

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 259262

Details

Other names THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES, THE LIBYA SOCIETY

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1970-01-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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10 Carlton House Terrace
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Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF STUDIES IN REGARD TO LIBYA. (FOR DETAILS SEE RULES)

Activities: To promote the study of the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, and customs of Libya and Northern Africa ;to provide facilities to this end by means of travel grants and the like;to organize and promote missions to Libya;to hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions and to publish periodicals and other literature pertaining to the Society's areas of interest

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNRESTRICTED
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£0	£0	-
2024-03-31	£196,052	£230,192	-	-
2023-03-31	£187,444	£148,566	-	-
2022-03-31	£107,014	£118,655	-	-
2021-03-31	£105,983	£120,058	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Professor Corisande Fenwick BA PhD	Chair	2014-12-05
David Oliver Kimberley MA ACA		2019-12-05
Dr Barbara Spadaro PhD		2022-06-30
Dr Elizabeth Nichole Sheldrick		2019-12-05
Dr Hisham Mattar		2022-04-01
Dr Valeria Vitale BA PhD		2023-06-14
Professor David Atkinson BSc PHD		2021-12-08
Professor Nicholas Barton DPhil FSA		2022-06-30
Professor PAUL BENNETT		2000-12-07
Salem El-Maiar MPhil FRGS		2020-12-03

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 259262

Accounts

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN
AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

ANNUAL REVIEW

2023-24



BILNAS
BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN
& NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

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ABOUT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

The British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS) was founded as The Society for Libyan Studies, an unincorporated association governed in accordance with its Rules, in 1969. Its aims are to encourage and co-ordinate scholarship on Libya and Northern Africa and to foster relations between scholars in the region and those working outside the region. To this end, it seeks through its activities:

- to support and undertake research relating to the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, customs and natural history of Libya and Northern Africa;
- to organise and promote missions in the region for these purposes;
- to co-operate with other organisations sharing the same fields of interest;
- to arrange for the publication of research in these fields;
- to hold lectures and meetings, to publish an annual journal (*Libyan Studies*) and other publications which will enhance and promote public knowledge of all aspects of Libyan and Northern African culture and society.

BILNAS receives the major part of its funds from the British Academy, to be used 'to benefit the UK research endeavour'. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to confirm that the grant payments from the British Academy have been applied in accordance with the agreement between the Academy and BILNAS, and the aims and objectives of BILNAS as stated in its rules and declared to the Charity Commission. Council confirms that, in respect of the accounts presented herewith, this is so.

The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years; the Director is elected for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years; the Assistant Director, the Treasurer, the Head of Mission, the Honorary Collections Officer and the Editor of the BILNAS journal are elected annually and may be re-elected without limit; the remainder of the Council is composed of up to eight Ordinary Members who are elected annually and may be re-elected, subject to a maximum continuous period of service of four years. In proposing Ordinary Members for election, the Council seeks to secure as wide a range of skills within its fields of interest as possible. The Officers and Council, who constitute the trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Institute's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The address of BILNAS is:

c/o The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

BILNAS maintains a website at <http://www.bilnas.org>.

The General Secretary may be contacted by email at gensec@bilnas.org

Constitutional Changes

In 2023 the Council members of BILNAS made an application to the Charity Commission for England and Wales to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or CIO, with the same name; the new charity was formally registered by the Charity Commission on 20 June 2023. In order to keep the changeover simple, and to avoid the need to produce two annual reports, the old charity continued to be the vehicle through which BILNAS operated until 31 March 2024; the new CIO was dormant during this time. From 1 April 2024 BILNAS has operated through its new CIO structure and a formal application has been made to the Charity Commission to merge the old and the new charities. The old charity is registered as number 259262 and the new one as number 1203646.

This change means that BILNAS is now governed by its new Constitution rather than the old Rules. It also means that this Annual Review is for the old charity, which operated for the whole of the year to 31 March 2024, and that next year's Annual Review will be for the new charity. By synchronising the changeover from the old entity to the new one with the accounting and reporting year end, the Council hopes that readers of the Annual Review will find the changeover to be seamless.



COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The Officers and Council on 31 March 2024 were as follows:

Officers

President:	PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BARTON, BA, DEA, DPhil, FSA
Vice President:	PROFESSOR GRAEME BARKER, MA, PhD, CBE, FBA, FSA, FRGS
Director:	PROFESSOR CORISANDE FENWICK, BA, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS, FYAE
Honorary Treasurer:	OLIVER KIMBERLEY, MA, ACA
Assistant Director:	NICCOLÒ MUGNAI, BA, MA, PhD, AFHEA
Head of Mission:	PAUL BENNETT, MBE, BA, Hon. D.Litt, FSA, MCIFA
Honorary Collections Officer:	VALERIA VITALE BA, MA, MA, PhD
Editor, Libyan Studies:	VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Council:	PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON, BSc, PhD SALEM EL-MAIAR, MPhil, FRGS PROFESSOR HISHAM MATAR, FRSL NICHOLE SHELDRIK, BA, MA, DPhil BARBARA SPADARO, PhD
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General Secretary:	PAULINE GRAHAM
Honorary Librarian:	DAWN WRIGHT, BA, DipLib
Publications Manager:	VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Research Grants Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The Head of Mission
PROFESSOR ALICE STEVENSON PhD, FSA (Committee Chair)
TIM REYNOLDS, BA, MA, PhD, FSALY

Publications Committee

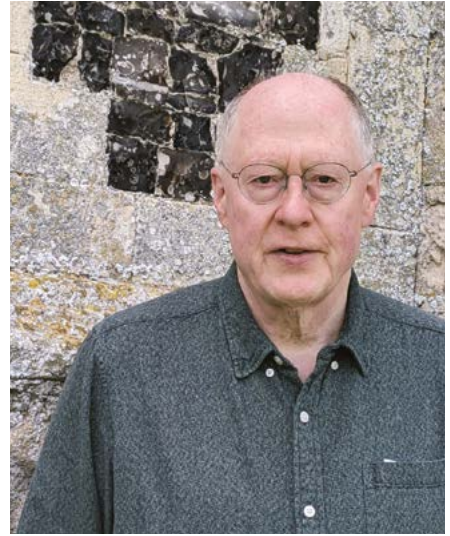
The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The General Secretary
Editor of Libyan Studies – Publications Manager

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In a highly successful year, we transformed from a Society into a renamed Institute. This entailed a number of small but important changes to our charitable status and financial arrangements that now bring us into line with the seven other British International Research Institutes. As you may know, most of our funding comes from an annual grant from the British Academy and we are pleased to report that this year we were able to maintain our activities on a broad number of fronts, illustrating how we continue to 'punch well above our weight' in terms of our organisational size. While we celebrate these achievements, at the same time we also acknowledge our concerns about the continuing struggle to secure a sustainable future in these times of financial stringency.

This year was marked by two major natural disasters in Northern Africa, the devastating earthquake in Morocco in September quickly followed by the flooding in Libya. As someone present during the earthquake, though fortunately well away from its epicentre, I witnessed some of the aftermath of its destructive forces and would like to pay special tribute to my colleagues at the Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine who are beginning the long and costly task of repairing damage to the cultural heritage. The same is of course equally true for the region of Derna in Libya, which is severely economically deprived. Also on a very sad note, we pay tribute in this Annual Review to Shirley Strong who for many years played an outstanding and invaluable role in the running of the Society for Libyan Studies.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continuing commitment to BILNAS. Your support remains vital to the long-term future of the Institute, making it the real community it is today. The active participation of members in our events and initiatives are what have allowed BILNAS to grow and evolve since 1969. The context in which we operate is changing rapidly, with social media, Open Access, and issues with archive and book space. Our policy has always been to adapt and modernise, but at the same time protecting our members. With this in mind, we have kept membership at the same price for over a decade to be as inclusive as possible. However, we function without knowing our budget from year to year, and exorbitant print prices have forced us to follow other journal publishers in going online only with our journal from 2025. We hope to have a print-on-demand option in the future, but Cambridge University Press are not currently offering this. For those of you who can easily afford the membership fee, we would also appreciate additional donations, as your support is more invaluable than ever to future-proof the Institute and its important research. We remain, as ever, open to the opinions and suggestions of our members, please do write to us. I do hope also that we will have a chance to meet at the Annual Lecture and at other in-person events next year.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



It has been another very busy year for the Institute across all our areas of activity. Our research grants fund UK-based scholars to conduct research in the humanities and social sciences in the broader Northern African region. To commemorate the inaugural year of the now renamed Institute, we awarded two flagship grants of £20,000 for projects on palaeontology in Morocco, and Maghrebi Jewish literature in Tunisia and Libya. Our third postdoctoral writing fellow, Katharina Grüneisl, has spent her fellowship completing a monograph on the second-hand clothing industry in Tunisia. Our research grants have supported research on a wide range of topics across Northern Africa from the palaeoclimate of Middle Stone Age Morocco, Pleistocene tools in Libya and medieval churches in Sudan, to Tunisian street art.

Our publication and outreach strategy goes from strength to strength. As well as our annual journal *Libyan Studies*, we published a new and beautifully illustrated book by Dr Virginie Prevost titled *Résistance et dévotion: Anciens sanctuaires ibadites de Djerba* which is the first detailed study of the medieval and early modern mosques of the island of Jerba. Our online Zoom lectures continue to be very popular and attract large audiences from around the world, and I was delighted to see so many members at our Annual Meeting at the British Academy in November where we enjoyed a thought-provoking lecture on the deep prehistory of Morocco by our President, Professor Nick Barton. We hope to hold more in-person lectures in the coming year, as well as continuing with our online series, to showcase research from our grant-holders as well as scholars and writers working on Northern African topics. I am particularly delighted to announce to Members that our next Annual Lecture on 7 November will be delivered by Professor Hisham Matar (BILNAS Council Member) about his recently published novel *My Friends*, in which a Libyan exile takes a walk across London while recalling his past from the 1980s to the events of 2011.

I am also pleased to share with members the excellent progress we have made in our strategic priority of digitising the BILNAS Archive held at the University of Leicester under the capable leadership of Felicity Crowe, our Archivist. BILNAS has a long and distinguished history of archaeological research in Libya and holds a rich archive of photographs, plans, notes and other materials from its fieldwork projects. This year, the archive has been moved into its new home on the main Leicester campus where it is much more easily accessible for researchers and students. A detailed catalogue of the archive is nearly completed, and we have now fully commenced our digitisation programme. The first collection to be made available online will be the Sabratha archive featuring material from the 1948-1951 excavations of Kathleen Kenyon and John Ward-Perkins. These excavations were published by the Society for Libyan Studies as *Excavations at Sabratha, Volume II. The Finds. Part 1: The Amphorae, Coarse Pottery and Building Materials*, by J. Dore and N. Keay (1989); *Excavations at Sabratha, Volume II. The Finds. Part 2: The Finewares and Lamps*, by M.G. Fulford and R. Tomber (1994), now available for download from

our website as well as JSTOR and other open access repositories. Published by the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies is the volume *Excavations at Sabratha 1948-1951*, by P. Kenrick (1986), which is also available for download. The Sabratha archive will be made available very soon on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), the leading UK digital repository for archaeology and heritage.

Under Felicity's mentorship, five student interns from the University of Leicester have been working to identify archaeologists and workers in photographs from the archive. She has also run three highly successful events for the Libyan community with Dr Valeria Vitale (Honorary Collections Officer) and Reem Furjani, and has now received a grant from the National Archive to continue this important work in 2024.

We are extremely grateful to all our new and existing members for their continued support of the Institute and its activities in these challenging economic times, whether through renewing subscriptions, donations, bequests or helping to raise the international profile of the Institute. I am very much looking forward to seeing members at the Annual Lecture and other in-person events in London next year.



OBITUARY



Shirley with her husband Donald Strong and their first child Andrew.

Shirley Kate Strong MBE 17 May 1930 to 21 August 2023

Andrew Strong, Paul Bennett, Susan Walker

Shirley was the eldest child of Jack and Helen Twallin who lived in Bickley. After achieving her Higher Certificate, Shirley attended Queen's Secretarial College in London, following which she undertook a few secretarial roles before moving to Italy to stay with the Director of the British School at Rome, John Ward-Perkins and his family. It was there that she met a young Rome Scholar called Donald Strong. Charged with assisting him with his measuring and recording work of the artefacts in the region, she found herself at the end of a tape measure sizing up Roman marble sarcophagi. Their relationship blossomed, and they were wed in January 1954 and had three children, Andrew, Timothy and Mary, mainly living in Chislehurst. Donald, who was the Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Provinces at the Institute of Archaeology in London had been suffering ill-health and his sudden death in Turkey in 1973 left Shirley a widow at 43. She took on secretarial roles at

University College London and later at the Egypt Exploration Society. Donald had been one of the co-founders of the Society for Libyan Studies and Shirley agreed to become their Honorary Secretary in 1974 (in succession to Olwen Brogan), until 1978. She then retired for a short moment and returned in 1984 as the General Secretary. She finally retired in 2013.

In the Queen's 2001 Birthday Honours List she was awarded an MBE for 'Services to the Community including The Girl Guide Association and the Society for Libyan Studies', which was presented to her by the then Prince Charles, at Buckingham Palace.

Shirley was charming, very good company with a wry sense of humour and a huge heart – and the most avid supporter of the Society and of Libya. Her death feels like the end of an era, the loss of an exceptionally able woman who was part of that nexus of British archaeologists who worked in post-war Libya to build a generation of expert Libyan archaeologists and warm relations with international scholars interested in the archaeology of that remarkable country.



RESEARCH GRANTS

For the financial year 2023–24, BILNAS awarded four Research Grants and a Postdoctoral Writing Fellowship for a total of £33,598 to UK-based scholars at different career stages for projects in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Sudan. To mark the development from the former Society for Libyan Studies to the new British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies in 2022, BILNAS was able to award two Flagship Research Grants for a total of £39,580 to UK-based scholars in support of research in the fields of palaeontology and social sciences in Morocco, Libya and Tunisia.

FLAGSHIP RESEARCH GRANTS

Susannah Maidment (Natural History Museum, London) – £19,580

The paleo-heritage of a new globally important Middle Jurassic ecosystem in the Middle Atlas Mountains, Morocco

Export of scientifically significant fossils from Morocco is illegal, yet the international fossil trade in dinosaurs continues to thrive. Investigatory fieldwork in 2022–23 discovered dinosaur fossils in Middle Jurassic rocks in the Middle Atlas Mountains. These rocks are extremely rich in fossils and have the potential to be the world’s most important Middle Jurassic land ecosystem; however, commercial collectors are already collecting and selling fossils from the site. This project will excavate fossils and train Moroccan early career researchers in their study and conservation. These fossils, to be reposited in the Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah Museum, will offer a body of evidence that can be presented to government stakeholders to develop a protected status for the area.



Middle Atlas Mountains, Morocco: the team investigating a site where dinosaur bones are weathering out of the rocks (photo S. Maidment).



*Djerba, Tunisia:
El Ghriba
synagogue,
May 2022 (photo
R. Vince).*

Rebekah Vince (Queen Mary University of London)
– £20,000

*Memory as inheritance: transgenerational
Maghribi Jewish heritage across the Mediterranean
Francosphere*

In response to Ghaddafi’s call for Jewish return to Arab countries, Franco-Tunisian anticolonial writer Albert Memmi famously stated, ‘We would have liked to be Arab Jews’ (1974). This project explores troubled memories and forgotten futures, with an examination of the collection of autobiographical essays *A Jewish Childhood in the Muslim Mediterranean* (2023). Through an analysis of the ‘atopical’ Franco-Libyan Jewish writer Aldo Naouri and Franco-Tunisian Jewish historian Sophie Bessis as postcolonial pariah, it offers alternative perspectives on the Arab Jew, in relation to transgenerational Maghribi heritage. Two writing workshops will lead to publication of a volume of autobiographical texts by French Jewish women of Tunisian descent.

POSTDOCTORAL WRITING FELLOWSHIP

Katharina Grüneisl (University of Nottingham) – £8,000

*Urban economies of used fibre: making markets and transforming space in
post-independence Tunis*

This Writing Fellowship will be used to complete a monograph that provides the first ethnographic and historically situated account of the second-hand clothing economy in Tunisia’s capital city Tunis. Evolving imports of European and North American textile surplus materials and second-hand donations – which first arrived in Tunisia



*Second-hand sport
caps displayed
on a house wall
in central Tunis
(photo K. Grüneisl).*

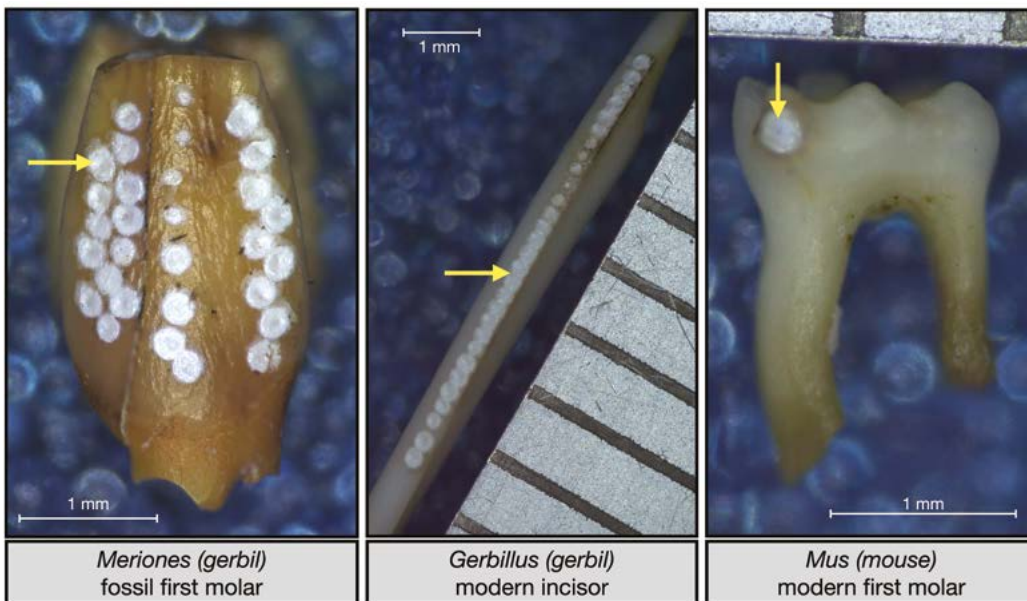
during the final years of the Second World War – constitute the entry point of this urban ethnography. Through close-up portraits of the diverse actors who participate in the contingent re-valuation of imported used garments at the urban micro-scale, the book demonstrates how seemingly marginal processes of market-making have been central to urban change and politics in post-independence Tunisia.

SMALL AND LARGE RESEARCH GRANTS

Stacy Carolin (University of Oxford) – £7,940

Resolving the impact of environmental change on Middle Stone Age humans in North Africa

The interplay between environmental change and key behavioural transitions in anatomically modern *Homo sapiens* is poorly resolved in North Africa. What effect did climate change have on the regional distribution of AMH and spread of cultural traditions? Were key behavioural developments triggered by increased climate variability? Such critical questions remain unanswered due in part to the lack of environmental records available beyond the Holocene in North Africa. Isotopic analysis of fossil rodent teeth, commonly collected alongside human artefacts, offers potential to identify paleo-humidity in dry areas. This project will develop and refine the non-destructive approach of laser ablation for museum-archived small rodent teeth isotopic analysis, and apply the teeth climate proxy to analyse the human-environment relationship at three sites in Northern Morocco during the Middle Stone Age.



Laser ablation shots on gerbil and mouse molars and incisors for minimally destructive isotope measurement (Stable Isotope Lab, University of Oregon).

Robert Foley (University of Cambridge) – £7,000

Pleistocene technology of the Libyan Fazzan

Between 2007 and 2011 the Desert Migrations Project surveyed and excavated Pleistocene localities in the Awbari sand seas and the Messak Settafet (Fazzan). These have a rich record of hominins shown by abundant stone tools. In addition to the Holocene material, the Project recovered large samples of Acheulean and Middle Stone Age lithics, as well as smaller ones of Oldowan and Mode 4 (blades). The samples

*Desert Migrations
Project: excavating
lithics on the
Messak, Libya
(photo R. Foley).*



were studied in the Jarma Museum, and preliminary quantitative and photographic data recorded. This project will digitise the paper records and use Pylithics software (an ML procedure for automatic data capture of lithics) to enhance the data from drawings and photographs, allowing a quantitative comparative analysis of assemblages across Africa. The objective is to contribute to the current debate about the role of the Saharan MSA in the emergence of modern humans.

Claudia Naeser (University College London) – £2,130

Piety, power and representation. A new type of church architecture in a fortification context in Medieval North Africa (renewal application)



*MOG089, room
with the wall
paintings (on the
right-hand wall):
in situ door
leaf with wood
that provided a
radiocarbon date of
AD 656-774 (photo
Mograt Island
Archaeological
Mission).*

Fieldwork has identified a hitherto unknown type of Medieval Nubian church architecture and its context in the fortress MOG089, which is located on the island of Kurta, off Mograta island, in present-day Sudan. Mograta, the largest island in the Nile, lies at the upstream end of the Great Nile Bend where long-distance trade routes from the north reach the river. Excavation of this church was supported by grants from BILNAS in 2022-23. The grant funds radiocarbon dating of five samples collected from within the church and the multi-roomed complex in the fortress. The results of the project promise to advance knowledge on Medieval Nubia's religious and military architecture, and to inform understanding of political representation at the intersection of religious life and military power in Medieval North Africa.

Anwar Tlili (King's College London) – £8,528

Mapping street art and civic engagement in the urban space in Tunisia: aesthetics, themes and agency in civil society

This study aims to map out and understand the current configuration of street art in Tunisia, its mode of operation, its themes and values, and its role as a civil society agent in facilitating and re-energising civic and democratic engagement. Based on fieldwork at eight case studies, the project examines the street art field in Tunisia in terms of its core representational contents and messages as well as core values, its aesthetic forms, and to what extent and how it is contributing to the creative production and renewal of the public space in its multiple dimensions – cultural, educational, social, and political – including with regard to developing creative ways of *enacting* and *doing* citizenship and democracy. The methodology consists of an ethnographic study of a sample of street art events and activities, representing both visual arts and performing arts, located both in Tunis and other urban centres.



Graffiti on a building in the Lafayette district in Tunis, reading 'from under the rubble we flourish' (photo G. Ben Mbarek / The National News).

BILNAS-AFFILIATED PROJECTS

BULLA REGIA

This flagship project sponsored by BILNAS and directed by Prof. Corisande Fenwick (UCL) and Dr Moheddine Chaouali (INP) aims to reconstruct the urban development of Bulla Regia from its Numidian origins to its abandonment in the Middle Ages and to understand the diet, nutrition, health, lifestyle, origins and mobility of its late antique inhabitants through excavations and bioarchaeological analyses. After many delays due to Covid-19, the final season of excavation at a late antique church and cemetery was completed in September 2023, together with the majority of the finds analysis. The project team are now working on the excavation monograph which will be published by BILNAS.

OASIS CIVILISATION PROJECT

The Oasis Civilisation project, a collaboration between INSAP, the University of Leicester and UCL is investigating one of the most significant and largest Saharan oases in the Wadi Draa, Morocco. The project is a continuation through excavations of the survey work carried out by the Middle Draa Project (2015-2018) and is directed by Profs. Youssef Bokbot (INSAP), Corisande Fenwick (UCL) and David Mattingly (Leicester). The results are transforming knowledge and understanding of the early stages of oasis formation and settlement in the Moroccan Sahara, from later Iron Age times, through the early centuries of Islamic rule, with a notable boom in activity in the Almoravid period (11th-12th centuries), to the Early Modern period where this region flourished under Saadian rule. In January-February 2024, the project excavated a series of Iron Age and Medieval settlements, including a hilltop Iron Age site (4th-8th century) and a medieval town with a walled citadel and outer suburbs (10th-12th century). BILNAS is supporting the publication programme for the project, which will take the form of a series of volumes. The first volumes will feature a complete site gazetteer for the Draa and an overview of its archaeology and will appear soon as a BILNAS publication. These set a new benchmark for understanding the Iron Age and Medieval period in Morocco and the Sahara, complementing BILNAS' prior work on the Garamantes of the Libyan Fazzan.

MAREA AND THE CYRENAICA COASTAL SURVEY

Maritime heritage sites in the Middle East and North Africa face many threats, particularly from conflict, rising sea-levels partly caused by climate change, and urban and industrial development. Because of this, the Maritime Endangered Archaeology (MarEA) project was established with the aim to rapidly and comprehensively document and assess threats to the maritime and coastal archaeology of the region (<https://marea.soton.ac.uk>). The collected data and the condition assessments for analysed sites are stored in the open access database platform of the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA, <https://database.eamena.org/>) project hosted by the University of Oxford. The MarEA project is based at the University of Southampton's Centre for Maritime Archaeology and at Ulster University's School of Geography and Environmental Sciences and is funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.

BILNAS has funded the Cyrenaica Coastal Survey (CCS) – a collaborative project between MarEA and the Department of Antiquities (DoA), supported by the Universities of Al Bayda and Benghazi in Libya. The aim was to record the current condition of maritime sites along the Cyrenaican coast between Tocra and Apollonia, with a particular focus on smaller, lesser known, coastal heritage sites. Recently the CCS team went back out into the field to assess the damage sustained by Storm Daniel to the previously surveyed sites. In 2023, Julia Nikolaus and Nick Ray from the MarEA team edited the special section on ‘Maritime Archaeology in North Africa: current research and future challenges and perspectives’ for *Libyan Studies* 54. We hope to continue our collaboration with BILNAS in 2024, in particular to enable us to return to sites that were deemed most endangered to record them in detail before they are destroyed over the next few years.



The Cyrenaica Coastal Survey team assessing damage after Storm Daniel and are recording new sites exposed by the storm.

MANAGING LIBYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Over the last year, the Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage (MaLiCH) project, funded by the ALIPH Foundation, has continued to renovate an historic house in the Old Town of Ghadames. Working with the Ghadames City Protection and Development Authority (GCPDA), the team began by documenting the building's condition, produced detailed architectural and structural plans for the intervention, and surveyed traditional crafts across the region.

