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HERITAGE TURKEY

BRITISH INSTITUTE AT ANKARA



Volume 1 | 2011

The objectives of the British Institute at Ankara are to enable UK scholars across the humanities and social sciences to undertake world-class original research and fieldwork focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; to encourage and facilitate collaborative research with other UK institutions and with scholars and institutions in Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; and to maintain a centre of research excellence in Ankara.

A small staff at the Institute's premises in Ankara conduct their own research, assist scholars and maintain the centre of research excellence. The centre houses a library of over 52,000 volumes, research collections of botanical, faunal, epigraphic and pottery material, together with collections of maps, photographs and fieldwork archives, and a laboratory and computer services. Access to these resources is available free of charge to members of the Institute. The Institute is able to offer to members, for a reasonable charge, the use of accommodation, surveying and photographic equipment, and a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The Institute encourages as wide a scope of high-quality research as can be supported with its financial, practical and administrative resources. The Institute supports a small number of thematically-focused research programmes, stimulated by current concerns of academic research in the UK as well as internationally; these are known as strategic research initiatives. In 2011 the following initiatives were supported: Contemporary Turkey; Climate History of Anatolia and the Black Sea; Frontiers of the Ottoman World; and Settlement History of Anatolia. A diverse group of research projects, which were funded and/or facilitated by the Institute, operated within the strategic research initiatives scheme during 2011; these include studies of the intellectual origins of the Turkish Republic, and Georgians and Turks on the frontiers of Islam in the Ottoman period, an assessment of climatic and cultural change in Cappadocia over a period of 5,000 years and the major multi-disciplinary research project at Çatalhöyük. In addition, the Institute is conducting a major British Academy-funded international research project in collaboration with the Association for South East Asian Studies UK investigating links between the Ottoman Empire, Turkey and Southeast Asia between the 16th and 20th centuries. The Institute also offers a range of grants to support undergraduate to post-doctoral research.

Subscription to the Institute costs £40 per annum (£20 for students). Members are entitled to copies of the Institute's annual journal, *Anatolian Studies*, and of its annual publication on current research, *Heritage Turkey*, a discount on other Institute publications, notification of conferences and lectures, and access to the centre of research excellence, accommodation and other services in Ankara.

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The front and back covers feature the exquisite gold and electrum ornament found this year at Kerkenes

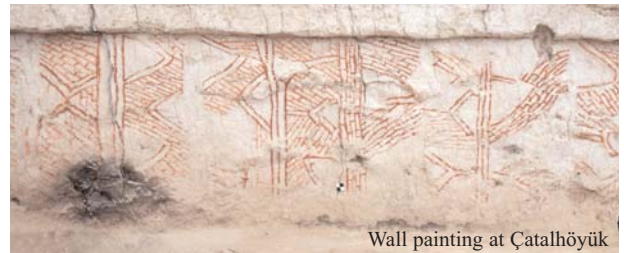
HERITAGE TURKEY

British Institute of Ankara Research Reports 2011

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Wall painting at Çatalhöyük

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BNP PARIBAS ORTAKLIĞI

Dr Lutgarde Vandeput
Director, British Institute at Ankara

November 2011

Dear members,

As you will already have read in the recent letter from Sir David Logan, our Chairman, the Institute was granted a much better financial settlement from the British Academy than we had anticipated. Moreover, this is not only the case for the present financial year, but is secured up to 2014/2015! As you can imagine, the new situation is a great relief and has major consequences for the operation and plans of the Institute in the coming years.

As I write, Andrew Peacock, our Assistant Director since 2007, has recently taken up his new position of Lecturer in Middle Eastern History at the University of St Andrews. A seamless transition! We wish Andrew the best of luck in his future career and thank him for all he did for the Institute during his term of employment here in Ankara. The improved financial settlement allowed the Institute to advertise the post of Assistant Director to find Andrew's successor, contrary to what we had originally anticipated. Marc Herzog arrived in Ankara in September. He is a political scientist who received his PhD from Exeter University. Marc will be working on contemporary Turkey, more specifically on Turkish party politics, during his time at the Institute.

Marc is not the only new arrival! Unlike last year, the Institute can once again 'afford' a BIAA Postdoctoral Fellow. After a tough selection process, Elena Magdalena Craciun was offered the 2011/2012 Fellowship. Magda too is working on contemporary Turkey, specialising in anthropology. With so much expertise on present-day Turkey in house, I am looking forward very much to some stimulating tea-time discussions, which will most definitely touch often on ongoing issues! Some of you may wonder why there is no reference to an 'incoming director', as my five-year term of appointment ended in September 2011. However, I am extremely pleased, as you can imagine, to be able to let you know that my contract has been renewed for a second term.

The start of a second five-year term for the Director indicates that it has been five years since the last review by the BASIS (British Academy Sponsored Institutes and Societies) Committee. In April, the Ankara premises were 'inspected' by a review team of five. I am happy to be able to report that their findings were generally positive and that they found the Institute in good order. One of the general conclusions was that 'the decision to increase the BIAA's financial settlement was the right one'!

Five years is also the duration of the lease on the main Institute premises at Tahrir Caddesi 24. All of you who have visited us here will be pleased to read that the BIAA will stay at the same address for the coming five years. And you will be even more pleased to know that the building has been rewired and has a new roof now!

