

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ (GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

Registered Charity Number 1135395

A company limited by guarantee

Registered in England and Wales

Number 06966984

10, Carlton House Terrace
LONDON | SW1Y 5AH



REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for

The Year Ended

30 June 2020

2019/2020

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Office and Principal Address

The British Academy
10 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
Kings Cross Branch
23 Euston Road
London NW1 2SB

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
80 Cheapside
London EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiners

WMT
Chartered Accountants
Verulam Point
Station Way
St Albans
Hertfordshire AL1 5HE

Investment Managers

Investec
30 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7QN UK

Solicitors

Jacobs Allen Hammond Solicitors
5 Fitzhardinge Street
London W1H 6EF

Registered Charity

1135395

Registered Company

06966984 (England and Wales)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

The following were trustees of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) when this report was approved.

Mr Frank Baker CMG, OBE

Dr Gareth Brereton

Dr Tim Clayden, Hon Treasurer

Dr Paul Collins, Chair of Council

Dr John Curtis OBE, FBA, President

Dr Erica Hunter

Mr Daniel Lowe

Dr John MacGinnis

Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, Vice-Chair of Council

Dr Ellen McAdam (stepped down 26th February 2020)

Dr Glen Rangwala

Dr Renad Mansour (elected 26th February 2020)

Dr Rosalind Wade Haddon (elected 26th February 2020)

Dr Moudhy Al-Rashid (co-opted)

Dr Eva Miller (co-opted)

The Council presents this report together with the financial statements of BISI for the period of twelve months ended 30 June 2020. The statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 25 – 27 and comply with the charity's regulations, applicable law and the requirements of the Charity SORP (FRS102). The 2020 report and accounts reflect BISI's activities over the course of the current financial year. They represent the eighth year of the charity operating as a company limited by guarantee.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

BISI is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted and approved at the Annual General Meeting in December 2009 [available at <http://www.bisi.ac.uk>]

BISI established itself as a company limited by guarantee in 2010 and commenced operation on 1 July 2010 as a charitable company.

BISI's income comes from its own resources and endowment in addition to income from charitable activities.

Annual General Meeting

BISI holds an Annual General Meeting in February in order for members to: receive and consider BISI's accounts and balance sheet, and the reports of Council; appoint the Auditor or Independent Examiner; elect Members of Council and to discuss any matter of business which is properly transacted. These meetings are normally held in person, but the 2021 meeting will be held electronically. Any member of BISI who wishes to be present may attend the Annual General Meeting. Alternatively, members are permitted to send in email ballots for the election of Council members. Unlike in previous years postal voting will not be available.

Council

A volunteer Council is responsible for the overall management of the charity and meets three times a year in London or on digital platform meetings. It delegates much of its work to several Committees of the Council—currently Fieldwork and Research, Finance, the Fundraising Taskforce, University and Museum Engagement Committee, Publications, and Strategy.

BISI's current Council members cover a broad range of expertise. The majority of Council members are academics, highly knowledgeable in Mesopotamian, Medieval Islamic and contemporary Iraq. Council members are elected by the full membership to serve a 3-year term. They may be re-elected for a further 3-year term and must then stand down for a minimum of 1 year. This rule does not apply to key office holders. Council members elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from within their ranks. The Hon Treasurer is a member of Council, nominated by the Council and elected by members on an annual basis.

Before joining Council, nominees are requested to review the Charity Commission guidelines 'CC3 - The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do.' New Council members attend an induction meeting with the Chair and administrative staff and have access to electronic copies of all of BISI's governance documents. In addition, new trustees are required to sign a 'Trustee Code of Conduct,' which outlines their duties and BISI's expectations of them. Current Council members must complete an annual certification to confirm that they are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee because of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.

Patron, President and Honorary Vice President

BISI currently has two Patrons: Sir Terence Clark KBE CMG CVO and Ms Maysoon Al-Damluji, one President: Dr John Curtis OBE FBA, and two Honorary Vice-Presidents: HE Stephen Hickey, British Ambassador to Iraq and HE Mohammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, Iraqi Ambassador to the UK.

Decision-making: Council and Personnel

Collectively BISI Council Members are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity, and take charge of all decisions on a strategic level.

Day-to-day operational decisions and activities are handled by BISI staff members. In the past financial year, the BISI administrative team was comprised of:

- **Ali Khadr**, BISI Executive Officer (full-time) who ensures the smooth-running of BISI's office, under the supervision of BISI's Chair and Vice-Chair of Council: Paul Collins and Joan MacIver. Ali had previously been development co-ordinator and he continues to spend 20% of his time in development activities.
- **Karon Cook**, BISI's Financial Controller (part-time, 20-30%, self-employed), who oversees BISI's financial activities, under the supervision of BISI's Hon Treasurer.
- **Isobel Ransome** – Bisi Visiting Scholars' Programme Co-ordinator [Self-employed up to 20%]

Personnel Costs

BISI pays the salary of its Executive Officer at an amount that is reflective of his experience and abilities, and sets the fee according to university norms. It chooses at its model the UCL Non-clinical grade structure with spinal points (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/salary_scales/final_grades.php). Thus, the Executive Officer's salary is currently £29,683, including London allowance – the equivalent of UCL Grade 6 spine point 22.

