

Archives recently donated to the British Institute at Ankara

Burçak Delikan | British Institute at Ankara

Between March 2021 and September 2022, several archives were donated to the Institute. The Institute occasionally receives archives from the directors of BIAA-funded archaeological projects, as well as from researchers and academics. We catalogue and digitise these archives to make them accessible online to researchers across the globe.

In March 2021, Mary Coulton, the wife of the late John James (Jim) Coulton, donated a photographic archive from the Balbura archaeological survey. It was catalogued and added to the BIAA photographic archives with the help of interns.

Richard P. Harper's daughter, Eleanor Glenton, donated Richard and Yvonne Harper's archives, which were previously stored in Durham University's Archaeology Department. The materials in the archive were hand selected by Durham's Anna Leone and include drawings, plans, negatives and photographs from Turkish archaeological sites such as Oinoanda, Sultan Tepe, Pağnik Öreni, Comana Cappadocia and others.

Tamara Winikoff, an Australian architect who worked on the Taşkun Kale excavation team and is the widow of the late Anthony McNicoll, donated his collection of site plans and sections, as well as pottery drawings from excavations he undertook as director of the Taşkun Kale project. Archaeologist Dominique Collon's son, Gerard Collon, donated her archive, which consists of documents, articles, correspondence with Seton Lloyd, and photographs from Turkey and Iraq.

Another recent donation made to the Institute is the Aşvan Kale photographic collection of Matina and Stephen Mitchell. Stephen previously donated pottery slides from the same site. The photographic collection consists of archaeological and ethnographic slides taken during the Aşvan Kale Project in 1972, as well as a notebook containing Matina's diary. These are very precious additions to the Institute's collections.

Archives from BIAA-sponsored projects that were once stored at our London office have also been sent to Ankara. They include drawings, plans, notebooks and photographs from archaeological projects at Beycesultan, Can Hasan, Oinoanda, Kayalıdere and Alahan. A catalogue of all these archives has been made, and the materials have been barcoded with the help of interns and volunteers.

The Digital Repository Office continues its work on digitising the collections. In response to requests from researchers worldwide, the physical resources staff are working in collaboration with the Office on numbering the documents and digitising them. They will then be made available in high resolution to researchers for use in their publications.

Another project focusing on the physical resources of the BIAA this year was led by two conservators, Ali Akın



Volunteer Kübra Dinç opens tubes containing newly donated archives (© British Institute at Ankara-PH15367).

Akyol (Department of Conservation, Hacı Bayram Veli University) and Elif Saraç (Department of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties, Ankara University). Their work assessed the preservation and conservation status of all the collections held by the BIAA. They used techniques that included analysing the data collected by BIAA data loggers, which assess the temperature and humidity of BIAA storage facilities while also measuring the pH levels. The assessment was completed in October, and the report recommends a variety of improvements that will ultimately protect and improve the longevity of the collections. Key recommendations include installing air conditioning, managing dust build-up on books and materials, implementing storage methods of proper size for the materials, adding bug traps where paper is present, and removing metal clips that can cause rust.

Further information on the Institute's digital collections can be accessed on the website: <https://biaa.ac.uk/digital-repository>. The Digital Repository's online catalogue is currently under development and will be available at the start of 2023. To search the BIAA's digital archives and collections using the old catalogue, please visit: <http://www.biaatr.org/collections>. Requests to consult the BIAA's physical collections in person must be sent to the Resource Manager at least two weeks in advance.

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