You have the first issue of *Heritage Turkey*, replacing *Anatolian Archaeology*, in hand. We hope that the title reflects the Institute's activities better than the old title, with its concentration on archaeology. Archaeology has traditionally been – and continues to be – a core strength of the BIAA, but the work of the Institute now covers much more, and we felt that this should be reflected in the magazine's title. With the new name: a new style and a new concept.

I hope you will enjoy reading this first edition of *Heritage Turkey* and learning more about the wide range of research funded or facilitated by the British Institute at Ankara!

Best wishes from Ankara,



The BASIS review panel with the Director in front of the entrance to the BIAA (from left: M. Millet, E. Peltenburg, L. Vandeput, G. Toutziari, L. Brubaker and R. Jackson)

Craft and identity at Boncuklu Höyük: stone bead technology

Emma Baysal | Koç University

Beads are one of the rare expressions of social and personal identity that are found in the archaeological record of the Neolithic period and can also help us identify early examples of specialised craft production. Boncuklu Höyük (literally 'Beady Hill') is an early sedentary Pre-Pottery Neolithic site (late ninth to early eighth millennium BC) near Çatalhöyük in the Konya plain, where beads are being used to answer a variety of questions. How did raw materials come to the site? What were the technologies and processes involved in the production of beads? How did those who made the beads view themselves in relation to others in the community? What part did such manufacturing play in the development of specialised craft production? What are the implications of technological choices for incipient sedentary societies? And how can early craft specialisation be identified in the archaeological record?

The relatively small but very varied stone bead and pendant assemblage from Boncuklu has provided evidence for all stages of stone bead manufacture at the site, as well as showing that beads were carefully looked after and reused even when broken. The Konya plain provides an ideal setting to study the procurement of raw material as there is no natural stone found within the area, only in the bed of the river and the surrounding mountains. As a result of the methodology employed at Boncuklu, the locales in which manufacturing processes took place at the site, in and around the buildings, are clear.

This year's project is focused on identifying the technologies that were employed in bead manufacture by carrying out a series of experiments in bead production. The landscape around the site has been explored to identify the nearby sources of stone and the samples collected have been manipulated by chipping, drilling and abrading. The resulting experimental pieces will be studied by microscope to identify use-wear patterns and technological 'signatures' which can be compared with the archaeological artefacts. It is already clear that the different materials used provided different challenges for the manufacturer. For example, some of the volcanic rocks that were chosen were very hard (Moh's 5.5–7) and therefore considerably more difficult to drill and shape than the very common local limestones. The way that beads were made, the time that was taken in manufacture, the tools that were necessary and the areas of the site in which production took place provide vital clues to the place that production processes took within the daily life of the settlement. The role of craft production in incipient sedentary societies is of great importance for our understanding of the development of social differentiation as a precursor to eventual social stratification. It seems clear that increasingly specialised activities led to differentiation in roles within society and that this process may have been dynamic rather than purely linear in its progress.

Project sponsored by: BIAA, The Prehistoric Society and the G.A. Wainwright Fund for Near Eastern Archaeology.

Geometric clay objects

Lucy Bennison-Chapman | University of Liverpool

The Neolithic in southwest Asia was a pivotal transitional time in human history. It witnessed salient changes in settlement structure, social cohesion, subsistence activities and artistic expression. The Neolithic notably saw the appearance of the world's first sedentary farming villages, a profound development. An enigmatic feature of the Neolithic period is the appearance of small, geometric-shaped clay objects, or 'tokens', at a small number of early agricultural villages in Anatolia, Iran, Syria and north Mesopotamia towards the start of the period (ca 8000 BC). By the later Neolithic (ca mid seventh to sixth millennium BC) they are present in abundance at a large number of sites throughout southwest Asia, yet remain absent at others. Tokens continue to be present in west Asia into the second millennium BC, spreading into south Mesopotamia. A clear link between recording, administration and the objects is evident from the invention of writing in south Mesopotamia in the mid fourth millennium BC. However, until the last decade, the potential importance of these peculiar objects was frequently unrecognised, with work focused on the later objects only.

My research comprises a detailed study of the form, use and distribution (temporal and geographic) of these small, geometric clay objects, as well as the contexts in which they are found. It constitutes a novel investigation, tracing the development of the objects throughout the Neolithic period, incorporating evidence from different sites and regions. By focusing on the initial appearance of tokens I hope to re-evaluate the validity of current interpretations of their use (for example as recording devices, gaming pieces and children's toys). My study addresses key questions relating directly to the objects. Did they have immediate and symbolic meaning for people at the start of the Neolithic. Did they directly affect how people organised their lives? Were they used to represent specific commodities, being used to aid in the counting, recording, storage and distribution of goods? Wider questions focus on why tokens are only found at some sites, the characteristic features that link these settlements together and whether there was a shared symbolic system across the entire Neolithic period and southwest Asia region.

Two Turkish sites, Boncuklu Höyük and Çatalhöyük, and Tell Sabi Abyad in Syria are my main case-studies. I have undertaken fieldwork at each, recording in person detailed observations related to over 1,500 objects. Other research is being undertaken by reviewing published records, identifying other Anatolian and west Asian Neolithic sites yielding tokens, noting the presence/absence of tokens at all Neolithic sites, and recording the objects in detail where published.

Understanding the development of possible early recording systems will provide vital insights into the nature of early farming communities, as well as the emergence of writing and associated social technologies that are important features in the development of social complexity.



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