BISI's self-employed personnel – its Financial Controller and Visiting Scholar Programme Co-ordinator – charge the institute an hourly rate, in line with their expertise and responsibilities.

Support from the British Academy

Since 2009, the British Academy has given BISI valuable support in-kind by providing a London base and the use of administrative resources, as well as providing a venue for meetings and lectures. Council is very appreciative of BISI's long-standing links with the British Academy and the assistance it provides.

Note on BISI's title: BISI was formerly known as the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI) until in 2007 it changed its name to reflect the broadening of its academic remit. Whereas our predecessor organisation was focused principally on ancient and pre-modern Iraq, BISI's academic coverage now includes humanities and social sciences research on modern and contemporary Iraq.

OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

BISI's governing document sets out the aims of the charity as follows:

'To advance research and public education relating to Iraq and the neighbouring countries in anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, language and related disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences.'

We achieve these aims through:

Research and Fieldwork: We promote high-quality research across our academic remit by making grants and providing expert advice and input. We support and facilitate academic exchange and collaboration between the UK and Iraq through programmes of visiting scholars and academic engagement.

Outreach: We inform and engage the public about Iraq through lectures and conferences that add to the public's understanding of Iraq's history, society and culture. In addition, we provide expertise and specialist knowledge on Iraq's heritage and culture to government bodies, journalists and other parties.

Publications: We publish the journal IRAQ, alongside books on the history, languages and culture of Iraq; and facilitate the publication of BSAI research projects that remain unpublished.

In the next few pages, you can read in detail about the activities the BISI has carried out in the period of 2019/2020.

Concerning all BISI endeavours, Council has complied with the duty in section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT



As with every other organisation, the global Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on BISI's activities and operations. In March 2020, the British Academy's building went into lockdown and since then our Executive Officer, Ali Khadr, has been managing the Institute from his home; our June and November Council meetings were conducted online. A number of research projects that we supported with grants have been unable to proceed as planned and our Visiting Iraqi Scholars Programme with UCL's Nahrein Network has been put on hold, not least because our Iraqi colleagues have faced similar restrictions at home. As soon as conditions permit, much of this activity can be immediately restarted.

At the time of writing this report, the impact of the pandemic has had a relatively small effect on our income thanks to the very careful management by our Investment Portfolio Manager, guided by our Honorary Treasurer, Dr Tim Clayden. There remains of course huge uncertainty about the future and we have looked at areas to make some cost savings without impacting dramatically on our work, as well as some draw-down of reserves, which exist precisely to assist in such unpredictable situations. Meanwhile, BISI is submitting a funding application to the British Academy for the kind of financial support

they offer to the other British International Research Institutes (BIRI). The outcome will be dependent to the government's comprehensive spending review and the grant awarded to the Academy by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Despite these issues, there has been much positive activity over the last twelve months. The BIRI are actively exploring ways of working more closely together, especially in areas of cross-disciplinary research; I have joined a working group of other Chairs and Directors to move this forward with support from the British Academy. The BISI has also merged with the UK Charity the Friends of Basrah Museum, a long-time partner organisation, to continue the work of supporting the Basrah Museum and its staff and library.

Although BISI had been focusing on developing its website for some time, lockdown has made this work ever more important. The Nimrud Digitization project has been moved forward with the publication online of an extensive list of some of the most significant documents from the archives of the excavations conducted at the site by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq and now held at the British Museum. Detail will be added to this over time, starting with digital copies of all of the School's past publications on Nimrud.

Some of our outreach activities have also shifted online with the development of a programme of public lectures; these have considerably increased the size and diversity of our audiences and include, very pleasingly, a large number of attendees in Iraq. Other forms of dissemination and outreach have taken more traditional forms, ranging from the publication of a children's book on the ancient Sumerians to supporting a temporary exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, exploring the origins of the modern country of Iraq through the lens of its heritage. The next twelve months will inevitably be challenging but we have plans in place to ensure that we remain at the forefront in supporting and delivering the UK's arts, humanities and social sciences research on Iraq.

Dr Paul Collins
Chair of Council

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

Academic Grants

BISI supports UK-led research and conferences on the lands and peoples of Iraq, from the full breadth of the arts, humanities and social sciences subjects. We do this through the provision of academic grants (up to £4,000 per grant) and a pilot project grant (usually up to £8,000). In 2019/2020 we funded fieldwork into contemporary Iraq and three major archaeological excavations in-country.

