

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 231161

## Details

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Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">00740813</a>
Registered	1964-05-21
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	British Institute Persian Studies 10 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AH
Phone	02079695203
Email	<a href="mailto:bips@britac.ac.uk">bips@britac.ac.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.bips.ac.uk">www.bips.ac.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF IRAN, ITS HISTORY, CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE IN ALL PERIODS, INCLUDING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF IRAN (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 3 OF MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION)

**Activities:** To promote and encourage the study of Iran, its history, civilisation and culture in all periods, including the archaeology of Iran

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM AND COMMONWEALTH, IRAN
- Iran
- Throughout London

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£301,325	£288,533	-	-
2024-03-31	£254,892	£277,800	-	-
2023-03-31	£224,057	£237,486	-	-
2022-03-31	£183,602	£168,259	-	-
2021-03-31	£155,381	£156,766	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID HUGH GYE		2023-11-27
Dr Cameron Andrew Petrie		2018-11-28
Dr Evaleila Pesaran		2024-11-21
Dr Mariano Errichiello		2024-11-21
Dr Saeedreza Talajooy		2023-11-27
Dr Sarah Rosemary Anne Stewart PhD		2018-11-28
Dr Shabnam Holliday Dr		2022-11-28
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis PhD		2018-11-28
Hossein Hamedani		2021-01-01
Prof Ladan Akbarnia		2025-11-20
Prof Robert Martin Gleave		2025-11-20
Professor Ali Massoud Ansari		2023-11-27

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 231161

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 231161 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 00740813

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

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# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Achievements and performance

The year 2024-25 has seen us pursue the various pillars of our strategic plan which will see us through to 2030. We are in the process of rethinking the structure of our grant awards with greater focus on early career researchers providing necessary seed money to allow them initiate projects which can in time secure further grant money. With our flagship programmes – which ran over three years – coming to an end, we are in the process of replacing our flagship research projects with a single BIPS Fellow which will allow us to support researchers from abroad who wish to come to the UK for a brief period to conduct research. Last year we inaugurated our BIPS Outreach project Grants to support projects that promote the knowledge of the Persianate world to a non-academic audience, with four excellent applications from leading institutions including Kew Gardens and Sissinghurst.

Our India networking and digitisation pillars continue to develop at pace with major collaborations due to take place with two institutional Indian partners in 2026 on the topics of Zoroastrianism and Mughal India in relation to the Persianate world. We continue to grow our digital offering with partnerships with Persian Language Online and the Golha platform both of which provide resources to the public for free.

The digitisation platform has been configured and we have made significant progress in review and digitisation of Stronach and other archives. This has been achieved in collaborative work with the other Research Institutes (BIRIs) funded by the British Academy and the Archaeological Data Service in York. The objectives are developing in-house expertise and guidelines and good practices which constitute the standards for modern digital archives, including compilation of a comprehensive user guide to BIPS digital platform. The next phase is data completion, cleansing and the migration of the archives onto the platform.

BIPS also collaborated with the BIRIs, in production of two digital stories, one on the contributions of women to the work of the institutes in their early days and the other on the early history of the institutes, which identified the wealth of information preserved by the archives, the links between the BIRIs, and the opportunities provided by the digitisation of the archives for wider public access to the information and research of the archives.

The Stronach Fellow has made remarkable progress, and the records of the Yarim Tepe excavations have been digitised and a volume prepared for publication. It is currently being peer reviewed. Great progress has also been made with the record of the Nush-i Jan (Malayr-Jowkar Plain) Survey. They have been digitised and a full publication, with catalogue, which includes the sites, is now in the course of preparation. This report has been eagerly awaited by the scholarly community, and will make a substantial contribution to knowledge.

### Financial review

Unrestricted funds decreased by £5,151 (2024: £3,734) to £235,137 (2024: £240,288). A restricted fund was created in the financial year ended 31 March 2012 in respect of a donation of £4,000 towards funding book publication grants. This fund had a balance of £2,000 (2024: £2,000) as at 31 March 2025. A restricted fund was created in 2013 for advanced language training. There was a balance of £13,260 on this fund as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £13,260). The Digitisation fund was created in 2022 from a donation for the cost of digitisation of BIPS archive of historical archaeological and research records. The balance on the fund is £9,900 as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £6,250). The designated funds set aside by the trustees for a new motor vehicle and to facilitate travel grants for research students continued to be carried forward. A new fund was created in March 2024 from a grant provided by the British Academy to contribute towards the cost of running and development of Persian Language Online. This fund started its activity in the year and had a balance of £21,283 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £10,000).

### Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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### **Recruitment and appointment of trustees**

All trustees – except for office holders – serve a three-year term renewable once, for a total of six years. When vacancies arise director/trustee candidates are nominated by two members and submitted for election by the membership. Successful candidates are announced at the AGM, subject to the maximum total number of trustees allowed by the Articles of Association.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Professor Ali Ansari - President  
**Trustee**

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis - Vice President  
**Trustee**

22 October 2025

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The British Institute Of Persian Studies (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

**J A Griggs FCA**

#### **Levicks**

61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX  
23 October 2025

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	260	277,313	277,573	199	223,058	223,257
Charitable activities	3	17,255	-	17,255	22,432	-	22,432
Investment income	4	6,497	-	6,497	6,443	-	6,443
<b>Total income</b>		24,012	277,313	301,325	29,074	223,058	252,132
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	26,153	262,380	288,533	39,098	238,701	277,799
<b>Total expenditure</b>		26,153	262,380	288,533	39,098	238,701	277,799
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(1,449)	-	(1,449)	3,531	-	3,531
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(3,590)	14,933	11,343	(6,493)	(15,643)	(22,136)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>							
Other gains/(losses)	11	(1,561)	-	(1,561)	2,759	-	2,759
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	6	(5,151)	14,933	9,782	(3,734)	(15,643)	(19,377)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		240,288	32,825	273,113	244,022	48,468	292,490
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		235,137	47,758	282,895	240,288	32,825	273,113

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		47,533		47,533
COIF investments	13		46,965		-
			<u>94,498</u>		<u>47,533</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	8,200		2,040	
Investments	15	-		48,414	
Cash at bank and in hand		327,874		223,400	
		<u>336,074</u>		<u>273,854</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	(147,677)		(48,274)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>188,397</u>		<u>225,580</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>282,895</u>		<u>273,113</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	18		47,758		32,825
Unrestricted funds	19		235,137		240,288
			<u>282,895</u>		<u>273,113</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 22 October 2025

**Professor Ali Ansari - President**

Company registration number 00740813 (England and Wales)

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

The British Institute Of Persian Studies is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. Investments are included at market value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Institute, are recognised when the Institute becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included as it accrues.
- Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned.

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Institute and include the independent examiners' fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Institute.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. All costs are allocated directly to a particular activity.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	2.5% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% reducing balance
Library books	not depreciated

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Since 1995, assets purchased by the charity have been expensed through the statement of financial activities. However, if a significant capital expenditure is being proposed, the trustees consider whether this treatment is appropriate in relation to the specific transaction concerned.

#### 1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

The trustees have reviewed the current asset investments held by the charity. It is intended that these are held for the foreseeable future and therefore they have been reclassified as fixed asset investments.

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	260	5	265	199	50	249
Grants	-	277,308	277,308	-	223,008	223,008
	<u>260</u>	<u>277,313</u>	<u>277,573</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>223,058</u>	<u>223,257</u>

### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Hostel income</b>		
Ancillary trading income	1,800	6,000
<b>Publication sales</b>		
Ancillary trading income	7,089	7,643
<b>Subscriptions</b>		
Memberships	8,366	8,789
	<u>17,255</u>	<u>22,432</u>

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Bank interest	1,379	1,356
Income from investments	5,118	5,087
	<u>6,497</u>	<u>6,443</u>

#### 5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>						
Grants & scholarships	9,875	165,189	175,064	5,360	116,504	121,864
Workshops & lectures	-	2,974	2,974	-	27,534	27,534
Book publication costs	-	3,898	3,898	-	6,000	6,000
Office costs	4,535	11,623	16,158	8,040	27,652	35,692
Financial costs	146	-	146	136	-	136
Journal expenses	-	6,638	6,638	-	5,540	5,540
Outreach	-	32,905	32,905	-	41,519	41,519
Establishment & maintenance	2,311	13,214	15,525	8,642	13,952	22,594
Examination & accountancy	3,000	-	3,000	3,310	-	3,310
Management	6,205	-	6,205	6,258	-	6,258
Legal expenses	81	-	81	7,352	-	7,352
Research costs	-	18,927	18,927	-	-	-
PLOL costs	-	7,012	7,012	-	-	-
	<u>26,153</u>	<u>262,380</u>	<u>288,533</u>	<u>39,098</u>	<u>238,701</u>	<u>277,799</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	26,153	-	26,153	39,098	-	39,098
Restricted funds	-	262,380	262,380	-	238,701	238,701
	<u>26,153</u>	<u>262,380</u>	<u>288,533</u>	<u>39,098</u>	<u>238,701</u>	<u>277,799</u>

#### 6 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,000	3,310
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,310</u>

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 7 Trustees

7 members of the Council received travel and other expenses totalling £3,847 (2024: £2,131). An honorarium of £1,000 was paid to Cameron Petrie, one of the trustees, for editing the Iran Journal for the year.

### 8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
General staff	2	2

#### Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	55,656	44,909
Social security costs	140	-
Other pension costs	5,600	4,491
	<u>61,396</u>	<u>49,400</u>

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme for its employees. The charity has no liability beyond the payment of these contributions.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 9 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	(1,449)	3,531

### 10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 11 Other gains and losses

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) upon:		
Foreign exchange	(1,561)	2,759

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Library books	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024	260,656	27,419	47,533	335,608
At 31 March 2025	260,656	27,419	47,533	335,608
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2024	260,656	27,419	-	288,075
At 31 March 2025	260,656	27,419	-	288,075
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2025	-	-	47,533	47,533
At 31 March 2024	-	-	47,533	47,533

### 13 Fixed asset investments

	COIF investment £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2024	48,414
Valuation changes	(1,449)
At 31 March 2025	46,965
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	46,965
At 31 March 2024	-

### 14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	6,643	446
Other debtors	5	42
Prepayments and accrued income	1,552	1,552
	8,200	2,040

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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<b>15</b>	<b>Current asset investments</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	COIF investments	-	48,414
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>16</b>	<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Other taxation and social security	4,542	372
	Other creditors	3,648	3,552
	Accruals and deferred income	139,487	44,350
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
		<u>147,677</u>	<u>48,274</u>

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 17 Fund Purposes

##### **Restricted Funds:**

**Bahari Foundation fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute towards its special series publications.

**Advanced language training fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for the provision of advanced language training for research students.

**Conference fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for promoting and encouraging study of Iran and the wider Persianate world.

**Basic fund** - This fund represents the basic grant from the British Academy used for the core charitable purposes of research, communications and outreach, library and collections and establishment costs.

**Iran Society** - This fund represents monies passed through the Institute from the Iran Society in respect of an arrangement to aid the provision of grants to scholars in the final year of their PhD.

**Bruce Wannell fund** - This fund has been set up in memory of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell, to fund an annual public lecture in his honour at the University of York. The balance of funds was transferred to the University of York in 2024. Going forward events will continue with The British Institute of Persian Studies as a named sponsor and participant.

**Digitisation fund** - This fund has been set up to contribute towards the cost of digitising BIPS archive research and archaeological material. The costs were committed by the year end and will be paid in 2025/26.

**Persian Language Online** - This fund was initially provided by The British Academy to contribute towards the cost of running and the development of Persian Language Online.

**Fellowship fund** - This is a multi-year fellowship grant included within the Basic fund. BIPS is responsible for the payment of salary each month.

**Strategic fund** - This is a long-term project in association with Indian institutions. The costs were committed by the year end and will be expensed by November 2026.

##### **Unrestricted Funds:**

**General fund** - This represents funds available to be spent or applied at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

##### **Designated Funds:**

**BIPS UG/PG travel fund** - This fund represents monies to be used to facilitate travel by research students to Iran.

**Motor vehicles** - This fund represents money set aside to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle.

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Bruce Wannell	50	-	-	-	50
Digitisation fund	6,250	3,650	-	-	9,900
Bahari Foundation UG/PG travel	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Advanced language training	13,260	-	-	-	13,260
Conference fund	1,265	-	-	-	1,265
Persian Language Online	10,000	20,005	(8,722)	-	21,283
Basic fund	-	211,008	(211,008)	-	-
Strategic fund	-	42,650	(42,650)	-	-
	<u>32,825</u>	<u>277,313</u>	<u>(262,380)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,758</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
Bruce Wannell	25,693	50	(25,693)	-	50
Iran Society	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Digitisation fund	6,250	-	-	-	6,250
Bahari Foundation UG/PG travel	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Advanced language training	13,260	-	-	-	13,260
Conference fund	1,265	-	-	-	1,265
Persian online learning	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Basic fund	-	221,008	(211,008)	(10,000)	-
	<u>48,468</u>	<u>223,058</u>	<u>(238,701)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,825</u>

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	214,858	24,012	(16,277)	-	(3,010)	219,583
Motor vehicles	10,791	-	-	-	-	10,791
BIPS UG/PG travel	14,639	-	(9,876)	-	-	4,763
	<u>240,288</u>	<u>24,012</u>	<u>(26,153)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,010)</u>	<u>235,137</u>
	<u><u>240,288</u></u>	<u><u>24,012</u></u>	<u><u>(26,153)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(3,010)</u></u>	<u><u>235,137</u></u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains and losses</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	213,231	29,074	(33,737)	-	6,290	214,858
Motor vehicles	10,791	-	-	-	-	10,791
BIPS UG/PG travel	20,000	-	(5,361)	-	-	14,639
	<u>244,022</u>	<u>29,074</u>	<u>(39,098)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,290</u>	<u>240,288</u>
	<u><u>244,022</u></u>	<u><u>29,074</u></u>	<u><u>(39,098)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>6,290</u></u>	<u><u>240,288</u></u>

#### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
<b>At 31 March 2025:</b>			
Tangible assets	47,533	-	47,533
Fixed asset investment	46,965	-	46,965
Current assets/(liabilities)	140,639	47,758	188,397
	<u>235,137</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>282,895</u>
	<u><u>235,137</u></u>	<u><u>47,758</u></u>	<u><u>282,895</u></u>

# THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	47,533	-	47,533
Current assets/(liabilities)	192,755	32,825	225,580
	<u>240,288</u>	<u>32,825</u>	<u>273,113</u>

### 21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).



The British Institute of Persian Studies

# Annual Review 2025



Layla and Majnun. Unknown artist. Nasir al-Din Shah Period (1848-1896). Oil on canvas. Shalva Amiranashvili State Museum of Fine Arts, Georgian National Museum. Inv. N 115.

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# About the British Institute of Persian Studies

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The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) continues to be the UK's foremost learned society dedicated to increasing public knowledge and supporting scholarship on Iran and the wider Persianate world, including South and Central Asia. The Persianate world includes territories historically associated with Persian and Iranian culture and language, these areas are, but not limited to, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral and South Asia. BIPS is invested in supporting a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and subjects include Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics, Cultural Studies, History, Language, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies and Sociology.

BIPS is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee. It is also a self-governing membership organisation, whose members are elected on a three-yearly basis to serve on BIPS Governing Council as trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Most Governing Council members are academics in the field of Persianate studies, but some offer expertise in other areas, as do our co-opted members.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) – a group of research institutes with overseas centres in Europe, Southwest Asia, North and East Africa. The BIRI are financially supported by and headquartered in the British Academy.

BIPS was founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963; however the Institute in Tehran remains closed to the public. In the UK, BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of the field, by campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. BIPS's activities include the biannual awarding of research, travel and outreach grants and prizes and an extensive programme of workshops, events, lectures, as well as recitals in the UK. BIPS has published its journal, IRAN, every year since 1963. It also publishes the Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series in conjunction with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris and the Archaeological Monograph Series with Oxbow Books.

BIPS has approximately 270 members from around the world. Our membership year runs January to December, but we welcome new member applications at

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any time. Member benefits include receipt of our journal, IRAN, twice yearly and discounts on other publications and exclusive access to events, (both BIPS and other institutions). BIPS publishes its Annual Review in the Autumn of each year. This is the 2025 Annual Review (covering the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). Following its commitment to save energy and go green, from this issue the Annual Review will only be available in digital format. The Annual Review can be downloaded from the BIPS website.

# Governing Council and Office Holders at 31 March 2025

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Professor Ali Ansari (President)

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis (Vice President)

Dr Roham Alvandi

Dr Arezou Azad

Dr Warwick Ball (co-opted, February 2025)

Dr Mariano Errichiello (Appointed November 2024)

Mr David Gye

Mr Hossein Hamedani (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Shabnam Holliday (Research Director)

Professor Andrew J. Newman (Outreach and Development Director)

Dr Evaleila Pesaran (Appointed November 2024)

Professor Cameron Petrie (Editor *IRAN* and *BIPS Archaeological Monograph Series*)

Dr Sarah Stewart (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Saeedreza Talajooy (Editor *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series*)

Professor Robert Hillenbrand (Honorary Vice President)

Professor Paul Luft (Honorary Vice President)

## Members of Governing Council who left office through the year:

Dr Lindsay Allen (until November 2024)

Dr Florian Schwartz (co-opted, until November 2024)

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## Staff

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### London

Ms Silvia Ferreri (Executive Manager)

Dr Brenden Benjamin (Outreach Assistant)

### Tehran

Ms Sima Mohannak (Acting Manager)

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## British Institute of Persian Studies

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bips@pol.ir



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Ahmad Shah Qajar and his Cabinet. Assad-Allah al-Husayni Naqqashi-bashi. c. 1901-1915. Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

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# Letter from the President, Professor Ali Ansari

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This year has seen BIPS build on the progress we witnessed last year to restructure our internal processes and management and pursue the strategic goals that we outlined in our review. Internally we have created a Fundraising & Finance Committee, chaired by our Honorary Treasurer, Hossein Hamedani, and including Mariano Errichiello and David Gye. The new committee will provide much needed assistance to our stoic Treasurer and help formulate and systematise a fundraising plan to raise money via both grants and donors.

The Five Year Strategy drawn up last year was approved by both Council and the British Academy and we have sought to turn these ideas into practical realities with the extension of our networks in India and two significant workshops and one conference planned for 2026 dealing with the topics of Zoroastrianism and Mughal India in relation to the Persianate world.

Our plans to expand our digital offering continue and we are especially excited to be partnering with Golha (<https://www.golha.co.uk>) and the extraordinary work that Dr Jane Lewisohn has done to digitise this invaluable archive and make it readily available to the wider public. We are very pleased that the Golha Archive will be hosted by BIPS and that we will be working with Jane to further develop the platform. In addition, this year we began the cataloguing and labelling of our administrative archive – dating back to the foundation of BIPS in 1961 – with the intention of making this available to scholars in due course.

We inaugurated our BIPS Outreach Project Grants to support projects that promote the knowledge of the Persianate world to a non-academic audience, with four excellent applications from leading institutions including Kew Gardens and Sissinghurst. BIPS continues to be the leading charitable organisation supporting research in the Persianate world and our Research Committee continues to review and update the grants that it has available. Please do keep a close eye on the

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website for any new schemes and deadlines.

Last and by no means least, we continue with the refurbishment of the Institute in Tehran, maintaining the site as well as proceeding with the digitisation of the Library catalogue. Needless to say, what we thought had been a difficult year in 2024, became much worse in the summer of 2025 and we are particularly grateful to Sima Mohannak and Daneh Kordmahini for keeping the Institute going in what have been exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Professor Ali Ansari  
BIPS President  
August 2025



Portrait of Fath 'Ali Shah. Probably by Abdullah Khan. c. 1797-1834. Oil on canvas.  
Museum no. 707-1876. ©Victoria and Albert Museum.

# Research

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The Research programme at BIPS is managed by the Research Committee chaired by **Dr Shabnam Holliday**, Associate Professor in International Relations, University of Plymouth.

## Research, Research Assistant and Travel Grants Programme

### About the BIPS Grant Programme

BIPS supports UK-based post-doctoral researchers and UK-based students to carry out humanities and social science research into Iran and the Persianate world, and invites grant applications two times a year, usually in May and September.

BIPS supports a broad range of research projects and funds travel for research and conference attendance. This year we have added a new category of grants, the Early Career Researcher (ECR) Conference Grant.

The Research Grants and Research Assistant Grants, generally up to a maximum of £5,000, can be awarded to applicants who have completed a PhD and hold a research-active position at a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI). HEIs are usually universities but may also be museums or similar organisations. Research Grants are given for a range of purposes, including fieldwork, archival research and the organisation of conferences, with academic publications as the primary output.

The Research Assistant Grants are designed to allow academics to hire assistants to help develop a research project, allow for the research of an established academic to be supported, with an income to be provided to an ECR or postgraduate student who will conduct the majority of the research.

To qualify for a Travel Grant, applicants must be currently enrolled as a student (undergraduate or postgraduate, including doctoral candidates) at a UK HEI. The awards are limited to £1,200 and are normally awarded to assist with the costs of travel to the Persianate world, in its widest sense. We may make awards for travel

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to conferences or to other regions if a strong rationale is made in the application.

All grant applications are assessed by the BIPS Research and Publications Committee, and their recommendations are then reviewed and ratified by the BIPS Council. At the time of taking their grant, successful applicants must be members of BIPS.

Award holders must provide a financial report, for internal use, and a short narrative report that will be uploaded to the BIPS website. A requirement for all grant holders is to present their research at a BIPS workshop. For more information on our current grant rounds see the BIPS website ([bips.ac.uk](http://bips.ac.uk)).

## 2024-2025 BIPS Grant Awards

During the financial year 2024-2025 BIPS has awarded a total of nineteen Research, Research Assistant, and Student Travel grants, which have supported important research projects. These cover a broad chronological span and a variety of disciplines.

**In the financial year 2024-2025 the following grants were awarded:**

Type of Award	Awardee	UK HEI	Topic	Value
Research	Ferenc Csirkes	University of Birmingham	The Politics of Turkic in Early Modern Iran (PoTiEMI)	£2,200
Research	Mariano Errichiello	SOAS	The Making of Modern Zoroastrianism between Aryanism and Esotericism (ZARYA)	£4,950
Research	Maryam Heydarkhani	University of Oxford	Architecture and Social Role of Qajar Madrasas: An Expanded Perspective	£2,000
Research	Gwendoline Maurer	Cardiff University	ICAANE 14th Conference in Lyon June 2025, Caucasus Through Time Network Team	£1,000
Research	Yousef Moradi	SOAS	Towards an Absolute Dating of the Formation and Abandonment of the City of Jundishapur Using Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)	£5,000
Research	Amy Richardson	University of Reading	Tracing Transitions and Connecting Communities in the Archaeology of Western Asia (TracT)	£1,800
Research	Eberhard Sauer	University of Edinburgh	The Great Caucasus Wall: a little-known long wall (Caucasus Wall)	£3,804

Type of Award	Awardee	UK HEI	Topic	Value
Research Assistant	Sara Bamdad	De Monfort University	Perceptions of Trans reproductive bodies in social media in Iran	£4,327.50
Research Assistant	Roger Matthews	University of Reading	Animal exploitation in early Neolithic Fars: the evidence from Tol-e Sangi	£3,800
Student Travel	Kamila Akhmedjanova	University of Oxford	A study of Ahmad Danish's place among the 19th-century Persian-speaking intellectual trends	£900
Student Travel	Stefano Cecatiello	UCL	A Typology of Sogdian Cultic Spacrs from the 5th to the 8th Century: Material Culture, Cultic Practices, and Sociopolitical Significance	£900
Student Travel	Brady Hill	University of Cambridge	The Kani Shaie Archaeological Project (KSAP)	£954
Student Travel	Megan Hinks	University of Cambridge	Bitumen before Babylon: Analysing bitumen from ancient Iraq and Iran in the Louvre Museum Collections	£913.97
Student Travel	Sara Makari-Aghdam	University of St Andrews	The Critical Molla - over a hundred years ago	£1,000
Student Travel	Edoardo Marcarini	SOAS	I Want to Remain Persian: Music, Memory and Identity Among Iranian Jews in Israel	£900
Student Travel	Clare Parry	Cardiff Universtiy	Displaying Empire: Imperial Approachs to Power and Identity in Persia and the Near East	£374

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<b>Type of Award</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>UK HEI</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Value</b>
Student Travel	Lorane Prevost	University of Oxford	The Transmission of the Classical Radif Outside Iran: Social and Musical Hierarchies	£750
Student Travel	Iqan Shahidghamsari	University of Cambridge	Participation to the ASPS Conference, August 2025	£1,200
Student Travel	Sean Strong	Cardiff Universtiy	Participation to IMC Leeds; Celtic Conference Cardiff; ERAN Research Forum Lille	£777.97

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## Grant Holders' Workshops

In addition to showcasing the excellent research that BIPS has funded, workshops are an important and integral aspect of BIPS' strategy to support and develop Iranian and Persianate Studies in the UK. Furthermore, the Research and Publications Committee endeavours to take the workshops around the UK. We have had two Grant Holders' workshops since the last Annual Review was published. Reports from all grants can be found on BIPS' website.