The site was prepared and the house's foundations consolidated. The external work on the building was completed by local contractors and local craftsmen have decorated the interiors with traditional Berber designs in a technique called Zanjafoor. The house is a community and cultural hub with exhibitions planned on contemporary local crafts and the history of the town. It will also be the location for new capacity building activities. The team are working with Hosh Alsaboun in Tripoli to deliver training, host travelling shows and strengthen heritage networks across the country.

The team have also been collaborating with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) on the challenges facing the World Heritage Sites of Lepcis Magna and Sabratha. Following discussions focused on management planning and responses to climate change, in particular the impact of coastal erosion and extreme weather events, they have organised the first phase of vegetation control at Lepcis Magna which was undertaken by the project under the leadership of Dr Hafed Walda and in close collaboration with the Site Controller and his team.

This was a cleaning operation intended to assess damage to the archaeological site and reduce the risk of fire over the summer while also facilitating good management practices including regular maintenance and better security. Nearly half of the core site (ca. 4.5 hectares) was included in this phase of work and the hope is to return in the coming months to start the next phase at Lepcis, involving further cleaning and assessment as well as targeted interventions, while also beginning a similar process with the DoA team at Sabratha.



EVENTS

From Dr Niccolò Mugnai, BILNAS Assistant Director

Our series of events in 2023–24 featured a mix of online and in-person lectures, talks, and other types of events, encompassing a range of subjects within the humanities and social sciences. Our Annual Lecture, delivered by Prof. Nick Barton in November 2023, looked at the impact of environmental changes in prehistoric times. A major focus of the year was to raise awareness of the BILNAS Archive housed at the University of Leicester; our Archivist Felicity Crowe delivered a talk to Members in October 2023, and organised events for communities in Libya and the Libyan diaspora in November 2023 and February 2024, which explored present-day understanding of Libyan clothing and perceptions of Libya’s built heritage by using archival materials. More archive-focused events are planned for next year, including sessions in Arabic to broaden our community network.

23 May 2023

Reem Furjani (Scene for Culture and Heritage)

Community uses of the Marcus Aurelius Arch in Tripoli before and after the Italian conservation

This online talk discussed the notion of authenticity in heritage meaning/making by showing how local communities identify and interpret value in cultural heritage. Focused on the Arch of Marcus Aurelius in the Old City of Tripoli (Libya), it looked at how the local community used the Arch before and after the Italian restoration in the early 20th century, which intended to ‘re-monumentalise’ the colonial symbol and orchestrate perceptions of it. This change was uncovered by taking two sections in the timeline of the Arch: the first from 13th–20th century ethnographic records, and the second based on post-2011 field observations, revealing a process of decay and re-creation of meaning attributed to the ruin and within which spatial transformation plays a central role, both as a manifestation of community interpretations and as a tool to condition them.



Tripoli, Arch of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, east side (photo N. Hogben, Manar al-Athar).



Sabratha, Dame Kathleen Kenyon with workers during the 1948–51 excavations (photo BILNAS Archive, Kathleen Kenyon and John Ward-Perkins papers, D5/12/7/8).

31 October 2023

Felicity Crowe (BILNAS Archivist – University of Leicester)
The BILNAS Archive: past, present, and future

Photograph of Sheik Kilani Baba at Ghirza, undated (photo BILNAS Archive, Olwen Brogan papers, D41/2/7).

The BILNAS Archive is a rich resource of material relating to Libyan and Northern African history, archaeology, and culture. It covers a great variety of material, from David Smith’s archaeological plans of the Byzantine fortress at Tocra to correspondence with King Idris’s beekeeper. Much of the archive is related to archaeological excavations, some of which are as yet unpublished. This online talk looked at the history of the archive, current work to catalogue the material and improve its accessibility, and future plans for the collection.



23 November 2023

Felicity Crowe (BILNAS Archivist – University of Leicester), Valeria Vitale (BILNAS Honorary Collections Officer – University of Sheffield), Reem Furjani (Scene for Culture and Heritage)
Libyan clothing in the BILNAS Archive

This online event, attended by people in Libya and the Libyan diaspora, used photographs from the BILNAS Archive to spark a discussion on clothing in Libya. We aimed to find out about the connotations of different styles and about personal memories and family traditions around clothing. What do clothes tell us about the social status, political outlook, age and regional affiliations of the wearers? What are the connotations of different ways of draping clothing, or of wearing traditional clothing, more ‘westernised’ clothing, or a combination of the two? Comments from attendees are being added to the archive catalogue so we can document modern Libyan culture better.

28 November 2023 (BILNAS Annual Lecture)

Prof. Nick Barton (BILNAS President – University of Oxford)

Agencies of behavioural change in early humans in North Africa

Wide-ranging behavioural and technological innovations characterise the Middle and Later Stone Ages in North Africa. Focusing on Morocco, this in-person Annual Lecture provided an overview of recent scientific developments and new archaeological discoveries and examined the impact of environmental change on early human populations. The region of Morocco is particularly interesting because it lies on the north-western margins of the Sahara, in an area known to have experienced vast fluctuations in past rainfall, temperature, and vegetation, and which periodically became part of a ‘Green Sahara’. Morocco also preserves caves with deep cultural and environmental sequences containing some of the oldest fossils of *Homo sapiens* in Africa. As such, it provides a perfect test bed for examining environmental affordances and human responses to changing climatic and environmental conditions over the last 150,000 years.



Interior of the 'Grotte des Pigeons', Taforalt looking towards the entrance (photo D. MacLean).

16 January 2024

Roberto Chiarvetto (Independent Researcher)

The Italian air/ground exploration south of the Tropic of Cancer (1932–1936)

This online talk illustrated the series of land and air reconnaissance expeditions that were undertaken after the Italian conquest of Libya in 1931, when an agreement on the borders of Libya with France and the United Kingdom became a necessity. Wadi Abd el-Malik, ‘Almásy’s Zerkura’ in the Gilf Kebir, was reached in November 1932, after two Italian biplanes had flown over Chad’s Ounianga lakes only a few weeks earlier. Libya’s borders with Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan were agreed upon in 1934, but the 1935 Italo-French Agreements did not really put to rest the issues between these two nations in Africa. The recently appointed Governor of Libya, Italo Balbo, decided to explore the area in depth to question this agreement

and reach a new one with the French. A secret reconnaissance mission to the southernmost reaches of Libya was then very carefully planned and carried out in July 1936.

Central Sahara, solo air reconnaissance over the desert and Tibesti Mountains in 1936 (photo Archivio Centrale dello Stato - Ministero della Cultura, Rome).



15 February 2024

Felicity Crowe (BILNAS Archivist – University of Leicester), Valeria Vitale (BILNAS Honorary Collections Officer – University of Sheffield), Reem Furjani (Scene for Culture and Heritage)

Perceptions of built heritage in the BILNAS Archive



This online event was one of a series that uses digitized photographs to engage people in Libya and the Libyan diaspora in the BILNAS Archive. In this session, we used photographs from the archive to generate a discussion on Libyans' experience of built heritage and the meanings it holds for them. Did, for example, attendees go on school trips to archaeological sites, or hang out there as teenagers? Do they have a daily morning walk there or take their children there? Do they feel affection for the sites? How has the relationship with heritage changed through the generations in their family? Comments and stories from the discussion are being added to the archive catalogue.

The Greek Propylaea at Cyrene in 1968 (photo BILNAS Archive, Charles Daniels papers, D24/12/1/6).



Sala (Chellah, Morocco), 3D reconstruction of buildings in the Roman civic centre (image R. Pansini).

21 March 2024

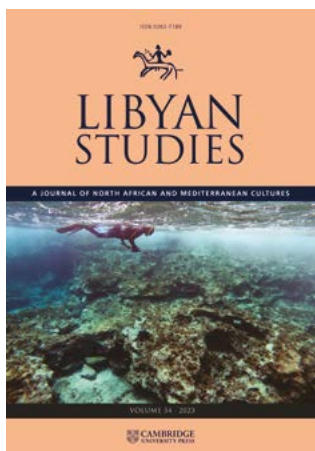
Dr Rossella Pansini (University of Siena)

The forum of Sala: architectural evolution of a North African town across the pre-Roman and Roman eras

This online lecture presented the main contents of the recently published book *‘Il Foro di Sala, 3. Edifici e ricostruzioni’* (Quasar, Rome 2023), which is dedicated to the architectural and urban analysis of the ancient town of Sala. This site, currently known as Chellah (Rabat, Morocco), shows traces of pre-Roman, Roman, and medieval-period occupation. The talk focused on the pre-Roman and Roman phases of the town, and on the study and 3D reconstruction work that was carried out on the buildings in the monumental district. The methodological process behind the work was described, looking in particular at the case study of the so-called ‘Temple A’, a pre-Roman sacred building that was reused, transformed, and enhanced in the Roman era.

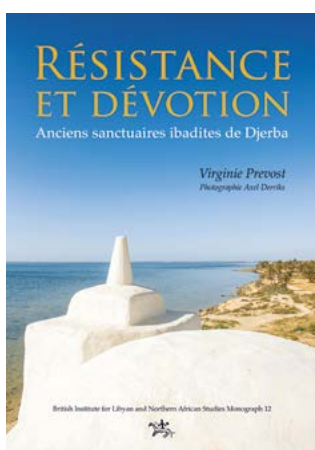


PUBLICATIONS 2023–24



LIBYAN STUDIES JOURNAL

Libyan Studies 54, edited by Dr Victoria Leitch was published in December 2023, in partnership with Cambridge University Press. Guest Editors, Dr Julia Nikolaus and Dr Nick Ray, organised a special section *Maritime Archaeology in North Africa* on current research, advances and challenges for the field of maritime archaeology in North Africa, including case studies from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan. The authors drew attention to the threats and damages to the wide range of coastal, near-shore, and underwater heritage, while also focusing on ways in which we can protect this heritage for future generations. Information about becoming a Guest Editor can be found on our website. This year we published seven Open Access articles, making the journal 50% Open Access.



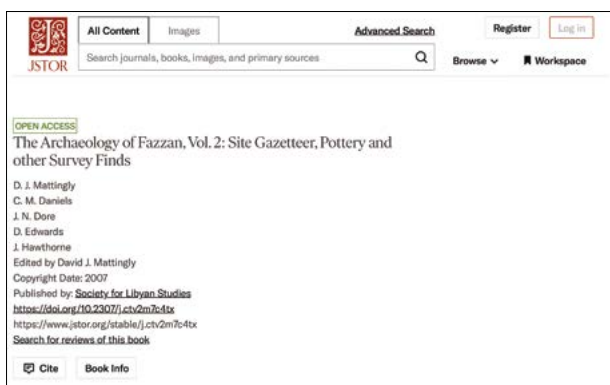
BOOKS

BILNAS continues to look at ways of streamlining our book publishing process, to reduce costs, increase accessibility and take environmental impacts into account. We are gradually selling off our old stock, with some books being converted to print-on-demand with zero stock. Some of our excess stock is in the process of being sent to Libya where it is hoped that it can be distributed to libraries and universities.

Autumn 2023 saw the publication of Virginie Prevost's *Les Mosquées Ibadites du Djebel Nafusa*. This volume is based on a corpus of 48 places of worship, some in excellent condition, others in ruins or completely rebuilt, which are mentioned in written Ibadite sources and in particular in the chronicle of al-Hilātī (d. 1099/1688–1689). Using numerous unpublished documents, the author reconstructs their history, and presents an in-depth study of the local memory of the island. Its publication was accompanied by an online video, in French, English and Arabic, which you can view on the BILNAS website (<https://www.bilnas.org/about-bilnas-publications/>). The author also presented the book in Jerba and will attend an event to promote the book at the Belgian embassy in Tunis.

OPEN ACCESS

BILNAS continues its commitment to producing Open Access across all our publications. The journal, *Libyan Studies*, published with Cambridge University Press,



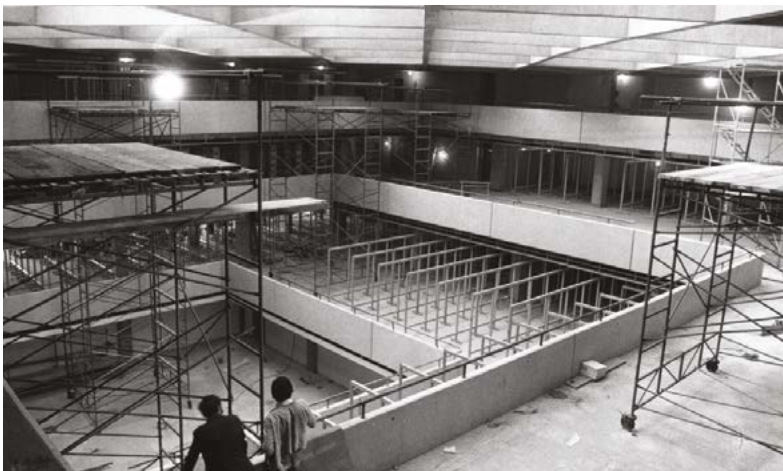
remains, from 2016, a hybrid Open Access journal, meaning that it publishes some articles available only to subscribers, as well as Open Access articles which may be accessed online by anyone without charge. This year, even more BILNAS publications were made available as Open Access ebooks, with the help of a British Academy grant (Open Access platforms require processing fees). We currently have 22 books available Open Access on high-profile sites such as JSTOR, OAPEN, BiblioLabs, MUSEOpen, and Unglue.it.

LIBRARY

The BILNAS Library is held within the Africa Collection at the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. It is currently located at stack 219 on Level D. There is a large-scale project taking place this year which aims to reorganise the library in order to create a better geographic layout and event space and to showcase the Africa Collection which is somewhat hidden behind the Law and Art collections on Level D. The new stack location for the BILNAS Library will be listed on the SOAS Library catalogue and the [Africa Subject guide](#) once the move has taken place.

In August 2023 the new Library Management System, [OCLC's WorldShare Management Services](#) (WMS), was implemented at SOAS Library - this runs the catalogue, acquisitions and circulation functions within the Library. You can search the library catalogue at: [Search SOAS University of London \(worldcat.org\)](#). In total 10 new titles have been added to the BILNAS library's collection this year.

In October, SOAS Library marked 50 years of the Philips Building (where the library is housed). There are several interesting articles about its history at: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/news/soas-library-50-years-old> and <https://www.soas.ac.uk/study/blog/complex-concrete-twists-and-turns-philips-building>



Philips Building, Library: book stacks being erected in 1972. (SOAS, University of London. All rights reserved).

THE BILNAS ARCHIVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

From Felicity Crowe, BILNAS Archivist

Felicity Crowe, the BILNAS Archivist, has been managing the Institute's first digitisation project, ingesting legacy catalogues into the catalogue, running an engagement project with Libyan partners, cataloguing new collections and supervising student interns. In May 2023 the BILNAS Archive moved to a new, more permanent location on the main campus of the University of Leicester, with easier access for students and visitors.

Key highlights include the digitisation of material relating to the 1948-51 excavations at Sabratha by Kathleen Kenyon and John Ward-Perkins. The finished scans and updated metadata have been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service and the Northern African Heritage Archives Network, who will both make them available online shortly. This is an important step in encouraging researchers to use the BILNAS Archive and will make the archive more accessible worldwide.

Right: *From the Olwen Brogan papers, one of her pictures from Ghirza.*



Below: *Khadijah Jahami with a telephone operator in Libya, from the Roland C. Shaw photographs.*



Significant progress has also been made on cataloguing collections in the archive, including the Fazzan Project, one of BILNAS's flagship projects from the 1980s-1990s. This includes excavation notebooks and diaries, theodolite surveys, drawings, photographs, correspondence and much more. Cataloguing of new deposits includes corporate papers, Christian Monuments of Cyrenaica, excavations at Euesperides, and maps and plans from various sites. We have recruited and trained five student interns to help in the archive, by identifying sites in photographs, checking for duplicate maps and looking for traces of Libyan excavation workers in the archives.

A series of BILNAS public engagement sessions have been used to gather information to more accurately describe Libyan culture in catalogue entries and to make the archive better known among Libyan researchers and the Libyan public more generally. We were delighted with the results of the first three sessions, and have been awarded a small grant from The National Archives to continue this work through 2024.

You can explore the BILNAS Archive online catalogue [here](#).



DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies receives a grant in aid from the British Academy as well as subscription income from its members. However, to maintain a full research grant and publications programme, the Institute needs to supplement its income. We therefore welcome enquiries about opportunities to sponsor BILNAS and our official activities and events.

If you are a company or organisation with a presence in Libya or Northern Africa or interests in the heritage, culture and scholarship of the region, the Institute would be delighted to hear from you to discuss opportunities to support our lectures, seminars, book launches, and other special events or to support research in North Africa.

CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

As a UK Registered Charity we welcome individual and corporate donations, bequests and legacies. If you wish to make a donation, please contact the General Secretary or check out the information on our website.

Thank you. We value your support.



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

MEMBERS 180, OF WHOM 42 ARE FROM OVERSEAS:

Australia	Israel	Sweden
Austria	Italy	Switzerland
Cyprus	Japan	Turkey
France	Libya	USA
Germany	Malta	

846 OPEN ACCESS BOOK DOWNLOADS FROM 32 COUNTRIES:

Algeria	Germany	Republic of Ireland
Australia	Greece	Romania
Austria	Hungary	Russia
Belgium	India	South Korea
Bosnia	Italy	Spain
Burkina Faso	Jordan	Sweden
Canada	Libya	Tunisia
China	Malta	Turkey
Denmark	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Egypt	Poland	USA
France	Portugal	

TWITTER

1779 followers

FACEBOOK

3100 followers

YOUTUBE

204 subscribers

8,800 views

WEBSITE

12,296 unique visitors (19% increase compared to 2022-23)

29,468 page views (9.5% increase compared to 2022-23)

Percentage of website views in each country:

UK: 30.5%

USA: 15.5%

China: 5.5%

Libya: 4.3%

France: 3.9%

Italy: 2.9%

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
INCOME		
British Academy Grant	149,869	134,133
Business Development Fund Grant	16,253	15,479
Subscriptions	5,230	5,579
Journal sales	2,600	3,312
Book sales and postage	1,984	2,699
Bank interest	697	187
Donations/gift aid	18,000	21,341
Miscellaneous	1,419	4,714
TOTAL INCOME	196,052	187,444
EXPENDITURE		
Research grants	89,431	47,749
Library/Research collections	85,086	35,190
Archive: cataloguing and conservation	74,058	31,932
Archive digitisation	11,028	3,258
Communications and outreach	12,745	16,852
Events	5,086	3,467
Publicity and outreach	1,945	1,142
Website maintenance/development	5,214	11,743
Lecture/meeting expenses	500	500
Publications	22,758	28,387
Digitisation of old books	0	570
Storage/despatch of books	113	261
Print-on-demand costs	499	1,485
Royalties on book sales	0	200
Publications Manager	17,633	17,633
Journal production	2,760	2,745
Production of monographs/Silphium books	986	4,371
Other costs (Adobe, ISBN, small equipment)	767	1,122

Establishment	20,006	19,743
Bank charges	102	235
General Secretary's remuneration	12,275	11,928
Insurance	476	477
Office expenses	653	1,103
Accountancy	6,000	6,000
Donation	500	0
Travel	166	645
UK	166	645
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>230,192</u>	<u>148,566</u>
DEFICIT / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>-34,140</u>	<u>38,878</u>

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
ASSETS		
Virgin Money Account	70,810	70,113
NatWest Current Account	2,424	41,808
PayPal Account	0	0
Total Cash	<u>73,234</u>	<u>111,921</u>
Debtors	11,302	0
Stock of publications, valued at cost	8,624	9,728
Total Assets	<u>93,160</u>	<u>121,649</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	3,150	500
Accrued income	352	981
Grants allocated but not yet paid out	4,734	0
Total Liabilities	<u>8,236</u>	<u>1,481</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>84,924</u>	<u>120,168</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
General Fund	33,984	68,124
Stock Fund	8,624	9,728
Publications Fund	42,316	42,316
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>84,924</u>	<u>120,168</u>

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
General Fund brought forward	68,124	29,246
Stock Fund brought forward	9,728	8,065
Publications Fund brought forward	42,316	42,316
Total funds at start of year	120,168	79,627
Deficit/surplus for the year	-34,140	38,878
Movement in stock	-1,104	1,663
TOTAL FUNDS	84,924	120,168

Grants allocated but not yet paid

Shortly before 31 March 2024 the Institute had committed to spend £4,734 of funding received from the British Academy but the receiving institution was unable to raise an invoice for this amount until shortly after 1 April 2024. In view of the proximity to the year end the amount has been included in the expenditure for the year and treated as a liability within the balance sheet.

Held over grants

At 31 March 2023 the Institute had received grant funding of £40,000 from the British Academy which had not been awarded. This sum was awarded and paid out during the 2023-24 year. Without this timing difference, with the receipt of funds in one year and distribution of them in the following year, the Institute would have shown a surplus for the year of £5,860 in the 2023-24 financial year and a deficit of £1,122 in the 2022-23 financial year.

Reserves policy

The Institute has few financial commitments which cannot be terminated at short notice, since it has no direct employees and does not own or rent premises; it has not therefore been considered necessary to retain a reserve for potential winding-up costs.

The Institute has historically set aside funds for publications arising (usually several years later) from fieldwork that it has supported. These are shown as a Publications Reserve, with the intention that they may be used to support (any) publication costs, but not new fieldwork.

Book collection

The Institute held 971 items in its books collection, which is housed in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies ('SOAS') University of London.

The Institute did not have an active acquisition policy for its book collection during the year under review; it received volumes by gift and by exchange and works sent for review were generally also added to the collection.

Oliver Kimberley *Chartered Accountant, Honorary Treasurer*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES**

Charity number 259262 registered in England & Wales

I report to the Council on my examination of the accounts of the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies ('the Institute') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Institute you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Colm Walls *Chartered Management Accountant, Honorary Independent Examiner*
36 Lancet Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9SA



MEMBERSHIP

To join BILNAS, sign up on the website <https://www.bilnas.org/membership/how-to-join/> or contact the General Secretary gensec@bilnas.org

Membership is open to all and runs from April to April. Key benefits include being part of a long-standing academic community, plus:

- Access to *Libyan Studies*, BILNAS's annual journal
- The opportunity to purchase BILNAS publications at significantly discounted prices
- Attendance at BILNAS events, meetings, lectures and the Annual General Meeting
- Access to the BILNAS Library through free annual membership of the SOAS Library
- Access to the BILNAS Archive (University of Leicester)

CONTACT

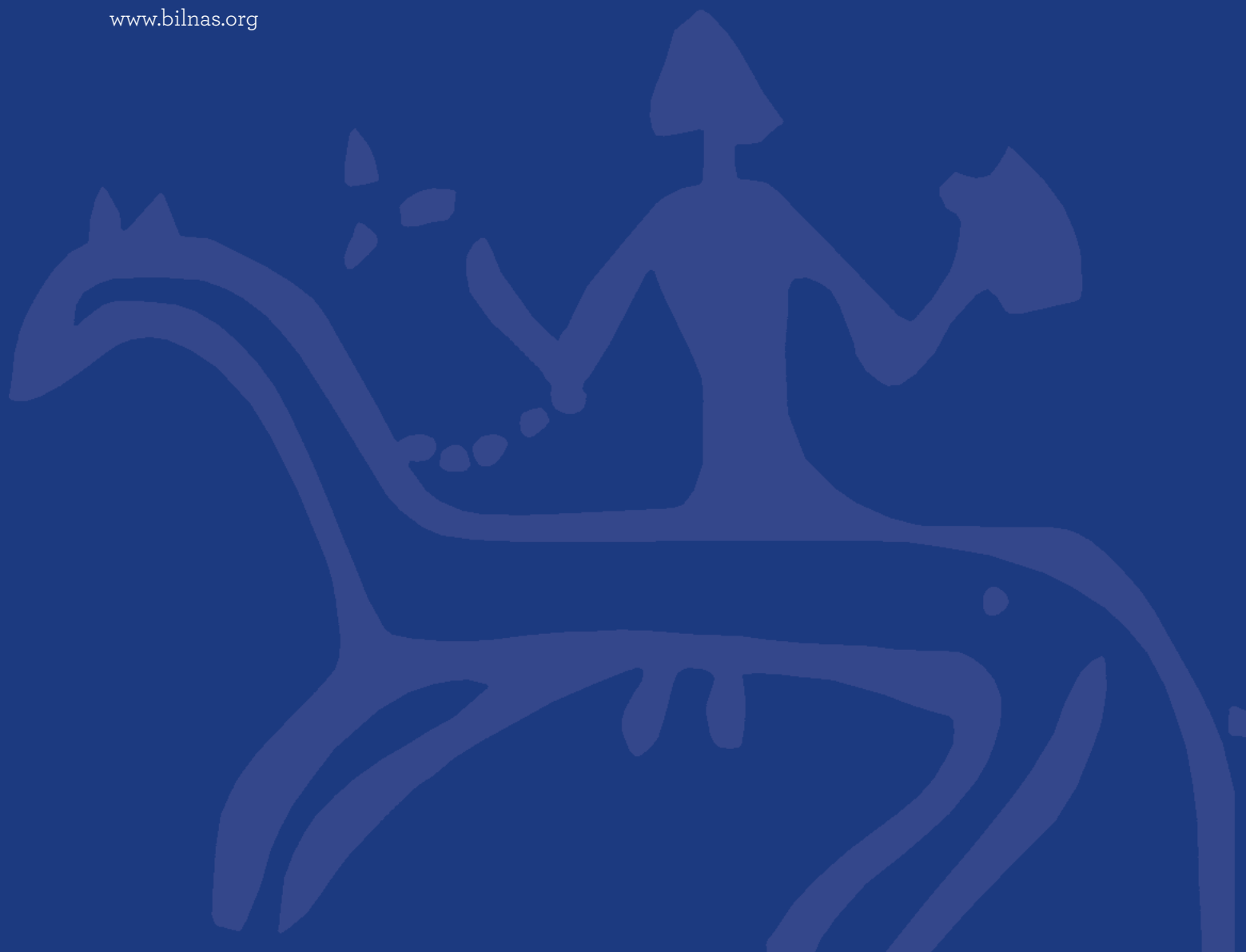
General Secretary: Pauline Graham
BILNAS
c/o British Academy
10-11 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH
gensec@bilnas.org

Social Media

 <https://www.facebook.com/LibyanNorthernAfricanStudies>

 <https://twitter.com/LibyanStudies>

www.bilnas.org



BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 259262

Accounts

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN
AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

ANNUAL REVIEW

2022-23



BILNAS
BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN
& NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

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ABOUT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

The address of BILNAS is:

c/o The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

BILNAS maintains a website at <http://www.bilnas.org>.