Research Grants

- **Dr Mark Altaweel (UCL):** Understanding Nippur's Paleobotanical Remains
- **Yousif Al-Daffaie (Nottingham Trent University):** The (re)inscription of Memory: Valuing the informal Practices, Spatial Memory and Local Narratives within the Physical Recovery of Mosul's Old Town
- **Dr Claudia Glatz (University of Glasgow):** Food and the first cities: Social Organisation and colonial encounter in the Sirwan/Upper Diyala River Valley, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- **Dr Cailah Jackson (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies):** The Jalayirid arts of the book, c.1350-c. 1410
- **Professor Nicholas Postgate (University of Cambridge):** Resumption of fieldwork at Abu Salabikh

Conference Grants

No Conference Grants were awarded in 2019/2020



1956 Staff Magazine, a photo in the September-October 1956 issue of Thomas Cook's Staff Magazine, advertising the company's new Baghdad office on al-Saadoun Street. From Laith Shakir's Research Project on 'Tourism in Iraq: Reading Modernity and Antiquity in the Thomas Cook Archives'. *Image courtesy of archivist Paul Smith and the Thomas Cook Group*

The Annual Pilot Project Grant

The Pilot Project Grant was not offered in 2019/2020. The Trustees of BISI unanimously agreed to repurpose the Grant to fund the Jews of Iraq Conference. (see page 13)

BISI's Research and Conference grants are awarded to high quality projects that will impact on the academic environment (a requirement of applicants is that they all have robust publication and dissemination, and archiving plans); in this way the programme furthers the Institute's charitable aims to advance and stimulate research into Iraq.



Tahrir Square, Baghdad. From Dr Zahra Ali's Research Project on 'Protest and Repress: Issue Politics, "Militia-zation" and Toxicity of Everyday Life in Iraq'. *Image courtesy of Dr Zahra Ali.*

The Archaeological Archives Project

In 2015/2016 BISI's annual £8,000 Pilot Project Grant was diverted to fund the beginnings of an important venture to archive the archaeological records of the current Institute and the BSAI. The project is directed by BISI Council Member Dr Ellen McAdam, with the assistance of a steering committee.

So far, the diverted grant has been used to pay consultants Manda Forster and Rebecca Roberts to conduct a comprehensive survey of the archaeological archives relating to BISI/BSAI excavations, many of which are in the homes and institutional repositories of former field directors and researchers.

The project's ambition is to collate an accessible gazetteer of the sites investigated by BISI/BSAI from the 1930s to the present, as well as to gain a better understanding of the extent of material currently retained in the UK. The final digital and public resource will have clear benefits for research and teaching on Iraq's pre-historic and ancient past, and the history of British archaeology in Iraq.

Visiting Iraqi Scholarships

BISI's Visiting Iraqi Scholarship programme enables Iraqi academics and heritage professionals to engage in research, training and collaborative projects in the UK. As well as fostering UK-Iraqi academic exchange, the programme offers scholars from Iraq the chance to access resources and expertise that are not readily available to them at home.

In this financial year, the BISI has partnered with the UCL base Nahrein Network to help develop the capacity of Middle Eastern universities, museums, archives and heritage site to enable cultural and economic growth in the region. With the generous support of the Nahrein Network, we have hosted five visiting scholars from Iraq.

- **Professor Nasser Jassim**, Director of the Unit for the Study of Istisharaq (Orientalism) at the University of Mosul. To research and compile a dictionary of British contributions to the study of Iraqi history and civilisation. Hosted by Professor

Eleanor Robson at University College London.

- **Dr Sadiq Khalil**, Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, Iraq. To look into ways to build effective advocacy through case-studies of endangered Iraqi heritage. Hosted by the Material Culture Research Centre, Kingston University of Arts, Kingston University.
- **Dr Ali Naji Attiyah**, Assistant Professor at the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Kufa. To look into the relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage and ways to increase the awareness of its importance. Hosted by the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL.
- **Dihsad A. Mutalb Mustafa**, Cultural Heritage Officer with the Directorate of Antiquities of Soran (Soran Province, Iraqi Kurdistan). To research museum displays and look into models for outreach activities which can be implemented at the Shanidar Cave site. Hosted by Professor Graeme Barker at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, at the University of Cambridge.
- **Mr Mohammed Jasim**, former Director of Mosul University Libraries – to help develop a management plan for the Mosul Library. Mr Jasim researched digitisation and documentation of the surviving collection, acquisition strategies, and staff training while being hosted at the British Library by Daniel Lowe. (This visiting scholar grant was awarded in 2018/19 and the scholar's visit took place in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.)



Dr Ali Naji Attiyah and Dr Sadiq Khalil taking part in a Q&A at UCL after delivering talks.
Image courtesy of Ali Khadr.

OUTREACH

University and Museum Engagement Grants

The BISI University and Museum Engagement Grants are designed to support public engagement projects by staff and/or students of Higher Education Institutes and cultural heritage organisations that promote a greater understanding of Iraq's history, society and culture.