On 9-10 July 2024, grant holders met at the University of Cambridge. This workshop was an excellent demonstration of the diverse disciplinary areas of Iranian and Persianate studies in the UK supported by BIPS, with MA students, doctoral candidates and Early Career Researchers presenting alongside established scholars. In addition to supporting researchers at the beginning of their academic journeys, the workshop demonstrated the impact of BIPS funding on larger established projects. For instance, Dr Francesca Leoni, Curator of Islamic art at the Ashmolean Museum, shared how BIPS funding facilitated the exhibition *Images of Authority: Portraiture between Iran and Europe* (<https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibition/images-of-authority-portraits-between-iran-and-europe>). Dr Jane Lewisohn showed how a BIPS Research Grant has contributed, along with other stakeholders, to the Persian and English indexing of the Persian journal *Tehran Musavar*. As a result of this funding, the indexed journals are freely accessible on the Golistan website ([https://www.golistan.org/collection/?keyword=&fc4t=&type=Read&sub\\_type=Journals&fc1=79472&fc2=&fc3=&fc4=](https://www.golistan.org/collection/?keyword=&fc4t=&type=Read&sub_type=Journals&fc1=79472&fc2=&fc3=&fc4=)).

On 21 November 2024, BIPS grant holders met at the British Academy in London. Once again, the aim was to provide an informal environment for the Iranian and Persianate Studies community, at all stages of the academic careers, to share their research, network and exchange ideas. Among the presentations, Professor Edmund Herzig, University of Oxford, reported on the BIPS funding that contributed to an international conference to mark the 400th anniversary of the capture of Hormuz by the joint forces of Safavid Persia and the British East India Company. Professor Sussan Babaie, Courtauld Institute, presented the research project *Mongol Connections: Re-considering the arts of the Ilkhanate*. This has contributed

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to developing Arts of *The Mongol World* exhibition that will be held at the Royal Academy of Arts.

The next three Grant Holders' workshops will be held at the University of Edinburgh on 22-23 May 2025, at the British Academy in London on 20 November 2025 before the BIPS AGM, and at the University of Exeter on 21-22 May 2026. Full details will become available online and in BIPS' newsletters.



Dr Shabnam Holliday  
BIPS Research Director

## BIPS Flagship Research Projects

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### Agricultural Sustainability of the Otrar Oasis

2024-25 was the second year of the project to understand how the city of Otrar in southern Kazakhstan functioned agriculturally, the periods in which it thrived, and when and why it declined. This involved a 5-week excavation season between 18 September and 24 October 2024, which was followed by analysis. The excavation focused on various trenches within the abandoned city to provide information about urban occupation and particularly the agricultural basis of the city's economy and survival.

Two main trenches were excavated, with smaller investigations in 11 further trenches across the site. Trench OTR16 is a small mound of occupation located in the eastern suburb of the city. Initial excavations in 2023 indicated that it likely dates to the 12th century or earlier and so had potential to provide crucial pre-Mongol conquest (1220) data from the city. OTR23 is located on a mound next to the main canal which flows through the city's western suburbs. Geophysical survey undertaken in 2023 indicated that there was likely dense occupation in this area, with inhabitants taking advantage of the fresh water flowing into this part of the city. The other trenches primarily targeted canals and fortification systems across the city's suburb, and a small excavation was undertaken in OTR6, a deep trench on Otrar's shahristan.

Dr Katie Campbell  
King's College, University of Cambridge

### Persian Manuscripts Between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persian Literary Heritage

In the second year of the research project, the focus has been on the Delhi Collection of the British Library. Seized by the British after the munity of 1857, this collection contains remnants of the Mughal Imperial Library as well as several collections of prominent individuals in Delhi who had opposed the British. To date it has remained

## Persian Manuscripts Between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persian Literary Heritage

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very little researched, and large parts of the collection are not fully catalogued. The project's research assistant, Mr Ali Shapouran, produced catalogue records for more than 100 manuscripts, making them accessible to a wider public for the first time; these will be published in the online catalogue ([fihrist.org](http://fihrist.org)). The project's research on the Delhi collection also aimed to ascertain the origins of the manuscripts, which has been a matter of scholarly debate. Hitherto unstudied manuscripts uncovered by the project give new insights into both the origins of the Delhi collection and the cultural life of Delhi, identifying for the first time important individuals whose books it contains, such as the Delhi poet and chief justice Sadr al-Din Azurda.

The project's aims also include studying the British contribution towards the formation of Indian manuscript collections. Particular attention was given to collections in Hyderabad and Kolkata, which both have strong connections to British rule. Research uncovered a number of previously unidentified texts produced for British patrons, most notably a verse history of the mutiny in Persian written by the German mercenary and Persian poet Farsu. Information about some of the project's research findings is presented in various blogs on the project website (<https://persianmanuscripts.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>).

The project also held a major international conference at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, in November 2024, on *Persian Manuscripts: Their Significance to Past, Present and Future*. Bringing together scholars from India, Britain, the US and other countries, the conference attracted significant coverage in the Indian press, with articles on it in *The Hindu* and *The Deccan Chronicle*.

Professor Andrew Peacock  
University of St Andrews

# The David Stronach Archives and the Malayer-Jowkar Survey of 1977-78

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David Stronach OBE FSA (b.1931–d.2020) was a leading figure in the field of Iranian archaeology and founding director of the British Institute of Persian Studies. David left behind an extensive archive accumulated throughout his long and varied career, including a wealth of unpublished material relating to his pioneering excavations in Iran as director of the BIPS Tehran Institute. The Stronach archives are currently held at UCLA in California where they undergo digitisation. The digitised files are then sent to the UK to be reviewed and catalogued, with the eventual aim of making the digitised archive freely available online via a BIPS hosted website. A key part of the process is to identify material for publication. Following the last update, a final report on David's early excavations at Yarim Tepe on the Gorgan Plain (1960-62) is now complete and awaiting publication. Attention is now focused on publishing the results of an archaeological survey of the Malayer-Jowkar Plain in the Central Zagros range in Western Iran, conducted between 1977 and 1978.



Having completed the Institute's flagship excavations at Pasargadae with David as director, the BIPS Governing Council proposed a new fieldwork project at the early Islamic port city of Siraf, located in the province of Bushehr. David Stronach expressed his reluctance to direct the Siraf excavations being that Islamic period archaeology did not align with his research interests or expertise. He desired instead to investigate archaeological sites in the region of Hamadan with his colleague T. Cuyler Young, a proposal that was not particularly well received by Council Chair Sir Max Mallowan. Nevertheless, in March 1965 David and T. Cuyler Young set off in a Landrover to identify archaeological mounds in the Malayer plain, taking a route north from Malayer

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to Hamadan. Their attention was soon drawn to a prominent mound located in the plain, the size of which suggested a natural feature. Looking through binoculars, they could just make out what appeared to be a substantial deposit of soft earth on the summit of this rocky outcrop, which brought to mind the hilltop citadel of

Ziwiye recently excavated by Robert H. Dyson. Their suspicions were confirmed as they reached the summit of the mound, which was covered by crumbled mudbrick deposits and a quantity of fine buff ware pottery that could be dated to the seventh century BCE.

Excavations at the site, which was called Tappeh Nush-i Jan, commenced in 1967 following approval from the BIPS Governing Council and the Iranian Archaeological Service.

The site proved to be an important Median and Parthian period settlement, which was excavated by David and his team between 1967 and 1977. Rising to a height of thirty-six meters above the surrounding plain, the mound comprises a natural shale outcrop, with various ancient structures having been built atop its summit.

Five excavation seasons revealed several substantial buildings and a perimeter wall dating to the Median period. The surviving Median structures were remarkably well-preserved, having been carefully infilled with stone and mudbrick before being abandoned. Following the closure of the Median settlement, the site was briefly occupied by a Parthian village. Several notable Median period structures

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The mound of Baba Kamal on the Malayer-Jowkar plain. From the David Stronach Archive.

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were excavated, including the standing remains of a temple complete with a well-preserved fire altar, a fort featuring massive buttressed and recessed walls, and an elaborately decorated columned hall.



During the 1977 and 1978 seasons at Nush-i Jan, David initiated an archaeological survey of the surrounding region, covering the Malayer-Jowkar plain, which was to be directed by Rosalind Howell. The survey had two general objectives. The first was to provide a contemporary local context for the Median occupation of Nush-i Jan and its monumental building complex. The second was to broadly document and interpret settlement patterns on the Malayer-Jowkar Plain from the earliest periods up to the present day.

The survey area was approximately 2000km<sup>2</sup> in extent, which was divided into a 5km<sup>2</sup> grid. Over 8 weeks during the 1977 and 1978 seasons at Nush-i Jan, the project team covered an area of 450km<sup>2</sup> through intensive vehicle survey. Some 250km<sup>2</sup> of the valley floor and 400km<sup>2</sup> of the upland valley was not surveyed being that the project was cut short by the Iranian Revolution.

Nevertheless, 270 archaeological sites were recorded, ranging from the Late Neolithic up the 20th Century CE. A geomorphological survey of the plain was also commissioned to help interpret patterns of settlement over time.

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Recording an archaeological site on the Malayer-Jowkar Plain. From the David Stronach Archive.

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Due to the upheaval caused by the revolution, the results of the Malayer-Jowkar survey remain unpublished. In the years that followed some of the data has unfortunately been lost. Nevertheless, enough material survives today to justify its publication, which would be of great benefit to archaeologists working in the region. Drawing on the available site catalogues, pottery drawings, survey maps and geomorphological data, it is anticipated that a final report on the Malayer-Jowkar survey will soon be made available as part of Nush-i Jan publication series.

Dr Gareth Breton  
David Stronach Research Fellow



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Damage caused by quarrying at the mound of Baba Kamal. From the David Stronach Archive.

## Outreach

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The accompanying data shows that BIPS increased its social media footprint over last year. This included a doubling of our Facebook views and growth in our YouTube presence of some 7000. Our Instagram reach averaged 425 per post.

Our monthly webinars included talks on such diverse topics as music making in Iran from the 15th through the early 20th century, the notion of empire in the early Qajar period, controversies surrounding the rise of the Achaemenid empire, the Takkiyya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah, the use of early plant remains to understand transmission of farming eastwards through Iran into Asia, and James Baillie Fraser's *The Kuzzilbash*.

With the assistance of Dr Brenden Benjamin, our Outreach Assistant, the BIPS Student Newsletter, now three years old, published 48 issues over the year. The Newsletter contains news of events, publications, job postings and other academic announcements. Past issues can be viewed in the Newsletter Archive page on the BIPS website (<https://www.bips.ac.uk/newsletter-archive/>).

In February of 2025, at the British Academy, Susan Stronge delivered a lecture to highlight the exhibition *The Great Mughals: Art, Architecture, and Opulence*, which ran from November 2024 through May 2025 at the V&A, London. Susan Stronge recently retired as a Senior Curator in the Asian Department of the V&A and is now an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the museum's Research Department.

In November 2024, we also hosted Dr Robert Steele who delivered the BIPS 2024 AGM Lecture, titled *Examining the origins of Iran's political and cultural ties with Africa under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi*. The lecture was delivered in person at the BA to an audience of over 60 BIPS members and was also streamed online via Zoom.

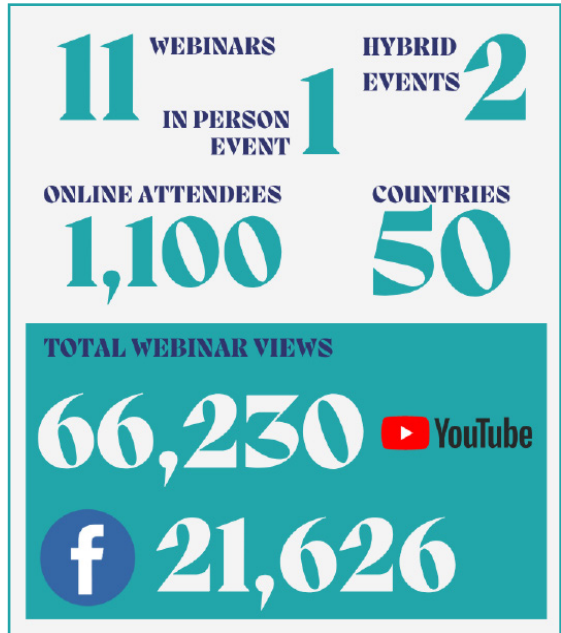
BIPS' partnership with the University of York continued with the organization of the annual Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture that took place in June 2024, as part of the York Festival of Ideas.

BIPS hosted two Grant Holders' Workshops: in July in Cambridge and in November in London. The workshops were an excellent opportunity to appreciate the breadth of the research supported by the Institute and a chance to create new connections

and avenues for further collaboration.

A full list of all BIPS' events over the period is included in the table on page 26-27 of this report and full information about the events can be found on the BIPS website. Some 1100 attendees from 50 countries attended all these events.

This year BIPS introduced the **Outreach Project Grant**, which supports outreach projects that promote the knowledge of the Persianate world among a non-academic audience. Projects can range from exhibitions to workshops, lecture series and events for the general public, must have a clear outreach goal and be geared towards audiences which do not normally have access to scholarship on the Persianate world. Applicants must be affiliated to (not necessarily employed by) a UK-based university, institute of higher education, a UK museum or a registered charity.



BIPS will usually be inviting applications for this scheme once a year in November. Awards are limited to £2,000. The next call will open in November 2025 and notice will be given through the website, mailing list and usual social media channels. Further information on the Grant, and the application form, may be found at: <https://www.bips.ac.uk/outreach-project-grants/>.

Professor Andrew Newman  
BIPS Outreach and Development Director

## BIPS Events in 2024-2025

During the financial year 2024-2025 BIPS hosted and co-hosted a total of fourteen events, including a members only event at the British Academy and a funding workshop co-organised with fellow BIRIs.

**In the financial year 2024-2025 the following events took place:**

26 March 2025	Book Launch: <i>Karbala in the Ta'ziyeh Episode, Shi'i Devotional Drama in Iran</i>	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Lucy Deacon; chaired by Andrew Newman
27 February 2025	<i>The Great Mughals: Art Architecture, and Opulence at the Victoria &amp; Albert Museum, London</i>	In person event at the British Academy, London. Lecture by Susan Stronge; chaired by Ali Ansari
26 February 2025	Book Launch: <i>The I.B. Tauris Handbok of Iranian Cinema</i>	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Maryam Ghorbankarimi, Michelle Langford, Zahra Khosroshahi, Laudan Nooshin, Lindsey Moore, Kaveh Abbasian, Max Bledstein, and Mattias Wittmann; chaired by Andrew Newman
29 January 2024	Using early plant remains to understand transmission of farming eastwards through Iran into Asia	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Hannah Caroe; chaired by Andrew Newman
4 December 2024	Making Music in Iran from the 15th to the Early 20th Century	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Amir Hosein Poorjavady; chaired by Andrew Newman
21 November 2024	Examining the origins of Iran's political and cultural ties with Africa under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi	BIPS AGM Lecture  Hybrid event at the British Academy, London and online (via Zoom). Lecture by Robert Steele; chaired by Ali Ansari

16 October 2024	A Persian Paradise: Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson in Iran 1925-1927	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Nicci Obholzer; chaired by Andrew Newman
3 October 2024	Funding Opportunities for Researchers in Middle Eastern Studies at the British International Research Institutes (BIRI): BIAA, BIPS, BISI, and CBRL	On-line (via Zoom) information session led by Shabnam Holliday (BIPS), Peter Cherry (BIAA), Martyn Weeds (BIAA), Kamal Badreshany (CBRL), Rosalind Wade (BISI), and Robert Steele
25 September 2024	Making and Remaking Empire in Qajar Iran	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Assef Ashraf; chaired by Andrew Newman
17 July 2024	The Persian Romance in a Global Middle Ages	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Cameron Cross; chaired by Andrew Newman
19 June 2024	Historical Controversies Involving the Rise of the Achaemenid Empire	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Reza Zarghamee; chaired by Andrew Newman
3 June 2024	The Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan	[Co-organised by BIPS and the University of York]  In person event at the York Festival of Ideas. Lecture by Mossadeq Khalili
22 May 2024	Fifty Shades of Collecting: Jean Pozzi and his Islamic Collection	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Negar Habibi; chaired by Andrew Newman
3 April 2024	Staging Piety: The Takkiya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Nahid Massoumeh Assemi; chaired by Andrew Newman

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## 2024-2025 BIPS Outreach Grants

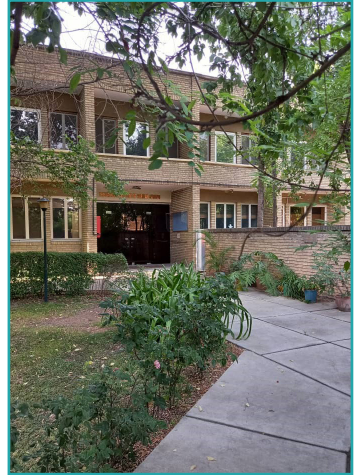
In the financial year 2024-2025 the BIPS Outreach Committee awarded funding to support the following projects:

<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Kiri Ross-Jones	Kew Gardens	Growing Connections; Bringing Kew Gardens' Persian archives to new communities	£1,000
Karl Singaporewala	SOAS	Stars, Scale, and the Sace	£1,000
Nicci Obholzer	Sissinghurst Castle (National Trust)	Sissinghurst Nowruz Celebrations	£643.80
Katherine Ives	Lauderdale House	Nowruz Cultural Festival	£500

# Tehran Institute: Annual Report 2024-25

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Much necessary building work and repairs have been undertaken in Tehran. This is not surprising when we take into account that the Institute's building and the Director's house were built in 1976, almost fifty years ago. In Iran there is generally a reluctance to repair any building which is more than thirty years old unless it's an antique. It is usually knocked down and rebuilt, but the splendid BIPS buildings are still standing and being looked after by our dedicated team of Mrs Sima Mohannak and Ms Daneh Kordmahini. Repair works have focused on the maintenance of the buildings, including the gardener's house, dealing with water leaks and roof repairs, and in addition, the boundary walls and fences have been secured.



At the same time, we have been looking into improving the Institute library and providing online access to the important collection of books. The first step is to acquire a software that is compatible both in Iran and outside and can help us create an online catalogue. We have regularly acquired new journals and recently published books, so that the library is reasonably up-to-date, and an important resource.

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
BIPS Vice President and Honorary Director

## Publications

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BIPS has continued to be busy with five new volumes that will be published in the *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series* and the *Archaeological Monograph* series. Each year, a new volume of its journal *IRAN* is published (in two issues, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn). BIPS members receive a hard copy by post as a benefit of membership. An online version is available to members through the BIPS website.

### **IRAN LXII.I and LXII.II (2024)**

In 2024-25, *IRAN* was edited by Professor Cameron Petrie who is a Trustee of BIPS. The journal is peer reviewed with an international editorial board. It also receives assistance from BIPS Trustees and Honorary Vice Presidents in reviewing submitted articles. For 63 years *IRAN* has maintained an international reputation for publishing significant academic articles on all aspects of Persianate studies (except for modern politics). This year, paper topics spanned from the archaeology of the fifth millennium BC, through the Achaemenid period, and on up to the early 12th century. Submissions are made online through the publisher's website.

#### **LXII.I**

Ali Bahadori and Negin Miri, <i>The So-called Achaemenid Capitals and the Problem of Royal Court Residence</i>	p.1-31
E. Hemati Azandaryani, L. Gregoratti, Y. Mohammadifar, and Hamid Didari, <i>Myad Mishan: A Newly Found Parthian Bas-Relief in the Alvand Range, Hamadan, Western Iran</i>	p.32-41
Leila Khosravi, <i>New Archaeological Excavations of the Jahangir and Gowriyeh Manor Houses in the West of the Sassanid Empire</i>	p.42-61
Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina, <i>Purity and Polemics: Zoroastrian Women's Bodies as Sites of Difference and Contestation in Early Islamic Iran</i>	p.62-78
Edoardo Paolo Ferrari, <i>From Soil to Domes: Vernacular Architecture and Construction Techniques in Esfahak, South Khurasan</i>	p.79-102
Moslem Mishmastnehi, <i>Technological Heritage of Persian Windmills</i>	p.103-119

András Barati, <i>Change and Continuity: Safavid Administration in Eighteenth-century Iran</i>	p.120-129
Mehdi Mousavi, <i>'Abbas Mirza: A Counternarrative</i>	p.130-145

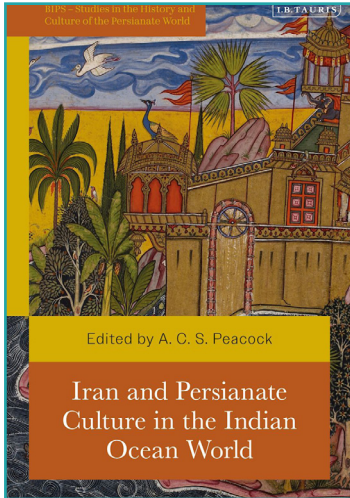
## LXII.II

Abbas Moghaddam and Elnaz Rashidian, <i>Visiting Tol-e Tahmachi, a Fifth Millennium BCE Settlement in the Persian Gulf Littoral, Southwest Iran</i>	p.147-167
Sheler Amelirad and Behroz Khanmohamadi, <i>Typological Study of Metal Pins in Northwest Iran based on the Bayazid Abad (Bayazi Awa) Archaeological Assemblage</i>	p.168-193
Mostafa Dehpahlavan and Zahra Alinezhad, <i>The Cylinder Seals of Qareh Tepe in Sagzabad, Iron Age II and III</i>	p.194-208
Mohsen Javeri and Majid Montazer Zohouri, <i>Vigol and Harāskān Fire Temple: Archaeological Evidence about the Veneration of Fire in the Centre of the Iranian Plateau During the Sasanian Period</i>	p.209-219
Shahram Jalilian and Touraj Daryaei, <i>The Image of the Sasanian King in the Perso-Arabic Historical Tradition</i>	p.220-235
Esmail Sangari, Zohreh Noori, Amirhossein Moghaddas, Aliakbar Abbasi and Reza Dehghani, <i>The Iconography of Dancers and Their Garments on Sasanid Silver Vessels (Case Study: Four Silver Vessels with Four Different Features)</i>	p.236-245
Michael Shenkar, <i>The So-Called "Fravašis" and the "Heaven and Hell" Paintings, and the Cult of Nana in Panjikent</i>	p. 246-262
Moujan Matin, <i>A Medieval Stonepaste Ceramic Production Site in Moshkin Tepe, Iran: Ceramics, Wasters, and Manufacturing Equipment</i>	p. 263-277
Philip Henning Grobier, <i>The Origins and Intentions of the Anglo-Persian Agreement 1919: A Reassessment</i>	p. 278-293

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## Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series

Reflecting the British Institute of Persian Studies' role in stimulating and promoting research into all aspects of Persian and Iranian studies, the BIPS *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World* series exists to provide an outlet for the work conducted in this field and welcomes proposals for book length publications in the form of research monographs, conference proceedings or other edited volumes. This series is particularly ready to serve as a vehicle for publishing research undertaken with the support and sponsorship of BIPS and arising out of one of its research programmes.



The series is edited by Dr Saeedreza Talajoo, University of St Andrews, and is produced in partnership with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris .

The latest publication in the series is the anthology, edited by Professor Andrew Peacock, University of St Andrews, *Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World* (February 2025).

## Archaeological Monograph Series

The BIPS *Archaeological Monograph Series* was established in 2009 as a joint publishing venture between BIPS and Oxbow Books to create a venue for the publication of archaeological research, particularly the results of large scale surveys and excavations. The series is edited by Professor Cameron Petrie, University of Cambridge.



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Underglaze-painted bottle. Qajar Iran. Nineteenth century. Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

# Financial Report

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The year 2024-25 has seen us pursue the various pillars of our strategic plan which will see us through to 2030. We are in the process of rethinking the structure of our grant awards with greater focus on early career researchers providing necessary seed money to allow them to initiate projects which can in time secure further grant money. With our flagship programmes – which ran over three years – coming to an end, we are in the process of replacing our flagship research projects with a single BIPS Fellow which will allow us to support researchers from abroad who wish to come to the UK for a brief period to conduct research. Last year we inaugurated our BIPS Outreach Project Grants to support projects that promote the knowledge of the Persianate world to a non-academic audience, with four excellent applications from leading institutions including Kew Gardens and Sissinghurst.

Our India networking and digitisation pillars continue to develop at pace with major collaborations due to take place with two institutional Indian partners in 2026 on the topics of Zoroastrianism and Mughal India in relation to the Persianate world. We continue to grow our digital offering with partnerships with Persian Language Online and the Golha platform both of which provide resources to the public for free.

The digitisation platform has been configured and we have made significant progress in review and digitisation of Stronach and other archives. This has been achieved in collaborative work with the other Research Institutes (BIRIs) funded by the British Academy and the Archaeological Data Service in York. The objectives are developing in-house expertise and guidelines and good practices which constitute the standards for modern digital archives, including compilation of a comprehensive user guide to BIPS digital platform. The next phase is data completion, cleansing and the migration of the archives onto the platform.

BIPS also collaborated with the BIRIs in production of two digital stories, one on the contributions of women to the work of the institutes in their early days and the other on the early history of the institutes, which identified the wealth of information preserved by the archives, the links between the BIRIs, and the opportunities provided by the digitisation of the archives for wider public access to the information and research of the archives.

The Stronach Fellow has made remarkable progress, and the records of the Yarim Tepe excavations have been digitised and a volume prepared for publication. It is currently being peer reviewed. Great progress has also been made with the record of the Nush-i Jan (Malayer-Jowkar Plain) Survey. They have been digitised and a full publication, with catalogue, which includes the sites, is now in the course of preparation. This report has been eagerly awaited by the scholarly community, and will make a substantial contribution to knowledge.

## THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	260	277,313	277,573	223,257
Charitable activities	3	17,255	-	17,255	22,432
Investment income	4	6,497	-	6,497	6,443
<b>Total Income</b>		24,012	277,313	301,325	252,132
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	26,153	262,380	288,533	277,799
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		26,153	262,380	288,533	277,799
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(1,449)	-	(1,449)	3,531
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)</b>		(3,590)	14,993	11,343	(22,136)
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES:</b>					
Other gains/(losses)	11	(1,561)	-	(1,561)	2,759
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	6	(5,151)	14,933	9,782	(19,377)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>					
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		240,288	32,825	273,113	292,490
<b>FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2025</b>		235,137	47,758	282,895	273,113

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:	12		47,533		47,533
COIF Investments	13		46,965		-
			<u>94,498</u>		<u>47,533</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	14	8,200		2,040	
Investments	15	-		48,414	
Cash at bank and in hand		327,874		223,400	
		<u>336,074</u>		<u>273,854</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts due falling within one year)	16	(147,677)		(48,274)	
			<u>188,397</u>		<u>225,580</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			282,895		273,113
<b>The Funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted Income Funds	18		47,748		32,825
Unrestricted Funds	19		235,137		240,288
			<u>282,895</u>		<u>273,113</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 22 October 2025.



Dancer with castanets. Unknown artist. Iran. Early nineteenth century. Oil on canvas. Shalva Amirnashvili Museum of Fine Arts, Inv. N 858.





## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of BIPS is open to all, and we welcome new members. BIPS organises an extensive programme of talks, conferences and workshops throughout the year in the UK and overseas. It publishes its journal *IRAN* twice a year and occasional books in its Persian Studies Series or Archaeological Monograph Series. Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.

Membership runs from January to December, but new members can apply any time of the year. We offer four types of membership: Student (£20 a year); Corresponding (£40 a year - for non-UK members); Full (£50 a year) and Fellow (£60 a year for academics). Membership renewals or applications can be made via our website: [www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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London, SW1Y 5AH  
+44(0)20 7969 5203  
[bips@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:bips@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)

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Tehran, 19396-13661  
+98 (21) 2260 1045  
[bips@pol.ir](mailto:bips@pol.ir)

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 231161

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# Accounts

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**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

(Registered Charity No. 231161)

(A company limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Registered Company No. 00740813

**INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

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**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Financial Reporting Standard 102.

**CHARITABLE STATUS**

The charity was incorporated on 14 November 1962 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity's registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England, SW1Y 5AH, registered charity number 231161.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mrs J A Griggs FCA  
Levicks  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent ME16 8TX

**BANKERS**

HSBC  
69 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5EY

COIF  
Senator House  
85 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4ET

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the charity are to promote and encourage the study of Iran and the wider Persianate world, the history, civilisation and culture in all periods, including the archaeology of Persian artefacts worldwide.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)****TRUSTEES**

The members of the Governing Council are the trustees of the charity. New members of Governing Council are either elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Governing Council, subject in each case to restrictions as to numbers and term of office as described in the charity's Articles of Association.

The trustees who served the charity during the year were:

Professor Ali Ansari	(President - Appointed 27 November 2023)
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis	(Vice President)
Mr Hossein Hamedani	(Hon Treasurer)
Professor Charles Melville	(President - Resigned 27 November 2023)
Dr Cameron Petrie	
Dr Sarah Stewart	
Dr Arezou Azad	
Professor Andrew Newman	
Dr Lindsay Allen	
Dr Shabnam Holiday	
Dr Roham Alvandi	
Dr Saeedreza Talajooy	(Appointed 27 November 2023)
Mr David Gye	(Appointed 27 November 2023)

**ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The year 2023-24 witnessed significant changes to the administration of The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) with the appointment of a new President and a new General Manager. We are grateful to Professor Charles Melville, who after six years of tireless service took a well earned rest and handed over the reins to Professor Ansari in partnership with Dr Sarkhosh Curtis as Vice President and Hon-Director. Silvia Ferreri, who was previously our Outreach Assistant was appointed as General Manager.

Professor Melville oversaw the Charity Commission's review of BIPS which gave our operations a clean bill of health subject to refinements which were implemented with regard to Policy documents on a range of activities which are now reviewed annually.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)**

BIPS spent 49% of its income on grants, 21% on Outreach and Publications and 30% on governance and establishment overheads. The Flagship projects that had been launched in the previous year were also formally awarded and inaugurated in the year. BIPS maximises the impact of the grants by providing relatively small grants to each applicant to help grow the Persianate Studies community. The feedback from our grantee workshops is very positive. It indicates that whilst BIPS' grants are the main source of funding in some cases, in many instances, BIPS' funding is a vital part of enabling and facilitating larger projects nationally and globally. Furthermore these grants are also essential for growing the Iranian and Persianate Studies communities because of the support provided to Early Career Researchers.

Our digitisation project has continued with the digitisation of the Stronach and Hillenbrand archives and a more ambitious digitisation programme in collaboration with the other BIRIs is one of the four central pillars of our new strategy - BIPS 2030 - which will be agreed by the end of 2024. An important aspect of our strategy going forward is collaborations, and we have already agreed a partnership with Persian Language Online.

We commissioned a consultant to help us develop a fundraising strategy. This has provided a detailed landscape of fundraising opportunities which we will apply to in stages from 2024-25. We will use the external funding to develop our digital platform and position BIPS as the primary digital resource for Persian and Iranian studies in the United Kingdom. With respect to the facilities in Tehran, while we remain closed to the public we are taking the opportunity of this down time to begin the digital cataloguing of our library collection. The Acting Manager and Assistant Managers, Sima Mohannak and Daneh Kordmahini, continue to do excellent work in maintaining the facilities in anticipating of a reopening of our activities.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Unrestricted funds decreased by £3,734 (2023: £4,737) to £240,288 (2023: £244,022). A restricted fund was created in the financial year ended 31 March 2012 in respect of a donation of £4,000 towards funding book publication grants. This fund had a balance of £2,000 (2023: £2,000) as at 31 March 2024. A restricted fund was created in 2013 for advanced language training. There was a balance of £13,260 on this fund as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £13,260). The Digitisation fund was a new fund in 2022 which arose from a generous UK donation for the cost of digitisation of BIPS archive of historical archaeological and research records. The balance on the fund is £6,250 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £6,250).

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)**

The designated funds set aside by the trustees for a new motor vehicle and to facilitate travel grants for research students continued to be carried forward. The Bruce Wannell fund was set up in 2022 to fund an annual public lecture in honour of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell. The lectures and events were conducted at the University of York. During the year, the balance of the fund was transferred to the University of York and going forward the events will continue with BIPS as a named sponsor and participant. As a result the fund decreased to £50 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £25,693). During the year a new fund was created from a grant provided by the British Academy to contribute towards the cost of running and development of Persian Language Online. This fund had a balance of £10,000 at 31 March 2024 (2023: Nil).

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the charity is exposed and can confirm that systems have been established and are in place to enable the early identification of issues so that the necessary steps can be taken to mitigate those risks.

**RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain reserves at a level to ensure obligations relating to restricted funds can be met, to allow funds to be set aside for future investment when the situation eases in Iran, and to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately between three and six months of the total expenditure of the charity. The trustees believe that this provides a sufficient level of funding buffer to cover the expenditure arising in furtherance of the charity's objectives, and in its management and administration.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)****TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of The British Institute of Persian Studies for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Signatories:**


Professor Ali Ansari  
President

Dated 22/10/24.



Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
Vice President

Dated 22/10/2024

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 21.

*Responsibilities and basis of report*

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

*Independent examiner's report*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX

J A Griggs FCA  
LEVICKS  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers

23 October 2024

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donation and legacies</b>					
Donations		199	50	249	421
Grants from government and other public bodies	2	-	221,008	221,008	196,750
Other grants		-	2,000	2,000	6,000
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		8,789	-	8,789	9,353
Publication sales		7,644	-	7,644	3,683
Hostel income		6,000	-	6,000	4,200
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		1,356	-	1,356	748
Income from investments		5,087	-	5,087	2,902
<b>Financial income</b>					
Foreign exchange gain	3(b)	2,759	-	2,759	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>31,834</b>	<b>223,058</b>	<b>254,892</b>	<b>224,057</b>

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)(c)	5,361	116,504	121,865	118,007
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	27,534	27,534	600
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	6,000	6,000	5,000
Office costs		8,040	27,652	35,692	33,515
Financial costs	3(b)	136	-	136	1,195
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	5,540	5,540	3,998
Outreach	3(d)	-	41,519	41,519	37,170
Conferences	3(a)	-	-	-	4,693
Establishment and maintenance		8,642	13,952	22,594	19,647
<b>Other</b>					
Computer support		-	-	-	-
Examination and accountancy		3,310	-	3,310	2,700
Management	3(e)	6,258	-	6,258	5,195
Legal expenses		7,352	-	7,352	5,766
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		39,099	238,701	277,800	237,486
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS</b>		(7,265)	(15,643)	(22,908)	(13,429)
<b>TRANSFERS GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS - UNREALISED</b>		-	-	-	-
		3,531	-	3,531	(2,036)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		(3,734)	(15,643)	(19,377)	(15,465)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		244,022	48,468	292,490	307,955
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		240,288	32,825	273,113	292,490

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets:					
Leasehold property	4	-	-	-	-
Other tangible assets	4	47,533		47,533	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
		47,533		47,533	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	2,038		33,026	
Investments	7	48,414		44,883	
Cash in hand and at bank		223,402		221,718	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
		273,854		299,627	
<b>CREDITORS: WITHIN 1 YEAR</b>					
Creditors	6	48,274		54,670	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			225,580		244,957
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<hr/>		<hr/>
			273,113		292,490
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General fund		214,858		213,231	
Designated funds		25,430		30,791	
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference fund		1,265		1,265	
Bahari foundation fund		2,000		2,000	
Advanced language training fund		13,260		13,260	
Basic fund		-		-	
Persian language online		10,000		-	
Bruce Wannell's fund		50		25,693	
Digitisation fund		6,250		6,250	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			273,113		292,490
			<hr/>		<hr/>

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

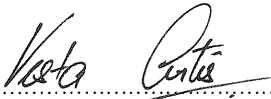
In preparing the financial statements:

- a) The directors are of the opinion that the company is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- b) No notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to its financial statements for the financial year, and
- c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
  - i. Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - ii. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved and signed on behalf of the Council by:-



.....  
Professor Ali Ansari - President



.....  
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis – Vice President

Dated ..... 22/10/2024 .....

**Company registration number: 00740813**

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. Investments are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard 102. The company is a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, being the functional currency of the charity.

**Fund accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at market values.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Governing Council for particular purposes.
- Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates, in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:-

Leasehold buildings                      2.5% straight line

The leasehold building was fully depreciated to a £nil net book value as at 31 March 2016. Library books are no longer capitalised but shown as an expense in the statement of financial activities. Furniture and equipment and motor vehicles bought before 1995 were formerly depreciated at 15% and 25% respectively on the reducing balance basis. Those assets have now been fully depreciated. Since 1995 assets purchased by the charity have been expensed through the statement of financial activities. However, if a significant capital expenditure is being proposed, the trustees consider whether this treatment is appropriate in relation to the specific transaction concerned.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)****Investments**

Short term investments are held to generate funds. They are included at market value with gains and losses on revaluation being shown in the statement of financial activities.

**Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Institute, are recognised when the Institute becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included as it accrues.
- Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned.

**Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Institute and include the independent examiners' fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Institute.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. All costs are allocated directly to a particular activity.

**2 GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES**

Grants received from government and other public bodies comprised £221,008 from The British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences and £2,000 from The Iran Society paid specifically for and on the occasion of bursaries to scholars in the final year of their PhD. The grant from The British Academy has been given on a restricted basis since 2015/16.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES****3(a) Direct funding of scholarly activity**

Direct funding of scholarly activity comprises grants, workshops and lectures, journal expenses, book publication costs, language teaching and conferences. This amounted to £160,939 (2023: £132,298).

**3(b) Financial income and costs**

These comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank charges	136	192
(Gain)/loss on foreign exchange	(2,759)	1,003

**3(c) Grant expenditure**

All grants were for the purposes of academic research which includes travel and attendance at conferences.

**3(d) Outreach**

Costs totalling £41,519 (2023: £37,170) comprised website costs £2,325, events £9,947 and assistant costs £29,247 (2023: £2,341 website costs, £9,729 events and £25,100 assistant costs).

**3(e) Examination and accountancy**

The annual cost of the independent examination of the Institute's financial statements for the year is £3,000 (2023: £3,000).

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****4 FIXED ASSETS****Tangible**

	Leaschold Premises £	Furniture & Equipment £	Library Books £	Total £
<b>COST</b>				
At beginning of year	260,656	27,419	47,533	335,608
At end of year	260,656	27,419	47,533	335,608
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At beginning of year	260,656	27,419		288,075
At end of year	260,656	27,419	-	288,075
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2023	-	-	47,533	47,533
At 31 March 2024	-	-	47,533	47,533

**5 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants relating to next year	-	30,000
Other debtors	2,038	3,026
	2,038	33,026

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****6 CREDITORS: WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors	3,924	4,802
Accruals	44,350	49,868
	<hr/> 48,274	<hr/> 54,670

**7 INVESTMENTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Charities Official Investment Fund (at cost)	14,656	14,656
	<hr/> <hr/> 48,414	<hr/> <hr/> 44,883

All investments are held in the United Kingdom

**8 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were:

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and allowances	44,909	46,519
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	4,491	4,652
	<hr/> 49,400	<hr/> 51,171

There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 2 (2023: 2).

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****9 PAYMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT**

6 members of Council received travel and other expenses totalling £2,131 (2023: £2,198). An honorarium of £2,000 was paid to Cameron Petrie, one of the trustees, for editing the Iran Journal for the past two years.

**10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions in the year.

**11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets:				
Leaschold property	-	-	-	-
Other tangible assets	47,533	-	-	47,533
	<hr/> 47,533	<hr/> -	<hr/> -	<hr/> 47,533
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	-	-	2,038	2,038
Investments	48,414	-	-	48,414
Cash in hand and at bank	135,554	29,030	58,818	223,402
	<hr/> 183,968	<hr/> 29,030	<hr/> 60,856	<hr/> 273,854
<b>CREDITORS: WITHIN 1 YEAR</b>				
Trade creditors	16,643	3,600	28,031	48,274
	<hr/> 167,325	<hr/> 25,430	<hr/> 32,825	<hr/> 225,580
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<hr/> 167,325	<hr/> 25,430	<hr/> 32,825	<hr/> 225,580
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<hr/> 214,858	<hr/> 25,430	<hr/> 32,825	<hr/> 273,113

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****12 FUNDS****(a) FUND PURPOSES*****UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**General fund** - This represents funds available to be spent or applied at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

**Institute building** - This represents the unamortised balance of the cost of the Institute's building in Tehran. The building is not, under present arrangements, freely disposable.

***DESIGNATED FUNDS:***

**BIPS UG/PG travel fund** - This fund represents monies to be used to facilitate travel by research students to Iran.

**Motor vehicles** - This fund represents money set aside to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle.

***RESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**Bahari Foundation fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute towards its special series publications.

**Advanced language training fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for the provision of advanced language training for research students.

**Conference fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for promoting and encouraging study of Iran and the wider Persianate world.

**Basic fund** - This fund represents the basic grant from the British Academy used for the core charitable purposes of research, communications and outreach, library and collections and establishment costs.

**Iran Society** - This fund represents monies passed through the Institute from the Iran Society in respect of an arrangement to aid the provision of grants to scholars in the final year of their PhD.

**Bruce Wannell fund** - This fund has been set up in memory of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell, to fund an annual public lecture in his honour at the University of York. During the year, the balance of funds was transferred to the University of York. Going forward events will continue with The British Institute of Persian Studies as a named sponsor and participant.

**Digitisation fund** - This fund has been set up to contribute towards the cost of digitising BIPS archive research and archaeological material.

**Persian language online** - This fund was provided by The British Academy to contribute towards the cost of running and the development of Persian language online.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****12 FUNDS (continued)****(b) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:**

	General fund £	Designated funds			Total £
		Motor vehicles £	BIPS UG/PG travel £	Total £	
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2022	217,968	10,791	20,000	30,791	248,759
Income	21,057	-	-	-	21,057
Expenses	(23,752)	-	-	-	(23,752)
Net income/(expenses)	215,273	10,791	20,000	30,791	246,064
Transfers	(6)	-	-	-	(6)
Gain/(losses) on investments	(2,036)	-	-	-	(2,036)
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2023	213,231	10,791	20,000	30,791	244,022
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2023	213,231	10,791	20,000	30,791	244,022
Income	31,834	-	-	-	31,834
Expenses	(33,738)	-	(5,361)	(5,361)	(39,099)
Net income/(expenses)	(1,904)	-	(5,361)	(5,361)	(7,265)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Gain/(losses) on investments	3,531	-	-	-	3,531
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2024	214,858	10,791	14,639	25,430	240,288

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 12 FUNDS (continued)

## (c) RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Bruce Wannell £	Iran Society £	Digitisation fund £	Bahari Foundation UC/PC travel £	Advanced language training £	Conference fund £	Persian language online £	Basic fund £	Total £
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2022	26,043	-	6,250	2,000	13,260	1,265	-	15,778	59,196
Income	250	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	196,750	203,000
Expenses	(600)	(6,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(207,134)	(213,734)
Net income/(expenses)	(350)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,384)	(10,734)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2023	25,693	-	6,250	2,000	13,260	1,265	-	-	48,468
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2023	25,693	-	6,250	2,000	13,260	1,265	-	-	48,468
Income	50	2,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	221,008	233,058
Expenses	(25,693)	(2,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(211,008)	(238,701)
Net income/(expenses)	(25,643)	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	(5,643)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2024	50	-	6,250	2,000	13,260	1,265	10,000	-	32,825

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****13 TEHRAN EXPENSES**

Funds are received and expended in Tehran through a current bank account held and maintained in Iran. As the Tehran operation has been mothballed, there are no activities in Iran and the costs included in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to the maintenance of the infrastructure.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 April 2023	12,544	5,388
Receipts	6,000	22,000
Interest	263	457
Hostel maintenance	(15,874)	(9,178)
Utilities	(931)	(906)
Office expenses	(637)	(4,373)
Bank charges	(7)	(5)
Legal	(1,484)	-
Foreign exchange differences	6,438	(839)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2024	6,312	12,544
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**14 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Charity is constituted by its memorandum and articles of association. The registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England, SW1Y 5AH. The company's registered number is 00740813 and the charity number is 231161.

**15 TRANSFERS****Year Ended 31 March 2023**

A transfer of £6 was made during the year from the unrestricted General fund to the restricted Basic Fund, to cover the small shortfall of grants received in the year.



The British Institute of Persian Studies

# Annual Review 2024



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.  
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.

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# About the British Institute of Persian Studies

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The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) continues to be the UK's foremost learned society dedicated to increasing public knowledge and supporting scholarship on Iran and the wider Persianate world, including South and Central Asia. The Persianate world includes territories historically associated with Persian and Iranian culture and language, these areas are, but not limited to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral and South Asia. BIPS is invested in supporting a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and subjects include Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics, Cultural Studies, History, Language, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies and Sociology.

BIPS is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee, with a self-governing membership organisation, whose members are elected on a three-yearly basis to serve on BIPS Governing Council as trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Most Governing Council members are academics in the field of Persianate studies, but some offer expertise in other areas, as do our co-opted members.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) – a group of research institutes with overseas centres in Europe, Southwest Asia, North and East Africa. The BIRI are financially supported by and headquartered in the British Academy.

BIPS was founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963; however the Institute in Tehran remains closed to the public. In the UK, BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of the field, by campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. BIPS's activities include the biannual awarding of research and travel grants and an extensive programme of workshops, events, lectures, as well as recitals in the UK. BIPS has published its journal, *IRAN*, every year since 1963. It also publishes the *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series* in conjunction with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris and the *Archaeological Monograph Series* with Oxbow Books.

BIPS has approximately 270 members from around the world. Our membership year runs January to December, but we welcome new member applications at any time. Member benefits include receipt of our journal, *IRAN*, twice yearly and

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discounts on other publications and exclusive access to events, (both BIPS and other institutions). BIPS publishes its Annual Review in the Autumn of each year. This is the 2024 Annual Review (covering the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024). It is sent to all the Institute's members in hard copy and is available to download from the BIPS website.

# Governing Council and Office Holders at 31 March 2024

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**Professor Ali Ansari** (President, Appointed November 2023)

**Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis** (Vice President)

**Dr Lindsay Allen**

**Dr Roham Alvandi**

**Dr Arezou Azad**

**Mr David Gye** (Appointed November 2023)

**Mr Hossein Hamedani** (Honorary Treasurer)

**Dr Shabnam Holliday** (Research Director)

**Professor Andrew J. Newman** (Outreach and Development Director)

**Professor Cameron Petrie** (Co-editor, IRAN and BIPS Archaeological Monograph Series)

**Dr Florian Schwartz** (Co-opted)

**Dr Sarah Stewart** (Honorary Secretary)

**Dr Saeedreza Talajooy** (Appointed November 2023, Editor Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series)

**Professor Robert Hillenbrand** (Honorary Vice President)

**Professor Paul Luft** (Honorary Vice President)

## Members of Governing Council who left office through the year:

Mrs Narguess Farzad (Honorary Secretary, until June 2023)

Dr Richard McClary (until April 2023)

Professor Charles Melville (President, until November 2023)

## Staff

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### London

Ms Imogen Edwards (Executive Officer, until November 2023)

Ms Silvia Ferreri (General Manager, from December 2023)

### Tehran

Ms Sima Mohannak (Acting Manager)

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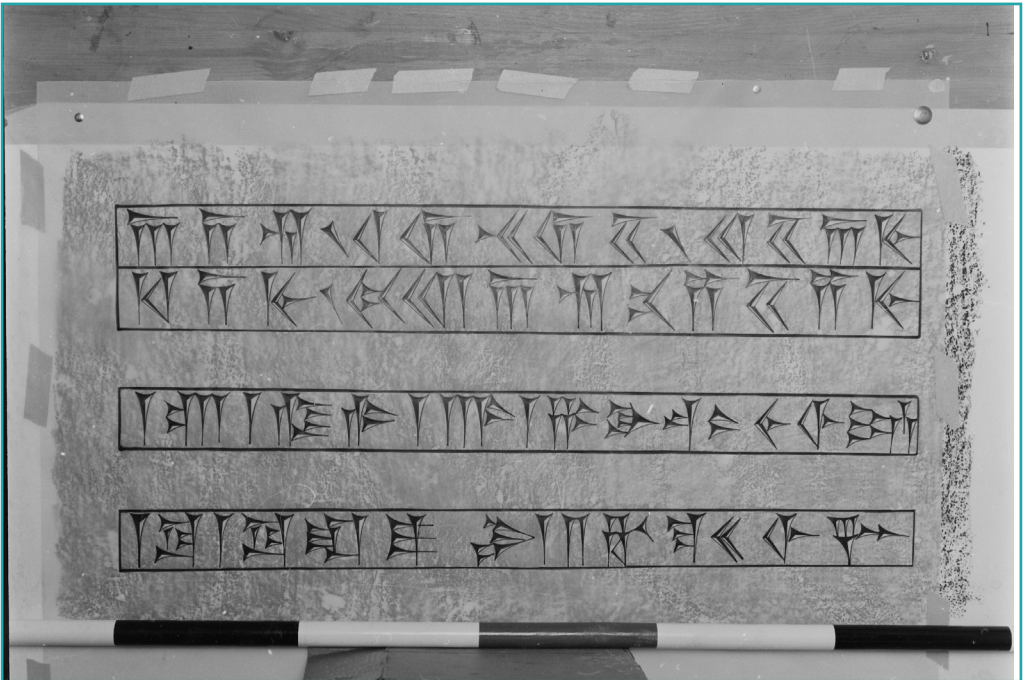
## British Institute of Persian Studies

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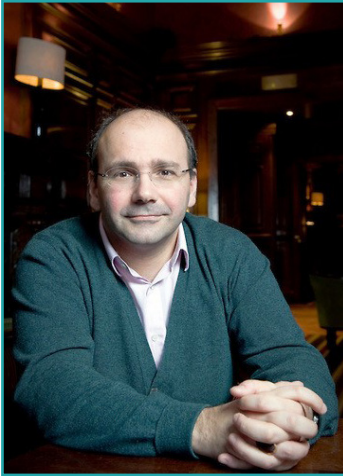
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Residential Palace. Cuneiform inscription on stone anta. From the David Stronach Archive.

# Letter from the President, Professor Ali Ansari

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Little did I imagine back in 2017 when I handed the reins of the Presidency to my colleague Professor Charles Melville, that I in turn would succeed him for a second stint at the helm in November 2023. I am very grateful to Charles for having steered BIPS through increasingly choppy waters in the years that followed, coping not only with the political difficulties in Iran but the realities of Covid at home.

A key achievement has been to see us through an inspection by the Charity Commission, whose final report – sent to us early in 2024 – while recognising the difficulties of working in Iran, noted that, our activities were ‘wholly’ or ‘mainly compliant, placing us at the top end of the

compliance requirements. It was a clear and emphatic endorsement of our work and operations.

I take over with no little trepidation and excitement at the scale of the task in hand, as well as the opportunities ahead of us. A key part of my own work over 2024 has been the development of a new five-year strategy to take BIPS through to 2029. Working closely with the British Academy, the strategy is intended to stabilise and strengthen us as a proceed through a period of variable funding and continuing uncertainty with respect to Iran.

The strategy has four pillars: the first is to maintain our facilities in Tehran and prepare ourselves for any opportunity that may arise to re-open operations with a view to establishing a working office with a resident Director in the long term. Although this may not appear feasible now, we believe our assets in Tehran are worth maintaining and that we should never lose sight of the possibility of re-activation.

