

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

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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](mailto: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

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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. D.Litt, 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
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

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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

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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

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**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

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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 Maiiores 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. Owning 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

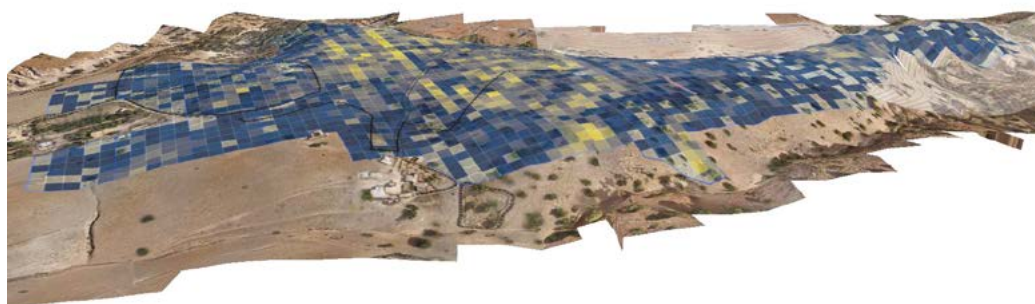
**Cyprian Broodbank (Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, Director, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research)**  
*Oued Beht Archaeological Project (OBAP)*

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

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## 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)

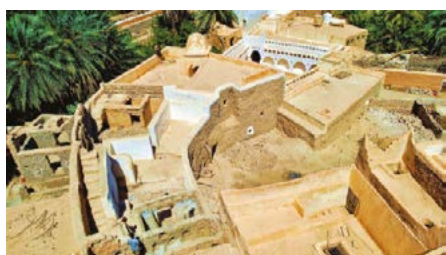


Building destroyed by coastal erosion, E of Tocra (Image: CCS)

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

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*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*

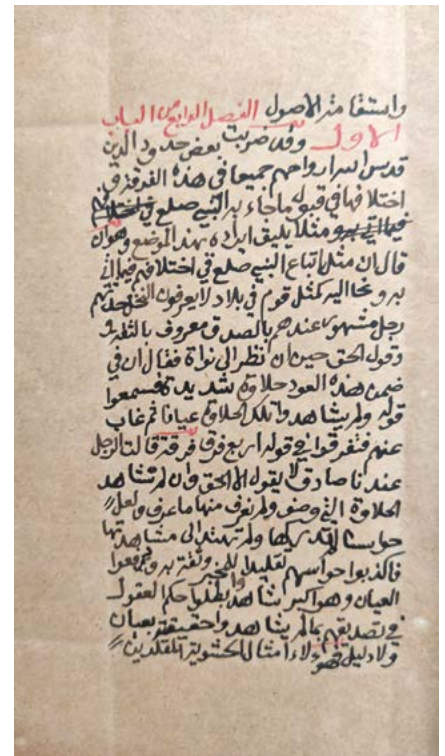
While scholars tend to present ancient North Africa as a series of 'islands in space' dominated by a mosaic of ethnic groups and a succession of imperial powers, in this in-person Annual Lecture it was argued that states and ethnic groups are not always and necessarily the relevant actors in political, 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).

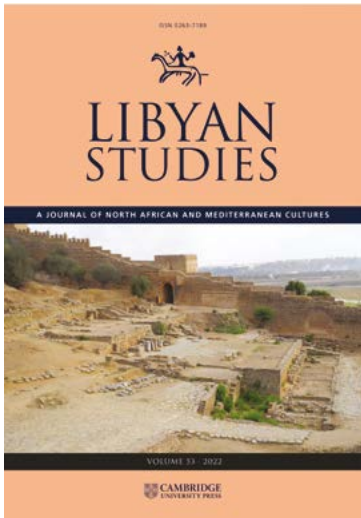


Left: Sabratha, Roman theatre as restored under Italian colonial administration (photo P. Kenrick).



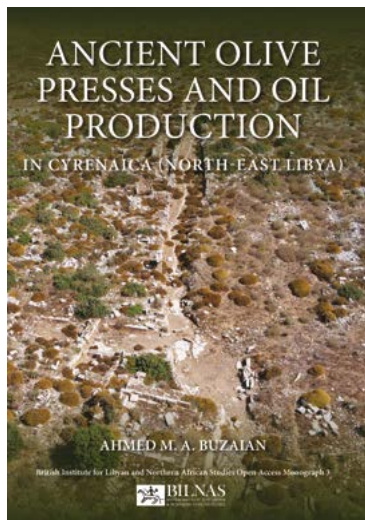
## PUBLICATIONS 2022–23

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### 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 Buzai'an'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

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## 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/](http://www.bilnas.org/about-us/sponsorship-and-donations/)).





## THE YEAR IN FIGURES

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### 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
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
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
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>187,444</b>	<b>107,014</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Research grants</b>	<b>47,749</b>	<b>46,119</b>
<b>Library/Research collections</b>	<b>35,190</b>	<b>17,726</b>
Archive: cataloguing and conservation	31,932	11,226
Archive digitisation	3,258	6,500
<b>Communications and outreach</b>	<b>16,852</b>	<b>8,350</b>
Events	3,467	1,143
Publicity and outreach	1,142	4,318
Website maintenance/development	11,743	2,413
Lecture/meeting expenses	500	476
<b>Publications</b>	<b>28,387</b>	<b>27,986</b>
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

<b>Establishment</b>	<b>19,743</b>	<b>18,474</b>
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
<b>Travel</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>0</b>
UK	645	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>148,566</b>	<b>118,655</b>
<b>SURPLUS-DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>38,878</b>	<b>-11,641</b>

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

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

## 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
<b>Total funds at start of year</b>	<b>79,627</b>	<b>94,315</b>
Deficit/surplus for the year	38,878	-11,641
Movement in stock	1,663	-3,047
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>120,168</b>	<b>79,627</b>

### 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](mailto: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

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BILNAS  
c/o British Academy  
10-11 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AH  
[gensec@bilnas.org](mailto:gensec@bilnas.org)

## Social Media

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

 <https://twitter.com/LibyanStudies>

[www.bilnas.org](http://www.bilnas.org)