As part of this new development, in 2019/2020, we offered support to two projects in the UK:

- **Owning the Past: From Mesopotamia to Iraq.** This exhibition will explore how Oxford scholars played a role in the creation of Iraq. It will focus on the British occupation of Mesopotamia during the First World War, the excavation and removal of ancient objects to the Ashmolean, and the drawing of Iraq's borders (1914–1932). Co-curated by Oxford residents originally from the Middle East, it will be presented alongside an installation by contemporary artist Piers Secunda.
- **The Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology.** The Conference aims to provide a venue for postgraduate and early career researchers in Assyriology and related fields to come together, share original research, and forge connections. It is the only forum of its kind in Europe and plays an invaluable role in strengthening the health of the discipline. **The conference was unfortunately cancelled because of the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic.**

ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM
OXFORD



OWNING THE PAST
FROM MESOPOTAMIA TO IRAQ
12 DEC – 16 MAY



FREE ADMISSION
LEVEL 4 GALLERY 8
www.ashmolean.org

Owning the Past: From Mesopotamia to Iraq. Image courtesy of The Ashmolean Museum

Events

In 2019/2020 BISI furthered its aims to inform and engage the public about Iraq with a series of free lectures held at the British Academy, London: :

- **Ms Emily Garthwaite & Mr Leon McCarron** – Cancelled because of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic (June 2020)
- **Professor Nicholas Postgate** – An Iraqi city in the 3rd millennium: Abu Salabikh resurrected (February 2020)
- **Matthew Vincent and Chance Coughenour** – Starting with Mosul: Democratising Access and Public Engagement in the Cultural Heritage Sector (November 2019)

BISI lectures enable the public to hear experts talking about far-reaching subjects on Iraq, from pre-history to the present. Each event is followed by a reception which facilitates further discussion and exchange of research and ideas between the speakers and attendees.

Those unable to attend BISI lectures can listen to audio recordings (also for free) via the website.



Matthew Vincent and Chance Coughenour delivering their lecture at The British Academy. Image courtesy of Ali Khadr.

A special reception was held on Tuesday 21st January 2020, in collaboration with the Friends of Basrah Museum (FOBM) to celebrate the completion of the new Basrah Museum. The FOBM's Basrah Museum project was funded by the UK's Cultural Protection Fund, managed by the British Council. The initial CPF grant was awarded in December 2016 and the project work was completed in February 2020.

[illegible]

September 20

The conference met many of its aims to evaluate the varied contributions of the Jewish community in Iraq within the spheres of the arts and culture, social policy, education, government and the economy in the early modern and modern period. Iraqi Jews constituted one of the world's oldest and most historically significant Jewish communities and were in Iraq for over 2,500 years. There is a widening academic interest in the history and contributions of the Jewish community as well as growing interest in Jewish history in contemporary Iraq. The conference brought together UK, Iraqi and international scholars, who are interested in exploring and researching the contributions of this important community to modern Iraq.

The Conference Programme is on the BISI website and shows the full range of talks and topics. Recordings of the Conference talks are now available to view on the BISI's YouTube Page, with individual links available on the BISI website. A publication of selected conference papers is currently in progress, edited by Professors Orit Bashkin and Zvi Ben-Dor Benite. Edinburgh University Press has agreed to publish the monograph.

THE NIMRUD DIGITISATION PROJECT

Thanks to generous support from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, the BISI is working on an important initiative to digitise and release online documents relating to the excavation of Nimrud. This will be an important contribution to the international effort led by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage to manage and conserve this globally important cultural site.

Located about 30 kilometres south of Mosul in northern Iraq, Nimrud was under the control of ISIS until November 2016. During its occupation, many important historical monuments and artefacts were deliberately damaged or destroyed, including rare examples of painted Assyrian relief sculptures.

Between 1949 and 1963, The British School of Archaeology (the predecessor of BISI) undertook excavations at Nimrud, directed by Max Mallowan (The British School's first Director), David Oates and Jeffrey Orchard. The excavation is arguably one of the most important British archaeological ventures undertaken in the Middle East.

BISI has begun to catalogue the archive and a preliminary list of the excavation notebooks and photographs are now available on the BISI website.



Nimrud c. 1963 – taken by Anne Searight. *Image courtesy of The Oxford Archaeology Image Database.*

PUBLICATIONS

Legacy Volumes

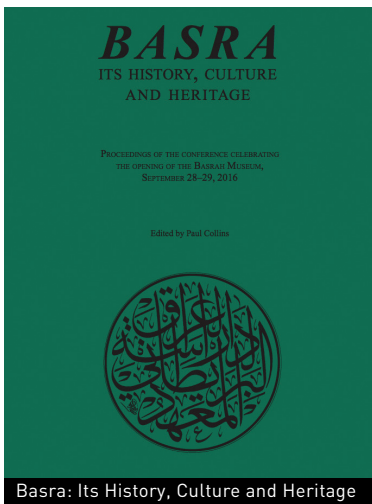
The BSAI supported many excavations during its presence in Iraq from the 1930s-1990s, in Iraq and in adjacent countries (e.g., Syria, Kuwait). An ongoing project for BISI today is to ensure that the outstanding reports and data from these excavations are made available in book or online form, in order to benefit academics and the interested public.

BISI published the following book this year, which is available in print-form and online:

- *Basra: Its History, Culture and Heritage – Proceedings of the Conference Celebrating the Opening of the Basrah Museum, September 28-29, 2016*. Edited by Dr Paul Collins.

