural Relations, an award which I consider recognition for everyone at the BIAA who has worked with me to increase mutual understanding and collaboration between the countries.

The institute is, once again, buzzing with activity, the only difference from pre-COVID times being the seemingly permanent presence of masks nowadays. Whereas until summer the library was only accessible via a reservation scheme and open to a limited number of readers, it has been open at full capacity since September.

While at the BIAA, John McManus, Honorary Research Fellow, hunkered down and finished his book entitled *Inside Qatar: Hidden Stories from One of the Richest Nations on Earth*. We are sad to see John and his family leave Türkiye but wish them the very best for the next chapter in their lives.

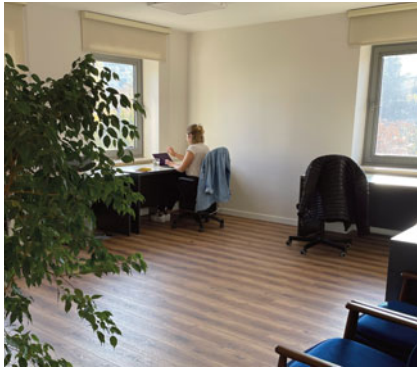


Lutgarde Vandeput, Stephen Mitchell, Gülgün Girdivan, Işıl Gürsu and Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal attend the investiture at the British Ambassador's residence, Ankara.

Two BIAA Postdoctoral Fellows have been appointed for 2022–23. Dr Gizem Pilavcı (University of Oxford), extends her 2021–22 fellowship with a topic that builds on her work from last year, now focusing on Syriac Christians in the Ottoman Empire and specifically those who migrated to North America. Dr Özlem Sarıtaş (University of Liverpool) has started an analysis of the Canhasan III faunal remains from the excavations of David French, in particular, their importance for research on animal domestication.

I am proud to report that the BIAA Herbarium team have finalised the conservation, re-mounting, and digitisation of the collection. The project was a collaboration between the digital repository team and the resource managers, together with İlgin Deniz Can and Barış Uğurman, who were appointed especially for this project. Both the BIAA Research Scholar, Burcu Akşahin, and the Research Assistant, Eloise Jones, also frequently lent a hand. The newly digitised herbarium will be ready for consultation via the BIAA Digital Repository from the beginning of 2023. We have all enjoyed having İlgin and Barış at the Institute, which makes their continued involvement with the BIAA through the Feriköy Cemetery Project all the more welcome.

As mentioned, the BIAA is buzzing with activity. Increased staff numbers in combination with the ongoing pandemic led the BIAA to consider expanding its premises in Ankara. We were very lucky that part of the third floor of Atatürk Bulvarı 154 was vacated at the right time and available for rent. We managed to secure the additional space, and the third floor now houses the Digital Repository team, extra offices, and places for digitising, scanning and data verification. Additional bright office space is available for fellows, volunteers or interns, and researchers who have come to the BIAA for specific projects. An added bonus is that there is now room on the second floor for scholars to browse the library's physical collections in peace.



Scenes from the third floor of Atatürk Bulvarı 154 in the BIAA's new, expanded premises.

I started this letter with the sad news of Gina Coulthard's passing. The BIAA has been very fortunate with Gina's successor. It is a pleasure to announce that Abby Robinson applied for the position and was hired in July 2022. Before July, she had already been helping to keep the publications ticking over and it is mostly thanks to her and the academic editor of *Anatolian Studies*, Naoise Mac Sweeney, that the 2022 issue arrived with only minimal delay. Many will already know Abby, who has been involved in the publication of BIAA Monographs for several years and was trained by Gina in BIAA publication styles. It is thanks to her experience with the monographs that Abby could hit the ground running.

Whereas I have mainly touched about happenings at the BIAA, this issue of *Heritage Turkey* once again reflects the rich portfolio of research supported by the BIAA. I hope that you will enjoy reading about the results of the various projects.

Please keep an eye on the BIAA's mailing lists and social media platforms throughout 2023, when we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary. We have decided to run events based on the BIAA's research portfolio throughout the year rather than organising a single large party. We hope to welcome many of you to one or more of these events. The full programme will be announced at the beginning of 2023.

I hope you enjoy *Heritage Turkey* 2022!

Lutgarde Vandepuit, Director of the British Institute at Ankara