The General Secretary may be contacted by email at gensec@bilnas.org

BILNAS is a Registered UK Charity, no. 259262, which was founded (as the Society for Libyan Studies) in 1969. Its aims are to encourage and co-ordinate scholarship on Libya and Northern Africa and to foster relations between scholars in the region and those working outside the region. To this end, it seeks through its activities:

- to support and undertake research relating to the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, customs and natural history of Libya and Northern Africa;
- to organise and promote missions in the region for these purposes;
- to co-operate with other organisations sharing the same fields of interest;
- to arrange for the publication of research in these fields;
- to hold lectures and meetings, to publish an annual journal (*Libyan Studies*) and other publications which will enhance and promote public knowledge of all aspects of Libyan and Northern African culture and society.

BILNAS is governed in accordance with Rules first adopted in 1969 and subsequently modified in 1974, 1982, 2010, 2019, 2020 and 2022. BILNAS is currently recognised by the Charity Commission as an unincorporated association but an application has been made to the Charity Commission for England and Wales to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years; the Director is elected for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years; the Assistant Director, the Treasurer, the Head of Mission and the Editor of the BILNAS journal are elected annually and may be re-elected without limit; the remainder of the Council is composed of up to eight Ordinary Members who are elected annually and may be re-elected, subject to a maximum continuous period of service of four years. In proposing Ordinary Members for election, the Council seeks to secure as wide a range of skills within its fields of interest as possible. The Officers and Council, who constitute the trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Institute's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

BILNAS receives the major part of its funds from the British Academy, to be used 'to benefit the UK research endeavour'. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to confirm that the grant payments from the British Academy have been applied in accordance with the agreement between the Academy and BILNAS, and the aims and objectives of BILNAS as stated in its rules and declared to the Charity Commission. Council confirms that, in respect of the accounts presented herewith, this is so.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The Officers and Council on 31 March 2023 were as follows:

Officers

President:	PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BARTON, BA, DEA, DPhil, FSA
Vice Presidents:	PROFESSOR GRAEME BARKER, MA, PhD, CBE, FBA, FSA, FRGS SHIRLEY STRONG, MBE
Director:	CORISANDE FENWICK, BA, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS, FYAE
Honorary Treasurer:	OLIVER KIMBERLEY, MA, ACA
Assistant Director:	NICCOLÒ MUGNAI, BA, MA, PhD
Head of Mission:	PAUL BENNETT, MBE, BA, Hon. DLitt, FSA, MCIFA
Honorary Archivist:	PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLOTTE ROUECHÉ, MA
Editor, Libyan Studies:	VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Council:	PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON, BSc, PhD SALEM EL-MAIAR, MPhil, FRGS PROFESSOR HISHAM MATAR, FRSL NICHOLE SHELDRIK, MA, DPhil BARBARA SPADARO, PhD
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General Secretary:	PAULINE GRAHAM
Honorary Librarian:	DAWN WRIGHT, BA, DipLib
Publications Manager:	VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Research Grants Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The Head of Mission
PROFESSOR KEVIN MACDONALD, BA, PhD, FSA (Committee Chairman)
SAUL KELLY, BA, PhD

Publications Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The General Secretary
Editor of Libyan Studies Publications Manager
PROFESSOR JONATHAN HILL, MA, PhD

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



It's with great pleasure that I take up the role of President of the newly named British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies. As an archaeologist with long-term research interests in the wider Maghreb, I recognise the great advantages of expanding our geographical remit across the whole of this culturally rich and diverse region while at the same time preserving our unique and special ties with Libya. To my mind this outward-looking vision chimes fittingly with many of the current global trends in academia and can only serve to strengthen already well-established scholarly links within the greater area of Northern Africa. And indeed, this is also specially enshrined in the Institute's commitment 'to foster relations between scholars in the region and those working outside the region.'

Speaking at a personal level, over much of the last 23 years I have worked extensively on the prehistory of Morocco and Tunisia, but it would have been impossible to have done this in isolation without investigating the prehistoric pasts of Algeria and Libya and other neighbouring countries. Our multidisciplinary, international scientific teams have been excavating in caves and rockshelters examining questions relating to the origins and emergence of modern human behaviour and, as I once explained in conversation with a British Governor of Gibraltar, for over 99% of human existence major geopolitical entities and national borders were not a problem because they simply did not exist! No doubt he would have regarded this as a rather avant-garde and idealistic view of a lost Palaeolithic world, but this does not give any less value to studying subjects such as modern cultures or language or art that are promoted by BILNAS and that inevitably cut across many of today's national boundaries.

As we evolve into a newly defined Institute with a pan-Northern African outlook, one of the rewards of the name change has been to bring ourselves more closely into alignment with the other British International Research Institutes. We are all excited by the prospect of working increasingly alongside our sister institutes and collaboratively. At the same time, it has allowed us to reflect on the fact that despite some changes we have retained the core strengths and values of our organisation which continues to be well-run and performs outstanding service for a relatively small research institution. In maintaining and further raising the profile of BILNAS we are delighted that the grants awarded by the Institute this year reflect our aim to support and undertake research across a wide range of subjects from art and antiquities to languages and natural history. It is also gratifying that the recipients of these grants will now be able to discuss their results at in-person talks and I shall look forward to meeting many of you at such events.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers and members of council for their hard work this year, including producing this report and for making me feel most welcome as the new President.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

I am delighted to report on our inaugural year as the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies. As this Annual Review makes abundantly clear, this has been a very full year for the Institute and the range of activities is extraordinary for a small research institution.

This year marked the full return of research activity after the pandemic. Reflecting the Institute's remit to fund research across the humanities and social sciences in the broader Northern African region, we have awarded grants to UK-based scholars to conduct in-country and archival research on topics ranging from volcanoes and climate history in the Azores and medieval churches in Sudan to girls' secondary education in Morocco and Italian 'colonial science' in Libya. We also awarded the first grants from the Celia Hensman fund: this generous legacy donation funded two Masters students to undertake archaeological fieldwork placements for their dissertations at the UNESCO site of Volubilis in Morocco. Our publication and outreach strategy continues to go from strength to strength. As well as our annual journal *Libyan Studies*, we published a new open-access book by our John Dore Scholar, Dr Ahmed Buzaian, titled *Ancient Olive Presses and Oil Production in Cyrenaica (North-East Libya)*. Our online Zoom lecture series has once again proved very popular and attracted large audiences from around the globe, and I was thrilled to talk to so many members at the in-person launch of the new Institute where we listened to an inspiring lecture by Professor Josephine Crawley Quinn on her research on Hellenistic North Africa. Looking forward, we plan to continue a mix of online and in-person events featuring research from our grant-holders and international scholars working on Northern African topics.

I am also pleased to share with members the excellent progress we have made in our strategic priority of digitising the BILNAS Archive held at the University of Leicester. BILNAS has a long and distinguished history of archaeological research in Libya and has devoted significant resources over the past decade in digitising the photographs, plans, notes and other materials in the Archive, as well as augmenting the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya (<https://www.sls gazetteer.org/>) with King's College London. This year, we have been very fortunate to have Felicity Crowe take up the role of the BILNAS Archivist at the University of Leicester. She has nearly completed a full catalogue of the archive, modernised our accession policies and established a roadmap for the digitisation of the collection as well as co-ordinating the archive's move onto the main Leicester campus in April 2023. Under her mentorship, five student interns from the University of Leicester have used the archive to research the work of Olwen Brogan, the UNESCO Libyan Valley Survey project and the deterioration over time of Libyan archaeological sites, and we hope that this will encourage other student internships and projects in the future. Our John Dore Scholar, Dr Ahmed Buzaian, has been busy identifying the maps and plans in our collections. Generous additional financial support from the British Academy will enable Felicity to continue her work in 2023-24 with the assistance of the John



Dore Scholar as well as funding the upload of a first batch of digitised photographs and plans to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), the leading digital repository for archaeology and heritage. We are actively seeking donations and sponsorship to continue this important work to make this rich resource on Libyan archaeology accessible to all.

We are extremely grateful to all our new and existing members for their continued support of the Institute and its activities, whether through renewing subscriptions, donating or helping to raise the international profile of the Institute. I am very much looking forward to welcoming members to more in-person events in London next year.



OBITUARY

Joyce Reynolds 18 December 1918 to 11 September 2022

BILNAS said goodbye to one of its most remarkable founding members in September 2022. Joyce Reynolds is here remembered by Susan Kane, Susan Walker, Charlotte Roueché, Philip Kenrick and Elhabib Elamin.

Joyce Reynolds was born in London in 1918 and received a progressive education, culminating in a First Class degree in Greats (Classics) at Somerville College Oxford, and a post at Newnham College Cambridge from 1951, where she remained. In 1948 she was able to travel outside England, to the British School at Rome, and from there to Libya.

Joyce's connection with Libyan archaeology was long and distinguished, spanning over 80 years and beginning with her work with John Bryan Ward-Perkins. Her first publication was the *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania* in 1952. She was a close associate of Richard Goodchild, the first Controller of Antiquities for Cyrenaica in the post-war Kingdom of Libya. Over the years, she was a much sought after consultant for the many foreign missions working in Libya as well for many Libyan archaeologists working in both local universities and the Department of Antiquities. She read and re-read new and old texts destined for *Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica*, and visited many sites that were to form the nucleus of her edition of Ward-Perkins and Goodchild's volume, *Christian Monuments of Cyrenaica*. Joyce had the exceptional ability to rise above politics and to be universally valued and respected for her scholarly expertise.

She was a founding member of BILNAS (then the Society for Libyan Studies) and from the outset a Member of Council and in 1982-87 was its President. She continued to work long after her retirement, and the *Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica* (IRCyr2020) was published by BILNAS just in time for Joyce's 102nd birthday! A revised and enhanced edition of the *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania* was published a year later (IRT2021).

Her achievements were recognised by a Fellowship of the British Academy and later by the Academy's Kenyon medal. Her genius was her ability to translate and interpret ancient texts, piecing them together and adding new perspectives to our vision of Roman history.

*She has always succeeded in reading what the passers-by wrote on stone,
but her name was engraved as an icon on the wall of time and the memory
of contemporaries.*

Few did.

Libyans will remember that. (Elhabib Alamin)



RESEARCH GRANTS

For the financial year 2022-23, BILNAS awarded six grants for a total of £30,036 to UK-based scholars at different career stages for research to be conducted in the Azores, Morocco, France, Italy, Libya and Sudan. Two additional awards were granted to UK-based students to conduct fieldwork in Northern Africa thanks to the Celia Hensman Fund.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Ella Williams (University of Oxford) – £1,200

Girls' secondary education and empowerment in the Atlas Mountains

Through ethnographic fieldwork with girls in Amazigh communities of the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco, the project examines the education-equals empowerment equation and argues that we need to rethink Eurocentric notions that empowerment unfolds along a single, linear pathway, with paid employment and financial independence as prerequisites. This project adds qualitative, micro-level data about women's lives in the Maghreb that not only broadens, but also complicates our understanding of modern-traditional dichotomies, as well as challenging notions of the 'Third World' woman as victim, receiver of aid and lacking agency, instead showing how women in Northern Africa play an active role in shaping their own lives.



High school girls walking the path back from their village of Tazalt to the boarding house on Monday morning after spending the weekend at home.

Anna Walas (University of Nottingham) – £1,290
Further archival work on Bu Njem

The project seeks to consult archival materials held in the Centre Camille Jullian and in the Archives Nationales d'Autre Mer to carry out primary archival research on the Bu Njem, Ad Maiores and Gemellae Roman military forts and garrison settlements. Geographically, the major focus of frontier research has long been on Europe, neglecting the arid zones, with Africa especially suffering from lack of fieldwork and the shadow of colonial interpretations, which give a perception of uniformity across this vast region. The work will underpin a series of objectives (both research and grant capture), aimed at utilising archives of exceptionally well-preserved sites to challenge these misconceptions. Owing to exceptional preservation, graffiti and ostraca, Bu Njem as one of the best preserved examples of a Roman military base anywhere within the empire is an outstanding dataset for this work. The travel will also provide information to Frontiers of Roman Empire World Heritage Site.



Above: Newspaper article on the excavation of Bu Njem mentioning WWII ammunition on site. *The Sunday Globe*, 7th March, 1968, page 5.

Left: 1969. Excavation of the site, slides reproduced with the permission of CCJ, Aix-en-Provence.

RESEARCH AWARDS

David Atkinson (University of Hull) – £3,946
The archival traces of Italian 'Colonial Science' and the construction of Libya

David Atkinson, Professor of Cultural and Historical Geography at the University of Hull, has been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship, 2022-23, and he is delivering this project in collaboration with BILNAS. This project develops research funded by a previous Society for Libyan Studies award. It interrogates how Italy's Fascist regime developed an interdisciplinary 'Colonial Science' to survey, represent and construct the colonial domain of Libya from space that was previously unterritorialised (from European perspectives). The BA Senior Research Fellowships do not provide research costs, but do encourage applicants to collaborate with the BIRI where possible. David therefore applied to BILNAS to fund the remaining archival visits and dissemination activities. This collaboration offers a clear example of how smaller BIRI awards can develop into larger projects.

Michael Brass (University College London) – £7,700

University College London/University of Khartoum Expedition to the Southern Gezira (Sudan): mobility, identity and interaction of pastoral peoples with the Nile Valley

The remote site of Jebel Moya has many stories to tell, from the Henry Wellcome excavations back to the Mesolithic. Telling such a complex story requires a new approach to research excavations. At the outset, this project started as a collaboration with Sudanese colleagues and combined research with training and outreach. In the process we have uncovered the long-term history of the valley, which starts with habitation dating to at least the late Mesolithic, long before the site was used as a cemetery. The site's history includes a series of Neolithic burials, rapid climate change and the second oldest domesticated sorghum in the world. This is set against a background of dynamic communities that have adapted to and changed their environment over the millennia. The valley continues to be a major pathway for communities from the village and beyond, serving as a persistent place where different cultures and traditions intersect. The project has since trained several archaeologists who have started their own projects; we have worked closely with local schools and produced a book that tells the story of Jebel Moya through the results of our excavations.

The team at work in trench 14, with trench 17 in the background, and some of our regular audience/helpers.



Danielle McLean (University of Oxford) – £8,000

Volcanic ash layers to link archaeological and climate records in NW Africa

Archaeological sites in NW Africa are rich in human fossils and have emerged at the forefront of evolutionary studies. However, these records are difficult to underpin by a precise chronology, preventing assessments of the timing/causes of cultural change. Our pilot studies reveal numerous volcanic ash (tephra) layers that are interbedded within the sites and originate from large volcanic eruptions in the Atlantic (e.g., Azores). The tephra offers new possibilities for dating archaeological sequences,



Sete Cidades caldera (Azores), one of the source volcanoes that dispersed ash over to NW Africa.

and for the first time, markers to directly synchronise to past climate records. Further work is essential at the source volcanoes to thoroughly investigate their eruptive histories and ensure robust correlations. The grant supports fieldwork in the Azores to collect reference samples from key explosive events. These will be geochemically analysed to determine their diagnostic ‘fingerprint’, essential for correlating. Moreover, the funds will be used to $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ date these samples, providing critical new chronological anchors.

Claudia Naeser (University College London) – £7,900

Piety, power and representation. A new type of church architecture in a fortification context in Medieval North Africa (renewal application)



The Medieval fortress MOG089 at the downstream tip of Kurta Island. The image shows the ongoing excavation in and around the Church on the Wall at the southeastern section of the fortification wall (credit: Mograt Island Archaeological Mission, MIAMi).

This grant is for completing the investigation of the Church on the Wall complex and adjacent features in the Medieval fortress MOG089 on the island of Kurta in the Middle Nile Valley. There is a dimension of urgency, as looting and associated destructions pose an imminent threat to the site. The Church on the Wall in the fortress of Kurta represents a new type of Nubian church architecture which was for the first time identified and studied based on the example in question. The recording of the church itself was concluded with a BILNAS grant in early 2022, and the new research is for completing the investigation of the architectural context of the assemblage, i.e. surrounding structures, the organisation of access to them, their function and their use. Beyond advancing our knowledge of Medieval defensive/surveillance architecture in the Middle Nile Valley, results of the project promise to inform our understanding of political representation at the intersection of religious life and military power in Medieval North Africa.

CELIA HENSMAN AWARD



Caitlin Sutherland (University College London),
£750 to the INSAP-UCL Volubilis Project
Masters student in Archaeological Science

The Celia Hensman award was used to fund participation in the INSAP-UCL Volubilis Project in June 2022. This allowed the awardee access to archaeobotanical samples for her Master's thesis and to understand better the excavations at the site. The work involved floating soil samples, with guidance from the project's archaeobotanist, Ruth Pelling. Of great interest for this research was calcium phosphate mineralisation – indicative of seeds which have spent time in sewage.



Louis Falkingham (University College London),
£750 to the INSAP-UCL Volubilis Project
Masters student in Mediterranean Archaeology

The Celia Hensman Award provided an exceptional opportunity to join the active field project at Volubilis. This experience has heavily informed the awardee's dissertation, which is focused on examining the development of early-medieval ceramic manufacture through a combination of archaeometric techniques including petrographic and chemical analysis of material from the site, as well as comparative analysis with extant clay sources from the surrounding area. The experience has broadened his thinking about the cultural, political, and economic significance of ceramic manufacture, exchange and consumption.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT FROM AN AWARDEE

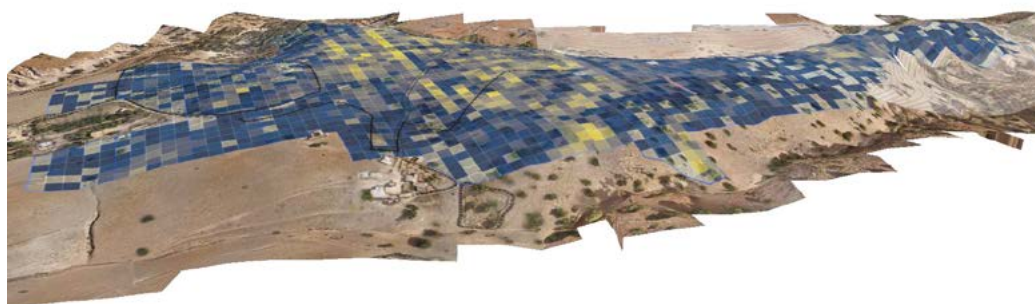
Cyprian Broodbank (Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, Director, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research)
Oued Beht Archaeological Project (OBAP)

This new project is a joint UK, Italian and Moroccan initiative co-directed by the awardee, Professor Cyprian Broodbank (McDonald Institute, Cambridge University), Professor Youssef Bokbot (Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Morocco [INSAP]) and Dr Giulio Lucarini (Institute of Heritage Science, National Research Council of Italy [CNR-ISPC]). The fieldwork and associated research have been funded by BILNAS, a Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Ministry for Universities and Research (via ISMEO) and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-FOE grant). We are grateful for the support we have received from the Director and staff of INSAP, as well as assistance with aerial photogrammetry from expert staff at the Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology.

The 2021 pilot season was small and short due to Covid travel restrictions, but achieved three important goals. The entire Oued Beht ridge (ca. 0.5 sq. km) was recorded by detailed UAV-mounted photogrammetry, providing a high-resolution spatial base for all subsequent research. The ridge and its immediate vicinity were also extensively explored on foot, with a view to carrying out a formal survey in 2022. A small trench excavated by a previous Moroccan-French team was re-opened to examine its stratigraphy relative to a prehistoric silo and overlying later wall, with samples taken for radiocarbon dating.

The 2022 fieldwork undertook three further operations. First, an intensive pedestrian tract-walking survey investigated distributions of material across the entire surface of the ridge. Material ranges from probable Epipalaeolithic to Recent, but with strong spatial/temporal foci within this. Of primary importance, in the northern sector the survey defined the extent and surface character of the large, previously reported Final Neolithic site (provisionally radiocarbon dated to ca. 3350–2900 BC). The southern sector contains smaller, less dense concentrations of material, some prehistoric and some much later, alongside massive and smaller walls of dates to be ascertained. The surface survey was complemented by geophysical analysis that so far points to a variety of geological and cultural signatures. In terms of excavation, two trenches in the area of the Final Neolithic site, initiated by the previous French-Moroccan team, were re-opened and extended to explore the stratigraphic sequence, geoarchaeology and to sample one of the distinctive silos. Evidence for prehistoric living surfaces and storage areas were revealed, with rich material and environmental data. Finally, extensive exploration of the geology and geomorphology of the wider site environs was undertaken.

Results so far are extremely promising. The Final Neolithic site at Oued Beht is a locus of dense activity, involving processing, storage, consumption and probably residence, on a scale larger than anything else known in the Western Maghreb in this period.



*3D tract oblique
from the West.*

BILNAS-AFFILIATED PROJECTS

MOBILITY, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN NORTH AFRICA

The Tunisian-British Bulla Regia Project is a collaboration between the Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) and University College London (UCL). It is a BILNAS flagship project. It aims to understand late antique and medieval history of an urban population in North Africa at the site of Bulla Regia, with particular emphasis on using high resolution scientific techniques (aDNA, isotopes, calculus) to understand identity, lifestyle, diet, health and mobility in the increasingly Christian world of late antiquity. Three seasons of excavation have uncovered a large funerary church and cemetery with rich mosaics and over 400 tombs. Significant progress has been made this year on the analysis and interpretation of the stratigraphy, ceramics, glass and human remains ahead of a final, much delayed, excavation season in September 2023. An open-access article was published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* on the strontium and oxygen isotope results, and further articles on the materials are underway.

OASIS CIVILISATION PROJECT

The Oasis Civilisation Project is investigating one of the most significant and largest Saharan oases in the Wadi Draa, Morocco. This is a continuation through excavations of the survey work carried out by the Middle Draa Project 2015–18. The results are transforming knowledge and understanding of the early stages of oasis formation and settlement in the Moroccan Sahara, from later Iron Age times, through the early centuries of Islamic rule (with a notable boom in activity in the Almoravid period (11th–12th centuries)). In 2021–22 the project excavated a series of sites: Iron Age tombs with painted funerary chapels for an ancestor cult, associated sedentary settlement associated with early agriculture, Iron Age silos, a medieval castle-like building and a well-preserved house in an abandoned early modern village. BILNAS is supporting the publication programme for the project, which will take the form of a series of volumes. The first two volumes will feature a complete site gazetteer for the Draa and an overview of its archaeology, along with detail of the Iron Age painted tombs



BOU051 House
excavation
(Oasis Civilisation/
Nichole Sheldrick).

and related settlement site. The latter will set a new benchmark for understanding the pre-Islamic period in Northern Africa and the Sahara, complementing BILNAS' prior work on the Garamantes of the Libyan Fazzan. Subsequent volumes in the series will target key medieval sites and landscapes identified in the survey.

MAREA AND THE CYRENAICA COASTAL SURVEY

Maritime heritage sites in the Middle East and North Africa face many threats, particularly from conflict, rising sea-levels partly caused by climate change, and urban and industrial development. Because of this, the Maritime Endangered Archaeology (MarEA) project was established, with the aim to rapidly and comprehensively document and assess threats to the maritime and coastal archaeology of the region (<https://marea.soton.ac.uk>). The collected data and the condition assessments for analysed sites are stored in the open access database platform of the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project hosted by the University of Oxford. The five-year MarEA project is based at the University of Southampton's Centre for Maritime Archaeology and at Ulster University's School of Geography and Environmental Sciences. The project is funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.

BILNAS has funded the Cyrenaica Coastal Survey (CCS) in partnership with MarEA. The CCS is a collaborative project between MarEA and the Department of Antiquities (DoA) and is supported by the Universities of Al Bayda and Benghazi in Libya. The aim was to record the current condition of maritime sites along the Cyrenaican coast between Tocra and Apollonia. The focus was, in particular, on smaller, lesser known, coastal heritage sites such as Al Ocla, Phycus, or Noat to name but a few. The results of the survey show that it is not only sites that are located to expanding settlements that face severe threats of damage and destruction. Building activities (often unregulated) of holiday homes and farms, as well as clearance to create new agricultural fields, threaten many rural sites. Another real threat to sites located



Modern building on top of archaeological site east of Phycus (Image: CCS).



The CCS survey team out at work (Image: CCS).



Islamic tombs between Apollonia and Phycus (Image: CCS).



Submerged anchor around the island of Famis (Image: CCS)



Sidi Bu-Mansour, fortified farm E of Ptolemais (Image: CCS)

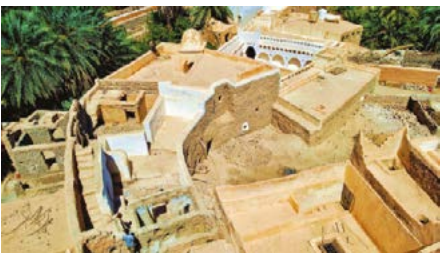


Building destroyed by coastal erosion, E of Tocra (Image: CCS)

right by the sea is sand mining as well as severe and rapid coastal erosion. Sites recorded include small harbours and anchorages with domestic and industrial features (e.g. Noat, Phycus, Aptouchos, Al Ogla), as well as cemeteries, tombs, open and fortified farms, quarries, wells and small settlements mainly of the classical period, but also some sites of the Islamic period. One of the main outcomes of the project was the creation of a protective perimeter wall around the site of Noat, to enforce its legal protected status and to protect it from development and destruction. The team is currently in the process of preparing the results of the project for publication in *Libyan Studies*. The team hopes to resume work on the CCS in 2023 and run a similar project along the coastline of Tripolitania.

MANAGING LIBYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Intervention at the Dan Al-Ali building in the historic town of Ghadames



Over the last year, the *Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage* (MaLiCH) project, funded by the ALIPH Foundation, has focused on the renovation of a historic house in the Old Town of Ghadames. Working with the Ghadames City Protection and Development Authority (GCPDA), the project team documented the building's condition, produced detailed architectural and structural plans for the intervention, and surveyed traditional crafts across the region.