We look forward to supporting the authors with outstanding works and hope to guide them through the publication process in due course.

In the meantime, BISI's back catalogue continues to be freely available as open access PDFs at www.bisi.ac.uk. This includes all of the volumes from the Abu Salabikh, Cuneiform Tablets from Nimrud, Ivories from Nimrud and Samarra Studies series, as well as Archaeological Reports and other occasional publications.



Journal IRAQ

BISI's journal IRAQ has appeared continuously since 1934 except during World War II. Today the journal includes articles on the history, art, archaeology, religion, economic and social life of Iraq and, to a lesser degree, of the neighbouring countries where they relate to it, from the earliest times to about AD 1750.

Cambridge University Press is the publisher of IRAQ and the entire digital archive of IRAQ can be viewed through Cambridge Journals Online by anyone who wishes to take up a subscription. The archive is an invaluable research resource, containing articles by the leading Mesopotamian archaeologists and historians of the past eighty years.

- IRAQ 78 (2016), co-edited Paul Collins (Ashmolean Museum) and Jon Taylor (British Museum), published in December 2016
- RAQ 79 (2017), Editor in Chief Prof Eleanor Robson (UCL), published in December 2017
- RAQ 80 (2018), Co-Editor in Chief Dr Augusta McMahon (University of Cambridge) and Co-Editor in Chief Dr Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies), published in December 2018
- IRAQ 81 (2019), Co-Editor in Chief Dr Augusta McMahon (University of Cambridge) and Co-Editor in Chief Dr Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies), published November 2019
- IRAQ 82 (2020), currently in production, Co-Editor in Chief Dr Augusta McMahon (University of Cambridge) and Co-Editor in Chief Dr Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies).

BISI previously awarded the co-editors an Honorarium of £1,000 each in acknowledgement of the enormous amount of work and dedication that goes into every volume. Since IRAQ 80, BISI Council approved for the Honorarium to be used to reimburse the newly expanded Editorial Board for travel costs incurred on Editorial Board duty. The Editors in Chief are supported by an Editorial Board, presently including Council members – Dr Erica Hunter, Dr Rosalind Wade Haddon, with further expertise provided by Dr Claudia Glatz (University of Glasgow), Professor Eleanor Robson (UCL), Dr Dan Lawrence (University of Durham), and Dr Mark Altaweel (UCL).

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

During the year, the BISI received a major legacy donation of £10,000 from Miss Penny Sibson's estate. The Trustees are extremely grateful for this generous donation from our former long-standing member. Miss Sibson was deeply interested in the languages and history of the Ancient Near East and took classes at Birkbeck College to further her knowledge. She was a volunteer both with BISI and the British Museum in the Ancient Near East Department for many years. This unexpected legacy shows the measure of her belief in the work of the Institute and its mission and is very valued by Council members as a testament to and appreciation of BISI's work.

Fundraising efforts during the year were measured given the current situation but conversations are continuing with prospective donors and supporters. The September 2019 Jews of Iraq Conference described above was funded by an anonymous donation, support in kind from SOAS, and the re-allocation of the BISI's 2019/20 pilot project research grant funds and a limited amount from its own resources.

The Nahrein Network / BISI Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Programme supported five scholars in the year, funded by UCL's Nahrein Network (funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)) (£31,000). This specific funding stream has financially supported the Visiting Iraqi Scholarships since 2018 and will continue to do so until 2020 at which point alternative funding must be raised. To date, we have welcomed 9 Visiting Iraqi Scholars, and may host a further 3 Nahrein-BISI Visiting Scholars over the coming year, depending on the world-travel restrictions and the various host universities' respective situations. The BISI supports the vital role of our invaluable Visiting Scholarship Co-ordinator, Ms Isobel Ransome, from its own resources.

BISI's former goals for fundraising included the development of a research library at the Basrah Museum that has now been funded by its merged partnered charity, the Friends of Basrah Museum, through the extension to its Cultural Protection Fund grant (2019-2020), managed by the British Council. This research library will house the BSAI/BISI's library and other donations. At present major donations of books and journals have been provided by BISI members, Professor Klaas Veenhof and Dr Barbara A Porter, and Christine Insley Green is providing further contributions. These books will be shipped from the UK

and Amman to Basra. John Curtis, Paul Collins, and Joan Porter MacIver were in Basrah in October 2019 working with Qahtan Al Abeed, Director of Basra Antiquities and Heritage, on the English language labelling of the four museum galleries, but also arranging the installation of the shelving and furniture in the new library space and the final refurbishment of the two library rooms and an office space. The detailed design work was donated pro bono to the FOBM and BISI by Ms Laura MacIver, architectural designer.

Council remains grateful to the Trustees of the Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust for their donation to assist with the transport of the BSAI/BISI library and book donations to Basra and other aspects of this work. An anonymous donation to BISI is supporting work on the equipment and outfitting of the Education/Learning Room at the Basrah Museum.

