

British Schools and Institutes Overseas and Sponsored Societies

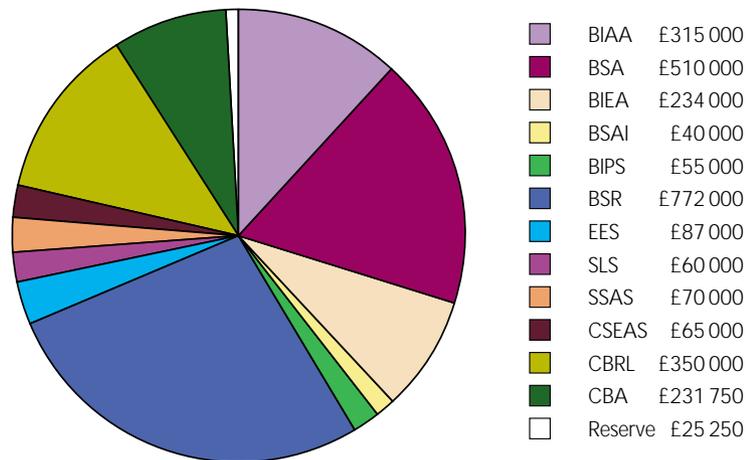
The Academy's sponsored Institutes and Societies have continued to be active in a variety of ways over the course of recent months, including conferences, lectures, taught courses and major fieldwork projects. A number of monographs and journals published by the individual organisations have also appeared. The total grant-in-aid budget for the institutes and societies in 1999/2000 was £2,815,000, and a chart indicating the Academy's grant-in-aid to individual institutions is shown right.

Recent conferences have included *The Qajar Epoch, Art, Architecture and Culture* which was hosted in September by the British Institute for Persian Studies in association with the Iran Heritage Foundation. In Rome, a conference on the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, who contributed designs for the British School at Rome's building, was hosted by the School in October.

In London, lectures at the British Academy during the latter half of 1999 have included the following: *Heat and Dust: Excavations at Germa (Fezzan) 1997-1999* by Professor David Mattingly (Society for Libyan Studies); *We came back to Chagar Bazar: renewed excavations 1999* by Dr Augusta McMahon (British School of Archaeology in Iraq); *Persia and the European Powers after World War I* by Professor Yann Richard (British Institute of Persian Studies); and *How to visit the City of Rome: new interests and approaches at the turn of the millennium* by Professor Alastair Small (British School at Rome).

The British Institute at Ankara has recently established a new summer course in the Archaeology of Anatolia for undergraduates from UCL, led by the Director Dr Roger Matthews. Meanwhile, under its new Director Dr Paul Lane, the British Institute in Eastern Africa has undertaken a variety of new initiatives which have helped to raise the Institute's profile and reputation amongst local institutions. These include a joint seminar scheme run with IFRA (the French Institute for Research in Africa) in Nairobi.

Work on a number of major archaeological fieldwork projects has continued over the course of recent months, under the auspices of individual



Institutes or Societies. For example, the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara has continued to support work at Çatalhöyük, (see illustration overleaf) and has also undertaken a third season of survey in northern Anatolia (Project Paphlagonia), although a planned season of survey and excavation on the Anastasian Wall had to be cancelled in the aftermath of the huge earthquake which hit Turkey in August. The BIAA has also been involved in a survey to assess damage to archaeological sites caused by the earthquake. Fieldwork supported by the British School at Athens has included projects at Sparta, Agia Kyriaki (Melos), Villa Dionysus (Knossos), Nea Roda and the Kophinas Minoan peak sanctuary. Work has also continued on the British School at Rome's Tiber Valley project, which studies the changing landscape of the region from 1000 BC to AD 1300 and now involves scholars from a number of British and Italian institutions. The first phase of a new interdisciplinary project entitled 'Mapping Rome' was completed in December 1999. The British Institute in Eastern Africa has also been involved with two interdisciplinary projects in conjunction with local scholars: the first concerns environmental history, Iron Age settlement and soil erosion in Tanzania, and the second is a study of changes and continuity in settlement organisation and distribution in Nyanza Province. Meanwhile, the Egypt Exploration Society continues to support work

The following research bodies are supported by the Academy: the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, the British School at Athens, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, the British Institute of Persian Studies, the British School at Rome, the Egypt Exploration Society, the Society for Libyan studies, the Society for South Asian Studies, the Committee for South East Asian Studies, the Council for British Research in the Levant and the Council for British Archaeology

on its four core fieldwork projects at the major sites of Qasr Ibrim, Amarna, Sais and Memphis.

