

Tributes to Sir Matthew Farrer and Sir Timothy and Lady Patricia Daunt

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All members of the British Institute at Ankara have been saddened by news of the deaths of Sir Matthew Farrer, aged 93, on 21 May, and Sir Timothy Daunt, aged 87, on 5 August, and of Timothy's wife Lady Patricia Daunt, aged 84, on 2 October 2023. Matthew and Timothy served respectively as Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Council of the BIAA. The Institute owes a large debt to their discretion and skill at handling personalities, which provided guidance through turbulent as well as successful times over more than 25 years between 1980 and the early 2000s. Both subsequently became Vice-Presidents and continued to be enthusiastic and loyal supporters, frequently attending lectures and other events, and providing invaluable contacts based on their long and wide experience.

Sir Matthew Farrer

Matthew Farrer was born on 3 December 1929, the son of the King's solicitor, Sir Leslie Farrer. Fate would seem to have pre-ordained for him a career in the law, but his passion was for archaeology. His contemporary at Bryanston School (they were born one day apart) was David Winfield, the distinguished conservator and archaeologist in Turkey and Cyprus. Like David, Matthew went on to study history at Oxford. He subsequently spent a year immersing himself in Mediterranean archaeology before joining the family firm and commencing a distinguished legal career. However, he and his family continued to travel with David on numerous occasions across Turkey in subsequent years.

Matthew used always (with that characteristic twinkle in his eye) to blame David Winfield for persuading him to take over the Institute's Treasurership in 1977, though one may assume he did not strongly resist the chance to become involved again in Anatolian archaeology. He took office at a time when the Institute was still recovering from difficulties in the 1960s that might have been fatal to its continued existence in Turkey. In particular, the so-called Dorak Affair had resulted in a scandal that reached the national newspapers; and difficulties with the Institute's world-famous Neolithic site at Catal Huyuk (Catalhöyük) led to the banning from Turkey of its principal excavator and the cessation of work at the site for many years. In that situation, Matthew's standing (he had succeeded his father as Queen's solicitor in 1964) and expertise were ideally suited to steering the Institute into calmer waters. In addition, his interest in, and understanding of, the archaeologist in the field meant that he dealt sympathetically with the many varied characters engaged in the Institute's work.



Sir Matthew Farrer talks to Fiona Ligonnet, former London Secretary of the BIAA, at the memorial event for Alan Hall held in the British Academy in 2015.

The officers in turn recognised that Matthew was universally respected and lent to the Institute a standing that was valued by, among others, the British Academy (the Institute's principal funder). By the end of his tenure as Treasurer the scandals of the past had been largely forgotten and the site of Catal Huyuk was successfully re-opened in 1995, as Matthew handed over the reins to his successor.

In retirement Matthew (by now Sir Matthew) retained his interest in archaeology. He completed his term as a trustee of the British Museum and on the British Library Board, but he never lost his interest in the Institute and was often to be seen at the annual general meetings. As a trustee of the Charlotte Bonham-Carter charitable trust, he ensured that support continued to be given to the Institute's research activities.

Sir Matthew Farrer died on 21 May 2023. He is survived by his wife, Johanna, and their two children.

Sir Timothy and Lady Patricia Daunt

Sir Timothy Daunt, the UK's Ambassador to Turkey from 1986 to 1992, became a BIAA insider after his retirement. He was Chair of the Council from 1995 to 2005, and served subsequently as Chair of the Research Committee, and as one of the Institute's Vice-Presidents. This continued the practice established in the early 1960s of inviting ex-British ambassadors to Turkey to take the position, and his tenure overlapped with his final diplomatic posting as Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man. He brought a light touch to the role, usually preferring to leave policy-making to the academic officers and council members. This stance reflected the Institute's circumstances after turbulence in

the mid-1990s. Council members were divided about the measures taken after the retirement of Director, David French, in 1994. For more than a year the Assistant Director David Shankland, an anthropologist, was named Acting Director, but the succession passed to an experienced Middle Eastern archaeologist, Roger Matthews, in 1996.

Timothy's experience and always unruffled temperament were vital factors in reducing potential internal conflicts. His term preceded the BIAA's shift to embrace a multidisciplinary agenda, which was already being advocated by voices inside and outside the Council, and was taken forward energetically by his successor, Sir David Logan. In fact, the late 1990s proved to be one of the most successful and fruitful periods of the BIAA's history as a centre of archaeological research. During this time, the Turkish Ministry of Culture became more liberal than at any previous time in granting permits both to Turkish and foreign excavation and survey teams to carry out fieldwork, and the BIAA accordingly maintained a level of between four and six major excavation or survey projects from 1994 to 2006, bringing many new researchers into the field. Under Timothy's guidance, and with the whole-hearted support of Peter Brown, then Secretary of the British Academy, the BIAA made important changes to its constitution and governance and introduced a much larger programme of awarding competitive research grants. Timothy played a crucial part as Chair in strengthening and guaranteeing the rigour and fairness of the process, as well as taking evident pleasure in the rapid expansion of BIAA activities in Turkey and the Black Sea region.

He was reserved, not extravagant, gentle in manner and humorous, but never slow to bring discussions and negoti-

ations to the point where differences could be resolved. His deference to professional academics was not uncritical when it came to some of their research. One can recall him, over a glass of wine, remarking of a particularly iconoclastic lecture, that this couldn't really be the new orthodoxy, and there was no reason to disagree with him. It is hard to remember an occasion when one left a meeting angry or frustrated because an important issue had been evaded. These diplomatic skills served the BIAA extremely well, and he remained a loyal and valued supporter into the last year of his life. A particularly touching moment was the last time that he attended a BIAA event, the Memorial Lecture in January 2023 for Gina Coulthard, with whom he worked very closely in the early 2000s.

He had met Patricia when both were working at the British Embassy in Ankara and they were married in 1962. They were enthusiastic and adventurous travellers with a shared passion for Turkey which stretched from the shores of the Bosphorus to the country's wilder reaches, its forests and mountains, and its historical and archaeological heritage. Patricia wrote a highly successful book, *The Palace Lady's Summerhouse and Other Inside Stories from a Vanishing Turkey*, drawing on articles which she had written over the years for *Cornucopia* magazine, to which she was a regular contributor. She was best known in archaeological circles as founder member and Honorary President of the Friends of Aphrodisias Trust. Patricia had been severely disabled after a riding accident in Jordan 2016, and Timothy had been her main carer in recent years. Aphrodisias was only one of the many causes to which she devoted herself, even after the restrictions of her final years.



Sir Timothy and Lady Patricia Daunt.