In June 2022 the site was prepared and the house's foundations consolidated. The external work on the building has now been largely completed by local contractors and local craftswomen will soon begin decorating the interiors with traditional Berber designs in a technique called Zanjafoor. The house will be a community and cultural hub with a first exhibition on the history of the town planned with several families agreeing to the loan of items. This will be followed by another show dedicated to the traditional crafts of Ghadames and showcasing samples of contemporary work.

The next stages of the project will involve working closely with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) on challenges facing the World Heritage Sites of Lepcis Magna and Sabratha. The project team visited Tripoli in January 2023 where they discussed the necessities of vegetation control as part of management planning and responses to climate change, in particular the impact of coastal erosion and extreme weather events. The team is planning interventions with the DoA aimed at mitigating some of these immediate issues.

COLONIAL SCIENCE

'Colonial Science': the production of space and its afterlives in Italian North Africa

David Atkinson, Professor of Cultural and Historical Geography at the University of Hull, was awarded a prestigious British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship for 2022–23. His project builds upon a previous award from the Society for Libyan Studies (2015–19). The project is affiliated with BILNAS and benefits from additional BILNAS funding for research costs.

The project focuses on the Italian production of modern Libya through their use of geographical science, methods and representations. Beyond the coastal territories of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania (occupied by the Ottoman Empire from the 15th century, and by Italy from 1911), the Saharan interior was deemed largely ‘empty’ by European commentators. David’s work outlines how the Fascist regime developed a programme of cartographic survey to establish the borders of this colonial territory. It then interrogates how a highly-coordinated five-year research programme of self-consciously, performative scientific surveys was organised to construct knowledge about the interior.

This programme was theorised as Italy’s ‘Colonial Science’ and between 1932–36 seven field-missions generated data, images and reports about the Fezzan’s geology and geography, its flora and fauna, and its people, cultures and settlements. This knowledge was enshrined in European scientific formats and sought to represent a unified *Libia Italiana* that was knowable and governable (as represented by the 1938 map by Ghisleri). The surveys also produced public-facing materials and images for wider dissemination as part of the regime’s promotion of Italy’s new ‘Fourth Shore’ while the colony was incorporated formally into metropolitan Italy between 1934-39.

The second world war ended the Italian colonial presence, but after independence in 1951 the stark, angular dimensions of the state were still defined by Italy’s interwar cartography and surveys. The results of this ‘Colonial Science’ therefore continue to influence the post-colonial shape and structure of the region.



*Ghisleri, A. (1938)
Atlante storico,
Cattaneo, Bergamo.*



EVENTS

From Dr Niccolò Mugnai, BILNAS Assistant Director

The transition from the former Society for Libyan Studies (SLS) to the newly established British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS) was celebrated with a rich programme of lectures and events. The amelioration of the Covid-19 pandemic allowed us to move to a more flexible format of events, featuring a mix of online and in-person talks that we envisage will stay in place for the foreseeable future. We were pleased to be able to hold our Annual Lecture in person again at the British Academy in October 2022, which formally inaugurated the new course of activities of BILNAS; this was made even more successful thanks to deliverance of a brilliant lecture by Prof. Josephine Quinn. Among other events, an international workshop was co-run with the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) in April 2022 to mark the recent online publication of Greek and Latin inscriptions from Libya; it involved a dynamic conversation with the project's collaborators from institutions in London, Durham, Bologna, and the British School at Rome (BSR). A second workshop was co-organised by BILNAS and the BSR in October 2022 to highlight ongoing projects on ancient Tripolitania, involving scholars from both these institutions and other colleagues from the UK and Italy, and further stressing the importance of collaborations among the British International Research Institutes (BIRI). This year we also held our first co-hosted lecture: Muna Haroun Abdelhamed gave a lecture in February 2023 in the seminar series on 'Ancient North Africa: Histories, Cities, and Landscapes' held at the University of Oxford. We are keen to hold similar co-sponsored events at universities across the UK in the future, and members are encouraged to contact the General Secretary if they are interested in organising a Northern African lecture at their home institution.

*Cyrene, basilica:
bilingual Latin and
Greek inscription
IRCyr2020, C.18
dedicated to
Hadrian (photo
H. Walda).*



5 April 2022 (BILNAS – ICS Workshop)

**Prof. Charlotte Roueché (King's College London),
Dr Gabriel Bodard (ICS)**

Inscriptions of Libya: an international workshop

This online workshop, organised by the Institute of Classical Studies and BILNAS, marked the online publication of the Greek and Latin inscriptions of Libya (see <https://libyanepigraphy.org/projects/>). With the launch of this new online tool, the majority of known inscriptions from Cyrenaica (largely in Greek) and Tripolitania (largely in Latin) are now easily accessible for researchers working across the world. This workshop brought together the main contributors to showcase their work and demonstrate how new technology has enabled the collaborative creation of rich resources for the study of the history of Libya.

17 May 2022

Dr Nichole Sheldrick (University of Leicester)

Building the countryside: rural architecture and settlement in Tripolitania during the Roman and Late Antique periods

This online talk presented the results of a study which brings together data on the architecture and construction of over 2000 rural structures from across Tripolitania, dating from the first century BC until the seventh century AD. The synthesis and standardisation of these data, collected from both previously published investigations and from new remote surveys using satellite imagery, have made it possible to conduct new analyses and comparisons between rural buildings from across the region. The talk examined the plans, construction, and potential uses of the main types of structures which were built in different parts of Tripolitania's countryside, from small farms to the large and imposing fortified farmhouses for which the region is well-known.



Fortified farm (BS004) in the Bir Scedua basin area, Libya, photographed in 1981 (left: UNESCO Libyan Valleys Survey Archive, F442/N34) and on satellite imagery in 2014 (right: Maxar Technologies via Google Earth Pro).

18 October 2022 (BILNAS – BSR Workshop)

Dr Niccolò Mugnai (BILNAS – University of Oxford), Alessandra Giovenco (BSR), Dr Emlyn Dodd (BSR)

Understanding ancient Tripolitania: research, partnerships, and knowledge sharing

This hybrid, in-person and online workshop celebrated ongoing partnerships between BILNAS and the BSR within the broader framework of the BIRI's collaborative activities. The first part of the workshop focused on the recent online publication of the *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania 2021 (IRT2021)*, discussing the work around this venture and how this has prepared the ground for broader collaborations and digital projects. In the second part, attention was paid to the importance of archival resources (such as those held by the BSR and BILNAS) for past, present, and future research on Tripolitania, demonstrating how such collections can enrich our comprehension of this region across a broad timeframe.



Bilingual Latin and neo-Punic inscription IRT2021, 322 from the theatre at Lepcis Magna (BILNAS Archive, Charles Daniels Papers, D24/12/1/4).



Above: Thugga, the so-called Mausoleum of Atban (photo N. Mugnai).

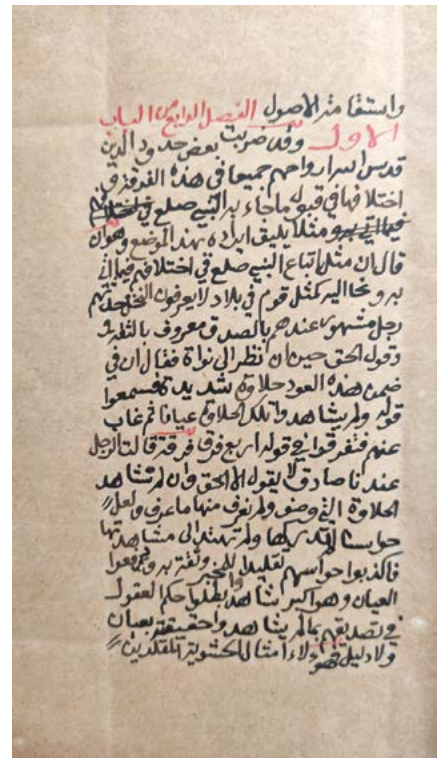
Right: A folio from Mukhtaṣar al-usūl of ‘Alī b. Muḥammad b. al-Walīd (d. 612/1215) (Alavi Bohra Dawat Collection, Baroda, India).

27 October 2022 (BILNAS Annual Lecture)
Prof. Josephine Crawley Quinn (University of Oxford)
Under the same sky: regionalising ancient North Africa

While scholars tend to present ancient North Africa as a series of ‘islands in space’ dominated by a mosaic of ethnic groups and a succession of imperial powers, in this in-person Annual Lecture it was argued that states and ethnic groups are not always and necessarily the relevant actors in political, economic or cultural history, and that vertical power relations cannot fully explain social practice. The lecture explored new regions that emerge out of the evidence for cultural phenomena such as architecture, ritual, and migration, asking how they map onto each other and onto traditional geographies of race and state, land and sea. It was suggested that regions and region-making provide a useful complication to binary models of the local and global.

29 November 2022
Dr Kumail Rajani (University of Exeter)
In search of the sources of the sources: exploring Fatimid libraries of North Africa

This online talk presented the results of a study carried out in the context of a BILNAS Postdoctoral Writing Fellowship, which explored the new genre of literature that was produced under the rubric of ‘ulūm Āl al-Bayt (sciences of the progeny of the Prophet) after the Fatimids established their hegemony over North Africa. Fatimid scholars had to have recourse to earlier collections of Medina, Egypt, Yemen, Baghdad and Qum as they cited them consistently in their writings and incorporated them into their works. These early collections, most of which no longer exist, equipped the scholars with the raw material from which they formulated and systematised various aspects of Isma‘ili beliefs and practices.



7 February 2023
Dr Muna Haroun Abdelhamed (Madani Schools Federation, Leicester)
The story of Cyrenaican horses in the Greek and Roman periods and its reality

This in-person talk, organised as part of a seminar series at the University of Oxford, discussed the main stories about Cyrenaican horses and Cyrenaican charioteers’ performances in overseas athletic games, as they are presented in ancient Greek and Roman literary sources. The talk addressed the issue of whether these assertions represented a reality, or simply a convention. It also aimed to show how our knowledge of these subjects can be enriched by exploiting the rich epigraphic infor-

mation of digital resources such as the *Inscriptions of Greek Cyrenaica (IGCyr)* and *Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica 2020 (IRCyr2020)*.

28 March 2023

Prof. Simona Troilo (University of L'Aquila)

Ruins of the Empire: Roman antiquities in fascist Libya

Archaeology in Libya played a key role in the fascist regime's consensus machine, strengthening the historical imagery of fascism and the ideal connection between Italy and the colony. This online talk showed how the creation of an imperial heritage was part of the construction of the colony's system of domination. On the one hand, this system incorporated the materials of the past into 'Italianness'; on the other, it 'liberated' the spaces of antiquity from the presence of 'intruders' who were considered extraneous to the cultural tradition of these places. Archaeology thus became a further tool to define imperial hierarchies, identify a subaltern otherness, and attempt to assert a totalitarian control over the territory.



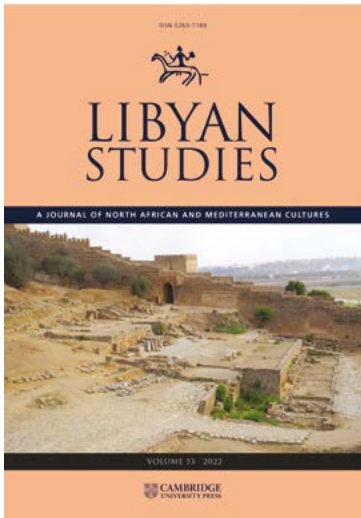
Above: Cyrene, museum: marble base decorated with reliefs of quadrigas (photo P. Kenrick).



Left: Sabratha, Roman theatre as restored under Italian colonial administration (photo P. Kenrick).

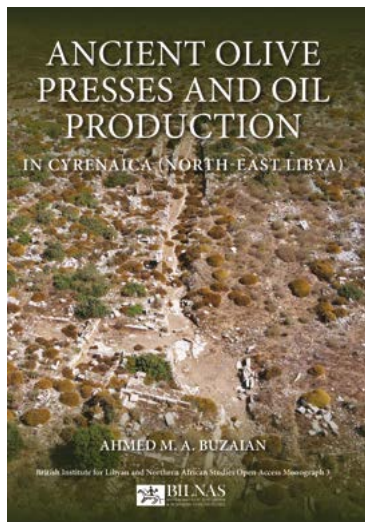


PUBLICATIONS 2022–23



LIBYAN STUDIES JOURNAL

Libyan Studies 53 was published in December 2022 in partnership with Cambridge University Press, using the new BILNAS logo. Dr Victoria Leitch continues as the Editor, and this year we welcomed our first Guest Editor, Dr Niccolò Mugnai, who edited the special section ‘North African Architectures and Urban Spaces across the Roman, Late Antique, and Islamic Eras’. Information about becoming a Guest Editor can be found on our website. Readers will have noticed our new design template, which has been a great success, giving us more words per page. Through the Plan S Transformative Journals Programme, we have this year increased our number of Open Access articles to 7, representing over 50% of our research articles.



NEW BOOKS

We celebrated our first in-person meeting and Annual Lecture (October 2022) with a presentation of Dr Ahmed Buzaiian’s new BILNAS publication *Ancient Olive Presses and Oil Production in Cyrenaica (North-East Libya)*. To quote Professor Andrew Wilson, ‘This work will form the baseline for any future discussion of olive oil production in the region, and makes an important contribution to a wider understanding of settlement in and the economy of Cyrenaica in antiquity’. We will also be publishing, in summer 2023, the follow up to *Les Mosquées Ibadites du Djebel Nafusa*, with Dr Virginie Prevost’s *Résistance et Dévotion: Anciens sanctuaires ibadites de Djerba*, an analytical study of places of worship mentioned in Ibadite sources.

OPEN ACCESS

BILNAS continues its commitment to making our publications Open Access. We now have 23 books available and are progressively adding Open Access publications to high-profile repositories such as JSTOR, OAPEN, BiblioLabs, MUSEOpen, Unglue.it.

Our journal, *Libyan Studies*, published with Cambridge University Press is a hybrid Open Access journal, meaning that it publishes some articles available only to subscribers, plus Open Access articles which may be accessed on-line by anyone without charge. Many UK-based researchers are now able to publish open-access at no additional charge through institutional transformative agreements with Cambridge University Press and we encourage eligible researchers to take up this option.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

LIBRARY

The BILNAS Library continues to be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. In the last few years it was relegated to the basement floor, to allow for building works. We are delighted to report that the collection has now moved back to Level D (first floor) of the Library which reunites it with SOAS Library's African collection; the BILNAS Library is located at stack 219. This year 24 publications have been added to the collection. Amongst other changes at SOAS Library, Dr Rookaya Bawa started as Chief Librarian on 1 February 2023. A new Library Management System has been purchased and will be implemented this year. It will bring a number of improvements to the Library and will aid searching of SOAS Library's catalogue which also lists the holdings of the BILNAS Library.

New acquisitions, once catalogued, are added to the Zotero bibliography at <https://www.zotero.org/bilnas/>

Dawn Wright, Honorary Librarian

ARCHIVES

Thanks to the efforts of the Director, and the support of the British Academy, we have been able to obtain the help of a professional archivist, Felicity Crowe. She writes:

'Over the past year, I have worked to make the archive more accessible to researchers by improving the catalogue. The archive catalogue has grown from 4,988 to 12,338 entries. This has partly been through cataloguing new collections, such as the Philip Kenrick, UNESCO Libyan Valleys Survey (ULVS) and Isabella Sjöström papers. Legacy catalogues have also been added to the online catalogue by cleaning the data, checking entries against the physical records, bringing entries to archival standards, adding hierarchies and ingesting the result into Calm, the collections management system that holds the archive catalogue. I have also been preparing the John Ward-Perkins and Kathleen Kenyon collection for digitisation by an external company in the 2023-24 financial year. Toponyms have been added to all new records in a separate field, to facilitate the BILNAS archive's integration into the planned BIRI online portal.

In the spring term we hosted five student interns, who used the archive to research the work of Olwen Brogan, ULVS and the deterioration over time of Libyan archaeological sites. We felt this worked well and hope to host further groups of students in the future. This will give us a better understanding of the material we hold, provide students with experience in archival research and raise the profile of the archive in the School. In terms of visibility, I have also begun creating posts for the BILNAS Twitter account



Felicity checks the archive boxes for the move!

The rich collection of maps and plans is now catalogued and held in appropriate drawers.



to draw researchers' attention to the richness of the archive. I have also developed processes, monitoring systems and guidance to help the archive keep track of enquiries and visitors, ensure best practice and consistency in digital preservation and in-house digitisation, and abide by copyright and data protection laws. These are intended to be easy to follow for non-archivists.

Much of my work over the past few months has comprised preparation for the archive's move onto the University of Leicester campus in April 2023. The new space will be closer to the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, which we hope will encourage researchers from the School to visit the archive.

In March 2023, I visited the British Institute at Ankara for a data curation workshop. Just as useful as the workshop itself was meeting the other BIRI archivists in person and discussing shared challenges and how we might work together in the coming months. Finally, I have joined the 'Plugged In, Powered Up' mentorship scheme organised by The National Archives. Under the scheme, with the guidance of Francesca Mackenzie, an experienced digital archivist, I am creating workflows to manage digital material from donation to deposit with the Archaeological Data Service. These will be simple enough for non-archivists to follow in the future'.

Felicity Crowe, Archivist

Surveying a well-preserved gasr, or fortified farm, at site BS 2 in the rocky Tripolitanian pre-desert, 1981.



John Dore Scholar

Work on the Archive at the University of Leicester

Our John Dore Scholar, Dr Ahmed Buzaian completed identification of the large-scale maps and plans (3335 items) in the BILNAS collections. He has now scanned most of the photographs, handwritten notes and notebooks in the main collections for Sabratha, Ghirza, Lepcis, Cyrene, Tocra, Ptolemais and Fazzan total of 13568 items (6045 photos, 2395 negatives, 739 slides and 4389 documents).

SUPPORTING BILNAS

The British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies receives the majority of its income in the form of a generous annual grant from the British Academy. We also receive subscription income from our



members. The British Academy funding is earmarked for projects agreed with us but these rightly have to fit with the Academy's overall policies and aims. To maintain a full events, research, and publications programme and to finance our Archive, BILNAS therefore needs to supplement its income. In recent times we have received some substantial gifts including a large donation to finance the translation of books into Arabic and the recent Celia Hensman legacy which has enabled us for the first time to finance university students at all levels to study or conduct fieldwork in North Africa.



We therefore welcome enquiries about opportunities to sponsor BILNAS and our official activities and events. Whether you are an individual, a company or an organisation with connections to Libya or Northern Africa or are interested in the heritage, culture and scholarship of the region, BILNAS would be delighted to hear from you to discuss opportunities to support our events, research grants and fellowships, publications, our Archive and other special initiatives.

As a UK Registered Charity, donations to BILNAS qualify for gift aid and income and corporation tax relief. They are also exempt from inheritance tax. This means we receive the full value of your intended gift while possibly reducing the tax burden on your estate if you are a UK taxpayer. Other countries may also provide for tax-free legacy contributions. If you wish to make a donation, please contact the General Secretary or visit our website (www.bilnas.org/about-us/sponsorship-and-donations/).



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

MEMBERS 186, OF WHOM 46 ARE FROM OVERSEAS:

Australia	Germany	Poland
Austria	Israel	Sweden
Canada	Italy	Switzerland
Croatia	Japan	Turkey
Cyprus	Libya	USA
France	Malta	

OPEN ACCESS BOOK DOWNLOADS FROM 25 COUNTRIES:

Algeria	Germany	Spain
Australia	Greece	Sweden
Belgium	Italy	Switzerland
Brazil	Japan	Tunisia
Canada	Libya	Turkey
Croatia	Morocco	United Kingdom
Denmark	Netherlands	USA
Egypt	Norway	
France	Poland	

TOTAL ATTENDEES AT LECTURES:

36 presentations on the YouTube channel
1716 streamed views during the past 12 months
(**9%** increase compared to the previous year)

TWITTER

1708 followers
10% increase year on year

FACEBOOK

2836 followers
22% increase year on year

WEBSITE

10,300 unique visitors (**12%** increase compared to 2021-22)
26,900 page views (**5%** increase on previous year).

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
INCOME		
British Academy Grant	13,4133	76,937
Business Development Fund Grant	15,479	15,500
Subscriptions	5,579	5,561
Journal sales	3,312	3,142
Book sales and postage	2,699	4,261
Bank interest	187	113
Donations/gift aid	21,341	1,500
Miscellaneous	4,714	0
TOTAL INCOME	187,444	107,014
EXPENDITURE		
Research grants	47,749	46,119
Library/Research collections	35,190	17,726
Archive: cataloguing and conservation	31,932	11,226
Archive digitisation	3,258	6,500
Communications and outreach	16,852	8,350
Events	3,467	1,143
Publicity and outreach	1,142	4,318
Website maintenance/development	11,743	2,413
Lecture/meeting expenses	500	476
Publications	28,387	27,986
Digitisation of old books	570	0
Storage/despatch of books	261	221
Print-on-demand costs	1,485	2,462
Royalties on book sales	200	196
Publications Manager	17,633	17,015
Journal production	2,745	4,150
Production of monographs/Silphium books	4,371	800
Other costs (Adobe, ISBN, small equipment)	1,122	3,142

Establishment	19,743	18,474
Bank charges	235	153
General Secretary's remuneration	11,928	11,567
Insurance	477	0
Office expenses	1,103	754
Accountancy	6,000	6,000
Travel	645	0
UK	645	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>148,566</u>	<u>118,655</u>
SURPLUS-DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	<u>38,878</u>	<u>-11,641</u>

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	31/03/2023	31/03/2022
	£	£
ASSETS		
Virgin Money Account	70,113	69,926
NatWest Current Account	41,808	8,166
PayPal Account	0	605
Total Cash	<u>111,921</u>	<u>78,697</u>
Stock of publications, valued at cost	9,728	8,065
Total Assets	<u>121,649</u>	<u>86,762</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	500	1,232
Accrued income	981	903
Grants allocated but not yet paid out	0	5,000
Total Liabilities	<u>1,481</u>	<u>7,135</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>120,168</u>	<u>79,627</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
General Fund	68,124	29,246
Stock Fund	9,728	8,065
Publications Fund	42,316	42,316
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>120,168</u>	<u>79,627</u>

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
General Fund brought forward	29,246	35,066
Stock Fund brought forward	8,065	11,112
Publications Fund brought forward	42,316	48,137
Total funds at start of year	79,627	94,315
Deficit/surplus for the year	38,878	-11,641
Movement in stock	1,663	-3,047
TOTAL FUNDS	120,168	79,627

Held over grants

At 31 March 2023 the Charity had received grant funding of £40,000 from the British Academy which had not been awarded. This sum will be awarded and paid out during the 2023-24 financial year. Without the delay in this award the Charity would have shown a deficit of £1,122 in its above Statement of Financial Activities.

Reserves policy

The Charity has few financial commitments which cannot be terminated at short notice, since it has no direct employees and does not own or rent premises; it has not therefore been considered necessary to retain a reserve for potential winding-up costs.

At any one time the Charity may be holding grants which have been awarded but not yet taken up by their recipients, and for practical reasons some of these (typically awarded in February for projects to be undertaken in the summer) are usually held over the end of the financial year (31 March). Such sums are shown above as a restricted reserve.

BILNAS has historically set aside funds for publications arising (usually several years later) from fieldwork that it has supported. These are shown as a Publications Reserve, with the intention that they may be used to support (any) publication costs, but not new fieldwork.

Book collection

BILNAS held 971 items in its books collection, which is housed in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

BILNAS did not have an active acquisition policy for its book collection during the year under review; it received volumes by gift and by exchange and works sent for review were generally also added to the collection.