At the same time, we recognise that our work in Iran in the near to medium term will be limited. We intend to expand our reach and field of operations into the wider Persianate world, exploring collaborations and research opportunities in the Caucasus, Central Asia and above all India where a number of us already work on a range of projects from archaeology, through to history and linguistics. At the same, we intend to pivot more firmly to the United Kingdom where we will aim to establish ourselves as the principle professional body for Persianists, supporting

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both established researchers but also dedicate ourselves to promoting early career researchers so that the next generation of scholars can secure a firm footing in the higher education sector.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the strategy is the fourth pillar: digitisation, and here we have signed an exciting partnership agreement with Persian Language Online (PLOL), an online education tool for learning Persian which has established itself as one of the premier Persian language teaching tools currently available online. Our aim with this partnership is to enhance and strengthen our online presence. We are in the process of placing our archives online for use by scholars and PLOL will help us extend our digital footprint so that ultimately BIPS will host the most comprehensive database of Persian language, literature, cultural and historical material, including important manuscripts that will be accessible to scholars worldwide. It is an ambitious vision, but we hope, through judicious fundraising and grant applications to make this a reality.

Exciting times lie ahead of us.

Professor Ali Ansari  
May 2024

# Thank you note to the outgoing President, Professor Charles Melville

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Professor Charles Melville ended his term as President on 27th November 2023 after six years in office. He succeeded Professor Ali Ansari on 27th November 2017. During this period, much happened both in Tehran as well as here, and although Charles was President during a difficult and turbulent period, he managed to steer BIPS in the right direction.

In Tehran, we lost our caring and much-admired Manager, Houman Kordmahini, to a long illness in February 2020, but fortunately, his widow, Sima Mohannak has taken over as Assistant Manager. Problems with the Librarian and the outbreak of Covid meant that the Institute hostel and library in Tehran had to close, and there were tense negotiations with lawyers in Tehran about severance pay to the Librarian. At the same time, we were able to move the archaeological material conserved at BIPS since the 1960s and 1970s to the National Museum of Iran in Tehran.

In July 2020, the eminent scholar and first Director of BIPS, Professor David Stronach, passed away in San Francisco. Charles was involved in negotiations with the Stronach family to preserve David's legacy, and his archaeological papers and photographic archive were transferred to the care of Dr Ali Mousavi in UCLA. It is now being scanned and is gradually being handed over to the recently appointed Stronach Fellow in London, Dr Gareth Brereton. Charles was instrumental in establishing this Fellowship. In 2021, Hossein Hamedani was appointed Honorary Treasurer, and his financial and managerial expertise have been a great asset for BIPS.

During this time Charles continued to serve BIPS with dedication and enthusiasm, and always remained optimistic. He actively pursued the development of BIPS activities in Central Asia and India, and he supported new initiatives and projects, such as the digitization of archival material. In the last year of his presidency, Charles and other officers complied with the requests of the Charity Commission to create working policies covering the various aspects of BIPS's activities.

The BIPS Council and members are greatly indebted to Charles for all his efforts during the last six years, which has resulted in BIPS going from strength to strength.

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
BIPS Vice President and Honorary Director

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# Research

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The Research programme at BIPS is managed by the Research Committee chaired by **Shabnam Holliday**, Associate Professor in International Relations, University of Plymouth.

## Iran and Sovereignty project

Drawing the BIPS Modern Research Project to a close, the *Iran and Sovereignty Project*, led by Dr Shabnam Holliday, is a collaborative interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary project that brings together scholars from the UK, the EU, and the USA in the fields of Archaeology, Cultural Studies, Ancient, Medieval and Modern History, Politics, and International Relations.

On the 6th and 7th of July 2023, the project hosted its second and final workshop at the University of Plymouth. Funded by BIPS, the workshop brought together several researchers who contributed stimulating discussions across the boundaries of disciplines and chronological periods.

The contributors were Shabnam Holliday (University of Plymouth), Ali Ansari (University of St Andrews), Brieg Powel (University of Exeter), Lloyd Llewelyn-Jones (Cardiff University/Prifysgol Caerdydd), Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis (British Museum), Saeed Talajoo, (University of St Andrews), Andrew Newman (University of Edinburgh), Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, (University of Pennsylvania), Rowena Abdul Razak (Queen Mary's University London), Robert Steele (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Edward Wastnidge (The Open University), and Asma Abdi (University of Warwick). There are plans for the papers to be published in an edited volume.

Dr Shabnam Holliday

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## Research, Research Assistant and Travel Grants Programme

### About the BIPS Grant Programme

BIPS supports UK-based post-doctoral researchers and UK-based students to carry out humanities and social science research into Iran and the Persianate world, and invites grant applications two times a year, usually in March and July.

BIPS has traditionally supported a broad range of research projects and funded travel for research and conference attendance. This year we have added a new category of grants, the Research Assistant Grants, which have proven to be very popular and opened up a new avenue for funding research.

The Research Grants and Research Assistant Grants, generally up to a maximum of £5,000, can be awarded to applicants who have completed a PhD and hold a research-active position at a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI). HEIs are usually universities but may also be museums or similar organisations. Research Grants are given for a range of purposes, including fieldwork, archival research and the organisation of conferences, with academic publications as the primary output.

The Research Assistant Grants are designed to allow academics to hire assistants to help develop a research project, allow for the research of an established academic to be supported, with an income to be provided to an early-career scholar or postgraduate student who will conduct the majority of the research.

To qualify for a Travel Grant, applicants must be currently enrolled as a student (undergraduate or postgraduate, including doctoral candidates) at a UK HEI. The awards are limited to £1,200 and are normally awarded to assist with the costs of travel to the Persianate world, in its widest sense, but we may make awards for travel to conferences or to other regions if a strong rationale is made in the application.

All grant applications are assessed by the BIPS Research Committee, and their recommendations are then reviewed and ratified by BIPS Council.

At the time of taking their grant, successful applicants must be members of BIPS.

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Award holders must provide a financial report, for internal use, and a short narrative report that will be uploaded to the BIPS website. A requirement for all grant holders is to present their research at a BIPS workshop. The first Grant Holders' Workshop since Covid was held at the University of Plymouth on 8 July 2023. This was a fantastic opportunity for grant holders to share their research funded by BIPS and to meet others in the Iranian and Persianate Studies community.

For more information on our current grant rounds see the BIPS website ([bips.ac.uk](http://bips.ac.uk)).



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BIPS Grant Holders' Workshop 2023 in Plymouth.

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## 2023-2024 BIPS Grant Awards

During the financial year 2023-2024 BIPS has awarded a total of twelve Research, Research Assistant, and Student Travel grants, which have supported important research projects. These cover a broad chronological span and a variety of disciplines.

**In the financial year 2023-2024 the following grants were awarded:**

Type of Award	Awardee	UK HEI	Topic	Value
Research	Andrea Corsi	University of York	Documenting the Stucco Collection and Archives from Whitehouse's Siraf Excavations (1966-1973) at the British Museum	£4,000
Research	Mariano Errichiello	SOAS University of London	The Religious Persianate in Africa: Trading Religions Meeting in the Global South (ZORAFRIKA)	£2,700
Research	Claudia Glatz	University of Glasgow	Archaeologies of a Borderland: The Sirwan/ Upper Diyala Region during the Parthian, Sasanian, and Islamic Periods	£4,000
Research	Charles Melville	University of Cambridge	Round Table at the Biruni Institute in Tashkent	£1,112
Research	Adam Sammut	University of York	Conference panel: "Half the World Away: Cultural Circulations between Isfahan and the Early Modern Low Countries". Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference (HNA), London and Cambridge, 10-13 July 2024.	£1,000

Research	Rustam Shukurov	University of St Andrews	Workshop: 'Izz al-Din Kaykawus II and his time (1240s–1280s)	£1,683
Research Assistant	Roger Matthews	University of Reading	Seeds of change: analysis of archaeobotanical remains from prehistoric sites on the Caspian shores of Iran	£4,995
Student Travel	Natalie Boyd	University of Wales	The Hasanlu Ivories viewed through a New Materialist lens	£1,200
Student Travel	Marc Czarnuszewicz	University of St Andrews	The game of kings at the Ghaznavid court: an examination of the Shatranj-nama MSS held at the Biruni Institute, Tashkent	£700
Student Travel	Brady Hill	University of Cambridge	The Kani Shaie Archaeological Project (KSAP)	£900
Student Travel	Christos Nikolaou	University of Cambridge	Rural life in a changing world: new light on economic development and inequality in Central Asia under the Kushan Empire	£800
Student Travel	Iqan Shahidighamsari	University of Cambridge	The notion of decline in the writings of two prominent Iranian intellectuals, namely Fardid and Al-e Ahmad	£1,200

Dr Shabnam Holliday  
BIPS Research Director

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## BIPS Flagship Research Project

*Persian Manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persianate Literary Heritage.* The project, led by Prof Andrew Peacock at the University of St Andrews, explores British engagement with Persian manuscripts culture. The project was kick started with its first workshop held at the Ancient India and Iran Trust, Cambridge, on 3 November 2023, with 13 talks presenting new research about Persian manuscript collections in the UK. The full programme can be viewed online ([www.bips.ac.uk/project/flagship-project-peacock](http://www.bips.ac.uk/project/flagship-project-peacock)). The event was open to the public, and attracted a full house, showing the considerable interest in the topic. This workshop was very useful in shaping the research agenda for the future.

*Agricultural Sustainability of the Otrar Oasis.* This project, led by Dr Katie Campbell (King's College, University of Cambridge), investigates the reasons for population decline in Otrar Oasis in southern Kazakhstan and its agricultural economy. In the first year of the project, a five-week long excavation and survey season was completed in September and October 2023. The team consisted of Dr Katie Campbell, Serik Akylbek (Archeoservice, Otrar State Archaeological Museum), Dr Davit Naskidashvili (Tbilisi State University), Dr Karl Smith (University of Oxford), Ali Seraliyev (L.N. Gumilyov, Eurasian National University, Astana), Shinaz Almazuly (Archeoservice, Otrar State Archaeological Museum) and students Vova Kenkadze, Vazha Chitaia (TSU) and Dinara Akylbek (Shymkent University). The team was joined by James Thomas (University of Lincoln) who came to do soil salinity sampling at the site of Otrar and across the oasis. The focus of the work was Otrartobe, the main urban site in the oasis, and its extensive suburbs.

The main areas excavated included a substantial kiln which was found to be producing unglazed pottery in approximately the 14th century. Extensive samples were taken from the lining and fill of the kiln to understand more about its use and date.

Sites in the northern and eastern part of the suburbs were also investigated. A small trench was excavated in the northern suburb, which contained occupation evidence dating from approximately the 10th-12th century, including a drainage pipe made from reused pots. The trench in the eastern suburb contained buildings dating to a similar period, and we hope to excavate these further in 2024.

## Excavating the Archives: David Stronach's fieldwork at Yarim Tepe and the Malayer Plain

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David Stronach OBE FSA (1931 - 2020) was a pioneering archaeologist and founding Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies. His extensive archives, which are currently being digitised and published by BIPS, contains a wealth of material accumulated throughout David's long and varied career, particularly his early excavations in Iran. The purpose of the project is to make this archive available online and in print, starting with the publication of his excavations at the site of Yarim Tepe.

In 1960, during his appointment as the British Academy's Archaeological Attaché in Tehran, David directed excavations at the mound of Yarim Tepe, a site located on the fertile Gorgan Plain, which at the time was relatively unexplored by archaeologists. The mound itself is modest in size, rising some 20 meters above the surrounding plain, and is situated on the bank of the Kara Su River, which had cut into the south face of the mound. This cut effectively provided a natural section from the top of the mound down to virgin soil, which attracted David to the site. Over the course of just two field seasons in 1960 and 1962, David and his team could delineate an archaeological sequence that spanned the Late Neolithic through to the Iron Age. One of the main objectives of the project was to outline a pottery sequence for the site and collect C14 samples, all of which would help establish a regional chronology for the Gorgan Plain.



Despite best intentions, however, the excavations at Yarim Tepe remain largely unpublished. Two concise summary reports were made available, the first of these being an article published in *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin* by Vaughn Crawford, which was written for a general audience. The second publication was a short article written by David for the book *Excavations in Iran. The British Contribution*. Fortunately, the bulk of the excavation records were kept by David

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in his home office, stored together in two file boxes and several drawing tubes. This material was audited, reorganised and catalogued before being digitised in preparation for the planned publication.

Given the wealth of unpublished data for Yarim Tepe found in the archive it was decided that the material was best published as a final report in monograph form. Moreover, in light of new excavations by Iranian archaeologists working in the Gorgan Plain, the results of the excavations at Yarim Tepe could then be reevaluated against this new research. To date, a draft of the monograph text and accompanying illustrations, which includes hundreds of reworked site plans and pottery drawings, is now completed and will be prepared for publication.



Once the Yarim Tepe monograph is submitted for review, work will then commence on publishing an archaeological survey of the Malayer Plain conducted in 1977 and 1978. This took place during David's excavations at Nush-i Jan, and is an extension of an earlier survey of the surrounding region by David and T Cuyler Young in 1965. Nush-i Jan proved to be an important Median and Parthian period settlement, which was excavated over five field seasons between 1967 and 1977. This site is located some 60 kilometres south of Hamadan in the alluvial Malayer plain of the central Zagros

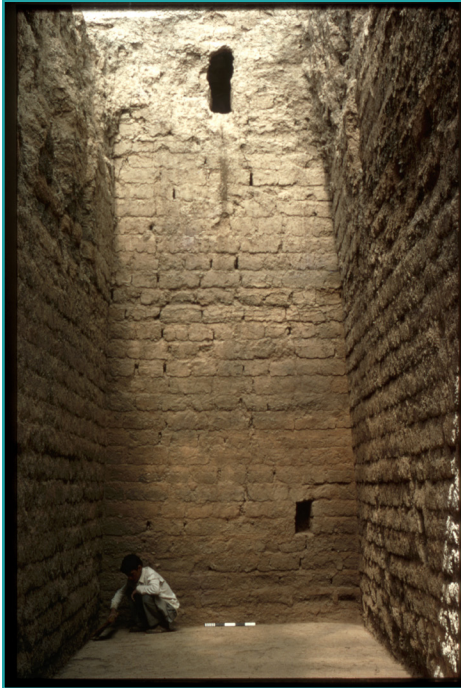
range in western Iran. The mound itself, which rises to a maximum height of 36 meters above the surrounding plain, is natural, with various structures being built atop a high, rocky shale outcrop. Excavation of the site revealed a remarkable series of buildings and a perimeter wall dating to the Median period. The buildings

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Aerial photographs of Yarim Tepe showing south face cut by the Kara Su River and location of the excavation trenches. From the David Stronach Archive.

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themselves were remarkably well preserved, with the remains of walls left standing many meters high with features such as doorways, windows and even ceilings left intact. This rare state of preservation resulted from the careful infilling of standing



structures with stone and mudbrick before being deserted, perhaps marking the ritual abandonment of the site. Nush-i Jan was then resettled briefly when a Parthian village was established on the mound.

The results of the excavations at Nush-i Jan are relatively well published, with three preliminary reports in the journal *Iran* and two significant monographs covering the architectural remains of the Median period as well as the excavated small finds. Additional planned volumes, however, included the 1977-78 survey of the surrounding Malayer plain. The archival material pertaining to this survey includes detailed maps, a catalogue of the sites identified, photographs of archaeological mounds and remains, and illustrations of the pottery collected. Together, this material documents the remains of hundreds of archaeological

sites located on the Malayer plain that date between the Neolithic and Islamic periods. In collaboration with the original participants of the 1977-78 survey, work will now commence on this archive, the publication of which will reveal patterns of human settlement in the region over thousands of years.

Dr Gareth Brereton  
Stronach Research Fellow

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The remains of the Fort at Nush-i Jan. From the David Stronach Archive.



Top: Bronze Age Pottery from Yarim Tepe. From the David Stronach Archive.  
Bottom: The Malayer plain as viewed from the mound of Nush-i Jan.

## Outreach

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As the accompanying data shows, this past year BIPS' social media footprint only continued its expansion. Both our YouTube and Instagram presence experienced especially notable growth; the former almost nearly doubled its followers' numbers and the latter more than doubled its numbers. Ms Silvia Ferreri continued to lead this process.

Our monthly webinars offered talks on such topics as Persian poetry and historiography, mission hospitals in Persia and British India, digitisation of historical archives, and modern Iranian films.

Also with the assistance of Ms Ferreri, our Student Newsletter published 37 issues over the year. The Newsletter contains news of events, publications, job postings and other academic announcements. Past issues can be viewed in the Newsletter Archive page on the BIPS website.

We partnered in organising events with the British Museum, the Iran Society, the University of York, Sissinghurst Castle, the British School at Athens and the British Institute at Ankara. The latter two are, as BIPS, among the eight British International Research Institutes (BIRI).

In collaboration with the British Museum, BIPS organised a private visit of the exhibition *Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece* for which BIPS also provided financial support leading to the creation of a series of traditional garments. More at this link: [www.britishmuseum.org/blog/long-live-king-kings-accession-ritual-ancient-persia](http://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/long-live-king-kings-accession-ritual-ancient-persia). This event was open to members only and it was complemented by a public lecture on Zoom given by Dr James Fraser, curator of the exhibition, and Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, who aided to its creation.

BIPS' partnership with the University of York continues with the organization of the annual Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture that took place in June 2023, as part of the York Festival of Ideas.

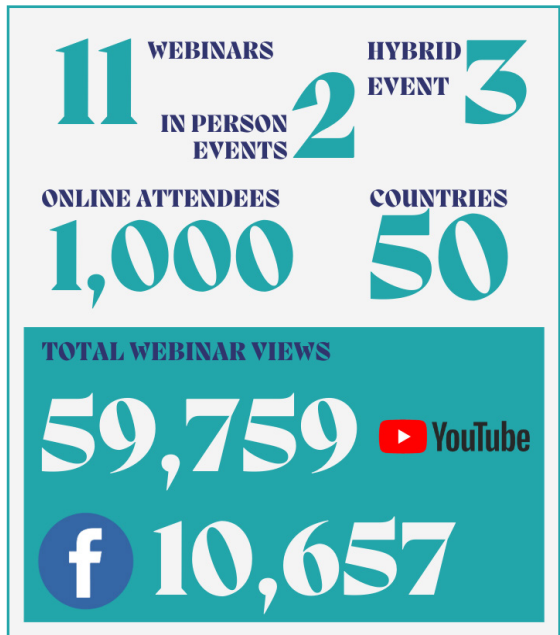
BIPS established a new partnership with Sissinghurst Castle (National Trust), co-sponsoring with the Iran Society the exhibition *A Persian Paradise: Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson in Iran 1925-1927*. The exhibition opened in October 2023 and it was originally schedule to close in March 2024, but it was extended until the end of May 2024.

This year, BIPS co-organised two conferences. The first in July 2023, with the British Institute at Ankara, on *Jalal al-Din Rumi and his Legacy: Religion, Literature and Culture between Medieval Anatolia and the Persianate World* ([www.bips.ac.uk/event/jalal-al-din-rumi-and-his-legacy/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/event/jalal-al-din-rumi-and-his-legacy/)), the second in March 2024 in collaboration with all the BIRIs on Sustainable Water Management: Learning from the Past to Inform the Future ([www.bips.ac.uk/event/sustainable-water-management/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/event/sustainable-water-management/)).

A full list of all BIPS' events over the period is included in the table at the end of this report and full information about the events can be found on the BIPS website.

BIPS continues working on the digitisation of its archives, and work is underway for the creation of the online platform that will ultimately host the digitised material. More information on the digitisation of the Stronach Archive is given by Dr Gareth Brereton, BIPS Stronach Fellow, on pp. 18-21.

In addition, BIPS is also involved in a larger BIRI-wide digitisation collaborative project that will lead to the creation of an online platform linking together the archives of the institutes involved. The project just entered its third year and activities kick-started with a workshop, in February 2024, organised in collaboration with the British School at Athens on the topic of digital storytelling and linked open-data.



Professor Andrew Newman  
BIPS Outreach and Development Director

## BIPS Events in 2023-2024

During the financial year 2023-2024 BIPS hosted and co-hosted a total of fifteen events, including a members only event at the British Museum and a conference co-organised with the British Institute at Ankara.

**In the financial year 2023-2024 the following events took place:**

20 March 2024	Reformulation of the Ideals of Heroism in Bahram Beyzaie's Dramatic Worlds	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Saeed Talajooy; chaired by Andrew Newman
15-16 March 2024	Sustainable Water Management: Learning from the Past to Inform the Future	[Conference co-organised by the British International Research Institutes]  In person event at the British Academy, London
7 February 2024	Persian Historiography across Empires	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Sholeh Quinn; chaired by Andrew Newman
17 January 2024	Persian Poetry on the High Seas: Migration and the Making of an Early Modern World Literature	On-line (via Zoom) talk by James White; chaired by Andrew Newman
6 December 2023	Uncovering Dr Hans E. Wulff Collection: A Life Contribution to the Study of Iran and Iranian Studies	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Pedram Khosronejad; chaired by Andrew Newman
27 November 2023	Empire, Sultanate, and the Boundaries of the Persianate World in South Asia	[BIPS AGM Lecture 2023]  In person event at the British Academy, London. Lecture by Roy Fischel, introduced by Charles Melville
18 October 2023	The Reunification of Iran and the Reign of Aqa Muhammad Shah Qajar	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Maziar Behrooz; chaired by Andrew Newman

6 September 2023	Excavating the Archives: David Stronach's fieldwork in Iran with the British Institute for Persian Studies	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Gareth Brereton; chaired by Andrew Newman
19 July 2023	Private tour of the exhibition Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece	[Members only event co-organised by BIPS and the British School in Athens (BSA)]  In person event at the British Museum, London, with James Fraser and Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones
12 July 2023	Treasures of Herat: Two Timurid Khamsah of Nazami Manuscripts	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Barbara Brend chaired by Andrew Newman
6 July 2023	Jalal al-Din Rumi and his Legacy: Religion, Literature and Culture between Medieval Anatolia and the Persianate World, 13th-14th Centuries	[Conference co-organised by BIPS and the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA)]  In person event at the BIAA, Ankara
13 June 2023	Open Sesame: Ancient Persia and the Greek Imagination	On-line (via Zoom) talk by James Fraser and Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones
8 June 2023	Rumi and the Masnavi: Talk and Recitation	[BIPS sponsored event]  In person event at the York Festival of Ideas with Alan Williams, Seyed Ali Jaber, and the Hamdel Ensemble
31 May 2023	Feeling Mission Hospitals in Persia and British India	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi; chaired by Andrew Newman
18 May 2023	"You're Fired": A Comparison of Roman and Sassanian Military Careers	[Organised by the Iran Society and BIPS]  In person event at the Army & Navy Club; talk by Sean Strong
19 April 2023	The Hunt as Erotic and Military Training in Early New Persian Poetry	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Domenico Ingenito; chaired by Andrew Newman

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## Conference Sustainable Water Management: Learning from the Past to Inform the Future. London, March 2024



The British International Research Institutes (BIRI), of which BIPS is part, co-organised a conference on the *Sustainable Water Management: Learning from the Past to Inform the Future*. The conference was held at the British Academy in London on 15 and 16 March 2024.

The conference stems from the *Sustainable Water Management Initiative*, a multi-disciplinary, inter-regional project that brings together specialists in disciplines ranging from archaeology to environmental science, history, engineering and social science, to work together to understand how climate change impacts water availability and to seek solutions to the scarcity of water based

on local experiences and historical and traditional practices with a view to ensure sustainability, economic viability and knowledge transfer.

BIPS Trustee, Prof Cameron Petrie, and Iqtedar Alam, delivered a paper on *Learnings from a Mughal waterscape: modelling and evaluating Shahjahanabad's hydrological landscape*.

Dr Hassan Moradi of the National Museum of Iran presented a paper titled: *Harnessing Water Resources in Arid Landscapes: A Case Study of the Neyriz Plain, Fars Province, Iran*.

Dr Nahal Khorrami, Özyeğin University, presented a paper on *Water and urban tissues: The Qanat system and the formation process of Yazd, Iran*.

The programme of the event is available on the BIPS website ([www.bips.ac.uk/event/sustainable-water-management/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/event/sustainable-water-management/)).

# Tehran Institute: Annual Report 2023-24

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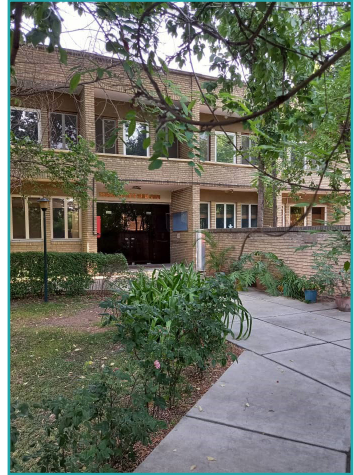
We are pleased to report that the BIPS building in Tehran is being kept in good repair and the hostel and the Library remain an important resource.

In the BIPS compound in Tehran there was a series of building repair works including replacing paving stones all around the Institute and reinforcing the walls and fences on the north, west and south sides. This has been overseen by our Assistant Manager Mrs Sima Mohannak. A teacher from the adjacent French School stayed in the hostel renting a room throughout the period April 2023-March 2024.

We have explored the possibility of reopening the Library and are contemplating updating the Library software and hiring a Librarian on a part-time basis to catalogue books that have arrived at BIPS but have not been catalogue since COVID and the departure of the Librarian. We have been negotiating with Pars Azarakhsh, a software company, to undertake this work.

Our intention is to create an online catalogue available to everyone interested in Persian studies both in Iran and around the world.

We are most grateful to Mrs Sima Mohannak, and also Daneh Kordmahini , for managing the building so conscientiously and effectively.



Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
BIPS Vice President and Honorary Director

# Publications

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BIPS has continued to be busy with publications with three new volumes published in the Persian Studies Series and the Archaeological Monograph Series. Each year, a new volume of its journal *IRAN* is published (in two issues, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn). BIPS members receive a hard copy by post as a benefit of membership. An online version is available to members through BIPS's website.

## ***IRAN* LXI.I and LXI.II (2023)**

In 2023-24, *IRAN* was edited by Professor Cameron Petrie who is a Trustee of BIPS. The journal is peer reviewed with an international editorial board. It also receives assistance from BIPS Trustees and Honorary Vice Presidents in reviewing submitted articles. For 62 years *IRAN* has maintained an international reputation for publishing significant academic articles on all aspects of Persianate study (except for modern politics). This year, paper topics spanned from the archaeology of the fifth millennium BC, through the Achaemenid period, and on up to the early 12th century. In addition to the two issues of the journal that are published in hard copy each year, articles are also available online. Submissions are made online and the guidelines are available on the BIPS's website. *IRAN* has received over 60 submissions in 2024, and already has fifty articles accepted for publication that will appear online in the coming months.

### **LXI.I**

Ali Khayani and Kamal Aldin Niknami, <i>More Early Bronze Age Seal Impressions from Chogha Maran, Western Central Zagros</i>	p.1-14
Yasmina Wicks, <i>Probing the Margins in Search of Elamite Children</i>	p.15-35
Davide Salaris, <i>The Equestrian Relief of Hung-e Azhdar: A Historical Memory for the Dynastic Lineages of Elymais</i>	p.36-58
Esmail Sharahi, Hossein Sedighian and Meisam Nikzad, <i>Excavation at Tayhaq - A Subterranean Rock-Cut Architecture Complex in Khomein, Markazi Province, Iran</i>	p.59-74
Saeed Amirhajloo and Hossein Sedighian, <i>Recent Archaeological Research in South Iran: Excavation at the Old City of Sirjan (The Site of Qal'eh Sang)</i>	p.75-93

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## Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series

BIPS solidified its cooperation with Bloomsbury/IB Tauris for the publication of its book series 'Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World'. In February 2024, Dr Saeedreza Talajooy, from the University of St Andrews, took over the role of editor of the series and put together a new editorial board. BIPS would like to thank the former editor, Prof Andrew Peacock, for his valuable work.

The volume *Genealogical History in the Persianate World*, edited by Jo-Ann Gross and Daniel Beben is due for publication in July 2025. Two other manuscripts are currently being reviewed for publication in this series.

The latest publications in the series are Saeed Talajooy's edited volume *The Plays and Films of Bahram Beyzaie: Origins, Forms and Functions* (February 2024) and Nahid Assemi's monograph *Piety and Politics in Qajar Iran: The Takkiyya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah* (July 2024).

## Archaeological Monograph Series

The Archaeological Monograph Series was established in 2009 as a joint publishing venture between the BIPS and Oxbow Books to create a venue for the publication of archaeological research, particularly the results of large scale surveys and excavations. The series is edited by Prof. Cameron Petrie.

The eighth volume, by Seth M. N. Priestman and Derek Kennet entitled *Sasanian and Islamic Settlement and Ceramics in Southern Iran (4th to 17th Century AD): The Williamson Collection Project* was published in 2023, and presents the results of fieldwork, research and analysis that has been supported by BIPS since the 1970s. It is available for order from Oxbow Books.

Editorial work is being completed on the ninth volume, edited by Cameron A. Petrie, Barbara Helwing and Helen Taylor, and entitled *A New Look at Old Routes in Western Asia: Rethinking Iran in the fifth millennium BC*, which is planned to appear in 2025.



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Abbas Javanmard as Pahlevān Akbar and Roqyeh Chehrazad as Mother (1965).

# Financial Report

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The year 2023-24 witnessed significant changes to the administration of The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) with the appointment of a new President and a new General Manager.

We are grateful to Professor Charles Melville, who after six years of tireless service took a well earned rest and handed over the reins to Professor Ali Ansari in partnership with Dr Sarkhosh Curtis as Vice President and Honorary Director. Silvia Ferreri, who was previously our Outreach Assistant, was appointed as General Manager.

Professor Melville oversaw the Charity Commission's review of BIPS which gave our operations a clean bill of health subject to refinements which were implemented with regard to Policy documents on a range of activities which are now reviewed annually.

BIPS spent 49% of its income on grants, 21% on Outreach and Publications and 30% on governance and establishment overheads. The Flagship projects that had been launched in the previous year were also formally awarded and inaugurated in the year. BIPS maximises the impact of the grants by providing relatively small grants to each applicant to help grow the Persianate Studies community. The feedback from our grantee workshops is very positive. It indicates that whilst BIPS' grants are the main source of funding in some cases, in many instances, BIPS' funding is a vital part of enabling and facilitating larger projects nationally and globally. Furthermore these grants are also essential for growing the Iranian and Persianate Studies communities because of the support provided to Early Career Researchers.

Our digitisation project has continued with the digitisation of the Stronach and Hillenbrand archives and a more ambitious digitisation programme in collaboration with the other BIRIs is one of the four central pillars of our new strategy - BIPS 2030 - which will be agreed by the end of 2024. An important aspect of our strategy going forward is collaborations, and we have already agreed a partnership with Persian Language Online.

We commissioned a consultant to help us develop a fundraising strategy. This has provided a detailed landscape of fundraising opportunities which we will apply

to in stages from 2024-25. We will use the external funding to develop our digital platform and position BIPS as the primary digital resource for Persian and Iranian studies in the United Kingdom. With respect to the facilities in Tehran, while we remain closed to the public we are taking the opportunity of this down time to begin the digital cataloguing of our library collection. The Acting Manager and Assistant Managers, Sima Mohannak and Daneh Kordmahini, continue to do excellent work in maintaining the facilities in anticipating of a reopening of our activities.

## THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total Restated £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations	-	199	50	249	421
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	221,008	221,008	196,750
Other grants		-	2,000	2,000	6000
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		8,789	-	8,789	9,353
Publication sales		7,644	-	7,644	3,683
Hostel income		6,000	-	6,000	4,200
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		1,356	-	1,356	748
Income from investments		5,087	-	5,087	2,902
<b>Financial income</b>					
Foreign exchange gain	3(b)	2,759	-	2,759	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>31,834</b>	<b>223,058</b>	<b>254,892</b>	<b>254,057</b>

## **THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

### **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	5,361	116,504	121,865	118,007
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	27,534	27,534	600
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	6,000	6,000	5,000
Office costs		8,040	27,652	35,692	33,515
Financial costs	3(b)	136	-	136	1,195
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	5,540	5,540	3,998
Outreach	3(d)	-	41,519	41,519	37,170
Conferences	3(a)	-	-	-	4,693
Establishment and maintenance		8,642	13,952	22,594	19,647
<b>Other</b>					
Computer support		-	-	-	-
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	3,310	-	3,310	2,700
Management		6,258	-	6,258	5,195
Legal expenses		7,352	-	7,352	5,766
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>39,099</b>	<b>238,701</b>	<b>277,800</b>	<b>237,486</b>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS		(7,625)	(15,643)	(22,908)	(13,429)
TRANSFERS		-	-	-	-
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS – UNREALISED		3,531	-	3,531	(2,036)
<b>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(3,734)</b>	<b>(15,643)</b>	<b>(19,377)</b>	<b>(15,465)</b>

TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	244,022	48,468	292,490	307,955
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	240,288	32,825	273,113	292,490

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	4	47,533		47,533	
		<u>47,533</u>		<u>47,533</u>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	2,038		33,026	
Investments	7	44,414		44,883	
Cash in hand and at bank		223,402		221,718	
		<u>273,854</u>		<u>299,627</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: within 1 year</b>					
Creditors	6	<u>48,274</u>		<u>54,670</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>225,580</u>		<u>244,957</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>273,113</u>		<u>292,490</u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund			214,858		213,231
Designated Funds			25,430		30,791
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund			1,265		1,265
Bahari Foundation Fund			2,000		2,000
Advanced Language Training Fund			13,260		13,260
Basic Grant			-		-
Persian Language Online			10,000		-
Bruce Wannell's Fund			50		25,693
Digitisation Fund			6,250		6,250
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>273,113</u>		<u>292,490</u>



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.  
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.





## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of BIPS is open to all, and we welcome new members. BIPS organises an extensive programme of talks, conferences and workshops throughout the year in the UK and overseas. It publishes its journal *IRAN* twice a year and occasional books in its Persian Studies Series or Archaeological Monograph Series. Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.

Membership runs from January to December, but new members can apply any time of the year. We offer four types of membership: Student (£20 a year); Corresponding (£30 a year - for non-UK members); Full (£40 a year) and Fellow (£50 a year for academics). Membership renewals or applications can be made via our website: [www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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[bips@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bips@britac.ac.uk)

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+98 (21) 2260 1045  
[bips@pol.ir](mailto:bips@pol.ir)

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 231161

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# Accounts

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**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

(Registered Charity No. 231161)

(A company limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Registered Company No. 00740813

**INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****CONTENTS**

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**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Financial Reporting Standard 102.

**CHARITABLE STATUS**

The charity was incorporated on 14 November 1962 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity's registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England, SW1Y 5AH, registered number 231161.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mrs J A Griggs FCA  
Levicks  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent ME16 8TX

**BANKERS**

HSBC  
69 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5EY

The Co-Operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

COIF  
Senator House  
85 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4ET

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the charity are to promote and encourage the study of Iran and the wider Persianate world, the history, civilisation and culture in all periods, including the archaeology of Persian artefacts worldwide.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued)****TRUSTEES**

The members of the Governing Council are the trustees of the charity. New members of Governing Council are either elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Governing Council, subject in each case to restrictions as to numbers and term of office as described in the charity's Articles of Association.

The trustees who served the charity during the year were:

Professor Charles Melville	(President)
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis	(Vice President)
Ms Narguess Farzad	(Hon Secretary) – Resigned 20 June 2023
Mr Hossein Hamedani	(Hon Treasurer)
Professor Andrew Peacock	Resigned 16 November 2022
Dr Cameron Petrie	
Dr Sarah Stewart	
Dr Arezou Azad	
Professor Andrew Newman	
Professor Alan Vincent Williams	Resigned 28 November 2022
Dr Richard Piran McClary	Resigned 14 March 2023
Dr Lindsay Allen	
Dr Shabnam Holiday	Appointed 28 November 2022
Dr Roham Alvandi	Appointed 28 November 2022

**ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The year 2022-23 was marked by several developments intended to raise the profile and public awareness of BIPS's research programmes and contributions to the study of Iran and the Persianate world in the UK and internationally. The first of these is the inauguration of the 'Flagship' projects – substantial multi-year funding for research that fulfils our own objectives and priorities: currently with a focus on the regions beyond Iran's current borders that contributed to the enrichment of Persian culture. The two projects awarded are on 'The Agricultural sustainability of the Otrar oasis in Kazakhstan, from the 8th to the 18th century', and 'Persian manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the circulation of the Persianate literary heritage'. Both engage with broad areas of study concerning Central Asia and India and will involve rich programmes of conferences and publications, indicative also of BIPS's aim to widen our scholarly networks and support research partnerships in these regions.

The second development is the initiation of a major digitisation project, in collaboration with other Schools and Institutes of the British Academy, with an initial focus on the archives of our first director, David Stronach, whose excavation records and supporting materials are currently held in UCLA and being researched by our newly-appointed Stronach Research Fellow, based at York University. Both these initiatives will dominate our work and research expenditure in the coming years.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Unrestricted funds decreased by £4,737 (2022: £4,518) to £244,022 (2022: £248,759). A restricted fund was created in the financial year ended 31 March 2012 in respect of a donation of £4,000 towards funding book publication grants. This fund had a balance of £2,000 (2022: £2,000) as at 31 March 2023. A restricted fund was created in 2013 for advanced language training. There was a balance of £13,260 on this fund as at 31 March 2023 (2022: £13,260). The Bruce Wannell fund was setup in 2022 to fund an annual public lecture in honour of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell. The fund is supported by external individual sponsorship and decreased to £25,693 as at 31 March 2023 (2022: £26,043). The Digitisation fund was a new fund in 2022 which arose from a generous UK donation in the year towards the cost of digitisation of BIPS archive of historical archaeological and research records. The balance on the fund is £6,250 as at 31 March 2023 (2022: £6,250). The designated funds set aside by the trustees for a new motor vehicle and to facilitate travel grants for research students continued to be carried forward.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the charity is exposed and can confirm that systems have been established and are in place to enable the early identification of issues so that the necessary steps can be taken to mitigate those risks.

**RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain reserves at a level to ensure obligations relating to restricted funds can be met, to allow funds to be set aside for future investment when the situation eases in Iran, and to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately between three and six months of the total expenditure of the charity. The trustees believe that this provides a sufficient level of funding buffer to cover the expenditure arising in furtherance of the charity's objectives, and in its management and administration.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued)**

**TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of The British Institute of Persian Studies for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

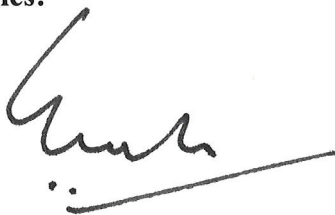
Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Signatories:**



.....  
Professor Charles Melville  
President



.....  
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
Vice President

Dated 24/10/2023 .....

Dated 24/10/2023 .....

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 20.

*Responsibilities and basis of report*

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

*Independent examiner's report*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**These accounts have NOT yet been signed by the accountants.  
The name and address of the accountants  
has therefore been suppressed.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Unrestricted Notes	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations		171	250	421	28,054
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	196,750	196,750	135,937
Other grants		-	6,000	6,000	3,650
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		9,353	-	9,353	10,315
Publication sales		3,683	-	3,683	4,274
Hostel income		4,200	-	4,200	-
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		748	-	748	9
Income from investments		2,902	-	2,902	1,363
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>21,057</b>	<b>203,000</b>	<b>224,057</b>	<b>183,602</b>
		-----	-----	-----	-----

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**EXPENDITURE ON:**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	7,137	110,870	118,007	83,413
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	600	600	-
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	5,000	5,000	159
Office costs		3,259	30,256	33,515	24,834
Financial costs	3(b)	1,195	-	1,195	(999)
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	3,998	3,998	4,226
Outreach	3(d)	-	37,170	37,170	40,165
Conferences	3(a)	-	4,693	4,693	700
Establishment and maintenance		-	19,647	19,647	6,720
<b>Other</b>					
Computer support		-	-	-	500
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	2,700	-	2,700	3,640
Management		3,695	1,500	5,195	1,824
Legal expenses		5,766	-	5,766	3,077
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>23,752</b>	<b>213,734</b>	<b>237,486</b>	<b>168,259</b>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS					
		(2,695)	(10,734)	(13,429)	15,343
TRANSFERS					
		(6)	6	-	-
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS - UNREALISED					
		(2,036)	-	(2,036)	1,821
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(4,737)</b>	<b>(10,728)</b>	<b>(15,465)</b>	<b>17,164</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>248,759</b>	<b>59,196</b>	<b>307,955</b>	<b>290,791</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>244,022</b>	<b>48,468</b>	<b>292,490</b>	<b>307,955</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4		-		-
Other Tangible Assets	4		47,533		47,533
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			47,533		47,533
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	33,026		1,585	
Investments	7	44,883		46,920	
Cash in hand and at bank		221,718		266,874	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			299,627		315,379
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors	6	54,670		54,957	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>244,957</u>		<u>260,422</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			292,490		307,955
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund			213,231		217,968
Designated Funds			30,791		30,791
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund			1,265		1,265
Bahari Foundation Fund			2,000		2,000
Advanced Language Training Fund			13,260		13,260
Basic Grant			-		10,378
Business Development Grant			-		-
Bruce Wannell's Fund			25,693		26,043
Digitisation Fund			6,250		6,250
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>292,490</u>		<u>307,955</u>

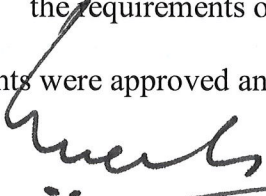
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023 (continued)**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

In preparing the financial statements:

- a) The directors are of the opinion that the company is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- b) No notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to its financial statements for the financial year, and
- c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
  - i. Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - ii. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved and signed on behalf of the Council by:-



.....  
Professor Charles Melville - President



.....  
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis – Vice President

Dated 24/10/2023.....

Company registration number: 00740813

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. Investments are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard 102. The company is a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, being the functional currency of the charity.

**Fund accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at market values.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Governing Council for particular purposes.
- Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates, in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:-

Leasehold Buildings	2.5% straight line
---------------------	--------------------

The leasehold building was fully depreciated to a £nil net book value as at 31 March 2016. Library books are no longer capitalised but shown as an expense in the statement of financial activities. Furniture and equipment and motor vehicles bought before 1995 were formerly depreciated at 15% and 25% respectively on the reducing balance basis. Those assets have now been fully depreciated. Since 1995 assets purchased by the charity have been expensed through the statement of financial activities. However, if a significant capital expenditure is being proposed, the trustees consider whether this treatment is appropriate in relation to the specific transaction concerned.

**Investments**

Short term investments are held to generate funds. They are included at market value with gains and losses on revaluation being shown in the statement of financial activities.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Institute, are recognised when the Institute becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included as it accrues.
- Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned.

**Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Institute in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Institute and include the independent examiners' fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Institute.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. All costs are allocated directly to a particular activity.

**2. GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES**

Grants received from government and other public bodies comprised £196,750 from The British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences and £6,000 from The Iran Society paid specifically for and on the occasion of bursaries to scholars in the final year of their PhD. The grant from The British Academy has been given on a restricted basis since 2015/16.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

**3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES****3(a) Direct funding of scholarly activity**

Direct funding of scholarly activity comprises grants, workshops and lectures, journal expenses, book publication costs, language teaching and conferences. This amounted to £132,298 (2022: £88,498).

**3(b) Financial costs**

These comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank charges	192	187
(Gain) / Loss on foreign exchange	1,003	(1,186)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,195	(999)

**3(c) Grant expenditure**

All grants were for the purposes of academic research which includes travel and attendance at conferences.

**3(d) Outreach**

Costs totalling £37,170 (2022: £40,165) comprised website costs £2,341, events £9,729 and assistant costs £25,100 (2022: £4,028 website costs, £16,749 anniversary costs and £19,388 assistant costs).

**3(e) Examination and accountancy**

The annual cost of the independent examination of the Institute's financial statements for the year is £2,690 (2022: £2,600).

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**4. FIXED ASSETS**

**Tangible**

	<b>Leasehold Premises</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Library Books</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
At end of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
At end of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2022	-	-	47,533	47,533
At 31 March 2023	-	-	47,533	47,533

**5. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grants relating to 2023/24	30,000	-
Other debtors	3,026	1,585
	<b>33,026</b>	<b>1,585</b>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Creditors	4,802	14,131
Accruals	49,868	40,826
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54,670	54,957
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**7. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charities Official Investment Fund (at cost)	14,656	14,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value	44,883	46,920
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All investments are held in the United Kingdom

**8. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and allowances	46,519	52,956
Social Security costs	-	661
Pension costs	4,652	5,296
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	51,171	58,913
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 2 (2022: 2).

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**9. PAYMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT**

7 members of Council received travel and other expenses totalling £2,198 (2022: £1,824).

**10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions in the year.

**11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets:				
Leasehold Property	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	47,533	-	-	47,533
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,533</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	-	-	33,026	33,026
Investments	44,883	-	-	44,883
Cash in hand and at bank	175,485	30,791	15,442	221,718
	<u>220,368</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>48,468</u>	<u>299,627</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)				
Trade creditors	54,670	-	-	54,670
	<u>54,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,670</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>165,698</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>48,468</u>	<u>244,957</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>213,231</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>48,468</u>	<u>292,490</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. FUNDS

(a) FUND PURPOSES

*UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:*

**General Fund** - This represents funds available to be spent or applied at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

**Institute Building** - This represents the unamortised balance of the cost of the Institute's building in Tehran. The building is not, under present arrangements, freely disposable.

*DESIGNATED FUNDS:*

**BIPS UG/PG Travel Fund** - This fund represents monies to be used to facilitate travel by research students to Iran.

**Motor Vehicles** - This fund represents money set aside to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle.

*RESTRICTED FUNDS:*

**Bahari Foundation Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute towards its special series publications.

**Advanced Language Training Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for the provision of advanced language training for research students.

**Conference Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for promoting and encouraging study of Iran and the wider Persianate world.

**Development Fund** - This fund represents the balance of grant monies from the British Academy for the four distinct purposes of funding a development committee, refurbishment of the premises in Tehran, staff restructuring in Tehran, website improvements.

**Basic Fund** - This fund represents the balance of basic grant from the British Academy used for the core charitable purposes of research, communications and outreach, library and collections and establishment costs.

**Iran Society** - This fund represents monies passed through the Institute from the Iran Society in respect of an arrangement to aid the provision of grants to scholars in the final year of their PhD.

**Bruce Wannell Fund** - This fund has been set up in memory of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell, to fund an annual public lecture in his honour at York University.

**Digitisation Fund** - This fund has been set up to contribute towards the cost of digitising BIPS archive research and archaeological material.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**12. FUNDS**

**(b) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:**

	<b>Designated Funds</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>BIPS UG/PG Travel</b>	<b>Total</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2021 as restated	222,486	10,791	20,000	30,791	253,277	
Income	16,012	-	-	-	16,012	
Expenses	(30,430)	-	-	-	(30,430)	
Net income/(expenses)	(14,418)	-	-	-	(14,418)	
Transfers	8,079	-	-	-	8,079	
Gains/(losses) on investments	1,821	-	-	-	1,821	
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2022	217,968	10,791	20,000	30,791	248,759	
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2022 as restated	217,968	10,791	20,000	30,791	248,759	
Income	21,057	-	-	-	21,057	
Expenses	(23,752)	-	-	-	(23,752)	
Net income/(expenses)	(2,695)	-	-	-	(2,695)	
Transfers	(6)	-	-	-	(6)	
Gains/(losses) on investments	(2,036)	-	-	-	(2,036)	
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2023	213,231	10,791	20,000	30,791	244,022	



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****13. TEHRAN EXPENSES**

Funds are received and expended in Tehran through a current bank account held and maintained in Iran. As the Tehran operation has been mothballed, there are no activities in Iran and the costs included in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to the maintenance of the infrastructure.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2022	5,388	4,202
Receipts	22,000	21,200
Interest	457	-
Hostel maintenance	(9,178)	(11,342)
Utilities	(906)	(868)
Office expenses	(4,373)	(7,528)
Bank charges	(5)	-
Foreign exchange difference	(839)	(276)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2023	12,544	5,388
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**14. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Charity is constituted by its memorandum and articles of association. The registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England, SW1Y 5AH. The company's registered number is 00740813 and the charity number is 231161.

**15. TRANSFERS****Year Ended 31 March 2023**

A transfer of £6 was made during the year from the unrestricted General fund to the restricted Basic Fund, to cover the small shortfall of grants received in the year.

**Year Ended 31 March 2022**

A transfer of £8,079 was made during the year from the restricted Business Development Fund to the unrestricted General Fund. This was in respect of a retrospective reallocation relating to expenses paid out of the General Fund during the year ended 31 March 2020. The reallocation was agreed by the British Academy.



**The British Institute of Persian Studies**

# **Annual Review 2023**



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.  
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.

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## About the British Institute of Persian Studies

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The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) continues to be the UK's foremost learned society dedicated to increasing public knowledge and supporting scholarship on Iran and the wider Persianate world, including South and Central Asia. The Persianate world includes territories historically associated with Persian and Iranian culture and language, these areas are, but not limited to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral and South Asia. BIPS is invested in supporting a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and subjects include Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics, Cultural Studies, History, Language, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies and Sociology.

BIPS is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee, with a self-governing membership organisation, whose members are elected on a three-yearly basis to serve on BIPS Governing Council as trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Most Governing Council members are academics in the field of Persianate studies, but some offer expertise in other areas, as do our co-opted members.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) – a group of research institutes with overseas centres in Europe, Southwest Asia, North and East Africa. The BIRI are financially supported by and headquartered in the British Academy.

BIPS was founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963; however the Institute in Tehran remains closed to the public. In the UK, BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of the field, by campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. BIPS's activities include the biannual awarding of research and travel grants and an extensive programme of workshops, events, lectures, as well as recitals in the UK. BIPS has published its journal, *IRAN*, every year since 1963. It also publishes the *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series* in conjunction with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris and the *Archaeological Monograph Series* with Oxbow Books.

BIPS has approximately 270 members from around the world. Our membership year runs January to December, but we welcome new member applications at any time. Member benefits include receipt of our journal, *IRAN*, twice yearly and

discounts on other publications and exclusive access to events, (both BIPS and other institutions). BIPS publishes its Annual Review in the Autumn of each year. This is the 2023 Annual Review (covering the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). It is sent to all the Institute's members in hard copy and is available to download from the BIPS website.

## Governing Council and Office Holders at 31 March 2023

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Professor Charles Melville (President)  
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis (Vice President)

Dr Lindsay Allen  
Dr Roham Alvandi  
Dr Arezou Azad  
Mr John Drake (Co-opted)  
Ms Narguess Farzad (Honorary Secretary)  
Mr Hossein Hamedani (Honorary Treasurer)  
Dr Richard McClary (Research Director, until March 2023)  
Dr Shabnam Holliday (Research Director, from March 2023)  
Professor Andrew J. Newman (Outreach and Development Director)  
Professor Andrew Peacock (Editor, BIPS Persian Studies Series, until November 2022)  
Dr Cameron Petrie (Co-editor, IRAN and BIPS Archaeological Monograph Series)  
Dr Florian Schwartz (Co-opted)  
Dr Sarah Stewart

Professor Ali Ansari (Honorary Vice President)  
Professor Robert Hillenbrand (Honorary Vice President)  
Professor Paul Luft (Honorary Vice President)

### Staff

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#### London

Ms Imogen Edwards (Executive Officer)  
Ms Silvia Ferreri (Outreach and Digitisation Co-ordinator)

#### Tehran

Ms Sima Mohannak (Acting Manager)

### British Institute of Persian Studies

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bips@pol.ir



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View of the Shah Nimatollah Wali shrine, Mahan. From the Bruce Wannell Archive.