Projects currently aided by the Society for South Asian Studies include the Bannu project, which is now focussing on Akra, and the Sri Lankan Archaeometallurgy Project, involving a survey of ancient wind powered smelting sites. The Committee for South-East Asian Studies, meanwhile, has continued to provide support for a number of major projects throughout the area, both archaeological and non-archaeological, in particular the Niah project in Borneo which

investigates the prehistory and history of human/rainforest interactions in Sarawak.

Fieldwork in Libya continues at Fezzan and Euesperides, and it is hoped that the renewal of full diplomatic relations in 1999 will enable the Society for Libyan Studies to expand its cultural links in the region. Similarly, the improvement in relations with Iran has meant that the British Institute for Persian Studies has been able to increase the level of its activities in the region, and it has now re-opened its Library to local university staff and graduate students. Meanwhile the British



Çatalhöyük : A Neolithic Anatolian tell.

About 9000 years ago early farmers settled at Çatalhöyük, building small, densely packed, rectangular mudbrick houses, accessible via roof openings. It was home to 5,000–10,000 people, with old houses being infilled and new ones constructed on top thereby creating the 20 metre high mound seen today.

The site achieved international acclaim in the early 60s when first excavated by James Mellaart for its 2/3 dimensional art in the houses. The current project, begun in 1993 under the direction of Professor Ian Hodder FBA and the BIAA, is

studying early sedentary and 'urban' life through its wealth of well preserved plant and animal remains offering valuable information on early domestication and agriculture. Within the houses a complex society with highly organised spatial order is being revealed; the dead were buried beneath the floors, some spanning two to three generations.

Latest technology is being used for analysis, interpretation and conservation of this site (pictured above). On-site facilities have been built to accommodate the large international team undertaking the work and using the research centre.

School of Archaeology in Iraq has undertaken the preparation of a Nimrud database, incorporating all registered objects from 13 seasons of BSAI excavations. It also continues to be involved in excavations at Tell Brak and at Chagar Bazar.

The Council for British Archaeology continues its involvement in its four key areas: research, conservation, education and communication. Its new Director, Mr George Lambrick, formerly of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, took up his post in October 1999. The CBA also supports the work of the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography* which has recently moved into an office in the British Academy's building.

The Council for British Research in the Levant is also in a period of development and change, following the appointment of its new Honorary Secretary, Dr Mark Whittow, and of the new Director in Amman, Dr Bill Finlayson, who took up his post in December 1999. The CBRL merger Committee also met for the last time in December, thereafter to be replaced by a Council, which will include several members of the original committee. Meanwhile the CBRL's Jerusalem Officer has organised a series of lectures and workshops throughout the region in the course of recent months, aimed at establishing the role of the organisation. It continues to support major field activities including work at Gaza, Wadi Faynan and Jezreel.

The annual meeting of the BASIS Forum (BASIS is the Board for Academy-Sponsored Institutes and

Societies), which is attended by representatives of all the Institutes and Societies as well as by the members of BASIS, took place at the Academy in November. This year, participants were invited to comment on a number of issues relating in general to the work of the overseas institutions, including funding for archaeological fieldwork, opportunities for research support from the EU, and health and safety issues relating to fieldwork overseas, as well as ways in which Institutes and Societies might seek to embrace a wider range of disciplines. The Forum also discussed ways in which to raise the profile of the Institutes and Societies in the UK, for example by a series of conferences or exhibitions, and by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the World Wide Web. Many of the Institutes and Societies have recently developed very impressive pages within the Academy's own web site, giving details of their activities including lectures, publications, fieldwork programmes and grant schemes in support of research.

Representatives of the Institutes and Societies also had the opportunity after the Forum to meet briefly with the members of BASIS designated as their assessors, in order to discuss issues of particular relevance to their organisation, and this was agreed to have been a useful exercise. A programme of visits by assessors to individual institutions is also planned, commencing in 1999/2000, with the aim of familiarising assessors with the organisations and of following up issues arising from the Wilson Review which was carried out in 1994/95.