Oliver Kimberley *Chartered Accountant, Honorary Treasurer*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES**

Charity number 259262 registered in England & Wales

I report to the Council on my examination of the accounts of the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Colm Walls *Chartered Management Accountant, Honorary Independent Examiner*
36 Lancet Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9SA



MEMBERSHIP

To join BILNAS, sign up on the website <https://www.bilnas.org/membership/how-to-join/> or contact the General Secretary gensec@bilnas.org

Membership is open to all and runs from April to April. Key benefits include being part of a long-standing academic community, plus:

- Free copy of *Libyan Studies*, BILNAS's annual journal
- The opportunity to purchase BILNAS publications at significantly discounted prices
- Attendance at BILNAS events, meetings, lectures and the Annual General Meeting
- Access to the BILNAS Library through free annual membership of the SOAS Library
- Access to the BILNAS Archive (University of Leicester)

CONTACT

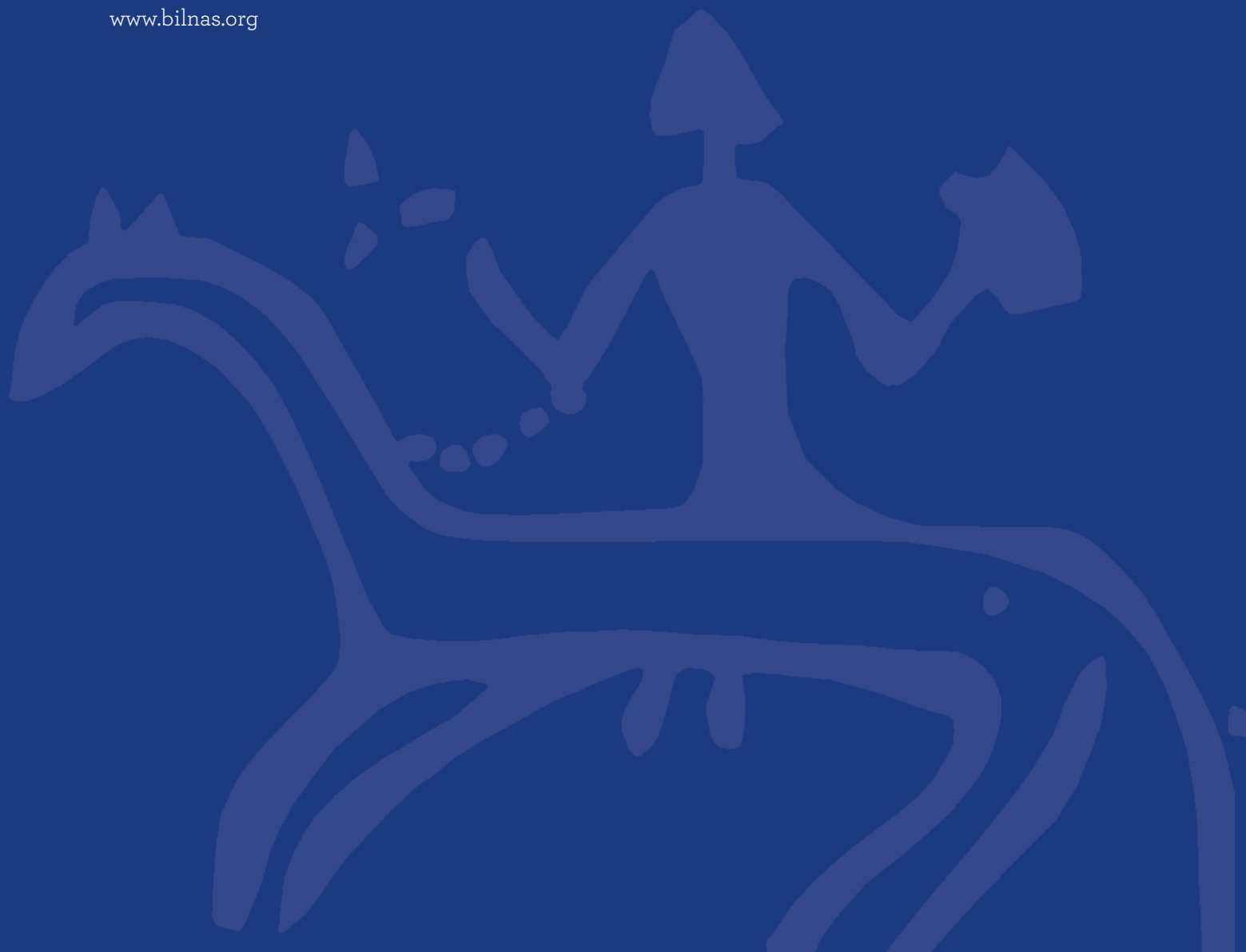
General Secretary: Pauline Graham
BILNAS
c/o British Academy
10-11 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH
gensec@bilnas.org

Social Media

 <https://www.facebook.com/LibyanNorthernAfricanStudies>

 <https://twitter.com/LibyanStudies>

www.bilnas.org



BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 259262

Accounts

SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

ANNUAL

REVIEW

2021-22



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ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

The address of the Society is:

c/o The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

The Society maintains a website at <http://www.societyforlibyanstudies.org>.

The General Secretary may be contacted by email at gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org

The Society is a Registered UK Charity, no. 259262, founded in 1969 with the object of promoting studies in regard to Libya. To this end, it seeks through its activities:

- to support and undertake research relating to the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, customs and natural history of Libya;
- to organize and promote missions to Libya for these purposes;
- to cooperate with other organisations sharing the same fields of interest;
- to arrange for the publication of research in these fields;
- to hold lectures and meetings, to publish an annual journal (Libyan Studies) and other publications which will enhance and promote public knowledge of all aspects of Libyan culture and society.

The Society is governed in accordance with Rules first adopted in 1969 and subsequently modified in 1974, 1982, 2010, 2019 and 2020. The Society is recognised by the Charity Commission as an unincorporated association. The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years; the Director is elected for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years; the Assistant Director, the Treasurer, the Head of Mission and the Editor of the Society's journal are elected annually and may be re-elected without limit; the remainder of the Council is composed of up to eight Ordinary Members who are elected annually and may be re-elected, subject to a maximum continuous period of service of four years. In proposing Ordinary Members for election, the Council seeks to secure as wide a range of skills within its fields of interest as possible. The Officers and Council, who constitute the trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The Society receives the major part of its funds from the British Academy, to be used 'to benefit the UK research endeavour'. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to confirm that the grant payments from the British Academy have been applied in accordance with the agreement between the Academy and the Society, and the aims and objectives of the Society as stated in its rules and declared to the Charity Commission for England. Council confirms that, in respect of the accounts presented herewith, this is so.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The Officers and Council on 31 March 2021 were as follows:

Officers

President: PROFESSOR ROBERT FOLEY, MA, PhD, ScD, FBA, FSA, FLS
Vice Presidents: PROFESSOR GRAEME BARKER, MA, PhD, CBE, FBA, FSA
SHIRLEY STRONG, MBE
Director: CORISANDE FENWICK, BA, MA, PhD, FSA
Honorary Treasurer: OLIVER KIMBERLEY, MA, ACA
Assistant Director: NICCOLÒ MUGNAI, BA, MA, PhD
Head of Mission: PAUL BENNETT, MBE, BA, Hon. DLitt, FSA, CIFA
Honorary Archivist: PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLOTTE ROUECHÉ, MA
Editor, Libyan Studies: VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Council: PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON, BSc, PhD
SALEM EL-MAIAR, MPhil, FRGS
SAM NIXON, MA, PhD
CHARIS OLSZOK, MA, PhD
NICHOLE SHELDRIK, MA, DPhil
General Secretary: PAULINE GRAHAM
Honorary Librarian: DAWN WRIGHT, BA, DipLib
Publications Manager: VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Research Grants Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The Head of Mission
PROFESSOR KEVIN MACDONALD, BA, PhD, FSA (Committee Chairman)
SAUL KELLY, BA, PhD

Publications Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The General Secretary
Editor of Libyan Studies Publications Manager
PROFESSOR JONATHAN HILL, MA, PhD

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I am about to step down as President of the Society for Libyan Studies. I took up the post in 2018, and how different the world was then. Worrying events there were aplenty, not least, for those in the UK, the build-up to Brexit, but nothing to match the scale of a pandemic that has killed at least fifteen million people and totally transformed the behaviour and economies of people and countries across the world, and the largest European conflict since World War II. The ripples of these events will be felt everywhere, including Libya, for years.

Such events may make concerns about the epigraphy of Leptis Magna a luxury, but what is happening in Ukraine echoes a decade of turbulence in Libya. The physical and cultural heritage of a country, its language, its pride in its past, remain significant and become amplified in times of national peril. Work such as that carried out by the SLS in collaboration with Libyan colleagues and institutions can play an important role in the preservation of these heritages, as well as their interpretation. Not that the SLS is just concerned with the past. Our remit has expanded more and more to cover the contemporary world, and we are proud of the way in which the Society is becoming a locus for research on current issues, such as migration and environmental change.

It is not just the world that has changed over the last four years, but it has also been an eventful period for the Society. As I said in my report last year, the academic world has transformed since the formation of the Society, and we need to adapt. The most significant of these adaptations has been our decision – ratified at the recent Emergency General Meeting – to change the name of the Society. Once we have undergone the necessary changes in legal status, the Society will evolve into the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies. This will achieve a number of goals – we will align ourselves with our sister institutions such as the British School at Rome; it will reflect our expanded geographical interests; and it will preserve our unique and special link with Libya. The Officers and Council are excited about the opportunities this will open up, especially as the British International Research Institutes, of which we are one, work increasingly together and collaboratively.

This means that I shall step down at the AGM as the last of the Presidents of the Society for Libyan Studies, before my successor rises, phoenix-like as the first president of BILNAS. I have been proud to serve the Society over the last four years, and work with the other officers in charting a way forward for the Society in what have proved to be turbulent times. Let us hope for the world more generally, for Libya in particular, and for BILNAS, a more peaceful future.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

As this Annual Report amply illustrates, 2021-22 has been a very rich year for the SLS. We are extremely grateful to all our new and existing members for their continued support of the SLS and its activities in these challenging times, whether through renewing subscriptions, donating or helping to raise the international profile of the SLS over the past year.

Our research activity goes from strength to strength. We have awarded new grants to UK scholars to conduct research on storytelling in the Libyan Diaspora and Libyan migration politics, reflecting the Society's broader remit to fund research across the humanities and social sciences. This year, we also established a new 'Postdoctoral Writing Fellowship' scheme aimed at supporting early-career researchers who do not yet hold a permanent academic position by giving them time to bring their work to publication. The lifting of travel restrictions also permitted the completion of a number of archaeological and ethnographic projects in Libya, the Sudan, Canary Islands and Tunisia which were funded prior to the pandemic and necessarily had to be postponed. I am also delighted to share the news of two new grant schemes which we will launch in the coming year. Thanks to the support of the British Academy, the SLS will run a new large grant scheme for researchers working on contemporary issues in the broader North African region this summer. A generous legacy donation supports a new SLS fund – the Celia Hensman Fund – which will offer small fellowships to Undergraduate, Masters and PhD students studying in the UK to conduct dissertation research or undertake archaeological fieldwork placements in North Africa. These small fellowships will provide a pivotal opportunity for the next generation of UK scholars to spend time in the region.

We have taken advantage of the digital turn to increase our publication and outreach activity. This year's publications include the open-access publication of N. Sheldrick's archaeological monograph *Building the Countryside* and a new, significantly updated, online edition of *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania* (<https://irt2021.inslib.kcl.ac.uk/en/>) published in collaboration with King's College London and the British School at Rome. We also published A. Goudie's *Camel Tracks* in our Silphium Press imprint, available as an ebook as well as hard copy. Our online Zoom lecture series has once again proved very popular and attracted large audiences from around the globe, and we hope to continue to hold some online lectures in the future alongside our revived in-person events in London and the UK.

We have also made further progress on the digitisation of the SLS Archive held at the University of Leicester. The SLS has a long and distinguished history of archaeological research in Libya and over the past few years, we have focused resources on digitising the photographs, plans, notes and other materials in the Archive, as well as augmenting the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya (<https://www.sls gazetteer.org/>) with King's College London. We were able to fund two posts for early-career academics to continue this work last year. Our John Dore Scholar, Dr Ahmed Buzaian has been busy digitising photographs, handwritten notes and notebooks from Sabratha, Ghirza, Lepcis, Cyrene, Tocra and Fazzan and the Society now possesses a digital library of over 11,000 items. The next step is to upload and integrate these with the



Heritage Gazetteer so that this rich digital collection is publicly available and our Kenyon Fellow, Dr Valeria Vitale, has developed workflows to aid this process. We have now appointed Felicity Crow as the SLS Archivist at the University of Leicester where she will complete the basic catalogue of the archive. We continue to seek funds to continue this important work to make the Society's archive accessible to all.

This is also a year of great change for the SLS. The SLS is one of eight British Academy sponsored institutes, collectively known as the British International Research Institutes (BIRI). Our activities are funded primarily by the public purse and we, along with other institutions serving the humanities and social sciences, need to demonstrate our relevance and value-for-money, particularly as the UK recovers from Covid-19. With this in mind, the SLS had already made some major changes over the past few years to demonstrate its value within the UK's overseas research infrastructure and its role in supporting cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences in the wider North African region.

This year, the SLS took two significant steps forward in ensuring its continued success and sustainability in the future. At the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 2 March 2022 via Zoom, the Council proposed two resolutions to change the name of the SLS and to change its legal status. These were passed with overwhelming support, by the members present.

The name of the Society will therefore change to the 'British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS)' following the AGM on 30th June 2022. Adopting 'British Institute' in the name will bring it in line with most of the other BIRIs and including 'Northern Africa' in the name more aptly reflects the Society's current geographic remit and UK research activities in the wider North African region. Keeping 'Libya' in the name affirms our continued commitment to Libya and our Libyan colleagues and friends, as well as reflecting the Society's rich heritage of collaborative research in Libya. Our journal *Libyan Studies*, our fieldwork in Libya and our rich archives and library of Libyan materials will remain integral to the activities of BILNAS, and we will continue to fundraise specifically for these successful assets supported by our dedicated Head of Mission. It is our hope that this change of name which reflects both the wider geographical focus of the Society and its enhanced status within the BIRI will help to attract additional members and sponsorship, and so ensure the future of the Society.

The second change will be to the legal structure of the Society, which was constituted over fifty years ago in a less litigious and less regulated world. The SLS is currently what the Charity Commission calls an 'unincorporated association', and in the coming year, we will change the institution to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This is a new form of charity introduced in 2013, which retains many of the benefits of an unincorporated association, including limited liability, while avoiding the costs associated with establishing and running a limited company. Charitable Incorporated Organisation status is more appropriate to the larger organisation that the Society has become and for the trustees by limiting their liability.

I am very much looking forward to seeing members at the British Academy in October at our first in-person event since the start of the pandemic to celebrate the launch of the new British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies.



NOTES FROM LIBYA

From our Head of Mission, Professor Paul Bennett

The situation for Libya's valuable cultural heritage has been encouraging over the last year, with survey projects and initiatives to protect endangered sites.

MAREA AND DOA CYRENAICA COASTAL SURVEY

Ahmad Emrage and a Department of Antiquities (DoA) team completed their survey of the coastal strip between Tocra and Derna, including underwater reconnaissance. The survey sought to determine the condition of archaeological sites and the degree of development in those areas, using remote survey techniques based in the UK and Ireland, and ground (and marine) truthing by the Libyan team. The project, funded and jointly led by MarEA (Maritime Endangered Archaeology) based at the universities of Ulster and Southampton has also been supported with a grant from SLS. A second stage of the survey between Tocra and Benghazi (funded partly by the Society) is about to start.

NEW LIBYA COASTAL EROSION SURVEY

Kieran Westley and Nic Flemming are looking to start a new survey of the Libyan coastline, focussing on erosion, in collaboration with several coastal geomorphology experts, and some students in Libya. The idea is to compile an inventory of erosion extent over the decades at numerous different sites between Benghazi and Tobruk. Aerial photographs and Remote Satellite space images will check the position of the coastline over time with extreme accuracy, to understand the causes and mechanisms of erosion in order to determine whether certain sites can be protected in the future. This is an important UK-Libya collaborative initiative that the Society hopes to support.

ITALIAN MISSION IN CYRENE

Members of the Italian mission visited Cyrene late in 2021. The core site is in a good condition but the necropolis, especially Baggara and El-Darb, has new houses and recently bulldozed ground everywhere. In the Apollo Sanctuary the excellent work of clearance and maintenance by the former Controller, Fadel AlAziz has been continued under new management, but garbage on site seems to be an issue that needs watching.

MANAGING LIBYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

The first phase of the MaLiCH (Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage) run by Dr Will Wootton of King's College, University of London, Department of Classics, has been completed. A series of lectures and presentations have been delivered online to members of DoA, and in the case of Ghadames, the Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA), responsible for maintaining the sites. An early, positive outcome has been the submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee by the GCPDA of a comprehensive World Heritage Management Plan for the site. The plan's main objective is to lift Ghadames out of the UNESCO Endangered World

Heritage Sites List. My part in the project was completed earlier this year with a series of written presentations translated into Arabic and delivered online by Dr Ahmed Buzaian. The project is now focussing on Lepcis Magna and Sabratha and will be seeking similar outcomes for both sites.

EUESPERIDES

The Department of Antiquities in Benghazi has decided to oppose two proposed developments close to the site of Euesperides and may approach the Society for help.

- A local football club is seeking to build shops over a significant part of the surviving Sebkhah-es Selmani. The area threatened is known to have contained part of the ancient harbour of Euesperides and a substantial part of the Lower City (Agora), with city wall and towers and an elaborate network of preserved streets and buildings.
- A second site for housing proposed by a private developer who claims to own the land, lies between the Sidi Abeid and Martyrs cemeteries, immediately east of the previous site. Land immediately east of a modern north-south highway that bisects the Agora and ground immediately south of the Sidi Abeid cemetery (Acropolis) still retain some potential for surviving archaeological remains.



RESEARCH GRANTS

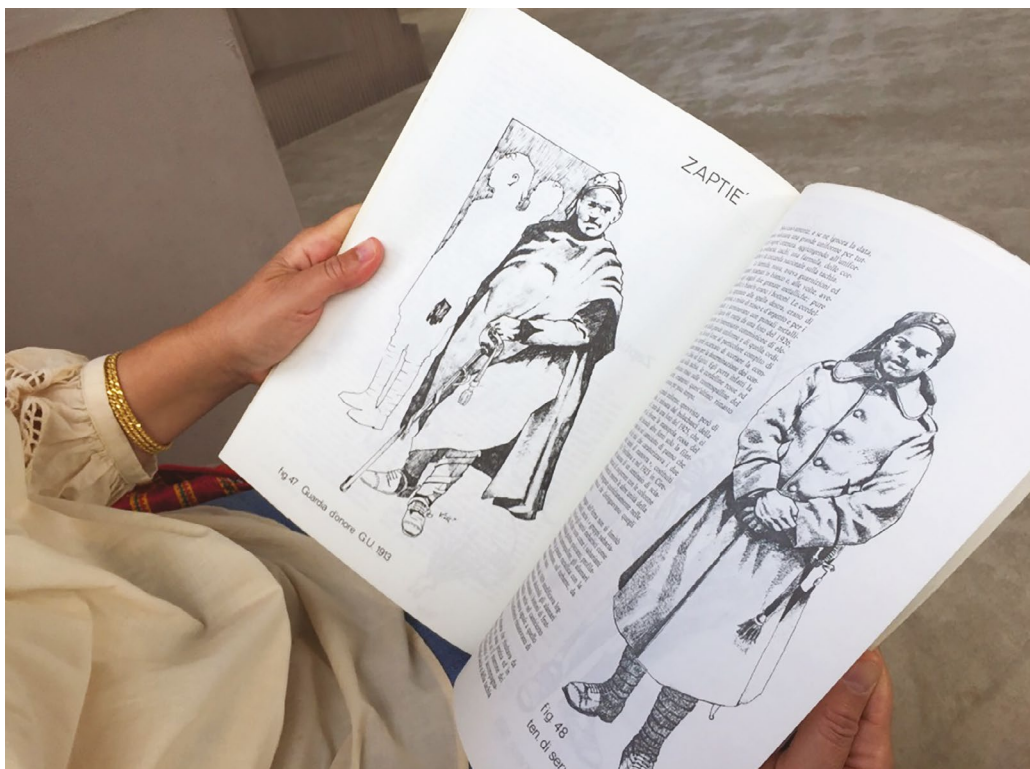
In 2021-22, the Society awarded four grants for a total of £30,640 to UK-based scholars at different career stages for research on Libya and North Africa. Ongoing uncertainties and travel restrictions due to Covid-19 kept having an impact on research projects, which resulted in a declining number of applications for field-based activities. For this reason, the Society introduced a new series of ‘Postdoctoral Writing Fellowships’ aimed at early-career researchers who do not hold a permanent academic position. These awards are designed to support the writing-up of already completed research in the form of one or more major journal articles, or a significant portion of a monograph, which will benefit the progress of the awardees’ academic career.

PILOT PROJECT AWARDS

Dr Barbara Spadaro (University of Liverpool) – £3,480

Broadcasting the art of the Libyan diaspora: a research and podcast series

This award will allow Dr Spadaro to meet artists of the Libyan diaspora and professionals of audio storytelling, to explore new research development practices, and to enhance her understanding of co-creation through the production of a new type of research output. The project aims to produce a podcast series on four female artists of the Libyan and Italian diasporas who, from a position of displacement and through a variety of media (from videoart to the graphic novel), explore questions



*Interview with
Libyan curator
Najlaa El-Ageli
at the Serpentine
Pavillion, 2021
(photo B. Spadaro).*

of transcultural memory, heritage, belonging, power, and the media of History in the contemporary world. This podcast series of 3-5 episodes will be developed in collaboration with a team of professional audio storytellers experienced in research dissemination and broadcast. This pilot project will help to evaluate the feasibility of a larger research, scholarship, and impact project involving more artists and cross-sectorial collaborations.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas (University of Glasgow) – £7,160 *The Libyan migration state*

This interdisciplinary project draws on migration and refugee studies, political science, sociology, and international relations to understand the central role that labour immigration enjoyed in Libya between 1951 and 2011. Building on previous work examining Libyan migration politics through the prism of external Arab and non-Arab actors, the project draws on previously unexamined archival work to identify the workings of the ‘Libyan migration state’. Moving beyond standard interpretations of labour immigrants’ developmental contribution to the contemporary Libyan state, the aim is to identify the domestic political and foreign policy role that cross-border mobility enjoyed under both King Idris and Colonel Gaddafi. The project’s research output will identify the importance of Libya in processes of regional migration governance in North Africa and the wider Mediterranean, thereby paving the way for novel interpretations of the continuing interplay between migration, politics, and power in contemporary Libya.

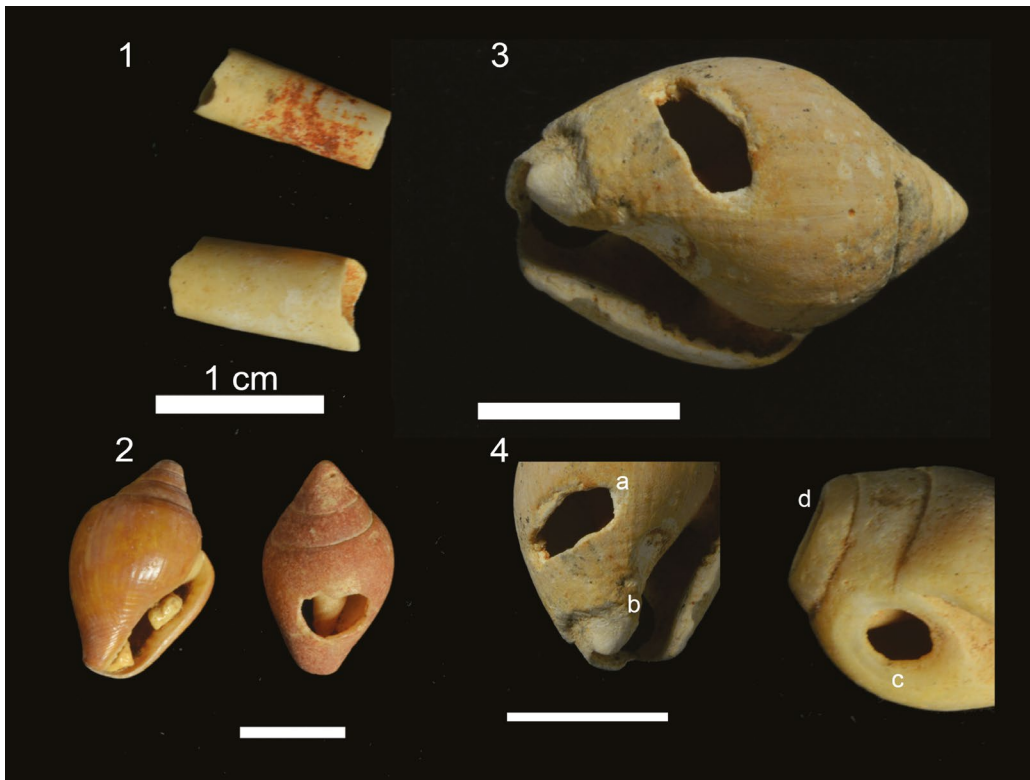
Poster of Gaddafi on the Libyan border, next to a slogan reading ‘Relationships are between people, not between governments’ (photo Wikimedia Commons, JPRoger).



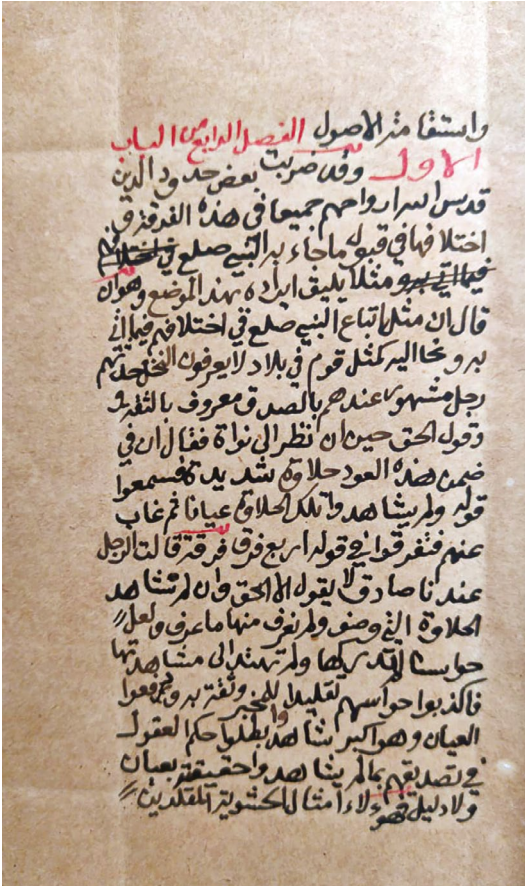
POSTDOCTORAL WRITING FELLOWSHIPS

Dr Evan Arthur Hill (Queens University Belfast) – £10,000
Very early shell beads from the Haua Fteah (Libya)

The Haua Fteah is perhaps the most important cave sequence in North Africa. In the re-evaluation of the archaeology of the cave led by Graeme Barker, a substantial number of shell beads of varying ages (from ~100,000 to 9,000 years old) was recovered. While these objects, which are of international significance because they are some of the oldest known shell beads associated with Early Modern Humans, have been known about for some time, no opportunity has presented itself for them to be properly recorded and written up. This fellowship will provide the framework to support the detailed analysis, recording, photography, and publication of this important assemblage.



*Examples of shell beads from the Haua Fteah. 1: *Antalis* sp. Tr. M, Context 10001, Capsian, showing ochre staining. 2: *Columbella rustica*, Context 10001, Capsian c. 9,000-10,000 cal BP, with ochre staining. 3: *Columbella rustica*, Tr. D, Context 1000, ~102,000 + 8,700 BP (Jacobs et al. 2017: *J Hum Evol* 105, 69-88). 4: (a) cut marks and yellow ochre staining; (b) notching off the columella of the shell; (c) drilling and smoothing on *Columbella rustica* from Epipalaeolithic layers; (d) top of shell removed, potentially to aid with stringing (photos E.A. Hill).*



Dr Kumail Rajani (University of Exeter) – £10,000
Between Qum and Qayrawān: reconstructing Fatimid libraries of North Africa

This project aims to reconstruct the Fatimid libraries of third/ninth century Qayrawān. Soon after the Fatimids established their hegemony over North Africa, a new genre of literature was produced under the rubric of ‘ulūm Āl al-Bayt (sciences of the progeny of the Prophet). Works on history, theology, law, polemics, esoteric sciences, allegorical interpretation of the Qur’an, biographical literature among several other were produced. It is evident that Fatimid scholars had to have recourse to earlier collections of Medina, Egypt, Yemen, Baghdad, and Qum as they cite them consistently in their writings and incorporate them into their works. These early collections, most of which no longer exist, equipped the scholars with the raw material from which they formulated and systematized various aspects of Isma’ili beliefs and practices.