The generosity of David Dangoor and Dangoor Education made possible the 2020 publication of an educational book *Discover Ancient Sumer* by Paul Collins published in English (Arabic translation forthcoming) by the Ashmolean Museum. It has long been BISI's intention to support the National Curriculum within the context of Iraq's history and heritage. This will be an important and tangible way for the Institute to enhance the understanding of Iraq at this critical educational stage both in the UK as well as in Iraq.

BISI continued to receive some valuable and much appreciated support from its members in this financial year.

From February 2017 the Fundraising Committee has been chaired by Joan Porter MacIver and from 2020 Frank Baker CMG OBE is now Co-chair of this committee.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital part of the Institute, helping us in the areas of communications, administration, and events. We would like to thank the following volunteers who made a major contribution to the Institute in the past financial year:

- **Anne-Marie Misconi** – for assisting at a BISI Conference (24 hours)
- **Amal Al-Jubouri** – for assisting at a BISI Conference (24 hours)
- **Lauren Mulvee** – for assisting with proof reading
- **Zainab Mehdi** – for assisting with proof reading and at various lectures

In addition, we must credit Professor Eleanor Robson (UCL), Professor Graeme Barker (University of Cambridge), Professor Fran Lloyd (University of Kingston), and Dr Edward Denison (UCL) who assisted with BISI's Visiting Iraqi Scholarships in the current year – building lasting links with our scholars, and lending resources and expertise.

FUTURE EVENTS AND PLANS

Research and Fieldwork

Over the coming years, BISI will maintain its support of high quality, UK-led research into Iraq, through the provision of research, conference and pilot project grants. BISI will once again be offering pilot project grants for the year 2020/2021

Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Programme

Ms Isobel Ransome, appointed in February 2018, remains in her role as BISI's Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Co-ordinator. She will continue to manage the scholarships of the following Iraqi academics who we look forward to welcoming to the UK, once it is safe to do so and worldwide travel resumes or with a combination of virtual academic collaboration, as Nahrein-BISI Scholars:

- **Dr Laith Hussein**, University of Baghdad, will be researching the republication and edition of cuneiform texts of the Old Babylonian Period from Tall ab-Dibai (Zaralulu) in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad. To be hosted by Professor Eleanor Robson at University College London
- **Shazad Jaseem Tofiq**, Directorate of Antiquities of Sulaymaniyah. To be hosted by Dr Paul Collins at the Ashmolean Museum.
- **Dr Dhiaa Kareem**, University of Kufa. To be hosted by Associate Professor Christine Robins at the University of Exeter.

BISI will also strive to support the post-ISIS rebuilding of cultural heritage in Iraq and the individuals and institutions involved in that work. We are now pushing on with plans with the British Museum (who hold the relevant records) to digitise and release online as much as possible of the BSAI's old excavation documentation from Nimrud (1948–1963), so that decisions can be made about the badly damaged site with the fullest information to hand. A preliminary list of the excavation notebooks and photographs are now available on the BISI website.

Outreach

BISI has replaced the Outreach Committee with a University and Museum Engagement Committee. The University and Museum Engagement Committee will be provided with a budget to actively pursue and encourage university groups to work with BISI as part of a UK-wide network.

BISI will continue to organise an annual lecture programme, which will be determined by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive officer with contributions from Council.

We have three online lectures scheduled for 2020 and we are working on scheduling more lectures for 2021, covering Iraq, ancient and modern, which will be held at the British Academy:

- **Dr Eva Miller** – Ancient Assyrian Art: Power, Beauty, and Magic
- **Dr Gareth Brereton** – Assyria and the West: Archaeologists, Diplomats and Adventurers
- **Dr John Curtis and Mrs Joan Porter MacIver** – The Story of a New Museum for Basra
- **Sir Terence Clark** – The Saluki in Middle Eastern Culture (postponed to June 2021)

Publications

Over the next few years, the Publications Committee will work closely with authors who have outstanding reports on BSAI-led excavations to ensure that their findings are disseminated as widely and expeditiously as possible.

It is anticipated that the following books will be published in 2020/2021:

- *[Arabic Version] Basra: Its History, Culture and Heritage – Proceedings of the Conference Celebrating the Opening of the Basrah Museum, September 28–29, 2016.* Edited by Ali Khadr
- *Abu Salabikh V* by Nicholas Postgate
- *Umm Dabaghiyah* by Stuart Campbell
- *Discover Ancient Sumer*, a publication to support National Curriculum Key Stage 2 History – by Paul Collins and published in partnership with the Ashmolean Museum. (The English language version was published in September 2020 and the Arabic version will follow.)

Fundraising and Development

Fundraising efforts for the next financial year will continue to focus on raising core funds; to sustain the future Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Programme supporting our Iraqi colleagues, coming from a range of institutions in Iraq, working in academia and in cultural heritage arenas; and the Basrah Museum project.

We will also be seeking donations for the next phase of the Archaeological Archives Project, and phase two of the Nimrud Digitisation Project after a successful anonymous grant to support the initial phase of the digitisation project.