## Letter from the President, Professor Charles Melville

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The year under review, to the end of March 2023, is a bit of a blur. This could be because of the advancing senility of the current president as he nears the end of his term in office, or it could be due to the non-stop pace of activities and developments that reduce down to a sort of Futurist, slightly out of focus moving scene of hurtling sports cars or pounding machinery. Whatever the cause, the effort to freeze this panorama into discrete episodes does lead to a few highlights and also lowlights coming into focus. Let's ignore the lowlights, into which we could also merge the 'business as usual' aspects of our task, the regular holding of meetings of Council, the Management Committee, the Research Committee and Outreach Committee, all of which have been faced with a

seemingly steady rise in business requiring attention and decisions and occupy much time and energy of our Trustees. It has been difficult to fulfil the aspiration that Trustees should not serve on more than one committee, but we are looking to increase the number of Trustees in the next round of elections at the AGM in November 2023 and get back to full strength.

One initiative to overcome 'meeting fatigue', especially on zoom, was to hold an Awayday for all members of Council; this took place in Oxford in February 2023 and was a pleasant chance to meet and discuss matters of immediate concern, as well as volunteer visions of where BIPS should be in five years' time – punctuated by an agreeable lunch. This underlined the value of meeting in person and bouncing ideas around, and I hope will be a regular practice in future.

Of the pressing concerns, one is to review and update our policies and strategic documentation to ensure that we remain in conformity with our legal obligations as a charity and in accordance with company law. This work continues and benefits from the cogent advice of John Drake, a co-opted member of Council, and the rich experience of our Honorary Treasurer, Hossein Hamedani.

The highlights reflect the exciting and productive directions in which BIPS's research funding is taking us. First, the inauguration of the 'Flagship' projects – substantial multi-year funding for research that fulfils our own objectives and priorities:

currently with a focus on the regions beyond Iran's current borders that contributed to the enrichment of Persian culture. Both successful applications meet these criteria admirably. Katie Campbell's project on the *Agricultural sustainability of the Otrar Oasis* in Kazakhstan, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Andrew Peacock's on *Persian manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the circulation of the Persianate literary heritage*, both engage with broad areas of study concerning Central Asia and India and will involve rich programmes of conferences and publications, which we hope will attract further funding. BIPS can thank Richard McClary for his energy and vision in pushing through these initiatives. We naturally remain ready to support smaller grant applications in the usual way.

Secondly, given the importance of pursuing BIPS's programme of digitising its archives along with the Academy's other Research Institutes (the BIRIs) and with a view to participating in shared website platforms, we have received a generous grant from the British Academy to establish a Fellowship named after David Stronach, to carry out research on David's archives and prioritise work on unpublished materials for digitisation and publication. We are lucky to have been able to appoint Dr Gareth Brereton to carry out this work, liaising with Dr Ali Mousavi at the Pourdavoud Center, UCLA, where the archive is stored currently. The Fellowship is hosted at York University with thanks to Richard McClary for facilitating this arrangement. This is envisaged as a long-term project that will require further substantial funding being raised beyond the initial two-year grant from the BA.

BIPS's stated aims to widen our networks to include research in Indian contexts continued with a conference in Kolkata on 1–2 March 2023, on the topic of the *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*. This was organised by Andrew Peacock on behalf of BIPS, which supported the attendance of speakers from Iran and the UK, together with Mahmood Alam of the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss further collaborations with the IIPS.

There are many other ongoing activities, such as the collaborative Parthian coin project led by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis for the British Museum and BIPS, and the subject of her AGM lecture in November 2022, as well as ideas for the future, of which BIPS can be proud. As reported in this Review, the Outreach programme is reaching large audiences and continues to investigate new possibilities under Andrew Newman's fertile chairmanship.

We believe that the direction in which we are heading has the approval of the

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British Academy, with their encouragement to diversify and, to some extent, re-invent ourselves in the changing intellectual, financial and legal frameworks in which we operate, always putting the pursuit of research excellence at the heart of our efforts.

It is a matter of great regret to everyone at BIPS that direct dealings with Iran and opportunities for safe and productive travel there have been so hampered by the continuing deterioration of Anglo-Iranian relations during the year under review. Nevertheless, we maintain regular contact with Tehran, thanks to our Vice-President Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, and we were delighted to welcome Daneh Kordmahini in London shortly before Christmas; it was a pleasure to meet her and recognise that the Institute is indeed fortunate to be maintained in the safe hands of her and her mother, Sima Mohannak, for whose prudent guidance on our behalf we are extremely grateful.

Richard McClary and Andrew Peacock stood down at the end of the year and I would like to acknowledge their work on BIPS's behalf while on Council and beyond. I am grateful to Dr Shabnam Holliday for taking on the chairmanship of the Research Committee. Imogen Edwards eased into her first year as Executive Officer in trying times, and we owe a great debt to Silvia Ferreri (Outreach and Digitisation Co-ordinator) and Hossein Hamedani for their dedicated response to the endless and often outrageous demands put on their time. Thanks to our Honorary Secretary Narguess Farzad and all Trustees for their continuing support and commitment.

I would like to end with the observation that there is a lot happening at BIPS, a lot that needs to happen, and a conducive environment for those with fire in their bellies for Persian and Iranian studies in the UK and a willingness to promote them at all levels of engagement, from schools' programmes to research at the highest academic level. There are many obstacles to success, of which inadequate funding is only one; we are open to all offers of support and commitment to help fulfil BIPS's ambitious but necessary aspirations to play the leading role in furthering the study of this magnificent but increasingly neglected civilisation.

Professor Charles Melville  
August 2023



## Research

### Umbrella programmes

The Research programme at BIPS is managed by the Research Committee chaired by **Shabnam Holliday**, Associate Professor in International Relations, University of Plymouth. Dr Holliday replaced Dr Richard Piran McClary as Research Director in March 2023. BIPS thanks Dr McClary for his work as Research Director.

At the end of the financial year 2022-2023, the three Umbrella Programmes focussing on the study of the Ancient, Medieval and Modern Persianate world came to an end. BIPS is grateful to the Programme Directors, **Lloyd Llewellyn Jones**, Professor in Ancient History at the University of Cardiff, **Andrew Peacock**, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History at the University of St Andrews, and **Shabnam Holliday**, for their work over the years and for ensuring the success of the Programmes.

### Objects of Empire: Imperial Elites and Material Cultures of Ancient Iran



will be credited. The creation of the costumes and the research undertaken will be

published in a British Museum press edited volume (forthcoming). A private viewing of the British Museum exhibition, led by its curator Dr James Fraser, for members of BIPS is planned in July 2023.

Finally, arising from the exhibition, and with an underspend contribution from the Outreach Committee, we have prepared four 10-minute videos on Persian and Greek objects from the exhibition aimed at A-level students and undergraduates. The BIPS logo is used. Links to these open-access videos will be placed on the BIPS website.

Thanks to all BIPS colleagues who have worked alongside me over the last five years I have spent on the Research Committee. I look forward to working alongside the Outreach team.

Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones

### Persianisation and Persianate Cosmopolises in the Medieval World

The theme of the Medieval Research Programme is Persianisation and Persian Cosmopolises, examining the role of Persianate culture across Eurasia. In October 2022 the programme organised a major international conference at St Andrews on the theme of *Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World*, bringing together researchers from the UK, Iran, US and Europe to look at this important but neglected subject. Chronologically papers ranged from Sasanian engagement in the Gulf and Indian Ocean to Reza Shah's exile to Mauritius, and brought together studies from archaeology, literature, linguistics and history. Geographically papers ranged from studies of the controversy of the medieval Shirazi migration to East Africa to the Iranian role in the Islamisation of the Maldives, to the influence of Persian literature on the intellectual history of Southeast Asia. Other papers examined newly discovered Persian manuscripts bringing to light fresh evidence for Persian engagement in the Indian Ocean. The rich range of themes represented will form the basis for a publication that builds on the work presented at the conference.

Professor Andrew Peacock

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## Iran and the International in the Modern Period

The Iran and Sovereignty Project, the final part of the Modern Research Project, 'Iran and the International' was launched. This is a collaborative interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary project, led by Dr Shabnam Holliday, that brings together scholars from the UK, the EU, and the USA in the fields of Archaeology, Cultural Studies, Ancient, Medieval and Modern history, Politics, and International Relations.

It explores the complexity of sovereignty in Iran and highlights the importance of 'Area Studies' to address Eurocentrism in the humanities and social sciences. The first part of the project was an online workshop held on 10 and 11 January 2023. The second workshop will be held at the University of Plymouth on 6 and 7 July 2023.

Dr Shabnam Holliday

## Research, Research Assistant and Travel Grants Programme

### About the BIPS Grant Programme

BIPS supports UK-based post-doctoral researchers and UK-based students to carry out humanities and social science research into Iran and the Persianate world, and invites grant applications three times a year, usually in January, April, and October.

BIPS has traditionally supported a broad range of research projects and funded travel for research and conference attendance. This year we have added a new category of grants, the Research Assistant Grants, which have proven to be very popular and opened up a new avenue for funding research.

The Research Grants and Research Assistant Grants, generally up to a maximum of £5,000, can be awarded to applicants who have completed a PhD and hold a research-active position at a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI). HEIs are usually universities but may also be museums or similar organisations. Research Grants are given for a range of purposes, including fieldwork, archival research and the organisation of conferences, with academic publications as the primary

output.

The Research Assistant Grants are designed to allow academics to hire assistants to help develop a research project, allow for the research of an established academic to be supported, with an income to be provided to an early-career scholar or postgraduate student who will conduct the majority of the research.

To qualify for a Travel Grant, applicants must be currently enrolled as a student (undergraduate or postgraduate, including doctoral candidates) at a UK HEI. The awards are limited to £1,200 and are normally awarded to assist with the costs of travel to the Persianate world, in its widest sense, but we may make awards for travel to conferences or to other regions if a strong rationale is made in the application. All grant applications are assessed by the BIPS Research Committee, and their recommendations are then reviewed and ratified by BIPS Council.

At the time of taking their grant, successful applicants must be members of BIPS. Award holders must provide a financial report, for internal use, and a short narrative report that will be uploaded to the BIPS website.

For more information on our current grant rounds see the BIPS website.

In addition to the Research Grants, Research Assistant Grants and Travel Grants, BIPS also administers the Iran Society PhD Bursary of £5,000. This is for students entering their final year of a PhD programme at a UK university.

### 2022-2023 BIPS Grant Awards

During the financial year 2022-2023 BIPS has awarded a total of twenty-two grants, which have supported important research projects. These cover a broad chronological span and a variety of disciplines, and the Research Assistant Grants continue to prove very successful, with five awarded.

The third, and final, Iran Society Bursary was divided between Sean Strong (Cardiff

University) and Friederike Jürcke (University of Cambridge).

**In the financial year 2022-2023 the following grants were awarded:**

Type of Award	Awardee	UK HEI	Topic	Value
Research	Robert Gleave	University of Exeter	Conducting field research in India for the project <i>India-Iran-Iraq: Akhbārī and Uṣūlī Scholars in Persianate Context</i>	£2,095
Research	Eve MacDonald	Cardiff University	<i>Seeb Community History Project, Oman</i>	£5,000
Research	Eve MacDonald	Cardiff University	Conducting carbon dating on the project <i>Fulayj: A Sasanian Persian Fort in Oman</i>	£5,000
Research	Saeed Talajooy	University of St Andrews	<i>The Eastward Gaze: the Dialogue of Iranian Theatre Practitioners with Chinese, Japanese and Indian Dramatic Forms (1900-present)</i>	£1,200
Research	Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis & Rebecca Green	The British Museum	Line Drawings for the volume <i>Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum Volume 4</i>	£1,500
Research Assistant	Ali Ansari	University of St Andrews	<i>History, Culture and ideology in Pahlavi Iran – the contribution of Shojaeddin Shafa</i>	£5,000
Research Assistant	Sussan Babaie	The Courtauld Institute of Art	Supporting an upcoming exhibition on Art of the Mongol World	£5,000
Research Assistant	Derek Kennet	Durham University	<i>Williamson Project</i>	£4,500

Research Assistant	Roger Matthews	University of Reading	<i>Analysis of animal bones from Iranian Epipalaeolithic-Neolithic sites on the Caspian shores</i>	£4,995
Research Assistant	Richard Pendry	University of Kent	<i>Study of Journalists In Afghanistan</i>	£4,885
Student Travel	Asma Abdi	Warwick University	<i>Intimacy in (times of) crisis; Queering economic sanctions through the lens of heterosexual life</i> (Paper presented at BRISMES Conference 2023)	£452
Student Travel	Mohammad Amir Hakimi Parsa	SOAS University of London	Visit to Istanbul archive as part of <i>The ideas of "Iran and Rum" among early modern diplomats (1600–1800)</i>	£1,200
Student Travel	Robert Allan	Oxford University	Attending a language school in Dushanbe	£100
Student Travel	Ana Garcia Espinosa	Cardiff University	<i>Royal women, armies and warfare in Hellenistic Iran: who had more power?</i> (Paper presented at the Classical Association Annual Conference 2023, University of Cambridge)	£537
Student Travel	Clare Parry	Cardiff University	<i>Communicating Power and Legitimacy? Dynastic Display in Ancient Persia and the Near East</i> (Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient History conference 2023, Valletta, Malta)	£650
Student Travel	Clare Parry	Cardiff University	<i>The Iconography of War and Violence in Persia and the Near East</i> (Paper presented at the Lyceum Classics Community Seminar series, UCL)	£182

Student Travel	Margaret Squires	The Courtauld Institute of Art	<i>Fragmented Histories: A Deccani Carpet in the Chehel Sotun</i> (Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Biennial Convention, Yerevan, Armenia)	£650
Student Travel	Sean Strong and Domiziana Rossi	Cardiff University	Registration costs of all speakers presenting papers under the strand <i>Roman and Sasanian Networks and Entanglements</i>	£1,200
Student Travel	Sean Strong	Cardiff University	<i>Emperor Maurice and his Eastern Generals: Military Careers and Networks along the Roman-Sasanian Frontier</i> (Paper presented at IMC 2023, Leeds)	£291
Student Travel	Raffay Yousef	Oxford University	Attending a language school in Dushanbe	£100
Student Travel	Khosrow Tousi	SOAS University of London	<i>On a Global Wavelength: The Emergence of Radio Psychology in Pahlavi Iran</i> (Paper presented at the 34th Deutscher Orientalistentag Conference, Berlin)	£424

Dr Shabnam Holliday  
BIPS Research Director

## BIPS Flagship Research Project

In 2022, BIPS launched its Flagship Research Project which aimed to fund innovative research projects related to the history, literature and culture of the Iranian world in its widest sense. Two projects were selected. These will run over three years, from April 2023 to March 2026.

*Persian Manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persianate Literary Heritage.* This project, led by Professor Andrew Peacock, University of St Andrews, explores British engagement with Persian manuscript culture through British collections of Persian manuscripts, and the British role in forming Indian collections. It contributes to a more nuanced public debate over questions such as the origins and restitution of colonial artefacts by highlighting the complex histories of these manuscripts even before they reached British hands.

*Agricultural Sustainability of the Otrar Oasis.* This project, led by Dr Katie Campbell (King's College, University of Cambridge), investigates the reasons for population decline in Otrar Oasis in southern Kazakhstan and its agricultural economy. It contributes to a better understanding of a somewhat overlooked part of the Persianate world and will transform our understanding of the agricultural economy at Otrar.



Aerial photograph of the Otrar Oasis archaeological site. ©Katie Campbell.

## Collaboration between the Iran Society and BIPS

In the third and final year of our joint programme, the Iran Society is pleased to have provided funds to BIPS to award grants to two PhD students to assist them in their final write-up year, when their funds are drying up. The aim was to support students working on subjects that are of general interest.

£5000 was awarded, split between the following students:

Sean Strong (Cardiff University), *Generals and Rulers in Theophylact Simocatta's History: Ideals and Practices of Roman and Sasanian Leadership in a Time of Transition*.

Friederike Jürcke (Cambridge University), *Modelling movement across the Iranian Plateau in the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE*.

Sean Strong subsequently gave an excellently polished lecture on his subject to a joint Iran Society/BIPS audience. Those who received awards in previous years have all completed their theses.

The Iran Society is grateful to BIPS for adjudicating the awards and to Imogen Edwards for her efficient organisation of the applications and interviews with the short-listed candidates.

Antony Wynn  
Chairman, The Iran Society  
[www.iransociety.org](http://www.iransociety.org)



Zal and Rudabah. *Shahnamah*, Mughal, early 17th century. Artist: Qasim. Add 5600, f. 42v. ©The British Library.

## Excavating the Archives: David Stronach's fieldwork in Iran with BIPS

David Stronach OBE FSA (1931 - 2020) was a leading figure in the field of Iranian archaeology and founding Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies. He left behind an extensive archive of his pioneering excavations in Iran, which are currently being digitised at the Pourdavoud Centre at UCLA (a first report on these activities is in the BIPS Annual Review 2022, pp. 18-20). The digitised files are then sent to the UK to be reviewed and catalogued, with the eventual aim of making the digitised archive freely available online via a BIPS hosted website. The archive will also be used to generate new research and scholarly publications.

In March 2023 I travelled to the Pourdavoud Centre at UCLA, where I was kindly hosted by Dr Ali Mousavi, to begin sorting through the wealth of archival material currently held in his office. My task during the initial visit was to examine and organise the archival material in preparation for digitisation and cataloguing. From this initial review, it was evident that the archive contained extensive documentation relating to David Stronach's early excavations with BIPS at the archaeological sites of Pasargadae, Nush-i Jan, Shahr-i Qumis and Yarim Tepe.

Pasargadae, the grand capital of Cyrus the Great, was surveyed and excavated over three field seasons between 1961 and 1963, the results of which significantly advanced our understanding of this important Achaemenid centre. The excavations are well published, most notably in David's substantial final report of 1978, which remains the standard work on the site. The archival material for Pasargadae

includes 1,000 slides documenting the excavations that have now been digitised and catalogued in preparation for publication online.



Nush-i Jan is an important Median and Parthian period settlement located in the Malayer plain, which was excavated by David over five field seasons between 1967 and 1977. Related publications include three preliminary reports published in *Iran* and two monographs covering the architectural remains of the Median period as well as the small finds. Planned volumes on the ceramics, the later Parthian settlement, and a related survey of the Malayer plain remain unpublished. In terms of research and publication potential, the extensive archive for Nush-i Jan - which includes the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans and photographs - is of great importance and should be prioritised for digitisation. To date, over 500 negatives documenting the excavations and finds have been digitised alongside a number of field notebooks and registers.

Shahr-i Qumis is an extensive Parthian period site located in north-eastern Iran. David's work at the site, which was co-directed with Dr John Hansman, took place over four field seasons between 1967 and 1978. Related publications include preliminary reports published in *JRAS* and a more recent paper on the Parthian

The Tomb of Cyrus the Great at Pasargadae. From the David Stronach Archive.

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pottery from Qumis published in *Iran*. In terms of research potential, a final report has yet to be published and only short reports exist for the final two field seasons. The Shar-i Qumis archive is similarly extensive and comprises the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans, photographs, and pottery statistics. A full appraisal of this archive can significantly enhance our understanding of this important Parthian site.

David's early work at Yarim Tepe, a mound located on the Gorgan plain, revealed an archaeological sequence spanning the Late Neolithic through to the Iron Age.

The mound was excavated over two seasons between 1960-62, the results of which remain largely unpublished. On reviewing the available archival material for Yarim Tepe, which again includes much of the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans, and photographs, it was decided that the material should be digitised in preparation for a final report on the excavations. To



achieve this, I travelled to UCLA for a second time in May to catalogue and collect the Yarim Tepe archive.

Currently, I am in the process of sorting, digitising, and transcribing the available material in preparation for publication. Despite the wealth of material to hand, this is proving to be quite the puzzle, involving the slow but rewarding processes of patching together descriptions, sketches, photographs, and notes – some of which are scribbled on the back of envelopes – to build up a picture of the excavations. Unfortunately, there appears to be some gaps in the documentation. As is often the case with archaeological excavations, the amount of detail recorded can vary considerably between trenches and their respective supervisors. Some field

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Excavating the Columned Hall at Nush-i Jan. From the David Stronach Archive.

notebooks feature thorough descriptions of the excavations accompanied by drawings, plans and levels. Others contain very little in the way of useful information. Many of the excavation photographs do not have accompanying captions, the subjects of which must be identified by comparing images with plans, sketches, and field descriptions. The same is true of the pottery drawings, which require considerable work before we can start to produce a valuable ceramic sequence for the site. Nevertheless, much progress is being made and the preliminary results look very promising. It is hoped that the publication of this material can make a significant contribute to the field and will provide a fitting tribute to the pioneering work of David Stronach.

Dr Gareth Brereton  
University of York/BIPS



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Excavations at Shar-i Qumis. From the David Stronach Archive.

## Outreach

### 2022-2023 Events

8 March 2023	Modern Iran: A global history "from below"	The Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture, co-organised by BIPS and IMeEIS, University of Durham.  In person event at the Calman Learning Centre, Durham University; with Stephanie Cronin
1-2 March 2023	Conference: Persian Impact on History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia	[BIPS sponsored event]  In person event at the Centre for the Arts and Library, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata
1 March 2023	Bringing Wales and Iran together through academia and beyond	[Event coorganised by BIPS and Wales Week/Iran]  On-line (via Zoom) talk by John Price; chaired by Andrew Newman
22 February 2023	Agreeable News from Persia: What 18th and early 19th-century American newspaper readers knew about contemporary events in Iran	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Daniel T. Potts; chaired by Andrew Newman
18 January 2023	Making and Unmaking Community: Urban Life in Persianate Rajasthan	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Elizabeth Thelen; chaired by Andrew Newman
7 December 2022	Economic and Cultural Renaissance at Kartid Herat, 1251 to 1381	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Shivan Mahendrarajah; chaired by Andrew Newman
2-3 December 2022	Conference: Safavid Majmu's(s) and jung(s): History, Philology, and Arts of the Book	[BIPS sponsored event]  In person event at the University of Oxford; convened by Mahroo Moosavi

28 November 2022	Rivalling Rome: Parthian coins and culture	AGM Lecture by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  Hybrid event: on-line (via Zoom) and in person at The British Academy
19 October 2022	Humayun Padshah and Iran: Safavid Present and Mythical Past	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Ebba Koch; chaired by Andrew Newman
21 September 2022	A Persianate Japanology? The Reach and Limits of Inter-Asian Exchange	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Nile Green; chaired by Andrew Newman
15 September to 10 October 2022	Afghanistan: From Buddhism to Islam (8th to 13th century)	[Organised by the Invisible East programme, Oxford, with technical support from BIPS]  Series of five online talks by Llewelyn Morgan, Aezou Azad, Alka Patel, Majid M. Mahdi, Reza Huseini
7-8 September 2022	Conference: Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World	Conference of the BIPS Medieval Programme  In person event at the University of St Andrews; convened by Andrew Peacock
20 July 2022	The Mobility of Persian Artefacts: The Sanguszko Carpet in Motion	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Yuka Kadoi; chaired by Andrew Newman
29 June 2022	Roi sur Trône: the Achaemenid Royal Audience in Late Qajar Media	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Lindsay Allen; chaired by Andrew Newman

18 June 2022	William Dalrymple in Conversation	[Event coorganised by BIPS, University of York, Jaipur Literature Festival]  1st Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture  In person event at the University of York; with William Dalrymple
25 May 2022	Persianate Aspects of the Malay-Indonesian World: Rare Manuscripts	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Majid Daneshgar; chaired by Andrew Newman
27 April 2022	The City of Isfahan as Actor: Urban Knowledge and Household Anthologies	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Kathryn Babayan; chaired by Andrew Newman
6 April 2022	Unequal Treaties and the Question of Sovereignty in Qajar and early Pahlavi Iran	The Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture, co-organised by BIPS and IMeEIS, University of Durham.  On-line (via Zoom) lecture; with Ali Gheissari

The enhancement of BIPS' online presence continued to be of particular importance over this period. Ms Silvia Ferreri spearheaded this process. BIPS now has a growing social media footprint across the most important platforms, as the accompanying data shows.

The monthly BIPS' webinar series continued apace over this past year. We held 11 events on topics ranging from Isfahani households in the Safavid period, manuscripts of the Malaysian-Indonesian world, Persianate culture in the Indian Ocean, urban life in Persianate Rajasthan, and the economic and cultural renaissance of Kartid Herat.

In addition, BIPS continued its collaboration with Durham University with which it organises the Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture. In April 2022 the Lambton Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Ali Gheissari on the topic *Unequal*

*Treaties and the Question of Sovereignty in Qajar and early Pahlavi Iran*. In March 2023, the lecture was *Modern Iran: A global history "from below"* delivered by Dr Stephanie Cronin.

In June 2022, *William Dalrymple in Conversation* was the Inaugural Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture, held at York in partnership with University of York and the Jaipur Literature Festival.

During this year, BIPS (co-) sponsored three conferences in St Andrews, Oxford, and Kolkata. BIPS also collaborated with the Invisible East programme at the University of Oxford to organise a series of five lectures which were live-streamed on the BIPS' Zoom platform. A full list of all BIPS' events over the period can be found on the [BIPS website](#).