A folio from Mukhtaṣar al-uṣūl of ‘Alī b. Muḥammad b. al-Walīd (d. 612/1215) (Alavi Bohra Dawat Collection, Baroda, India).



SOCIETY-AFFILIATED PROJECTS

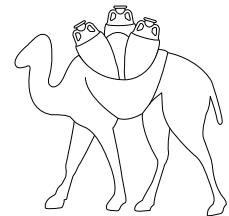
MANAGING LIBYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage (MaLiCH) is a three-year project funded by the ALIPH Foundation with the Society for Libyan Studies as one of the key partners. Since March 2020 the project team, led by Dr Will Wootton at King's College London, has been working with the Libyan Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA) to produce the documentation necessary to remove three of Libya's World Heritage Sites from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. To achieve this aim, we are building capacity amongst their staff and planning emergency interventions at the sites in line with their management plans.



TRANS-SAHARA PROJECT

The European Research Council funded Trans-SAHARA project, directed by Professor David Mattingly, reached its conclusion during the year with the publication of the final pair of the four-volume Trans-Saharan Archaeology series (see below). This co-publishing venture between the Society and Cambridge University Press has proved a great success and was celebrated at the AGM in December 2020.



BULLA REGIA

This flagship project sponsored by the Society and directed by Dr Corisande Fenwick and Dr Moheddine Chaouali aims to reconstruct the urban development of Bulla Regia from its Numidian origins to its abandonment in the Middle Ages and to understand the diet, nutrition, health, lifestyle, origins and mobility of its late antique inhabitants through excavations and bioarchaeological analyses. The planned final season in September 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19 and it is hoped that we will be able to complete the excavations in 2021-22. In the interim, the project team have been conducting isotopic and a DNA analysis on samples in the UK and working on the analysis of the mosaics uncovered.

HAUA FTEAH

The now completed Haua Fteah excavations directed by Professor Graeme Barker, partly sponsored by the Society, are at the publication stage. In 2020 an article was published on sedimentary and human responses to aridity in Mediterranean caves (Farr, L., R. Inglis & G. Barker); and in 2021 a video conference for the Society, *The Little Ice Age in the Southeast Mediterranean and Southern West Asia* (C. Hunt). The main volumes are in preparation.

*Finewares from
the Euesperides
excavations.*



EUESPERIDES

Work on the publication of the Society-sponsored Euesperides excavations directed by Professor Paul Bennett and Professor Andrew Wilson are underway. The first monograph publication will be the finewares, followed by the overall excavation reports and other finds. These publications are now vital to underpin the importance of the archaeological levels of the Greek city of Euesperides (the first Benghazi), to demonstrate to the local authority, to landowners and local people why they are worth saving. An additional part of the project is the conservation of the archives, presently held at Tocra. The archives span a period from the sixth century BC to the tenth century AD, and constitute an unparalleled teaching resource, and need to be saved for future generations of archaeologists.



EVENTS

From Dr Niccolò Mugnai, the Society's Assistant Director

This was a busy year for the Society in many ways. Our series of events covered a broad range of topics, both thematically and geographically, reflecting the breadth of initiatives that are at the heart of the Society. While it was initially hoped to host some of these events in person, the ongoing uncertainties related to the sanitary situation suggested otherwise and we decided to carry on with online webinars via Zoom. Like in the previous year, these webinars proved to be successful and well-attended by international audiences; recorded talks are available to watch via our YouTube channel. With the launch of the new events series in the autumn 2022, we aim to move to a mixed format of online and in-person talks. The Society was particularly pleased with the enthusiasm of the speakers who contributed to our events with presentations of their work on Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and beyond, from prehistory up to the modern period. One of our key goals was to further foster collaborations among the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) through organization of joint events – a path we envision will continue in the years to come. Together with the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA), a joint lecture series was hosted this year on ‘Northern African – Ottoman Relations in History (17th – 20th Centuries)’, featuring three talks throughout September-November 2021.

6 April 2021

Dr Ahmad Emrage (University of Benghazi)

From Ohio to Cyrenaica: Libyan archaeological heritage matters

This talk outlined the academic and field archaeological activities that have been conducted by Libyan archaeologist Dr Ahmad Emrage since September 2019. This presentation included a summary of his experience as a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Oberlin College in Ohio, USA, and a general account of archaeological works – including excavations, surveys, and cultural awareness programmes – that Dr Emrage supervised and participated in at different locations in Cyrenaica, in cooperation with local Libyan, British, and American institutions.



Training excavations at Cyrene in 2020 (photo S. Jarray).

11 May 2021

Dr Louise Rayne (University of Newcastle)

Resilient past water management in the Near East and North Africa

In this lecture, Dr Louise Rayne explored the past development of water management in the context of future sustainability. She discussed oasis case studies from Morocco, Libya, and Iraq. Oases are environments created as a result of long-term, human-environment interactions but are vulnerable to human adaptability to changes (environmental, social, political). Although traditional methods of irrigation have been seen as sustainable, archaeological evidence for this is needed. Dr Rayne applies an interdisciplinary methodology to her research, using satellite imagery, archived data, and fieldwork to map the traces of past water management features.



Shafts of a dry khattera (groundwater collecting tunnel, also known as foggara or qanat) lined with stones, Morocco, November 2021 (photo L. Rayne).

8 June 2021

Prof. Chris Hunt (Liverpool John Moores University)

The Little Ice Age in southeast Mediterranean and southern southwest Asia

This talk explored climatic changes during the Little Ice Age in northern Libya, Tunisia, southern Jordan, and the Persian Gulf, which led to severe drought across



A boulder emplaced by one of the Little Ice Age floods in Wadi Kouf in the al-Jebel al-Akhdar (photo C. Hunt).

the region with approximately halving of rainfall, especially during the 17th century. The droughts seem to have been sufficient to cause the collapse of ancient floodwaterfarming systems in Tripolitania and the resulting food shortages led to cannibalism in Benghazi and some other Libyan cities. Malnourished refugees hid in caves in the Cyrenaican countryside, leading to a distinctive archaeology. Rare catastrophic rainfall was associated with the general drought, causing enormous but short-lived floods across the region.

30 September 2021 (SLS-BIAA Lecture Series)

Dr Odile Moreau (Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier III)

Late Ottoman period Libya in the Age of Reforms (1835–1912)

This joint SLS-BIAA lecture by Dr Moreau intended to shed light on the interrelationships between the provinces that today constitute ‘Libya’ and the Ottoman Empire, as they developed during the late Ottoman period, in the Age of Reforms, after the promotion of the Tanzîmât, from 1835 to 1912. Particular attention was paid to the reframing and the evolution of Ottoman – ‘Libyan’ relationships and interactions at the time of the ‘Question d’Orient’ (The Eastern Question).

26 October 2021 (SLS-BIAA Lecture Series)

Prof. Benjamin Fortna (University of Arizona)

The Ottoman-Italian war of 1911–12: conflict and consequences

In this SLS-BIAA lecture, Prof. Benjamin Fortna reflected on the Ottoman-Italian War in North Africa of 1911–12 in light of its consequences for the Ottoman Empire and the wider Islamic world. Although the Ottomans had to abandon the fight against the Italians due to the Balkan Wars, the ‘Trablusgarb War’ had consequences that reached well beyond the relatively short duration of the conflict.



Ottoman irregular officers at the Darna front, 1912 (photo Tunca Örses Arşivi).

9 November 2021

Dr Paul Scheding (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich)

Micro-regional urbanism in Roman North Africa

During the second century AD, North Africa experienced a significant economic growth. The local elites, who were responsible for enhancing cityscapes with monuments, were also involved in agricultural production in the respective territories, although there was a considerable degree of variation in the conditions of land use, organization of production, and administration across North Africa. The focus of this talk was on the large number of small cities in the hinterland of Roman Carthage and their relationship to different estates. Using the example of Carthage's *pertica* and the 'boom' of the late second century AD, this lecture discussed how agricultural organization and socio-economic development influenced cityscapes in this micro-region.

*Arch of Trajan at
Mactaris, Tunisia
(photo P. Scheding).*



25 November 2021 (SLS-BIAA Lecture Series)

Dr John Slight (Open University)

The British-Ottoman war and the Sanussiyya invasion of Egypt

This SLS-BIAA talk provided a background to the final act of Ottoman relations with Libya during the First World War, and the establishment of Idris as-Senusi as Emir of Cyrenaica. From late 1914, Ottoman officers and officials worked assiduously to enfold the Sanussiyya within their wider policy of jihad against the Entente powers. This led to Ahmad as-Senusi's declaration of jihad against the British and the Sufi order's attacks on Egypt in 1915-16. The talk explored British perceptions of the connections between the Sanussiyya and the Ottomans, comparing these with the motivations of the Sanussiyya leadership in allying with the Ottomans, and Ottoman objectives in Libya.

14 December 2021 (SLS Annual Lecture)

Prof. James McDougall (University of Oxford)

Always on the edge? The spaces of North African history

For much of its past, especially as outsiders have seen it, North Africa's place in the world and in world history has been marginal by definition. Alternatively presented as an 'edge', a 'junction', a 'crossroads' or a 'hinge' – between the Arab world and Africa, Africa and Europe, 'Europe' and 'Islam' – the Maghrib has been seen as a central articulating point, geopolitically and intellectually situated on the fault-lines of civilizations from the Habsburgs and the Ottomans through to Frontex and Daesh. Thinking through and beyond these tropes, in this SLS Annual Lecture Prof. James McDougall reflected on how a spatial history of North Africa might look, and how it might help us see the region as the centre-point of its own past.



Left: View from the road between Todra and Ouarzazate, southern Morocco, 2007 (photo J. McDougall).

Below: A typical Garamantian cooking pot from the oasis of Fewet (Ghat region, Fazzan), second half of the first millennium BC (photo R. Ceccacci).

25 January 2022

Dr Maria Gatto (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

Garamantian pottery: change and exchange in an inter-regional perspective

This talk focused on a lesser-known aspect of Garamantian material culture: handmade pottery of local manufacture across the first millennia BC and AD. It considered the ceramic evidence from both the Wadi al-Ajal, the heartland of the Garamantes, investigated extensively by the University of Leicester, and the Wadi Tanzuft, where the Sapienza University of Rome worked in the same years as Leicester. Chronological and spatial variations within Garamantian pottery, as well as comparisons with previous and contemporary ceramic productions from the same region and elsewhere across the Greater Sahara, were discussed in the attempt of tracking the timing and directionality of technological change and exchange and its social meaning.



22 February 2022

Dr Péter Tamas Nagy (National Museum of Qatar)

Shālla as a site of royal presence: constructing the sultanic image in fourteenth-century Morocco

The funerary complex located at the picturesque site of Shālla, Rabat, is generally known as the main burial ground of the Marīnid dynasty between 1284 and 1354. This lecture traced the buildings' development, presenting the results of an archaeological investigation, while also examining the patrons' political motives. It emerged that, by modifying and expanding the complex, the sultans were equally conscious of elevating their own image, on which the site's operation and perception, as recorded by contemporary authors, shed ample light. The overarching argument highlighted how the Marīnid sultans' presence, whether physical or metaphorical, at Shālla contributed to its popularity at the time.



General view of the Marinid funerary complex, Shālla, Rabat (photo P.T. Nagy).

29 March 2022

Rupert Wieloch (Independent Author)

Anglo-Libyan relations in the 20th century

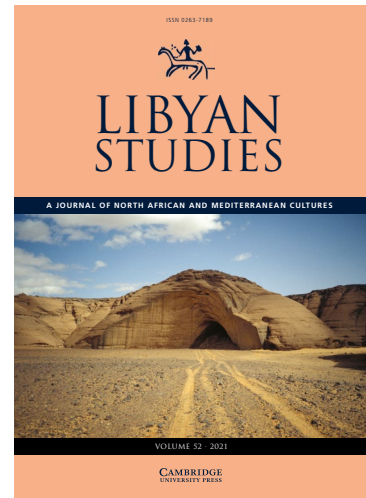
This talk discussed how Britain's policy of non-interference in Libya was tested by the Italo-Ottoman war that began in 1911 and the Sanussi invasion of Egypt in 1915. Tracing the key moments in the Anglo-Libyan relationship – from the peace dialogue between Idris as-Sanussi and Milo Talbot that paved the way for the future Defence and Security treaty, to the July 1999 rapprochement when diplomatic relations were reopened after a 15-year gap – it argued that Britain still has an important role to play in Libya's future peace and stability.



PUBLICATIONS 2021-22

LIBYAN STUDIES JOURNAL

The 2021 publication of *Libyan Studies* 52 with Cambridge University Press was edited by Dr Victoria Leitch. The articles stretched from the stone age to migrant journeys in contemporary Libya, and covered Tunisia, Libya, Sudan and Malta, demonstrating the journal's pathway exploring the history and culture in Northern Africa and links with Mediterranean territories. There was an administrative mix-up with the printing and members received two copies this year – the erroneously printed digital version, followed shortly after by the much better quality litho-printed edition. As a journal whose papers often require images and maps, the quality of the printing is very important, and CUP responded quickly to the error and reassured members of their commitment to high-quality printing. We continue to look at ways to improve the look, quality and efficiency of production. Readers may have also noticed the smart new template with the Society's logo, and a new online correction tool that gives authors and editor more flexibility at proof stage, and a shorter turn-around period from text to First View publication online. These new online tools help us to reach out to a wider field of researchers and to economise on their time.

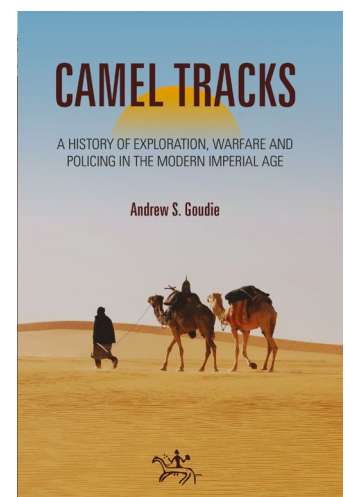
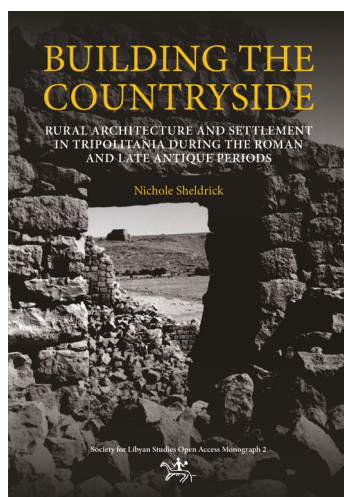


As we are now part of the Plan S Transformative Journals Programme, which will enable authors to submit articles in a Plan-S compliant manner, authors are able to satisfy Open Access requirements for certain types of funding. We have agreed to use CC-BY creative commons licences, keeping up with the fast-changing world of academic journal publishing.

BOOKS

As part of the Society's Open Access Monograph series, N. Sheldrick's *Building the Countryside* was published in October 2021, and was publicised through social media and an online talk by the author. In November 2021 A. Goudie's excellent history of camels in *Camel Tracks*, part of our Silphium Press imprint was published. Unfortunately, distribution of both titles was severely hampered by issues with our distributor's warehouse, on top of staff difficulties linked with the Covid pandemic. In order to simplify and modernise the printing process, reduce stock and thus related issues, as well as reduce storage costs, all our books are systemically being printed (or reprinted) as Print-On-Demand titles now.

Next year promises to be busy with some high-quality monographs, already in production. We are moving away from publishing theses now and concentrating on edited volumes, excavation reports and significant analytical research projects.



ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

In 1952, the British School at Rome published the *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*, by Joyce Reynolds and John Ward-Perkins; an online re-edition of that collection was published in 2009. The Libyan Society has been working with the BSR on an enhanced edition, which aims to include all inscriptions published since the 1952 edition, including the ostraca from Bu Njem, and to add fuller bibliography, indices and illustrations. IRT2021 was officially launched in January 2022.

<https://irt2021.inslib.kcl.ac.uk/en/>

OPEN ACCESS

As previously reported, the Society is firmly committed to making its books available to the research (and wider) community via the Open Access model. Most of the Society's older publications are now available online and we have partnered with Knowledge Unlatched, who are helping us to make our books available on better-know sites such as JSTOR, OAPEN, BiblioLabs, MUSEOpen, Unglue.it. This is a significant move for the Society's publications, and will greatly increase our visibility. The books will be added in batches to spread out the costs, and their releases reported on the Society's social media platforms.

ARABIC PUBLICATIONS

We continue in our commitment to reaching our Arabic readers. Our latest venture in 2021 was a deal with a Libyan publisher who will translate Richard Syngé's *Operation Idris* so that it can be printed and sold in Libya, in Arabic.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

This has been a year of consolidation.

LIBRARY

Our **library** is held by the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. During last year they were confronted with two challenges – not only Covid, but also a problem with leakage in the lower ground floor of the building, where the Society’s books are normally housed. The books were sent to offsite storage for safety, and Covid delayed the completion of the necessary building works: but the work has now been completed, and they are back on their shelves.

ARCHIVE

Our **physical Archives** are held at the University of Leicester, and catalogued in the University’s **Archive catalogue** (<http://archives.le.ac.uk/CalmView/Advanced.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog>). They are curated by the Society’s John Dore scholar; this post was again held by Ahmed Buzaian. While for some of the period Covid continued to limit his access to the archives, he was able to make up for lost time. He has identified and scanned most of the photographs, handwritten notes and notebooks in the main collections for Sabratha, Ghirza, Lepcis, Cyrene, Tocra, Ptolemais and Fazzan, a total of 11,892 items (5,958 photographs, 2,395 negatives, 739 slides and 2,800 documents). He has also worked on identifying and listing the oversize plans, maps and drawings, some 3,335 items. We are extremely fortunate to be able to benefit from his excellent knowledge of the archaeology of Libya.



This image, from D. Smith’s collection, shows a Doric peristyle house north of Tower 16 at Tocra – this building was bulldozed in the 1970s, demonstrating the importance of these archives as the only record of some of Libya’s cultural heritage.

Photographed
by M. A. Webb
(Oxford University
Exploration
Club Cyrenaica
Expedition
programme, 1960),
this shows Miss
Brittan (known as
the beekeeper of
King Idris, second
from left), her driver
and friends at Ras
al-Hilal.



An important development is that members are continuing to deposit valuable materials with the Archive, which of course requires cataloguing; we have now appointed a professional archivist, who will start work soon, cataloguing the new materials, and also building on Ahmed's work in adding the plans, maps and drawings to the Library Catalogue.

The entries in the Library Catalogue are exported to the [Online Archive](#), where they can be enhanced by the addition of more information. The Online Archive is searchable from the Society's [Gazetteer](#): both are at <https://slsgazetteer.org/>. The data in the Gazetteer are being steadily enhanced by users, and the Unique Identifiers for locations are being increasingly used – for example in the Society's most recent online publication, *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania, 2021* (see <https://irt2021.inslib.kcl.ac.uk/en/indices/epidoc/findspot.html>)

The [Gazetteer](#) is also starting to be valued by other scholars as a reference system. It is now being used by the British School at Rome for images of Libya in their digital collections: see <https://www.bsrdigitalcollections.it/wp-libya> and <https://ipervisions.bsrdigitalcollections.it/irt/>. We are working increasingly closely with other British Institutes abroad: all of these bodies have archives which they wish to make available, and they have been showing great interest in the structures which we have developed for an online Archive linked to, and indexed by, an online Gazetteer. An initial project, to share understanding and assess the issues, is currently underway, funded by the British Academy.

Our [photographic library](#) in Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/groups/slspphoto/library/> is intended to be used by members who wish to deposit their photographs illustrating Libyan history and archaeology. It has received a major boost from the contribution of some 2,000 photographs by Philip Kenrick: we hope that this will encourage more members to contribute, and/or to enhance the information provided.



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

MEMBERS 198, OF WHICH 50 ARE FROM OVERSEAS:

Australia	Greece	Sweden
Austria	Israel	Switzerland
Canada	Italy	Turkey
Cyprus	Libya	USA
France	Malta	
Germany	Poland	

OPEN ACCESS BOOK DOWNLOADS FROM 26 COUNTRIES:

Australia	Italy	Russia
Austria	Jamaica	South Africa
Belgium	Libya	Spain
Brazil	Malaysia	Sweden
Canada	Malta	Switzerland
China	Netherlands	Tunisia
Denmark	Poland	Turkey
France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Germany	Romania	USA

TOTAL ATTENDEES AT LIVE LECTURES: 496

32 presentations on the YouTube channel

1,600+ streamed views during the past 12 months
(60% increase compared to the previous year)

TWITTER

1,552 followers

22% increase year on year

FACEBOOK

2,330 followers

48% increase year on year

WEBSITE

9,200 unique visitors (16% increase compared to previous year)

25,700 page views (20% increase on previous year).

FINANCIAL REPORT

THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
INCOME		
British Academy Grant	76,937	74,429
Business Development Fund Grant	15,500	15,251
Subscriptions	5,561	5,914
Journal sales	3,142	2,200
Book sales and postage	4,261	5,958
Bank interest	113	466
Donations/gift aid	1,500	0
Miscellaneous	0	1,765
TOTAL INCOME	107,014	105,983
EXPENDITURE		
Research grants	46,119	30,347
Library/Research collections	17,726	14,260
Archive: cataloguing and conservation	11,226	14,260
Archive digitisation	6,500	0
Communications and outreach	8,350	11,752
Events inc 50th Anniversary	1,143	2,100
Publicity and outreach	4,318	4,320
Website maintenance/development	2,413	5,242
Lecture/meeting expenses	476	90
Publications	27,986	44,815
Digitisation old books	0	1,107
Storage/despatch of books	221	279
Print-on-demand costs	2,462	1,133
Royalties on book sales	196	675
Publications Manager	17,015	15,970
Journal production	4,150	3,015
Production of monographs/silphium books	800	4,596
Special projects	0	15,992
Other costs	3,142	2,048

Establishment	18,474	18,884
Bank charges	153	194
General Secretary's remuneration	11,567	11,566
Insurance	0	0
Office expenses	754	1,124
Accountancy	6,000	6,000
Travel	0	0
UK	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>118,655</u>	<u>120,058</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	<u>-11,641</u>	<u>-14,075</u>

THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	31/03/2022	31/03/2021
	£	£
ASSETS		
Virgin Money Account	69,926	79,813
NatWest Current Account	8,166	7,705
PayPal Account	605	605
Total Cash	<u>78,697</u>	<u>88,123</u>
Debtors	0	2,200
Stock of publications, valued at cost	8,065	11,112
Total Assets	<u>86,762</u>	<u>101,435</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	1,232	3,850
Accrued income	903	273
Grants allocated but not yet paid out	5,000	2,997
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,135</u>	<u>7,120</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>79,627</u>	<u>94,315</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
General Fund	29,246	35,066
Stock Fund	8,065	11,112
Publications Fund	42,316	48,137
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>79,627</u>	<u>94,315</u>

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
General Fund brought forward	35,066	32,814
Stock Fund brought forward	11,112	12,366
Publications Fund brought forward	48,137	63,764
Total funds at start of year	94,315	108,944
Deficit/surplus for the year	-11,641	-14,075
Movement in stock	-3,047	-1,254
Write off old research creditor to reserves	0	700
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	79,627	94,315

Reserves policy

The Society has few financial commitments which cannot be terminated at short notice, since it has no direct employees and does not own or rent premises; it has not therefore been considered necessary to retain a reserve for potential winding-up costs.

At any one time the Society may be holding grants which have been awarded but not yet taken up by their recipients, and for practical reasons some of these (typically awarded in February for projects to be undertaken in the summer) are usually held over the end of the financial year (31 March). Such sums are shown above as a restricted reserve.

The Society has historically set aside funds for publications arising (usually several years later) from fieldwork that it has supported. These are shown as a Publications Reserve, with the intention that they may be used to support (any) publication costs, but not new fieldwork.

Book collection

The Society held 947 items in its books collection, which is housed in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies ('SOAS') University of London. Some more recent items have not yet been formally lodged with SOAS.

The Society did not have an active acquisition policy for its book collection during the year under review; it received volumes by gift and by exchange and works sent for review were generally also added to the collection.

Oliver Kimberley Chartered Accountant, Honorary Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

Charity number 259262 registered in England & Wales

I report to the Council on my examination of the accounts of the Society for Libyan Studies ('the Society') for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Colm Walls *Chartered Management Accountant, Honorary Independent Examiner*
36 Lancet Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9SA



MEMBERSHIP

To join the Society for Libyan Studies, please contact the General Secretary. Membership is open to all and runs from April to April. Key benefits include being part of a long-standing academic community, plus:

- Free copy of *Libyan Studies* the Society's annual journal
- The opportunity to purchase Society publications at significantly discounted prices
- Attendance at Society events, meetings, lectures and the Annual General Meeting
- Access to the Society Library (SOAS)
- Access to the Society Archive (University of Leicester)

CONTACT

General Secretary: Pauline Graham
The Society for Libyan Studies
c/o British Academy
10-11 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH
gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org

Social Media

 <https://www.facebook.com/societyforlibyanstudies>

 <https://twitter.com/LibyanStudies>

www.societyforlibyanstudies.org



BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN AND NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 259262

Accounts

SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

**ANNUAL
REVIEW**

2020-21



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ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

The address of the Society is:

c/o The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

The Society maintains a website at <http://www.societyforlibyanstudies.org>.

The General Secretary may be contacted by email at

gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org

The Society is a Registered UK Charity, no. 259262, founded in 1969 with the object of promoting studies in regard to Libya. To this end, it seeks through its activities:

- to support and undertake research relating to the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, customs and natural history of Libya;
- to organize and promote missions to Libya for these purposes;
- to cooperate with other organisations sharing the same fields of interest;
- to arrange for the publication of research in these fields;
- to hold lectures and meetings, to publish an annual journal (Libyan Studies) and other publications which will enhance and promote public knowledge of all aspects of Libyan culture and society.