The BISI relies on the donations of its members and friends to help fund an increase in its activities and grant giving. The BISI fundraising committee would be grateful for suggestions of potential donors, including introductions to interested individuals, corporate sponsors, and foundations. BISI receives no direct funds from any government at present and must rely on its own resources and the generosity of its donors – past, present and future.



Basrah Museum. Image courtesy of Ali Khadr

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020 are attached to this report and a review of BISI's transactions and financial position is set out below.

BISI had net outgoing resources of £92,167 after net losses on investment assets. This was made up of a deficit for the year for unrestricted funds of £78,552 to support BISI's on-going work and a deficit to the restricted funds for the year of £7,080. These figures are stated after a transfer from unrestricted funds to restricted funds of £7,649 in respect of support for the Jews of Iraq Conference which took place in September 2019. The investment loss on the endowment fund after investment manager fees was £6,535.

Investment assets within the Investec portfolio were marked to market at the year-end and resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of £49,886 for the year. (Unrealised losses for the year were £50,500 and realised gains were £614)

Unrestricted Funds

BISI had four principal sources of unrestricted income. They were from donations and legacies (£31,888), membership subscriptions (£7,610), investment income from the investment assets (£45,508) and publication sales (£6,060).

Restricted Funds

BISI has a number of projects supported by restricted funds. The largest funds are discussed here and further details on the smaller funds are provided in note 16.

Continued activity in the Visiting Iraqi Scholars Programme resulted in net incoming resources of £108. Restricted donations of £31,000 were received during the year.

The Jews of Iraq Conference took place in this financial year. The project was supported by £8,000 donation last year and BISI repurposed the 2019/20 annual pilot project grant of up to £8,000 to support the conference also. Due to close control of the costs only £7,649 was required as a transfer from unrestricted costs and the final balance on the fund is zero.

Investment Policy

Decisions about what form of investment will be most suitable for the needs of BISI are influenced by both the short-term and long-term future of BISI and the effects of market fluctuations and inflation on capital and income.

Covid 19 impacted the year end valuation of the Institute's investment portfolio with a 5% reduction in value. The Trustees liquidated a small percentage of the portfolio prior to the Covid 19 lockdown thus ensuring that the Charity would not need to liquidate any further assets for the next 12 months in a potentially falling market.

The current investment policy statement continues to reflect the current position of the Institute.

Current Investment Policy Statement

1. The statement is produced in accordance with section 15 of the Trustee Act.
2. The Trustees have agreed to delegate the investment of specified funds to Investec.
3. The investment policy of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq is to seek to produce the optimal total return from its investment portfolio, with the target being the Consumer Price Index plus 5% on an annualised basis over rolling three-year periods.
4. The Trustees wish to adopt a low-medium risk strategy. This should be achieved through a diversified portfolio of investments.
5. The investment manager should have regard to the suitability of investments pertaining to a charity and monitored by the Charity Commission.
6. The Trustees are willing to agree the widest range of investments as permitted by the Trustee Act 2000, with consideration to the aforementioned.
7. A review of the investments is to be provided by the investment manager to The British Institute for the Study of Iraq's Finance Committee on the basis determined by the committee.
8. The Finance Committee will undertake periodic reviews (every two or three years) of the investment performance and will contact other investment advisers during this review.

Statement about Risk and Reserves Policy

The Council undertakes a review of the major risks to which BISI is exposed, and systems designed to mitigate those risks have been considered.

The Institute is currently heavily dependent on investment income to sustain its activities, as earned income alone, from membership subscriptions and publication income, is insufficient to cover the charity's operating costs. Relying only on earned income would require BISI to significantly deplete capital within the investment portfolio which could impact the viability of the Institute in the medium to long term.

To avoid this risk, the trustees have agreed to keep levels of unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that main operations can continue for a period of up to approximately 12 months.

The main concerns of the board are to ensure:

- that staff can continue working, primarily to secure new funding
- that charitable activities can continue within that period.

At the year end unreserved cash reserves sat at 5 months of operational costs but the trustees recognise that the investment portfolio is highly liquid and cash can be generated for operational requirements quickly.

The level of reserves is monitored every quarter by the finance manager.

This policy is reviewed yearly and whenever there are significant changes in annual running costs.

If it should appear likely that these limits will be breached, Council should consider, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, what appropriate action to take.

A Note on BISI's Heritage Assets: The Ivories from Nimrud

(See also note 8 to the accounts)

BISI is the custodian of ivories excavated from Nimrud in an excavation led by Sir Max Mallowan for the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI) in the mid-twentieth century. The value of the ivories is such that, through its accounts, BISI may appear to be in a comfortable financial position. However, the ivories are a non-income earning asset and are not BISI's to sell, only to protect. The ivories came to us in an era in which it was standard practice for archaeological expeditions to keep some of their finds, and while we have a duty of care towards these precious artefacts, BISI is not in a position to profit from them. Currently the ivories are in long-term safe-keeping at the British Museum.