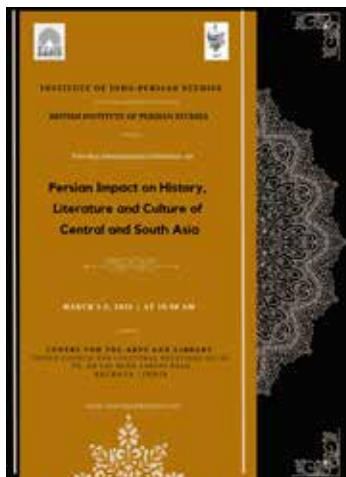


The weekly student newsletter, started in March of 2022, also with the assistance of Ms Silvia Ferreri, continued to be circulated over the past year. The newsletter contains news of events, publications, job postings and other academic announcements. Past newsletters can be found in the [Newsletter Archive page](#) on the BIPS website.

BIPS is supporting Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones' production of a series of videos in conjunction with the *Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece* exhibit at the British Museum from May 2023.

Professor Andrew Newman  
BIPS Outreach and Development Director

## Conference *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*. Kolkata, March 2023

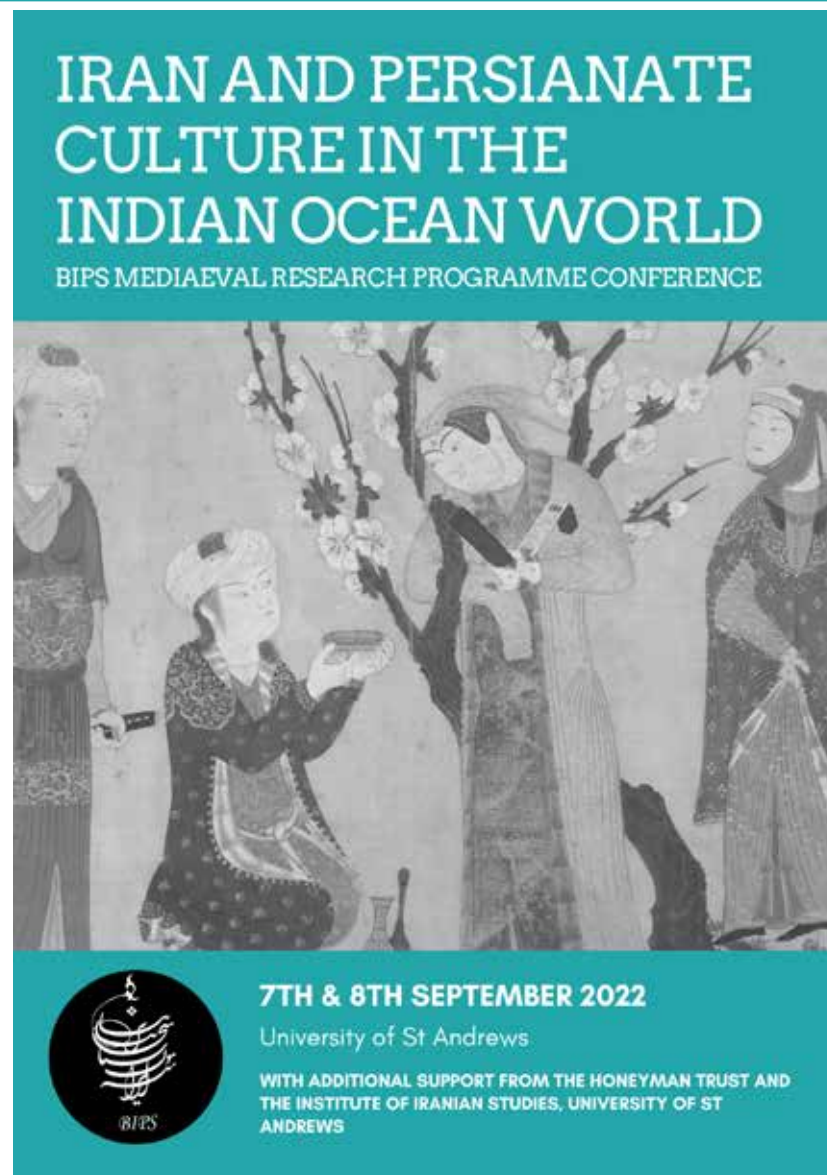


BIPS co-organised a conference on the *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*, which was held in Kolkata, India on 1-2 March 2023 in conjunction with the Institute for Indo-Persian Studies.

This highly successful conference saw a range of papers stretching from pre-Islamic to modern times delivered by representatives of BIPS, Indian and Iranian scholars, which highlighted to depth and breadth of Persian influences in South Asia.

A number of papers dealt in particular with Indo-Persian manuscripts, which represent a research priority for BIPS. In the future, BIPS hopes to expand its collaboration with the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies to shed further light on this crucial aspect of the broader Persianate world.

Professor Andrew Peacock  
Conference organiser on behalf of BIPS



Poster of the conference *Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World* held at the University of St Andrew's, Scotland, on 7-8 September 2022.

## Publications

BIPS has continued to be busy with publications with four new volumes to appear in the Persian Studies Series and the Archaeological Monograph Series.

Each year, a new volume of its journal IRAN is published (in two issues, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn). BIPS members receive a hard copy by post as a benefit of membership. An online version is available to members through BIPS's website.

### IRAN LX.I and LX.II (2022)

In 2022-23, IRAN was edited by Professor Cameron Petrie and Professor Charles Melville, both Trustees of BIPS. The journal is peer reviewed, and has an international editorial board. It also receives assistance from BIPS Trustees and Honorary Vice Presidents in reviewing submitted articles. For 60 years IRAN has maintained an international reputation for publishing significant academic articles on all aspects of Persianate study (except for modern politics), and in addition to the two issues of the journal that are published in hard copy each year, articles are also available online, and an increasing number are being published Open Access and are thus available to the general public.

Submissions are made online and the guidelines are available on the BIPS's website.

#### LX.I

Marta Ameri, <i>Who Holds the Keys? Identifying Female Administrators at Shahr-i Sokhta</i>	p.1-38
Soheila Hadipour Moradi & Bitā Sodaei, <i>Two Bronze Coins of Alexander Balas Recently Discovered in Luristan (Iran)</i>	p.39-45
Bertille Lyonnet, <i>New Insights into Sogdiana during the Classical Period (from the end of the 4th c. BCE to the 3rd c. CE)</i>	p.46-64
Ruben S. Nikoghosyan, <i>Where Did the Battle Between Wištāsp and Arjāsp Take Place?</i>	p.65-72
Andrea Squitieri, <i>The Sasanian Cemetery of Gird-i Bazar in the Peshdar Plain (Iraqi Kurdistan)</i>	p.73-90

Atri Hatef Naiemi, <i>The Ilkhanid City of Sultaniyya: Some Remarks on the Citadel and the Outer City</i>	p.91-120
Soli Shahvar, <i>'Abbas Mirza's Invitation to Europeans to Settle in Nineteenth-Century Iranian Azerbaijan: Reasons, Causes and Motives</i>	p.121-134
Ladislav Charouz, <i>Naser al-Din Shah's 1873 Visit to the World's Fair in Vienna</i>	p.135-147

#### LX.II

Sören Stark, Fiona J. Kidd, Jamal K. Mirzaakhmedov, Shujing Wang, Robert N. Spengler III, Siroj J. Mirzaakhmedov, Zachary Silvia, Silvia Pozzi, Husniddin Rakhmonov, Megan Sligar & Munira Sultanova, <i>The Uzbek-American Expedition in Bukhara. Preliminary Report on the Third Season (2017)</i>	p.149-199
V.A. Gaibov & A.B. Nikitin, <i>Göbekly-Depe in Margiana</i>	p.200-208
Arthur Stefanski, <i>Dynamics in Ceramic Production: Petrographic Analysis of Ceramics from Godin Tepe III:6 and III:5</i>	p.209-224
Hassan Karimian, Fatemeh Karimi & Simin Karimian, <i>Impact of Religious Commandments on Residential Architecture of Zoroastrians, Case Study: Dasturān District in Yazd City</i>	p.225-239
Roberta Tomber, Michela Spataro & Seth Priestman, <i>Early Islamic Torpedo Jars from Siraf: Scientific Analyses of the Clay Fabric and Source of Indian Ocean Transport Containers</i>	p.240-263
Massoumeh (Nahid) Assemi, <i>Shahnameh-ye Davari; An Ode to a Dying Art?</i>	p. 264-293

## Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series

BIPS are delighted to announce that we are entering a new publishing collaboration with Bloomsbury/IB Tauris for the publication of this series.

We have two books currently under production with our new partners. One, by Nahid Assemi, is entitled *Piety and Politics in Qajar Iran: The Takkiyya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah* and is a study of an important Qajar architectural monument. The other book is edited by Saeed Talajooy and comprises a collection of essays on the Iranian playwright and cinematographer Bahram Beyzaei, entitled *Bahram Beyzaie's Drama and Cinema: Origins, Forms and Functions*.

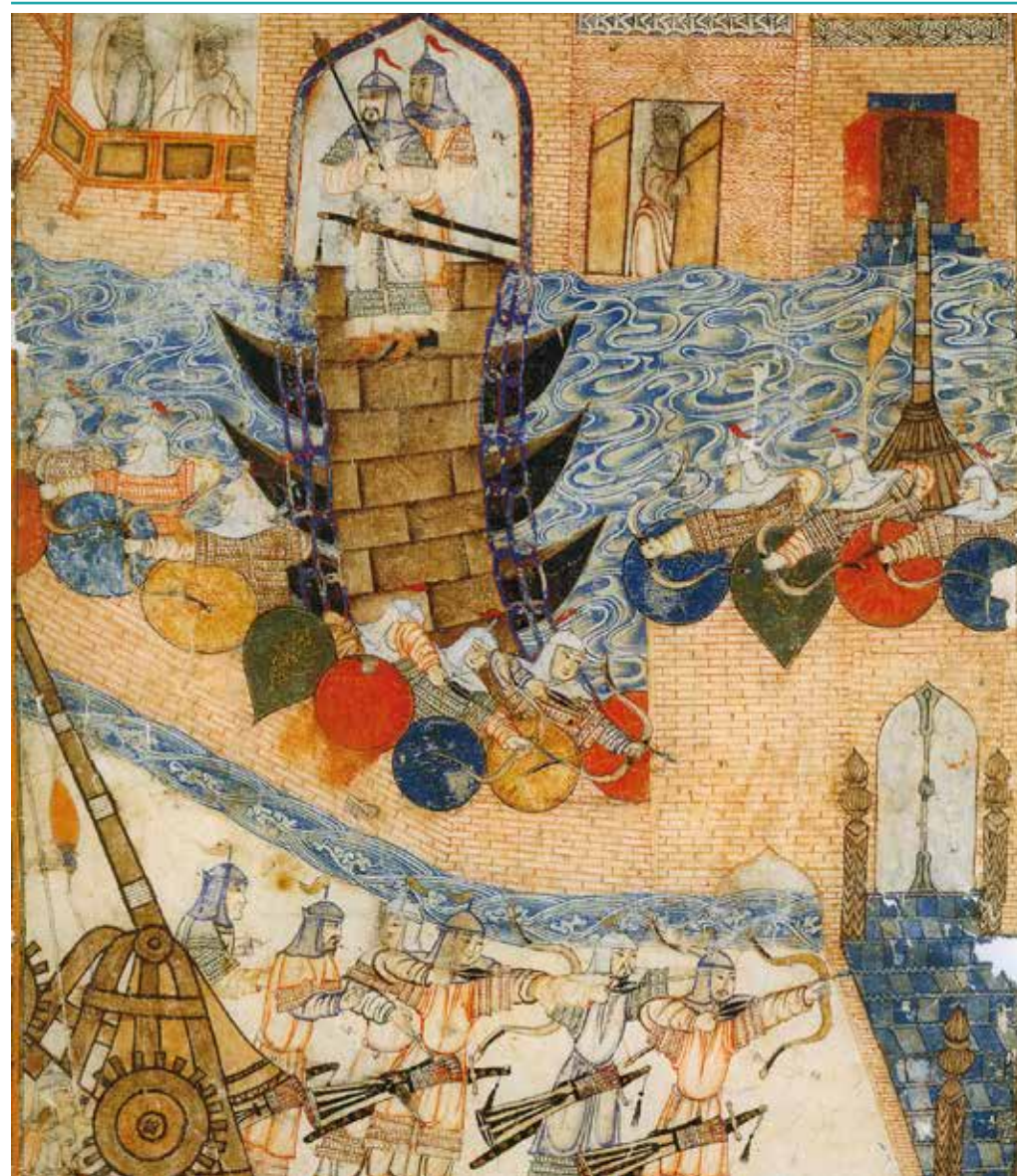
Both books will appear in early 2024, and we look forward to a productive publishing partnership with Bloomsbury.

## Archaeological Monograph Series

The Archaeological Monograph Series was established in 2009 as a joint publishing venture between BIPS and Oxbow Books to create a venue for the publication of archaeological research, particularly the results of large-scale surveys and excavations. The series is edited by Professor Cameron Petrie.

The series' seventh volume edited by Eberhard Sauer, Jebrael Nokandeh and Hamid Omrani Rekavandi entitled *Ancient Arms Race: Antiquity's Largest Fortresses and Sasanian Military Networks of Northern Iran: A joint fieldwork project by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handcraft and Tourism Organisation and the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham (2014-2016)* was published in 2022.

The eighth volume, by Seth M. N. Priestman and Derek Kennet entitled *Sasanian and Islamic Settlement and Ceramics in Southern Iran (4th to 17th Century AD): The Williamson Collection Project* is due to be published in 2023, and presents the results of fieldwork, research and analysis that has been supported by BIPS since the 1970s. It is available for pre-order from Oxbow Books.



Page 35. The Siege of Baghdad: details of illustration of Rashid-al-Din's *Jami' al-tawarikh*. Tabriz(?), 14th century. ©Staatsbibliothek Berlin.

## Financial Report

The year 2022-23 was marked by several developments intended to raise the profile and public awareness of BIPS's research programmes and contributions to the study of Iran and the Persianate world in the UK and internationally. The first of these is the inauguration of the 'Flagship' projects – substantial multi-year funding for research that fulfils our own objectives and priorities: currently with a focus on the regions beyond Iran's current borders that contributed to the enrichment of Persian culture. The two projects awarded are on 'The Agricultural sustainability of the Otrar oasis in Kazakhstan, from the 8th to the 18th century', and 'Persian manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the circulation of the Persianate literary heritage'. Both engage with broad areas of study concerning Central Asia and India and will involve rich programmes of conferences and publications, indicative also of BIPS's aim to widen our scholarly networks and support research partnerships in these regions.

The second development is the initiation of a major digitisation project, in collaboration with other Schools and Institutes of the British Academy, with an initial focus on the archives of our first director, David Stronach, whose excavation records and supporting materials are currently held in UCLA and being researched by our newly-appointed Stronach Research Fellow, based at York University. Both these initiatives will dominate our work and research expenditure in the coming years.

## THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total Restated £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations	-	171	250	421	28,054
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	196,750	196,750	135,937
Other grants		-	6,000	6,000	3,650
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		9,353	-	9,353	10,315
Publication sales		3,683	-	3,683	4,274
Hostel income		4,200	-	4,200	-
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		748	-	748	9
Income from investments		2,902	-	2,902	1,363
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		21,057	203,000	224,057	183,602

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	7,137	110,870	118,007	83,413
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	600	600	-
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	5,000	5,000	159
Office costs		3,259	30,256	33,515	24,834
Financial costs	3(b)	1,195	-	1,195	(999)
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	3,998	3,998	4,226
Outreach	3(d)	-	37,170	37,170	40,165
Conferences	3(a)	-	4,693	4,693	700
Establishment and maintenance		-	19,647	19,647	6,720
<b>Other</b>					
Computer support		-	-	-	500
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	2,700	-	2,700	3,640
Management		3,695	1,500	5,195	1,824
Legal expenses		5,766	-	5,766	3,077
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>23,752</b>	<b>213,734</b>	<b>237,486</b>	<b>168,259</b>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS		(2,695)	(10,734)	(13,429)	15,343
TRANSFERS		(6)	6	-	-
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS – UNREALISED		(2,036)	-	(2,036)	1,821
<b>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(4,737)</b>	<b>(10,728)</b>	<b>(15,465)</b>	<b>17,164</b>

TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	248,759	59,196	307,955	290,791
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>244,022</b>	<b>48,468</b>	<b>292,490</b>	<b>307,955</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	4	47,533	47,533	47,533	47,533
		<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	33,026	1,585	1,585	
Investments	7	44,883	46,920	46,920	
Cash in hand and at bank		221,718	266,874	266,874	
		<u>299,627</u>	<u>315,379</u>	<u>315,379</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors	6	<u>54,670</u>	<u>54,957</u>	<u>54,957</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>244,957</u>	<u>260,422</u>	<u>260,422</u>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>292,490</u>	<u>307,955</u>	<u>307,955</u>	
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund		213,231	217,968	217,968	
Designated Funds		30,791	30,791	30,791	
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund		1,265	1,265	1,265	
Bahari Foundation Fund		2,000	2,000	2,000	
Advanced Language Training Fund		13,260	13,260	13,260	
Basic Grant		-	10,378	10,378	
Business Development Grant		-	-	-	

Bruce Wannell's Fund

25,693

26,043

Digitisation Fund

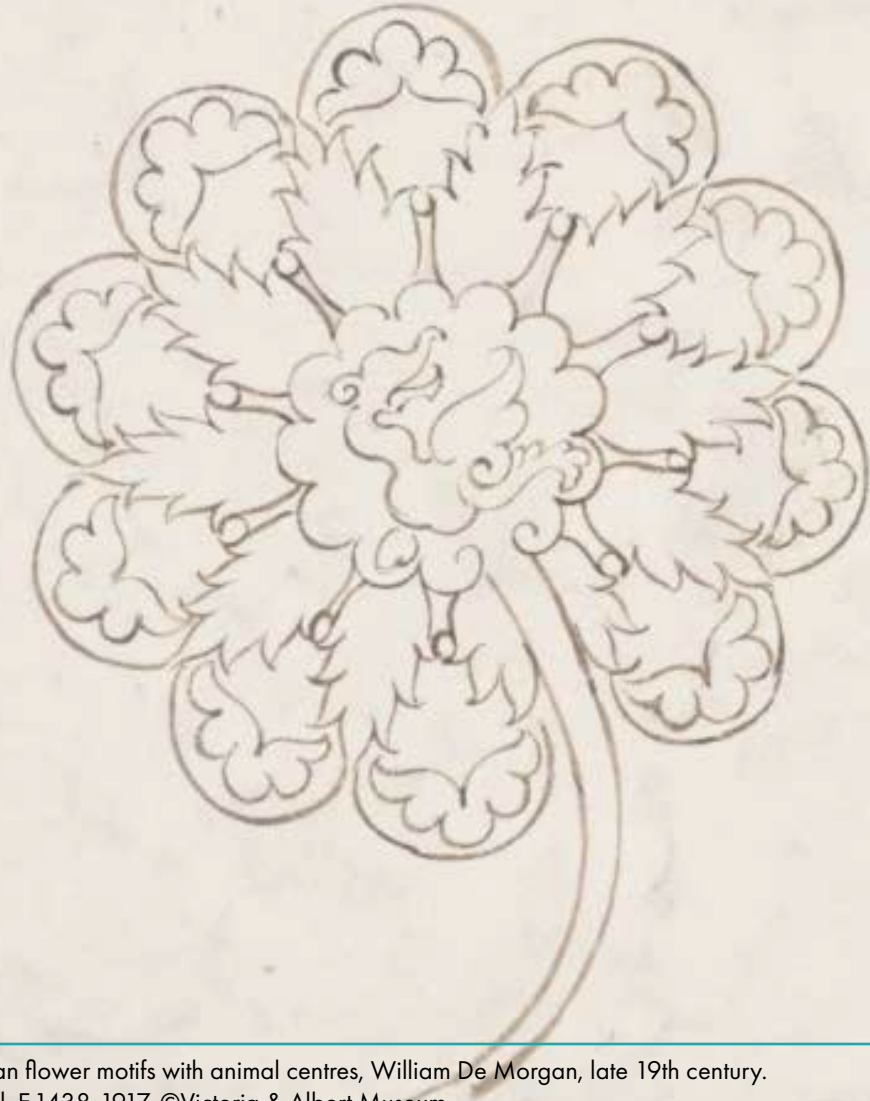
6,250

6,250

**TOTAL FUNDS**

292,490

307,955



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.  
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of BIPS is open to all, and we welcome new members. BIPS organises an extensive programme of talks, conferences and workshops throughout the year in the UK and overseas. It publishes its journal *IRAN* twice a year and occasional books in its Persian Studies Series or Archaeological Monograph Series. Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.

Membership runs from January to December, but new members can apply any time of the year. We offer four types of membership: Student (£20 a year); Corresponding (£30 a year - for non-UK members); Full (£40 a year) and Fellow (£50 a year for academics). Membership renewals or applications can be made via our website: [www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/](http://www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/)

## CONTACT DETAILS

10 Carlton House Terrace  
London, SW1Y 5AH  
+44(0)20 7969 5203  
[bips@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bips@britac.ac.uk)

1623 Dr Shariati Avenue  
Tehran, 19396-13661  
+98 (21) 2260 1045  
[bips@pol.ir](mailto:bips@pol.ir)

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 231161

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# Accounts

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**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

(Registered Charity No. 231161)

(A company limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Registered Company No. 00740813

**INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES****CONTENTS**

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**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Financial Reporting Standard 102.

**CHARITABLE STATUS**

The charity was incorporated on 14 November 1962 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity's registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England, SW1Y 5AH, registered number 231161.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mrs J A Griggs FCA  
Levicks  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent ME16 8TX

**BANKERS**

HSBC  
69 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5EY

The Co-Operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

COIF  
Senator House  
85 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4ET

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the charity are to promote and encourage the study of Iran and the wider Persianate world, the history, civilisation and culture in all periods, including the archaeology of Persian artefacts worldwide.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (continued)**

**TRUSTEES**

The members of the Governing Council are the trustees of the charity. New members of Governing Council are either elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Governing Council, subject in each case to restrictions as to numbers and term of office as described in the charity's Articles of Association.

The trustees who served the charity during the year were:

Professor Charles Melville	(President)
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis	(Vice President)
Ms Narguess Farzad	(Hon Secretary)
Mr Hossein Hamedani	(Hon Treasurer)
Professor Andrew Peacock	
Dr Cameron Petrie	
Dr Sarah Stewart	
Professor Alan Williams	
Dr Arezou Azad	
Professor Andrew Newman	
Dr Richard Piran McClary	
Dr Lindsay Allen	(Appointed on 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2021)

**ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The year 2021-22 was marked by activities surrounding the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of BIPS, with several public events at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Academy and elsewhere that went ahead despite the delays due to the persisting disruptions caused by the covid-19 pandemic. While much activity remained online, BIPS developed its public-facing presence with a series of online webinars and lectures. These attracted far wider and larger audiences than our usual lectures in the Academy.

The focus in the coming year is on the initiation of a major digitisation project, the main element of which will be the archives of our first director, David Stronach, whose excavation records and supporting materials are currently being processed in UCLA. This will be a major research resource, especially when, as intended, it will link up with the archaeological and archival databases being generated by the other British International Research Institutes of the Academy.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (continued)****FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Unrestricted funds decreased by £4,518 (2021: £7,976) to £248,759 (2021: £253,277). A restricted fund was created in the financial year ended 31 March 2012 in respect of a donation of £4,000 towards funding book publication grants. This fund had a balance of £2,000 (2021: £2,000) as at 31 March 2022. A restricted fund was created in 2013 in respect of a grant of £30,000 for advanced language training. A further grant was received in 2014 for £30,000, and a further £30,000 in 2015. There was a balance of £13,260 on this fund as at 31 March 2022 (2021: £13,260). Two further restricted funds were created in 2021. The Iran Society Fund represents monies received from The Iran Society to fund bursaries for students in the final year of their PhD. The Bruce Wannell fund has been set up to fund an annual public lecture in honour of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell. The fund is supported by external individual sponsorship and increased to £26,043 as at 31 March 2022 (2021: £4,290). The Digitisation fund is a new fund which arises from a generous UK donation in the year towards the cost of digitisation of BIPS' archive of historical archaeological and research records. The balance on the fund is £6,250 as at 31 March 2022. The designated funds set aside by the trustees for a new motor vehicle and to facilitate travel grants for research students continued to be carried forward.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the charity is exposed and can confirm that systems have been established and are in place to enable the early identification of issues so that the necessary steps can be taken to mitigate those risks.

**RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain reserves at a level to ensure obligations relating to restricted funds can be met, to allow funds to be set aside for future investment when the situation eases in Iran, and to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately between three and six months of the total expenditure of the charity. The trustees believe that this provides a sufficient level of funding buffer to cover the expenditure arising in furtherance of the charity's objectives, and in its management and administration.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (continued)**

**TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of The British Institute of Persian Studies for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Signatories:**

Professor Charles Melville  
President

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
Vice President

24 October 2022

24 October 2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 21.

*Responsibilities and basis of report*

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

*Independent examiner's report*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX

J A GRIGGS FCA  
LEVICKS  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

8 November 2022

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Unrestricted Notes	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations		51	28,003	28,054	4,321
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	135,937	135,937	137,187
Other grants		-	3,650	3,650	-
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		10,315	-	10,315	8,603
Publication sales		4,274	-	4,274	3,813
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		9	-	9	25
Income from investments		1,363	-	1,363	1,432
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		16,012	167,590	183,602	155,381
		-----	-----	-----	-----

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**EXPENDITURE ON:**

	Unrestricted Notes	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		Funds		
		£	£	£
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	19,973	63,440	83,413
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	-	-
Book publication costs	3(a)	159	-	5,408
London office costs		3,135	21,699	24,834
Financial costs	3(b)	(999)	-	(999)
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	4,226	4,097
Outreach	3(d)	13	40,152	40,165
Conferences	3(a)	-	700	700
Research committee		-	-	1,968
Development Committee and database		-	-	-
Tehran establishment expenses		-	6,720	6,720
<b>Other</b>				
Computer support		-	500	500
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	3,248	392	3,640
Management		1,824	-	1,824
Legal expenses		3,077	-	3,077
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>30,430</b>	<b>137,829</b>	<b>168,259</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS TRANSFERS</b>				
		(14,418)	29,761	15,343
		8,079	(8,079)	-
<b>GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS - UNREALISED</b>				
		1,821	-	1,821
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(4,518)</b>	<b>21,682</b>	<b>17,164</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>253,277</b>	<b>37,514</b>	<b>290,791</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>248,759</b>	<b>59,196</b>	<b>290,791</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4		-		-
Other Tangible Assets	4		47,533		47,533
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			47,533		47,533
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	1,585		3,336	
Investments	7	46,920		45,099	
Cash in hand and at bank		266,874		268,857	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			315,379		317,292
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors	6	54,957		74,034	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>260,422</u>		<u>243,258</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund			217,968		222,486
Designated Funds			30,791		30,791
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund			1,265		1,265
Bahari Foundation Fund			2,000		2,000
Advanced Language Training Fund			13,260		13,260
Basic Grant			10,378		8,620
Business Development Grant			-		8,079
Bruce Wannell's Fund			26,043		4,290
Digitisation Fund			6,250		-
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>307,955</u>		<u>290,791</u>
			<hr/>		<hr/>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022 (continued)**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

In preparing the financial statements:

- a) The directors are of the opinion that the company is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- b) No notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to its financial statements for the financial year, and
- c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
  - i. Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - ii. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

Professor Charles Melville - President

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis – Vice President

24 October 2022

Company registration number: 00740813

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. Investments are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard 102. The company is a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, being the functional currency of the charity.

**Fund accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at market values.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Governing Council for particular purposes.
- Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates, in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:-

Leasehold Buildings	2.5% straight line
---------------------	--------------------

The leasehold building was fully depreciated to a £nil net book value as at 31 March 2016. Library books are no longer capitalised but shown as an expense in the statement of financial activities. Furniture and equipment and motor vehicles bought before 1995 were formerly depreciated at 15% and 25% respectively on the reducing balance basis. Those assets have now been fully depreciated. Since 1995 assets purchased by the charity have been expensed through the statement of financial activities. However, if a significant capital expenditure is being proposed, the trustees consider whether this treatment is appropriate in relation to the specific transaction concerned.

**Investments**

Short term investments are held to generate funds. They are included at market value with gains and losses on revaluation being shown in the statement of financial activities.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Institute, are recognised when the Institute becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included as it accrues.
- Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned.

**Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Institute in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Institute and include the independent examiners' fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Institute.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. All costs are allocated directly to a particular activity.

**2. GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES**

Grants received from government and other public bodies comprised £135,937 from The British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences and £3,650 from The Iran Society paid specifically for and on the occasion of bursaries to scholars in the final year of their PhD. The grant from The British Academy has been given on a restricted basis since 2015/16.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES****3(a) Direct funding of scholarly activity**

Direct funding of scholarly activity comprises grants, workshops and lectures, journal expenses, book publication costs, language teaching and conferences. This amounted to £88,498 (2021: £87,653).

**3(b) Financial costs**

These comprise:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank charges	187	144
(Gain) / Loss on foreign exchange	(1,186)	(83)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>(999)</u>	<u>61</u>

**3(c) Grant expenditure**

All grants were for the purposes of academic research which includes travel and attendance at conferences.

**3(d) Outreach**

Costs totalling £40,165 in 2022, comprised website costs £4,028, anniversary costs £16,749 and assistant costs £19,388 (2021: £1,675 website costs, £10,700 anniversary costs, £126 lecture expenses and £7,842 assistant costs).

**3(e) Examination and accountancy**

The annual cost of the independent examination of the Institute's financial statements for the year is £2,600 (2021: £2,520).

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**4. FIXED ASSETS**

**Tangible**

	<b>Leasehold Premises</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Library Books</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At end of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At end of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2021	-	-	47,533	47,533
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At 31 March 2022	-	-	47,533	47,533
	_____	_____	_____	_____

**5. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	1,585	3,336
	_____	_____
	1,585	3,336
	_____	_____

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Creditors	14,131	21,303
Accruals	40,826	52,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54,957	74,034
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**7. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charities Official Investment Fund (at cost)	14,656	14,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value	46,920	45,099
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All investments are held in the United Kingdom

**8. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and allowances	52,956	25,579
Social Security costs	661	3,342
Pension costs	5,296	4,204
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	58,913	33,125
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 2 (2021: 2)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**9. PAYMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT**

1 member of Council received travel and other expenses totalling £1,824 (2021: £163).

**10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions in the year.

**11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets:				
Leasehold Property	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	47,533	-	-	47,533
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,533</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	33	-	1,552	1,585
Investments	46,920	-	-	46,920
Cash in hand and at bank	178,439	30,791	57,644	266,874
	<u>225,392</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>59,196</u>	<u>315,379</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)				
Trade creditors	54,957	-	-	54,957
	<u>54,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,957</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>170,435</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>59,196</u>	<u>260,422</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>217,968</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>59,196</u>	<u>307,955</u>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**12. FUNDS**

**(a) FUND PURPOSES**

***UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**General Fund** - This represents funds available to be spent or applied at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

**Institute Building** - This represents the unamortised balance of the cost of the Institute's building in Tehran. The building is not, under present arrangements, freely disposable.

***DESIGNATED FUNDS:***

**BIPS UG/PG Travel Fund** - This fund represents monies to be used to facilitate travel by research students to Iran.

**Motor Vehicles** - This fund represents money set aside to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle.

***RESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**Bahari Foundation Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute towards its special series publications.

**Advanced Language Training Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for the provision of advanced language training for research students.

**Conference Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for promoting and encouraging study of Iran and the wider Persianate world.

**Development Fund** - This fund represents the balance of grant monies from the British Academy for the four distinct purposes of funding a development committee, refurbishment of the premises in Tehran, staff restructuring in Tehran, website improvements.

**Basic Fund** - This fund represents the balance of basic grant from the British Academy used for the core charitable purposes of research, communications and outreach, library and collections and establishment costs.

**Iran Society** – This fund represents monies passed through the Institute from the Iran Society in respect of an arrangement to aid the provision of grants to scholars in the final year of their PhD.

**Bruce Wannell Fund** – This fund has been set up in memory of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell, to fund an annual public lecture in his honour at York University.

**Digitisation Fund** - This fund has been set up to contribute towards the cost of digitising BIPS archive research and archaeological material.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**12. FUNDS**

**(b) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:**

	Designated Funds			Total £	Total £
	General Fund £	Motor Vehicles £	BIPS UG/PG Travel £		
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2020	214,510	10,791	20,000	30,791	245,301
Income	13,904	-	-	-	13,904
Expenses	(14,771)	-	-	-	(14,771)
Net income/expenses	(867)	-	-	-	(867)
Transfers	3,825	-	-	-	3,825
Gains/(losses) on investments	5,018	-	-	-	5,018
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2021	222,486	10,791	20,000	30,791	253,277
Prior year adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2021 as restated	222,486	10,791	20,000	30,791	253,277
Income	16,012	-	-	-	16,012
Expenses	(30,430)	-	-	-	(30,430)
Net income/(expenses)	(14,418)	-	-	-	(14,418)
Transfers	8,079	-	-	-	8,079
Gains/(losses) on investments	1,821	-	-	-	1,821
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2022	217,968	10,791	20,000	30,791	248,759

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**12. FUNDS (CONT'D)**

**(c) RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Bruce Wannell</b>	<b>Iran Society</b>	<b>Digitisation Fund</b>	<b>Bahrain Foundation UG/PG Travel</b>	<b>Advanced Language Training</b>	<b>Conference Fund</b>	<b>Development Fund</b>	<b>Basic Fund</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2020	-	-	-	2,000	13,260	1,265	25,332	-	41,857
Income	4,290	3,350	-	-	-	-	26,279	107,558	141,477
Expenses	-	(3,350)	-	-	-	-	(31,507)	(107,138)	(141,995)
Net income/(expenses)	4,290	-	-	-	-	-	(5,228)	420	(518)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,025)	8,200	(3,825)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2021	4,290	-	-	2,000	13,260	1,265	8,079	8,620	37,514
Income	21,753	3,650	6,250	-	-	-	26,791	109,146	167,590
Expenses	-	(3,650)	-	-	-	-	(26,791)	(107,388)	(137,829)
Net income/(expenses)	21,753	-	6,250	-	-	-	-	1,758	29,761
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	(8,079)	-	(8,079)
Balance carried forward As at 31 March 2022	26,043	-	6,250	2,000	13,260	1,265	-	10,378	59,196

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****13. TEHRAN EXPENSES**

Funds are received and expended in Tehran through a current bank account and petty cash account held and maintained in Iran. The transactions are reflected in this note for reference only and are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the transactions are not through bank accounts held in the United Kingdom. During the year ended 31 March 2021 a deposit account was opened.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2021	4,202	4,119
Income	21,200	17,087
Hostel maintenance	(11,342)	(5,339)
Utilities	(868)	(1,104)
Office expenses	(7,528)	(6,144)
Foreign exchange difference	(276)	(4,417)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2022	5,388	4,202
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**14. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Charity is constituted by its memorandum and articles of association. The registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, England SW1Y 5AH. The company's registered number is 00740813 and the charity number is 231161.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**15. TRANSFERS**

**Year Ended 31 March 2022**

A transfer of £8,079 was made during the year from the restricted Business Development Fund to the unrestricted General Fund. This was in respect of a retrospective reallocation relating to expenses paid out of the General Fund during the year ended 31 March 2020. The reallocation was agreed by the British Academy.

**Year Ended 31 March 2021**

A transfer of £12,025 was made during the year from the restricted Business Development Fund to the restricted Basic Grant Fund. This was in respect of expenses incurred during the year ended 31 March 2020 which were within the remit of the Business Development Grant but had not been allocated against that fund.

A transfer of £6,303 was made from the restricted Basic Grant Fund to the unrestricted General Fund. This was to reimburse the General Fund for the transfer made in 2020 which was to cover the Basic Grant Fund deficit during the year to 31 March 2020. As a consequence of the transfer of the 2020 costs to the Business Development Fund the requirement to cover the deficit no longer applied and the money was returned to unrestricted funds.

A transfer of £2,478 was made from the unrestricted General Fund to the restricted Basic Grant Fund to cover the overspend on the Basic Grant Fund.

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 231161

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# Accounts

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**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

(Registered Charity No. 231161)

(A company limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Registered Company No. 00740813

**INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

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**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Financial Reporting Standard 102.

**CHARITABLE STATUS**

The charity was incorporated on 14 November 1962 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity's registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH, registered number 231161.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mrs J A Griggs FCA  
Levicks  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers  
61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent ME16 8TX

**BANKERS**

HSBC  
69 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5EY

The Co-Operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

COIF  
Senator House  
85 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4ET

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the charity are to promote and encourage the study of Iran and the wider Persianate world, the history, civilisation and culture in all periods, including the archaeology of Persian artefacts worldwide.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (continued)**

**TRUSTEES**

The members of the Governing Council are the trustees of the charity. New members of Governing Council are either elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Governing Council, subject in each case to restrictions as to numbers and term of office as described in the charity's Articles of Association.

The trustees who served the charity during the year were:

Professor Charles Melville	(President)
Dr Lloyd Ridgeon	(Vice President to 7 December 2020)
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis	(Vice President from 7 December 2020)
Ms Narguess Farzad	(Hon Secretary)
Mr Hossein Hamedani	(Hon Treasurer from 7 December 2020)
Professor Andrew Peacock	
Dr Cameron Petrie	
Dr Sarah Stewart	
Professor Alan Williams	
Dr Arezou Azad	
Professor Andrew Newman	
Dr Richard Piran McClary	

**ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT**

2020-21 was a challenging year for The British Institute of Persian Studies given the worldwide impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying lockdowns in the UK, which precluded live events and impeded all research projects involving travel. The Institute responded to these challenges by enhancing its online presence – improving its website and organising online events – and diversifying the ways in which it supports academic research on the wider Persianate world.

In the next financial year the Institute will seek to continue its wide-ranging research programme while expending efforts to enhance its outreach during this, its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The anniversary will be marked in a series of events celebrating BIPS's contribution to scholarship in the past while looking at ways in which it can continue to be effective in the future. While its live events will be concentrated in the UK it will continue to develop its regular programme of online lectures, thereby extending its international reach.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (continued)****FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Unrestricted funds increased by £7,976 (2020: £5,201) to £253,277 (2020: £245,301). A restricted fund was created in the financial year ended 31 March 2012 in respect of a donation of £4,000 towards funding book publication grants. This fund had a balance of £2,000 (2020: £2,000) as at 31 March 2021. A restricted fund was created in 2013 in respect of a grant of £30,000 for advanced language training. A further grant was received in 2014 for £30,000, and a further £30,000 in 2015. There was a balance of £13,260 on this fund as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £13,260). Two further restricted funds were created this year. The Iran Society Fund represents monies received from The Iran Society to fund bursaries for students in the final year of their PhD. The Bruce Wannell fund has been set up to fund an annual public lecture in honour of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell. The fund is supported by external individual sponsorship. Restricted funds decreased to £37,514 as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £41,857). The designated funds set aside by the trustees for a new motor vehicle and to facilitate travel grants for research students continued to be carried forward.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the charity is exposed, and can confirm that systems have been established and are in place to enable the early identification of issues so that the necessary steps can be taken to mitigate those risks.

**RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain reserves at a level to ensure obligations relating to restricted funds can be met, to allow funds to be set aside for future investment when the situation eases in Iran, and to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately between three and six months of the total expenditure of the charity. The trustees believe that this provides a sufficient level of funding buffer to cover the expenditure arising in furtherance of the charity's objectives, and in its management and administration.

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (continued)****TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of The British Institute of Persian Studies for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Signatories:**

Professor Charles Melville  
President

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis  
Vice President

Dated: 18 November 2021

Dated: 20 November 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 21.

*Responsibilities and basis of report*

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

*Independent examiner's report*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

61 London Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 8TX

J A GRIGGS FCA  
LEVICKS  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

25 November 2021

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Unrestricted Notes	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total Restated
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations		31	4,290	4,321	28
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	137,187	137,187	134,547
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Subscriptions		8,603	-	8,603	8,540
Publication sales		3,813	-	3,813	4,039
<b>Investments</b>					
Bank interest		25	-	25	840
Income from investments		1,432	-	1,432	1,098
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>13,904</b>	<b>141,477</b>	<b>155,381</b>	<b>149,092</b>
		_____	_____	_____	_____

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**EXPENDITURE ON:**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total Restated
		£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	4,752	72,121	76,873	70,450
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	-	-	4,018
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	5,408	5,408	-
London office costs		5,409	22,819	28,228	27,598
Financial costs	3(b)	(83)	144	61	116
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	4,097	4,097	7,209
Outreach	3(d)	-	20,343	20,343	16,481
Conferences	3(a)	-	1,275	1,275	960
Research committee		-	1,968	1,968	3,066
Development Committee and database		-	-	-	-
Tehran establishment expenses		999	7,529	8,528	-
<b>Other</b>					
Computer support		143	4,791	4,934	4,888
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	2,520	-	2,520	2,502
Management		163	-	163	2,479
Legal expenses		868	1,500	2,368	3,893
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>14,771</b>	<b>141,995</b>	<b>156,766</b>	<b>143,660</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS TRANSFERS</b>					
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS - UNREALISED		(867)	(518)	(1,385)	5,432
		3,825	(3,825)	-	-
		5,018	-	5,018	(539)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>7,976</b>	<b>(4,343)</b>	<b>3,633</b>	<b>4,893</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>245,301</b>	<b>41,857</b>	<b>287,158</b>	<b>282,265</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>253,277</b>	<b>37,514</b>	<b>290,791</b>	<b>287,158</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
				Restated	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4		-		-
Other Tangible Assets	4		47,533		47,533
			-----		-----
			47,533		47,533
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	3,336		29	
Investments	7	45,099		40,081	
Cash in hand and at bank		268,857		243,451	
			-----		-----
			317,292		283,561
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors	6	74,034		43,936	
			-----		-----
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>243,258</u>		<u>239,625</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			290,791		287,158
			-----		-----
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund			222,486		214,510
Designated Funds			30,791		30,791
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund			1,265		1,265
Bahari Foundation Fund			2,000		2,000
Advanced Language Training Fund			13,260		13,260
Basic Grant			8,620		-
Business Development Grant			8,079		25,332
Bruce Wannell's Fund			4,290		-
			-----		-----
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			290,791		287,158
			-----		-----

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021 (continued)**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

In preparing the financial statements:

- a) The directors are of the opinion that the company is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- b) No notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to its financial statements for the financial year, and
- c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
  - i. Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - ii. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved and signed on behalf of the Council of Management by:-

Professor Charles Melville - President

Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis – Vice President

Dated: 22 November 2021

Company registration number: 00740813



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)**

**Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Institute, are recognised when the Institute becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included as it accrues.
- Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned.

**Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Institute in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Institute and include the independent examiners' fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Institute.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. All costs are allocated directly to a particular activity.

**2. GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES**

Grants received from government and other public bodies comprised £133,837 from The British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences and £3,350 from The Iran Society paid specifically for and on the occasion of bursaries to scholars in the final year of their PhD. The grant from The British Academy has been given on a restricted basis since 2015/16.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES****3(a) Direct funding of scholarly activity**

Direct funding of scholarly activity comprises grants, workshops and lectures, journal expenses, book publication costs, language teaching and conferences. This amounted to £87,653 (2020: £82,637).

**3(b) Financial costs**

These comprise:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank charges	144	116
(Gain) / Loss on foreign exchange	(83)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61	116
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**3(c) Grant expenditure**

All grants were for the purposes of academic research which includes travel and attendance at conferences.

**3(d) Outreach**

Costs totalling £20,343 in 2021, comprised website costs £1,675, anniversary costs £10,700, lecture expenses £126 and assistant costs £7,842 (2020: £6,827 website costs £722 book launch, £296 lecture expenses and £8,636 assistant costs).

**3(e) Examination and accountancy**

The annual cost of the independent examination of the Institute's financial statements for the year is £2,520 (2020: £2,502).

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**4. FIXED ASSETS**

**Tangible**

	<b>Leasehold Premises</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Library Books</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At end of year	250,656	27,419	47,533	325,608
	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At beginning of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At end of year	250,656	27,419	-	278,075
	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2021	-	-	47,533	47,533
	_____	_____	_____	_____
At 31 March 2020	-	-	47,533	47,533
	_____	_____	_____	_____

**5. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	3,336	29
	_____	_____
	3,336	29
	_____	_____

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Creditors	21,303	5,329
Accruals	52,731	38,607
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	74,034	43,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**7. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charities Official Investment Fund (at cost)	14,656	14,656
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value	45,099	40,081
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All investments are held in the United Kingdom

**8. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and allowances	25,579	27,809
Social Security costs	3,342	567
Pension costs	4,204	4,284
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33,125	32,660
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 2 (2020: 2)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**9. PAYMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT**

1 member of Council received travel and other expenses totalling £163 (2020: 10 members received £1,942).

**10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There were no related party transactions in the year.

**11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets:				
Leasehold Property	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	47,533	-	-	47,533
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,533</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	1,784	-	1,552	3,336
Investments	45,099	-	-	45,099
Cash in hand and at bank	152,534	30,791	85,532	268,857
	<u>199,417</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>87,084</u>	<u>317,292</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)				
Trade creditors	24,464	-	49,570	74,034
	<u>24,464</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,570</u>	<u>74,034</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>174,953</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>37,514</u>	<u>243,258</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>222,486</u>	<u>30,791</u>	<u>37,514</u>	<u>290,791</u>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**12. FUNDS**

**(a) FUND PURPOSES**

***UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**General Fund** - This represents funds available to be spent or applied at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

**Institute Building** - This represents the unamortised balance of the cost of the Institute's building in Tehran. The building is not, under present arrangements, freely disposable.

***DESIGNATED FUNDS:***

**BIPS UG/PG Travel Fund** - This fund represents monies to be used to facilitate travel by research students to Iran.

**Motor Vehicles** - This fund represents money set aside to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle.

***RESTRICTED FUNDS:***

**Bahari Foundation Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute towards its special series publications.

**Advanced Language Training Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for the provision of advanced language training for research students.

**Conference Fund** - This fund represents money given to the Institute by the British Academy for promoting and encouraging study of Iran and the wider Persianate world.

**Development Fund** - This fund represents the balance of grant monies from the British Academy for the four distinct purposes of funding a development committee, refurbishment of the premises in Tehran, staff restructuring in Tehran, website improvements.

**Basic Fund** - This fund represents the balance of basic grant from the British Academy used for the core charitable purposes of research, communications and outreach, library and collections and establishment costs.

**Iran Society** – This fund represents monies passed through the Institute from the Iran Society in respect of an arrangement to aid the provision of grants to scholars in the final year of their PhD.

**Bruce Wannell Fund** – This fund has been set up in memory of the Iranian Scholar Bruce Wannell, to fund an annual public lecture in his honour at York University.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**12. FUNDS**

**(b) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:**

	General	Designated Funds		Total	Total
	Fund	Motor	BIPS		
		Vehicles	UG/PG		
	£	£	Travel	£	£
			£		
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2019	221,839	10,791	20,000	30,791	252,630
Income	14,545	-	-	-	14,545
Expenses	(2,502)	-	-	-	(2,502)
Net income/expenses	12,043	-	-	-	12,043
Transfers	(6,303)	-	-	-	(6,303)
Gains/(losses) on investments	(539)	-	-	-	(539)
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2020	227,040	10,791	20,000	30,791	257,831
Prior year adjustment	(12,530)	-	-	-	(12,530)
Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2020 as restated	214,510	10,791	20,000	30,791	245,301
Income	13,904	-	-	-	13,904
Expenses	(14,771)	-	-	-	(14,771)
Net income/(expenses)	(867)	-	-	-	(867)
Transfers	3,825	-	-	-	3,825
Gains/(losses) on investments	5,018	-	-	-	5,018
Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2021	222,486	10,791	20,000	30,791	253,277

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**12. FUNDS (CONT'D)**

**(c) RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Bruce Wannell</b>	<b>Iran Society vehicles</b>	<b>Bahrain Foundation UG/PG Travel</b>	<b>Advanced Language Training</b>	<b>Conference Fund</b>	<b>Development Fund</b>	<b>Basic Fund</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2019	-	-	2,000	13,260	1,265	9,078	4,032	29,635
Income	-	-	-	-	-	25,890	108,657	134,547
Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(9,636)	(118,992)	(128,628)
Net income/(expenses)	-	-	-	-	-	16,254	(10,335)	5,919
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,303	6,303
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2020	-	-	2,000	13,260	1,265	25,332	-	41,857
Income	4,290	3,350	-	-	-	26,279	107,558	141,477
Expenses	-	(3,350)	-	-	-	(31,507)	(107,138)	(141,995)
Net income/(expenses)	4,290	-	-	-	-	(5,228)	420	(518)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	(12,025)	8,200	(3,825)
Balance carried forward As at 31 March 2021	4,290	-	2,000	13,260	1,265	8,079	8,620	37,514

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****13. TEHRAN EXPENSES**

Funds are received and expended in Tehran through a current bank account and petty cash account held and maintained in Iran. The transactions are reflected in this note for reference only and are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the transactions are not through bank accounts held in the United Kingdom. During the year ended 31 March 2021 a deposit account was opened.

	2021	2020
	£	Restated £
Balance at 1 April 2020	4,119	3,110
Income	17,087	21,789
Hostel maintenance	(5,339)	(4,971)
Utilities	(1,104)	(2,040)
Office expenses	(6,144)	(10,406)
Foreign exchange difference	(4,417)	(3,363)
	—————	—————
Balance at 31 March 2021	4,202	4,119
	—————	—————

**14. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Charity is constituted by its memorandum and articles of association. The registered office is 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. The company's registered number is 00740813 and the charity number is 231161.

**15. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

As at 31 March 2020 an incorrect exchange rate was used to translate the balance of the Institute bank account held in Tehran. Consequently, the Tehran bank account was overstated by £12,530.

The financial statements for the year to 31 March 2020 have therefore been restated in these accounts with the associated reduction in funds adjusted on the brought forward unrestricted reserves.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**16. TRANSFERS**

A transfer of £12,025 was made during the year from the restricted Business Development Fund to the restricted Basic Grant Fund. This was in respect of expenses incurred during the year ended 31 March 2020 which were within the remit of the Business Development Grant but had not been allocated against that fund.

A transfer of £6,303 was made from the restricted Basic Grant Fund to the Unrestricted Fund. This was to reimburse the Unrestricted Fund for the transfer made in 2020 which was to cover the Basic Grant Fund deficit during the year to 31 March 2020. As a consequence of the transfer of the 2020 costs to the Business Development Fund the requirement to cover the deficit no longer applies and the money can be returned to unrestricted funds.

A transfer of £2,478 was made from the Unrestricted Fund to the Basic Grant Fund to cover the overspend on the Basic Grant Fund.