The Society is governed in accordance with Rules first adopted in 1969 and subsequently modified in 1974, 1982, 2010, 2019 and 2020. The Society is recognised by the Charity Commission as an unincorporated association. The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years; the Director is elected for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years; the Assistant Director, the Treasurer, the Head of Mission and the Editor of the Society's journal are elected annually and may be re-elected without limit; the remainder of the Council is composed of up to eight Ordinary Members who are elected annually and may be re-elected, subject to a maximum continuous period of service of four years. In proposing Ordinary Members for election, the Council seeks to secure as wide a range of skills within its fields of interest as possible. The Officers and Council, who constitute the trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The Society receives the major part of its funds from the British Academy. This relationship is currently governed by a Letter of Agreement between the parties, dated 17 November 2016 and relating to the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2020. Apart from various forecasting and reporting requirements, this letter specifies that the funds provided by the Academy (received in turn from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) are to be used 'to benefit the UK research endeavour'. This corresponds only in part to the objects of the Society ('to promote studies in regard to Libya'). It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to confirm that the grant payments from the British Academy have been applied in accordance with both the terms of the Letter of Agreement between the Academy and the Society, and the aims and objectives of the Society as stated in its rules and declared to the Charity Commission for England. Council confirms that, in respect of the accounts presented herewith, this is so.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The Officers and Council on 31 March 2021 were as follows:

Officers

President: PROFESSOR ROBERT FOLEY, MA, PhD, ScD, FBA, FSA, FLS
Vice Presidents: PROFESSOR GRAEME BARKER, MA, PhD, CBE, FBA, FSA
SHIRLEY STRONG, MBE
Director: CORISANDE FENWICK, BA, MA, PhD, FSA
Honorary Treasurer: OLIVER KIMBERLEY, MA, ACA
Assistant Director: NICCOLÒ MUGNAI, BA, MA, PhD
Head of Mission: PAUL BENNETT, MBE, BA, Hon. DLitt, FSA, CIFA
Honorary Archivist: EMERITUS PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE ROUECHÉ, MA
Editor, Libyan Studies: VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Council: PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON, BSc, PhD
SALEM EL-MAIAR, MPhil, FRGS
SAM NIXON, MA, PhD
CHARIS OLSZOK, MA, PhD
NICHOLE SHELDRIK, MA, DPhil
General Secretary: PAULINE GRAHAM
Honorary Librarian: DAWN WRIGHT, BA, DipLib
Publications Manager: VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Research Grants Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The Head of Mission
PROFESSOR KEVIN MACDONALD, BA, PhD, FSA (Committee Chairman)
SAUL KELLY, BA, PhD

Publications Committee

The Director
The Honorary Treasurer
The Assistant Director
The General Secretary
Editor of Libyan Studies Publications Manager
PROFESSOR JONATHAN HILL, MA, PhD

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



1969 – the year that the Society for Libyan Studies was founded – was a very different place, both in Libya and Britain. Libya was about to enter the Gaddafi years, with all the things that entailed for both Libyans and for relationships with other countries, while the UK was building towards joining what was to become the EU in 1973. Archaeology, research, and academic life was also very different. The SLS was not the product of thinktanks and retreats to work out strategic goals, let alone corporate missions; it was founded by a committed group of scholars, individually and jointly keen to work with Libyans and to support research in Libya.

The origins of the SLS are of its time – independent people, taking the initiative, and building an institution to achieve goals beyond their own. And the SLS has thrived as such – a community of scholars, a community of people who love Libya, and a community of Libyans concerned with their heritage and culture.

The British Academy is the major funder of the Society, and the SLS has developed and adapted in partnership with it. This is no place to recall all the changes that have taken place over the last 50 years, but one of them has been that the SLS has moved from being an isolated learned society to becoming part of a larger group of loosely linked institutes. The British Institutes of Research abroad – scattered across Europe, Asia and Africa – were all brought more fully under the umbrella of the British Academy, the UK's leading institution for the humanities and social sciences. The SLS is the smallest of these, and – appropriately enough for a desert society – rather nomadic, and certainly lacking the grand courtyards of the British School at Rome.

We are currently living in a time of renaissance for the BIRI – the collective noun for the British International Research Institutes. This is partly due to activities well beyond the SLS's control, most specifically Brexit, and the Government's greater concern for its global image and impact. But it is also due to a much greater sense of community and shared interest among the different BIRI. Directors of the institutes meet regularly – to discuss how to develop one of the great success stories of British research, its overseas impact and collaborations with scholars from many countries. Under the recent leadership of Professor Charles Tripp, the British Academy's BIRI are now stronger and better supported than before. As part of it, a more collective presentation of the BIRI is now underway, and will be unveiled shortly.

This has been a year of change for the Council. Professor David Atkinson stepped down as Chair of the Society and was replaced by Dr Corisande Fenwick (formerly Honorary Secretary) as our new Director and Dr Niccoló Mugnai as our new Assistant Director. Professor Loredana Polezzi has stepped down from Council and is replaced by Salam Maier. David Atkinson (former Chair, University of Hull) also continues on Council. The changes in the titles of our Officers – the Chair has become the Director, and the Honorary Secretary has become the Assistant Director – have been brought in to align ourselves more closely with practices across all the BIRI.

I hope that as a Society we retain the intellectual and scholarly independence that marked our founders, but we should also take the opportunity to celebrate that our success has brought us into wider partnerships, not just in Libya and across North Africa, but also with our sister institutions.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

As I write this shortly after the national lockdown was lifted in the UK, it seems remarkable that the Society for Libyan Studies has been operating online for more than a year. As this Annual Review makes abundantly clear, 2020–21 has been a very rich year for the SLS despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 and national lockdowns. The range of activities is extraordinary for a small research institution with limited resources. We have supported UK scholars to conduct research in Libya, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia and the Canary Islands via our grant scheme, as well as establishing a new partnership with the MaLiCH project which aims to remove three of Libya's World Heritage Sites from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. Our publications go from strength to strength with a new series called *Short Histories of North Africa*, the first of which has now been published (*Desert Drivers* by A. Goudie). Thanks to a very generous donation, we were also able to deliver Arabic translations of P. Kenrick's *Libyan Archaeological Guides: Cyrenaica to Tunisia and Libya*. While we have deeply missed our usual London lectures, our new Youtube channel with English and Arabic lectures and our online lecture series have proved very successful and attracted much larger audiences from around the globe.



We have also made significant progress on one of our strategic priorities – the digitisation of the SLS Archive. The SLS has a long and distinguished history of archaeological research in Libya and over the past few years we have been cataloguing and digitising our substantial physical archive of photographs, plans, notes and other materials housed at the University of Leicester, and developing, with King's College London, the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya (<https://www.sls gazetteer.org/>). This year, we were able to fund a series of posts for early-career academics to continue this work during the lockdown. In Leicester, Dr Ahmed Buzaian as John Dore Scholar, has digitised photographs from Sabratha, Ghirza, Lepcis and Cyrene, while at UCL, Dr Valeria Vitale as Kenyon Fellow led a team of 10 UCL students to enhance the gazetteer over the summer. Subsequently Raluca-Ioana Lazerescu as Kathleen Kenyon Intern has continued to update and improve our virtual resources on Libya's heritage. We are seeking funds to continue this work so that this exceptional resource on Libyan cultural heritage can be made accessible to all.

We must, however, also look to the future. The activities of the SLS are funded primarily by the public purse and we, along with other institutions serving the humanities and social sciences, continue to face a number of challenges as our relevance and value-for-money are questioned. For the year ahead at least, we are shielded from government funding cuts, but it is becoming increasingly urgent that the SLS is able to demonstrate its value as a key player in the UK's overseas research infrastructure and its role in supporting cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences in Libya and the wider North African region.

In this context, it is vital that the SLS shows itself able to propose a vision for the future that is dynamic, forward looking and creative, consolidating its traditional strengths in the history, archaeology and heritage of Libya and North Africa whilst continuing to expand its reach in the humanities and social sciences. We have already

welcomed Dr Niccolò Mugnai (University of Oxford) as our new Assistant Director; he brings new research capabilities and energies to the SLS as we seek to grow our outreach and engagement activities, as well as to generate income and new partnerships. This year, we will be consulting widely with members and friends of the SLS to explore new possibilities and I invite you to share your thoughts on how we can grow our membership and fundraising activities, increase the visibility of the SLS and its activities, and ensure its sustainable future.

In these strange and uncertain times, the year ahead will undoubtedly bring new challenges. We are extremely grateful to all our new and existing members for their continued support of the SLS and its activities, whether through renewing subscriptions, donating or helping to raise the international profile of the SLS. Our members have been continuously generous in their support and encouragement throughout the lockdown. I am very much looking forward to welcoming members to events in London in the near future.



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that the Society lost two founder members in April 2021.

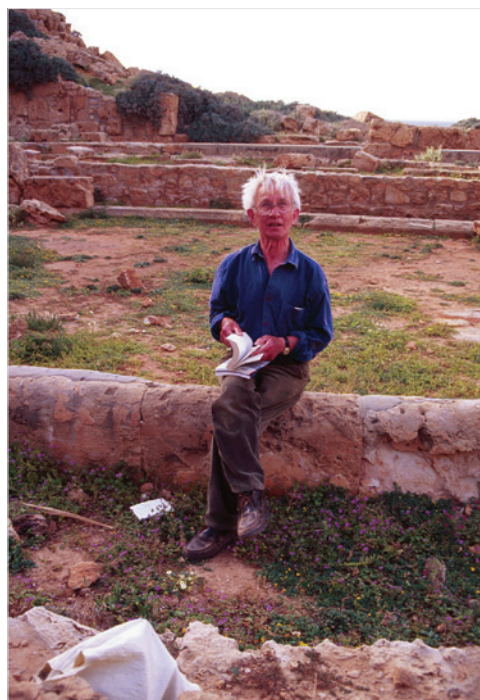
Tony Allan

Professor Emeritus at King's College London and School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, passed away on 15 April 2021, he was born in January 1937. He was a pioneer in the study of water issues in semi-arid regions and on the role of global systems in ameliorating local and regional water deficits. He was named the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate in 2008. Tony's interest in North Africa dates back to his PhD on water management in Libya, completed in 1971. He has been a key figure through much of the history of the Society. He served on the Council from the beginning as the appointee of the Royal Geographic Society and was Chairman from 1976 to 1978 and continued to be on Council until in 2010.



Anthony Thwaite

The well-known poet and critic, passed away on the 22 April 2021 at the age of 90. He served on the Council from 2007–2011. Anthony had a deep love for Libya which is recounted in his book *The Deserts of Hesperides*, first published in 1969 and which was subsequently reprinted by the Society's Silphium Press in 2015. Having spent his National Service near Leptis Magna he was encouraged both as a poet and as an amateur archaeologist to return to Libya, and in 1965 he took two years unpaid leave to return with his wife Ann and his family where he worked as an assistant professor at the University of Libya in Benghazi. In the early 2000's he joined the Eusperides expeditions, assisting the finds specialists and maintaining team spirit. He was greatly loved by all the team, Libyan colleagues and students, members of the Department staff and our friends in the Benghazi community. Many of his poems dwell on Libya and its heritage, including *Sigma* which he chose to read on Radio 4 when the BBC celebrated his 90th birthday last year.



NOTES FROM LIBYA

From our Head of Mission, Professor Paul Bennett

Libya remains in a state of political change, however, there have been several encouraging events. First, Dr Hafed Walda has been appointed Ambassador to the Permanent Libyan Delegation to UNESCO. A graduate of the University of Benghazi and King's College London, where he became a member of staff, and a former member of SLS Council, he has consistently promoted the interests of Libyan heritage. Second, on 14 February this year, the Libyan Government signed the UNESCO 2003 Convention safeguarding intangible heritage. This is a significant act which signals governmental recognition of the importance of cultural heritage to the nation. Finally, in mid-March a new museum was opened at Tocra. The previous museum built in 1972 was in a decayed and dangerous state but housed an outstanding and nationally important collection of Greek pottery found during excavations on the foreshore in 1963-5. The museum building provides a new, secure and stable home for the collection, together with other remarkable finds from ancient Taucheira. Other museums in eastern Libya have recently opened their doors to the public or are planning to do so - a clear sign of peace and progress.

There are several rising stars in Libyan archaeology whose careers have been developed through their connection with the SLS and the University of Leicester. These include Dr Ahmed Buzaian, Dr Muna Haroun Abdelhamed and Dr Mohamed Adrbba who gained their doctorates in archaeology from the University of Leicester recently. Their theses will be published by the Society as Open Access volumes. Another graduate of Leicester University is Dr Ahmad Emrage who was selected as Fulbright Scholar late in 2019 and spent a year teaching at the University of Oberlin, Ohio, USA. Back in Benghazi now he is teaching and conducting new fieldwork along the coast (the Cyrenaican Coastal Survey), leading a team of members of the Department of Antiquities, assessing the impact of new development on archaeological sites. The project, managed by MarEA (Maritime Endangered Archaeology) based at Southampton, Oxford and Dublin, is funded by the Arcadia Foundation, with a grant from SLS and includes remote sensing by satellite imagery and ground-truthing by the Libyan team.

Although it remains impossible for us to enter Libya at this time, the Society continues to sponsor a number of projects (see **Society-affiliated Projects** on page 15) that have been designed to assist our Libyan colleagues in the DoA and in Libyan Universities to stimulate new beginnings for Libyan Heritage, with meaningful protections and valorisation of the past as an asset for future prosperity and the wider research community.



RESEARCH GRANTS

In 2020-21, the SLS awarded nine grants for a total of £30,347 to UK scholars at different career stages for research in Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and the Canary Islands. Our grant scheme is funded through our grant from the British Academy; we were able to increase the amount available for disbursement by drawing on our contingency funds. Travel restrictions due to Covid-19 have resulted in a significant decline in the number of applications from early-career scholars and disciplines beyond archaeology. We are therefore introducing a series of ‘writing fellowships’ for early-career scholars which provide funds to support the uninterrupted writing-up of PhD or postdoctoral research for publication.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Dr Roger Blench (University of Cambridge) – £770
Settlement of the Canary Islands

This travel grant will allow Dr Blench to visit the Canary Archipelago to put together a coherent model of the historical relations between the archipelago and the North African coast. The objective is to visit the main museums, including those attached to archaeological sites, and explore and photograph relevant archaeological and ethnographic materials, which will be compared with the material culture of the Maghreb.



Fortified granaries at Cenobio, Gran Canaria (photo R. Blench)

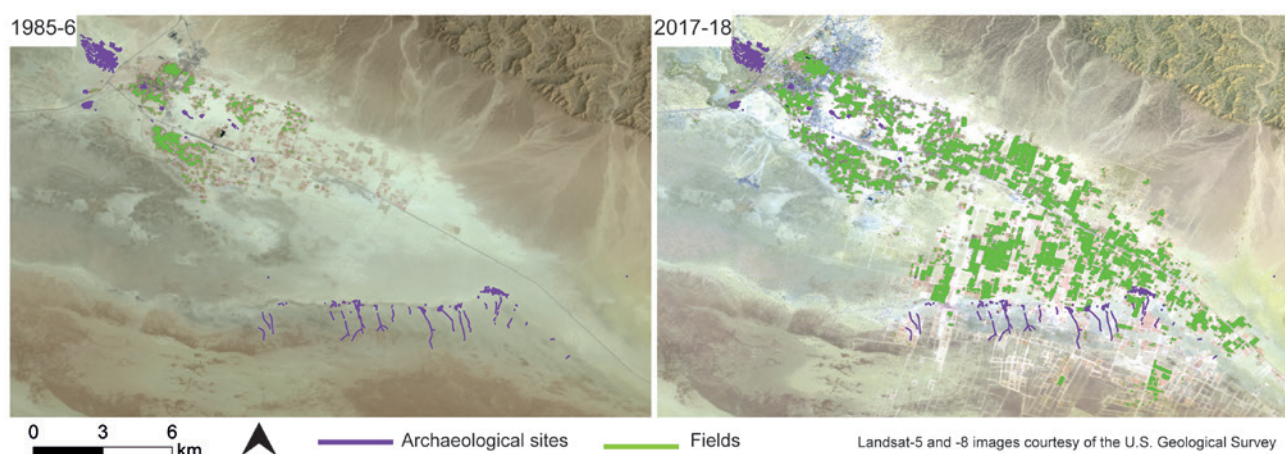
Dr Andrew Dufton (University of Edinburgh) – £800
The cycle of North African urban renewal under Rome

This travel grant to visit key Tunisian sites will support Dr Dufton’s preparation of a monograph examining urban decay and renewal in Roman North Africa. Regional data for city origins and administrative status will be compared to detailed urban biographies of individual cities and examples of neighbourhood-level regeneration efforts drawn from past excavation reports.

PILOT PROJECT AWARDS

Dr Louise Rayne (Durham University) – £3,000
Ancient water management in Jufra Oases

This grant supports a new project investigating the layout, morphology and chronology of ancient foggaras (groundwater collecting conduits) in the Jufra oases of Libya, to model the size of the agricultural areas they would have supplied. Foggaras near the towns of Hon and Waddan will be mapped in detail using satellite imagery and elevation models; knowledge of their chronology will be improved using field survey and scientific dating.



Ancient foggaras at risk of destruction from modern agricultural expansion south-east of Waddan, Jufra (Landsat images courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey)

Dr Eleni Zimi (Oxford) – £2,300
Chemical analysis and scanning electron microscopy on black glazed pottery from Euesperides in Cyrenaica (6th to mid-3rd centuries BCE)

This grant provides funds for analyses on the clay fabric of undecorated black-glazed pots from the site of Euesperides, in order to scientifically confirm the imports of Athenian, Corinthian and Aegean fine wares; to characterize the clay of fine wares identified as local or regional (Cyrenaican); and to create a clay fabric database for imported and regionally made pottery in Cyrenaica.

Dr Michael Brass (UCL) – £4,810

Expedition to the southern Gezira (Sudan): mobility, identity and interaction of pastoral peoples with the Nile Valley

This grant will provide funding for the 2021 season which focuses on excavating new burials and habitation levels ranging from 2000 years ago to the late 6th millennium BC, the latter continuing the first securely recorded Mesolithic occupation in the southern Gezira. Materials will be compared with those from the central Sahara, and new opportunities will be discerned to address issues of health, identity, interconnectivity and lifestyle pathways for the Eastern Sahara/Sahel.

Prof. David Mattingly (University of Leicester) – £2,997

Oasis civilization: extending historic era radiocarbon dating in Wadi Draa, Morocco

The award funds seven AMS radiocarbon dates on samples gathered from a larger ERC and AHRC funded project on the archaeology of the Wadi Draa in southern Morocco. The aim is to date key Protohistoric socio-economic and technological developments in this part of the Sahara, and to establish more accurate knowledge of the main stages of further oasis and urban expansion in the Medieval period.

Dr Julia Nikolaus (Ulster University) – £3,000

The Cyrenaica Coastal Survey (CCS)

The award supports a pilot study on the threats and damages to archaeological sites along the coast of Cyrenaica, between Apollonia (Sousa) and Teucheira (Tocra), using remote sensing techniques as well as physical land and underwater survey. The aim is to conduct a comprehensive condition assessment of both terrestrial and submerged archaeological sites.



Drone image of small hilltop site that is severely threatened by the urban expansion of the modern town of Sousa (photo F. El Gumati, CCS)

RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr Claudia Näser (UCL) – £7,470

Piety, power and representation. A new type of church architecture in a fortification context in Late Medieval North Africa

The award supports the completion of an excavation of a Late Medieval Nubian church (c. AD 1150-1500) on the island of Kurta in the Middle Nile Valley, currently under threat from looting and associated destructions. Kurta represents the second example of a hitherto unknown type of church, built in a highly exposed position on top of the fortification walls of a Medieval fortress.



Emerita Prof. Charlotte Roueché (KCL) – £5,200

Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania: 2021 edition



This award funds the preparation of a corpus of all published inscriptions from Roman Tripolitania, building on *IRT* 2009 and adding some 200 further texts. Every entry will be linked to the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya; there will also be a full up-to-date epigraphic bibliography and translations of the new texts. The corpus will be prepared in *EFES*, in parallel to *IRCyr* 2020, to create a stable resource which is simple to maintain.

SOCIETY-AFFILIATED PROJECTS

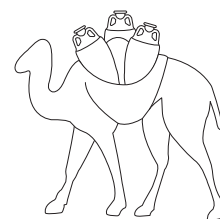
MANAGING LIBYA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage (MaLiCH) is a three-year project funded by the ALIPH Foundation with the Society for Libyan Studies as one of the key partners. Since March 2020 the project team, led by Dr Will Wootton at King's College London, has been working with the Libyan Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA) to produce the documentation necessary to remove three of Libya's World Heritage Sites from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. To achieve this aim, we are building capacity amongst their staff and planning emergency interventions at the sites in line with their management plans.



TRANS-SAHARA PROJECT

The European Research Council funded Trans-SAHARA project, directed by Professor David Mattingly, reached its conclusion during the year with the publication of the final pair of the four-volume Trans-Saharan Archaeology series (see below). This co-publishing venture between the Society and Cambridge University Press has proved a great success and was celebrated at the AGM meeting in December 2020.



BULLA REGIA

This flagship project sponsored by the Society and directed by Dr Corisande Fenwick and Dr Moheddine Chaouali aims to reconstruct the urban development of Bulla Regia from its Numidian origins to its abandonment in the Middle Ages and to understand the diet, nutrition, health, lifestyle, origins and mobility of its late antique inhabitants through excavations, bioarchaeological analysis. The planned final season in September 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19 and it is hoped that we will be able to complete the excavations in 2021-22. In the interim, the project team have been conducting isotopic and a DNA analysis on samples in the UK and working on the analysis of the mosaics uncovered.

HAUA FTEAH

The now completed Haua Fteah excavations directed by Professor Graeme Barker, partly sponsored by the Society, are at the publication stage. In 2020 an article was published on sedimentary and human responses to aridity in Mediterranean caves (Farr, L., R. Inglis & G. Barker); and in 2021 a video conference for the Society, *The Little Ice Age in the Southeast Mediterranean and Southern West Asia* (C. Hunt). The main volumes are in preparation.

EUESPERIDES

Work on the publication of the Society-sponsored Euesperides excavations directed by Professor Paul Bennett and Professor Andrew Wilson are underway. The first monograph publication will be the finewares, followed by the overall excavation reports and other finds. These publications are now vital to underpin the importance of the archaeological levels of the Greek city of Euesperides (the first Benghazi), to demonstrate to the local authority, to landowners and local people why they are worth saving. An additional part of the project is the conservation of the archives, presently held at Tocra. The archives span a period from the sixth century BC to the tenth century AD, and constitute an unparalleled teaching resource, and need to be saved for future generations of archaeologists.



TRAINING IN ACTION

A project directed by Professor Anna Leone of Durham University, Will Wootton King's College London and Corisande Fenwick University College London, with support from King's College, London, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London, Institut National du Patrimoine de Tunisie, Azzaytouna University, Tarhuna, Libya, the University of Benghazi, Libya and the Department of Antiquities, Libya. The project sought to provide training for members of the Department of Antiquities of Libya and Tunisia, combining documentation, conservation and the management of archaeological remains. Over the course of this immensely successful project, seventy-two individuals received training, with twenty-seven to an advanced level. This was the first stand-alone training project in the two neighbouring countries, combining an integrated approach to cultural resource management. The project serves as a model for the region with a long-term legacy that we hope others will adopt. An overview of the project and its outcomes was published in *Libyan Studies* 51.



EVENTS

From Dr Niccolò Mugnai, the Society's Assistant Director

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Society's programme of lectures. However, while this situation posed some challenges, it also offered a valuable opportunity to increase the visibility and reach of our events. Our lectures were hosted online via Zoom. Although online talks cannot replace live events and their importance to foster in-person scholarly debate, they provided a new type of lecture experience, which was met with favour by both speakers and the audience. Attendance has significantly increased. The recording of lectures also allowed the Society to upload them onto our YouTube channel, so anyone who missed them has the opportunity to watch them via the respective links on the Society's website. Building upon these positive experiences, we plan a mixed format for future lectures once all Covid-19-related restrictions are lifted, where traditional live events can be complemented by a series of online talks.

The diversity of these talks – in terms of the breadth of topics they engaged with, and the historical and geographical frameworks they encompassed – reflects the broad remit of the Society, from archaeological and historical research, to contemporary socio-political debates.

The following lectures were held via Zoom Webinar in the period December 2020 to March 2021:

3 December 2020 (Society's Annual Lecture)

Prof. David Mattingly (Professor of Roman Archaeology, University of Leicester)

Desert Landmarks? Rethinking State and Society in the Ancient Sahara

Professor David Mattingly's SLS Annual Lecture marked a milestone in the progress of knowledge of the ancient Sahara, celebrating the completion of publica-



Wadi al-Ajal as seen from the Ubari sand sea (photo D. Mattingly).

tion of four volumes in the Trans-Saharan Archaeology Series, jointly published by the Society for Libyan Studies and Cambridge University Press. In the past decade, our understanding of ancient Saharan societies and their connections with the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan African world has been completely transformed by cutting-edge archaeology. These volumes, and the overview of their contents that was presented during the Annual Lecture, reflect an up-to-date vision of the state of the field and an agenda for future study on important Saharan themes: Trade, Burials, Migration, Identity, Sedentarisation, Urbanisation, State Formation, and Mobile Technologies.

19 January 2021

Dr Niccolò Mugnai (Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow, University of Oxford)
Lepcis Magna, the City of White Stone: Shaping and Perceiving Ancient Urban Spaces

As part of his current post-doctoral research, **Dr Niccolò Mugnai's** talk on the city of Lepcis Magna moved beyond the well-studied monumental projects of the Severan period and engaged with the earlier phases of the city's urban development. His presentation focused on the visibility of Lepcis' public edifices and how people in antiquity approached, lived and experienced them, as the cityscape evolved from



*Lepcis Magna,
Arch of Trajan
(photo R. Burns,
Manar al-Athar).*

Augustus to the Antonines (late first century BC to mid-second century AD). Attention was paid to the role of private and public patronage, highlighting – and critically questioning – how social status was showcased through the buildings’ layout and their architectural, sculptural and epigraphic apparatuses.

9 February 2021

Dr Alice Alunni (Independent Researcher – Development Consultant)

*National Belonging and Everyday Nationhood in the Age of Globalisation:
An Account of Global Flows in 21st Century Libya*

Shifting to present-day Libya, **Dr Alice Alunni** delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the change unleashed by the ICT (Information and Communications Technology) revolution from the 1990s onwards, and how this and the flows of Libyan people in and out the country affected the way the political elite, civil society and diaspora imagined the nation in the 21st century, before and in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution. The aim of her presentation was to cast light on the role of globalisation in shaping everyday practices of nationhood, and the individual’s sense of belonging to a nation in relation to nationalism as a political ideology and everyday phenomenon.



Men pushing a car decorated with rebel flags in Benghazi (photo S. Ponomarev, Shabab Libya Facebook page).

2 March 2021

Dr Lorena Gazzotti (Alice Tong Sze Research Fellow, University of Cambridge)

(Un)making Illegality: Border Control, Racialised Bodies and Differential Regimes of Illegality in Morocco

The movement of people in the contemporary world was the focus of the talk by **Dr Lorena Gazzotti** on regimes of illegality in Morocco. Drawing upon her recent doctoral and post-doctoral research, in this talk she argued that ‘illegality’ is a label which is racially altered and expanded by border bureaucrats, who use it to



Fence dividing Melilla (Spain) and Nador (Morocco) (photo L. Gazzotti).

differentially police the presence of migrant bodies pre-emptively visualised as legal or illegal. Whereas black people undergo pervasive containment procedures, white privilege allows white migrants to be oblivious of the border, even when their administrative situation is not compliant with migration law.

19 March 2021

Dr Sam Nixon (Curator and Head of the Africa Section, British Museum) and Prof. Youssef Bokbot (Professor at the Department of Prehistory, INSAP Rabat)
The Djbel Bani Archaeology Project (Morocco): Current Research and Future Prospects

Remaining within the borders of Morocco – but moving back to archaeological research – **Dr Sam Nixon and Professor Youssef Bokbot** concluded this cycle of talks with an account of their work as part of the Djbel Bani Archaeology Project, a collaborative research in the Moroccan pre-Sahara led by a Moroccan-British team. The project features multiple strands of research: a study of the evolution and nature of early pre-Saharan oases, networks of trade and metallurgical production, and regional and trans-regional migration. Their joint presentation included an overview of the varied prehistoric and protohistoric features within the regional landscape, as well as a range of cultural heritage initiatives linked to the archaeology being investigated.

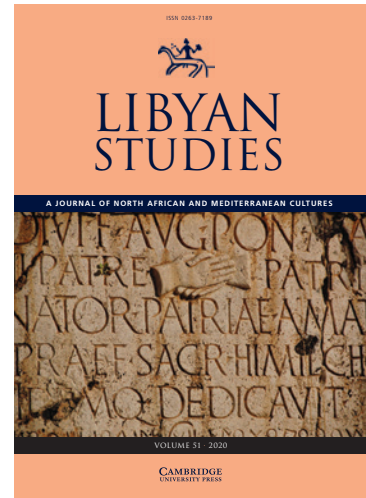


The site of Ksar Chaïr in the Tata region of southern Morocco, surveyed in 2020 by the Djbel Bani Archaeology Project (photo J. Wexler).

PUBLICATIONS 2020–21

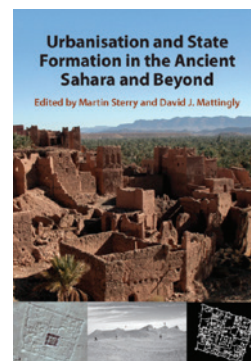
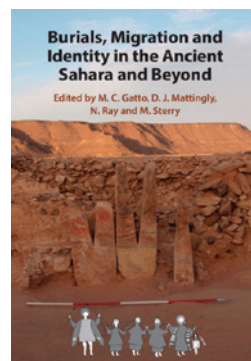
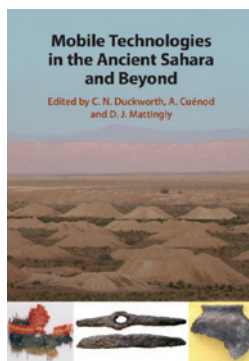
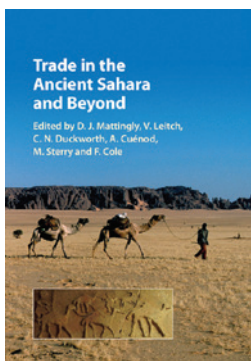
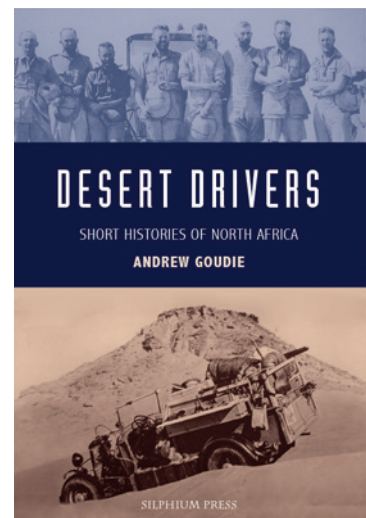
LIBYAN STUDIES JOURNAL

With the publication of *Libyan Studies 51* in November 2020, the SLS continues its partnership with Cambridge University Press. Dr Victoria Leitch is the Editor, but in a new move the journal now invites Guest Editors every year to bring themed sections and thus different specialisations to each issue. The world of academic journal publishing is changing fast, and the Society continues to explore, with CUP, ways of reaching out to a wider audience, making technological changes to the design template to streamline and modernise the production process. The journal has now published its first Open Access articles, including one by a Sudanese archaeologist, who was able to profit from CUP's 'Aid and Donation' programme to put his article on Open access for a year, for free – this has had a fantastic reaction from his colleagues in Sudan, and has put *Libyan Studies* firmly on the map in this part of North Africa. The Society has also now agreed to be part of the Plan S Transformative Journals Programme, which will enable authors to submit articles in a Plan-S compliant manner (Plan-S is a European initiative to publish research funded by public bodies in Open Access).



BOOKS

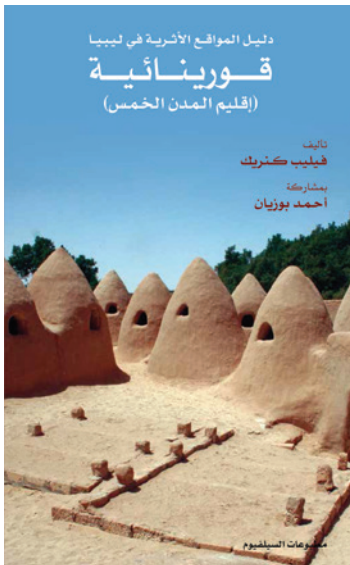
The Society's monograph series, produced in e-form and print-on-demand, suffered the effects of the pandemic in 2020 though the closure of libraries and excavation sites, meaning that authors were unable to finish manuscripts as quickly as planned. N. Sheldrick's *Building the Countryside* moved into production in 2020 but will not be published until later in 2021. In the Silphium imprint, a new series was launched *Short Histories of North Africa* with the idea of presenting compact pocket histories at a low price – the first publication was launched in December 2020, *Desert Drivers* by A. Goudie, a race through the astonishing tales of the intrepid characters who crossed the Sahara in the early 20th century. Finally, *Urbanisation and State Formation in the Ancient Sahara and Beyond*, edited by M. Sterry and D. Mattingly, and *Mobile Technologies in the Ancient Sahara and Beyond*, edited by C. Duckworth, A. Cuénod and D. Mattingly, came out in 2020,



co-published with Cambridge University Press. These books complete the four-volume series looking at ancient Saharan history and archaeology, and was celebrated through the online AGM lecture in December 2020, presented by Professor David Mattingly. Covid-19 restrictions come and go, but 2021 promises to be a busy year for monographs as academics find new ways of carrying out research under difficult circumstances.

OPEN ACCESS

The Society continues its commitment to producing Open Access publications. The journal, *Libyan Studies*, published with Cambridge University Press, remains, from 2016, a hybrid Open Access journal, meaning that it publishes some articles available only to subscribers, plus Open Access articles which may be accessed on-line by anyone without charge. The Society is also continuing to make many of its older publications available as Open Access ebooks, with a total of 21 publications now online.



ARABIC PUBLICATIONS

The recent outreach initiative to translate works into Arabic saw the successful delivery of printed copies of P. Kenrick's *Libyan Archaeological Guides: Cyrenaica* to Tunisia and Libya, and it is now available online, with special thanks to Marigold Norbye and Olwen Macnay for their generous donation, to the American Embassy and the British Council for helping with distribution in N. Africa, as well as our friends and colleagues in Tunisia and Libya.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

This year has very much enhanced our move towards providing virtual resources - and also demonstrated how necessary that is.

LIBRARY

Our library is held by the School of Oriental and African Studies; it had been our plan for 2020/21 to work on digitising the more valuable and fragile items. In practice, access to the library has been impossible for most of the year due to Covid-19 restrictions. So while the value of the project became even more evident, it was not possible to put it into action. It was, however, possible to enhance the Society's Library catalogue (currently in Zotero) with location references from the Gazetteer and this work was undertaken by our second Kenyon Fellow (see below). She also undertook additional work on Zotero in order to provide an overview of digitally available material - increasingly useful with restricted access to libraries. Further work will tackle the addition of HGL identifiers to the Zotero database. It is our intention to use the catalogue in due course as the basis for a larger bibliography, similarly annotated, to be presented with the Gazetteer and the Archives catalogue.

ARCHIVE

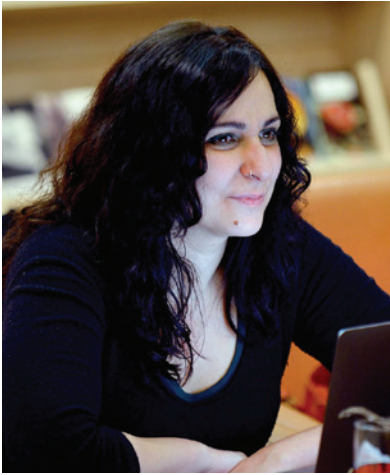
Here our situation was slightly different, since some of our resources were already available online - both a Gazetteer of places and the basic catalogue of the Archive are now accessible in a form which can be developed, modified and improved, at <https://www.sls gazetteer.org/>

The **physical archives** are held at the University of Leicester, and curated by the John Dore scholar: this year the post was held by Ahmed Buzaian.

His work was severely constrained since for much of the year he could not enter the building where the Archives are stored. Nevertheless, he has scanned a total of 2595 items (photographs and documents), providing metadata both from the items themselves and from his own good knowledge of the terrain. There is more scanning to be done - he has done most of the photographs in the main collections for Sabratha, Ghirza, Lepcis, Cyrene, and he has started to investigate other collections, together with handwritten notes and notebooks. The next step will be to upload this material to the online Archive - the process is currently being designed with King's Digital Lab.



Dr Ahmed Buzaian



Dr Valeria Vitale

In order to enhance the **virtual resources** (Archive and Gazetteer) the Society created a Kathleen Kenyon Fellowship hosted at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. This was held, first, by Dr Valeria Vitale

Valeria supervised the work of a group of students from University College London participating in the undergraduate internship programme *Mapping Roman Libya*. The aim was both to enhance the Gazetteer, and also to develop protocols for further such work in future.

She reports: The students learned about and worked with the Gazetteer and the online resources of the SLS following three main approaches. First, they used a free, online annotation platform (Recogito) to extract Libyan place names from historical textual sources, including digitised travel accounts on public repositories, as well as

some of the publications made available by the SLS itself. The information gathered was useful to enrich the list of variant names for Libyan places, and to create new entries for the missing ones. The students then focused on a more granular level of geographic information, creating identifiers in the HGL for individual buildings. The ancient cities of Sabratha and Leptis Magna were chosen as case studies, and the group of students used resources such as the maps accompanying Philip Kenrick's guidebooks to locate the individual urban landmarks, and create their gazetteer entries.

Thanks to the support of the developer at King's Digital Lab, a new visualisation feature was added to the HGL, enabling the students to record not only point locations for the historical buildings, such as temples, theatres and city gates but also representative polygons. Visualising the polygons on the map enriches the understanding of the spatial context of each building, and their mutual relationships. This kind of geo-data could also be used as a tool to help preserve spatial information about buildings that have partially or completely disappeared.

The students also used a bespoke script developed by KDL to create annotations on the Hypothes.is platform, that would link resources in Wikipedia and Wikimedia to places in the HGL. Thanks to this effort, now several places in the gazetteer feature one or more CCO photographs from Wikipedia.

Temple of Isis, Sabratha

URI

Coordinates

Latitude: 32.807686, Longitude: 12.487874, Altitude: 1m

Provenance: Google Earth

Variant names

- Tempio di Iside (Italian)

Map data ©2021 Imagery ©2021 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies | Terms of Use

Images from wikimedia commons

Feature type(s)

Temple/altar/polytheist building(s)

Relationships with other locations

Parent features

- Temple of Isis, Sabratha forms part of Regio III, Sabratha

Child features

Notes

Kenrick, site plan 23

Related catalogue entries

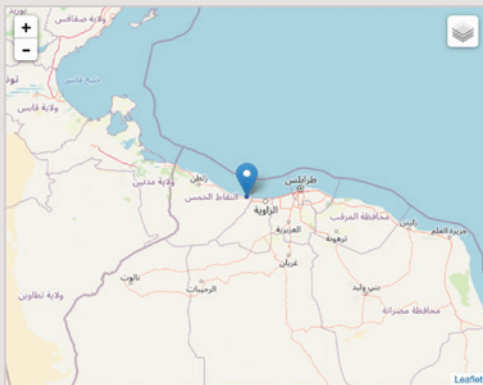
- Sabratha Slides., SLS Archive
- 49.X.19, SLS Archive
- 48 IV I, SLS Archive
- Miscellaneous Notes Regarding Sabratha., SLS Archive
- Temple of Hercules and the Temple of Isis., SLS Archive
- John Ward Perkins Files., SLS Archive

Basilica, Sabratha

URI

Coordinates

Latitude: 32.80662, Longitude: 12.481254, Altitude: 5m Provenance: Google Earth



Images from wikimedia commons



Variant names

- Basilica of Apuleus
- Basilica of the Forum
- Church I
- Basilique d'Apulée (French)

Feature type(s)

Church/monastery/Christian building(s), Government building/palace/basilica

Relationships with other locations

Parent features

- Basilica, Sabratha adjacent to Cruciform building, Sabratha
- Basilica, Sabratha forms part of Regio I, Sabratha

Child features

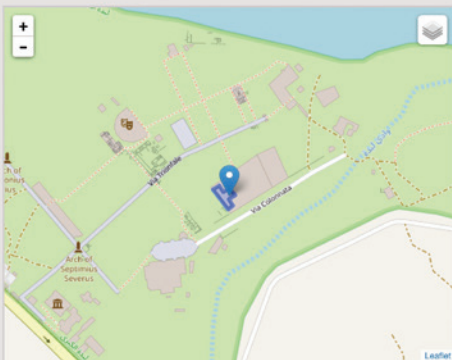
Notes

Kenrick, site plan 9. Basilica in the Roman period, remodeled to a church by the mid-fifth century

Related catalogue entries

- "The Basilicas of Tripolitania: A Study of their Development", SLS Archive
- Sabratha Slides, SLS Archive
- View of Basilica and Forum Rectangle from South West, SLS Archive
- View of Forum, Looking East Down Forum, SLS Archive
- S48 Series, SLS Archive
- Negative of Drawing of Basilica I, Capital from Tribunal, SLS Archive
- Negative of Plan of Sabratha Basilica, SLS Archive
- Tripoli 46.1.12, SLS Archive

Latitude: 32.636792, Longitude: 14.293198, Altitude: 10m Provenance: Google Earth



Images from wikimedia commons



- Severan Temple
- Temple des Sévères (French)
- Temple de la dynastie impériale Sévérienne (French)

Feature type(s)

Temple/altar/polytheist building(s)

Relationships with other locations

Parent features

- Temple 'of the gens Septimia', Leptis Magna forms part of Severan Forum, Leptis Magna

Child features

Notes

Kenrick, site plan 8

Related catalogue entries

- Columns, Friezes, Cornices and Podiums, SLS Archive
- Main Entablature, Frieze and Architraves, SLS Archive
- Main Entablature, Cornice and Pediment, SLS Archive
- General Views, SLS Archive
- Severan Temple, SLS Archive
- Severan Forum, SLS Archive
- Sculptured Podium, SLS Archive
- Capitals, Coffering and Miscellanea, SLS Archive
- Architraves, Cornices and Capitals, SLS Archive
- Cornice Stones and Architraves, SLS Archive

Last, we experimented with some of the materials made freely available by the SLS, uploading a small sample of visual content, like buildings' cross-sections and elevations, and then using Hypothes.is to link such images to the corresponding building in the HGL.

The entire workflow has been documented through the creation of videos and guided activities, and it is currently being reused by a master students of the ICS module 'Digital Approaches to Cultural Heritage' as part of her assessed coursework. (VV)

At the end of the summer 2020 Valeria left to take up a position at the British Library, and a new Fellow was appointed, Raluca-Ioana Lazarescu.

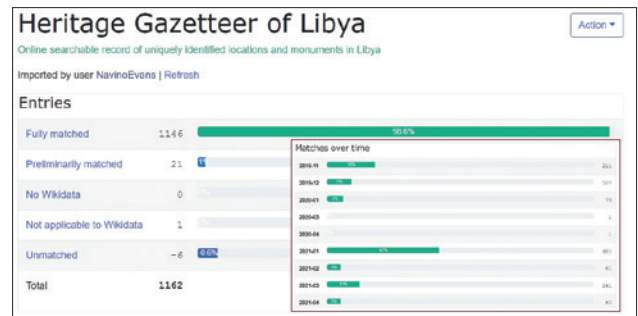
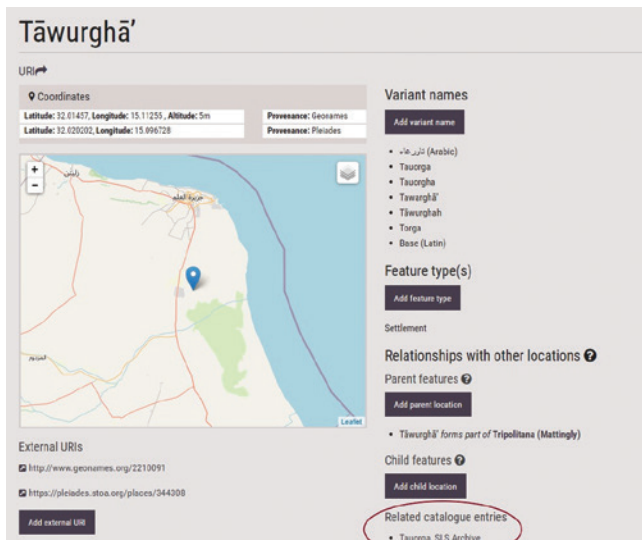


Raluca-Ioana
Lazarescu

She reports: In the first instance, work was undertaken to align the Gazetteer with the Archive: references to Gazetteer locations were added to all the Archive entries. This means that currently all the references to a location in the Archive can be found via the Gazetteer (see below for visual representation). Additionally, new Gazetteer locations were added when necessary, as well as various corrections to double entries on the Gazetteer.

Further work has been done in order to align the HGL data with WikiData, to enable the easier exchange of data (using the Mix'n'Match tool kit). As a result of this, the majority of HGL Data is now aligned with WikiData.

Work has also been undertaken in order to add all the Society's pictures on Flickr with available entries in the HGL Gazetteer via WikiData. All current photos have now been successfully linked to entries in the Gazetteer. Overall, since the beginning of the year, the work on the Gazetteer has largely been brought up to date, proving a strong basis for further development. The next foreseeable step is to ensure that we can successfully link the Society's Library catalogue to the Gazetteer and Archives catalogue. (R-IL)



Left: Representation of direct access to the Archive provided on the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya.

Above: Majority of HGL Data has now been aligned with WikiData, with much of the tasks undertaken during January to March 2021.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY

Another initiative this year was to create a shared photographic library in Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/groups/slsphotolibrary/> which has now been aligned with the Gazetteer (see above). Our hope is that members would contribute. We did have some expressions of interest: the challenge is that most of the most valuable images are in analogue form, and most of our members do not have access to resources for scanning images. We have been considering whether to organise virtual events during which members might contribute images and metadata.



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

MEMBERS – 207 OF WHICH 56 ARE FROM OVERSEAS:

Australia	Greece	Poland
Austria	Israel	Sweden
Canada	Italy	Switzerland
Cyprus	Japan	Turkey
France	Libya	USA
Germany	Malta	

OPEN ACCESS BOOK DOWNLOADS FROM 29 COUNTRIES:

Australia	Italy	Russia
Austria	Jamaica	South Africa
Belgium	Libya	Spain
Brazil	Malaysia	Sweden
Canada	Malta	Switzerland
China	N. Macedonia	Tunisia
Denmark	Netherlands	Turkey
France	Poland	United Kingdom
Germany	Portugal	USA
Greece	Romania	

TOTAL ATTENDEES AT LIVE LECTURES: 398

17 online presentations in English and Arabic on YouTube channel

1000+ streamed views

SOCIETY WEBSITE

During the past 12 months (31 March 2020 to 31 March 2021), the Society website has seen a significant and sustained increase in visitor numbers and in all associated key engagement metrics, compared with the previous year.

7900 unique website visitors (80% increase on previous year)

21,400 page views (75% increase on previous year)

1575 Facebook followers (26% increase on previous year)

1216 Twitter followers (21% increase on previous year)

FINANCIAL REPORT

THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	2020–21	2019–20
	£	£
INCOME		
British Academy Grant	74,429	70,594
Business Development Fund Grant	15,251	14,960
Subscriptions	5,914	5,408
Journal sales	2,200	2,230
Book sales and postage	5,958	7,250
Bank interest	466	704
Donations/gift aid	0	8,777
Miscellaneous	1,765	147
TOTAL INCOME	105,983	110,070
EXPENDITURE		
Research grants	30,347	27,555
Library/Research collections	14,260	29,310
Archive: cataloguing and conservation	14,260	26,593
Archive digitisation	0	2,717
Communications and outreach	11,752	10,874
Events inc 50th Anniversary	2,100	3,427
Publicity and outreach	4,320	430
Website maintenance/development	5,242	3,250
Lecture/meeting expenses	90	3,767
Publications	44,815	57,390
Digitisation old books	1,107	1,456
Storage/despatch of books	279	748
Print-on-demand costs	1,133	6,442
Royalties on book sales	675	250
Publications Manager	15,970	10,704
Journal production	3,015	3,881
Production of monographs/silphium books	4,596	2,945
Special projects	15,992	30,964
Other costs	2,048	0

Establishment	18,884	19,758
Bank charges	194	331
General Secretary's remuneration	11,566	11,409
Insurance	0	175
Office expenses	1,124	1,343
Accountancy	6,000	6,500
Travel	0	491
UK	0	491
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>120,058</u>	<u>145,378</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	<u>-14,075</u>	<u>-35,308</u>

**THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
	£	£
ASSETS		
Virgin Money Account	79,813	94,349
NatWest Current Account	7,705	25,263
PayPal Account	605	2,808
Total Cash	<u>88,123</u>	<u>122,420</u>
Debtors	2,200	0
Stock of publications, valued at cost	<u>11,112</u>	<u>12,366</u>
Total Assets	<u>101,435</u>	<u>134,786</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	3,850	11,087
Accrued income	273	0
Grants allocated but not yet paid out	<u>2,997</u>	<u>14,755</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,120</u>	<u>25,842</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>94,315</u>	<u>108,944</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
General Fund	35,066	32,814
Stock Fund	11,112	12,366
Publications Fund	<u>48,137</u>	<u>63,764</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>94,315</u>	<u>108,944</u>

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
General Fund brought forward	32,814	54,725
Stock Fund brought forward	12,366	13,151
Publications Fund brought forward	63,764	77,161
Total funds at start of year	<u>108,944</u>	<u>145,037</u>
Deficit for the year	-14,075	-35,308
Movement in stock	-1,254	-785
Write off old research creditor to reserves	700	0
TOTAL FUNDS at end of year	<u>94,315</u>	<u>108,944</u>

Reserves policy

The Society has few financial commitments which cannot be terminated at short notice, since it has no direct employees and does not own or rent premises; it has not therefore been considered necessary to retain a reserve for potential winding-up costs.

At any one time the Society may be holding grants which have been awarded but not yet taken up by their recipients, and for practical reasons some of these (typically awarded in February for projects to be undertaken in the summer) are usually held over the end of the financial year (31 March). Such sums are shown above as a restricted reserve.

The Society has historically set aside funds for publications arising (usually several years later) from fieldwork that it has supported. These are shown as a Publications Reserve, with the intention that they may be used to support (any) publication costs, but not new fieldwork.

Book collection

The Society held 947 items in its books collection, which is housed in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies ('SOAS') University of London. The library is currently closed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Society did not have an active acquisition policy for its book collection during the year under review; it received volumes by gift and by exchange and works sent for review were generally also added to the collection.

Oliver Kimberley Chartered Accountant, Honorary Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

Charity number 259262 registered in England & Wales

I report to the Council on my examination of the accounts of the Society for Libyan Studies ('the Society') for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Colm Walls *Chartered Management Accountant, Honorary Independent Examiner*
36 Lancet Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9SA



MEMBERSHIP

To join the Society for Libyan Studies, please contact the General Secretary. Membership is open to all and runs from April to April. Key benefits include being part of a long-standing academic community, plus:

- Free copy of *Libyan Studies* the Society's annual journal
- The opportunity to purchase Society publications at significantly discounted prices
- Attendance at Society events, meetings, lectures and the Annual General Meeting
- Access to the Society Library (SOAS)
- Access to the Society Archive (University of Leicester)

CONTACT

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Social Media

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