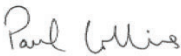
In 2015, after consideration by the Trustees, BISI decided to move the value of the ivories from the general unrestricted fund to a designated fund. This move reflects the restrictions on use applied to the ivories and demonstrates that, although the ivories have significant monetary value, BISI is not able to access that value in an unrestricted manner. As such the ivories are a non-income earning asset and are not BISI's to sell, only to protect.

The following served as members of the BISI Council for all or part of the year ended 30 June 2020.

Mr Frank Baker CMG, OBE
Dr Gareth Brereton
Dr Tim Clayden, Hon Treasurer
Dr Paul Collins, Chair of Council
Dr John Curtis OBE, FBA, President
Dr Erica Hunter
Mr Daniel Lowe
Dr John MacGinnis
Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, Vice-Chair of Council
Dr Ellen McAdam (stepped down 26th February 2020)
Dr Glen Rangwala
Dr Renad Mansour (elected 26th February 2020)
Dr Rosalind Wade Haddon (elected 26th February 2020)
Dr Moudhy Al-Rashid (co-opted)
Dr Eva Miller (co-opted)

The Report of Council also represents a Directors report as required by s417 of the Companies Act 2006. Advantage has been taken of the exemptions available to small companies in the preparation of this report.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL



.....
Paul Collins
Chair of Council

Date: 11th November 2020

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of Council (who are also directors of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Council's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Disclosure of information to the independent examiner.

Each of the persons who is a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant available information of which the company's auditor was unaware, and;
- that Trustee has taken all steps that the Trustee ought to have taken as a Trustee to make himself/herself aware of any relevant independent examination information and to establish that company's independent examiner was aware of that information.

Independent Examiners report to the Trustees of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

I report to the trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) ('the charitable company') for the year ended 30 June 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW.

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:

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

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

Graham Wintle FCA

WMT Chartered Accountants

Verulam Point, Station Way, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5HE

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 (£)	Designated Funds 2020 (£)	Restricted Funds 2020 (£)	Endowment Fund 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Statement of Financial Activities							
Income and Endowment from:							
Donations and legacies	2	31,888	-	31,000	-	62,888	62,456
Charitable Activities	3	13,670	-	1,529	-	15,199	23,255
Investment income	4	45,508	-	183	-	45,691	49,127
Total Income and Endowment		91,066	-	32,712	-	123,778	134,838
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds:	5	(7,737)	-	(35)	(975)	(8,747)	(8,692)
Charitable Activities:	6	(110,106)	-	(47,206)	-	(157,312)	(168,150)
Total Expenditure		(117,843)	-	(47,241)	(975)	(166,059)	(176,842)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(44,126)	-	(200)	(5,560)	(49,886)	11,406
Net income/(expenditure)		(70,903)	-	(14,729)	(6,535)	(92,167)	(30,598)
Transfer between Funds	19	(7,649)	-	7,649	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(78,552)	-	(7,080)	(6,535)	(92,167)	(30,598)
Reconciliation of Funds							
Brought forward		1,136,469	1,326,000	53,386	143,985	2,659,840	2,690,438
Carried forward		1,057,917	1,326,000	46,306	137,450	2,567,673	2,659,840

Balance Sheet

At 30th June 2020

	Notes	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible assets	7	1,402	-
Heritage assets	8	1,326,000	1,326,000
Investments	9	1,174,818	1,233,450
Total Fixed Assets:		2,502,220	2,559,450
Current assets:			
Stocks		21,456	23,547
Debtors	10	2,714	2,255
Cash at bank and in hand	11	87,049	112,741
Total Current assets:		111,219	138,543
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	33,373	26,356
Total Liabilities		33,373	26,356
Net Current Assets		77,846	112,187
Net current asset excluding provision for liabilities		77,846	112,187
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	14	12,393	11,797
Total Net Assets		2,567,673	2,659,840
The funds of the charity:			
Funds of the charity			
Restricted Funds	19	46,306	53,386
Endowment Fund	19	137,450	143,985
Unrestricted Funds	19	1,057,917	1,136,469
Designated Funds (Nimrud Ivories)	19	1,326,000	1,326,000
Total Funds of the charity		2,567,673	2,659,840

For the year ending 30th June 2020 the Institute was entitled to exemption from audit under the provisions of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

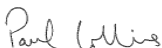
The Council acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

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

Under Companies Act 2006, section 454, on a voluntary basis, the trustees can amend these financial statements if they subsequently prove to be defective.

Approved by the Council and signed on its behalf:

Dr Paul Collins



Chair of Council
Dated 11th November 2020

Charity Registration No. 1135395 Company Registration No.06966984 (England and Wales)

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Income and Expenditure account

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq

For the year ended 30 June 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	£	£
Income			
Income	2,3	78,087	85,711
Gains on investments		(44,326)	10,134
Interest and investment income	4	45,691	49,127
Gross income in the reporting period		79,452	144,972
Expenditure			
Expenditure		(165,044)	(175,873)
Depreciation		(40)	-
Total expenditure in the reporting period		(165,084)	(175,873)
Tax payable		-	-
Net (expenditure) before tax for the reporting period		(85,632)	(30,901)

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (2nd Edition effective January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and the inclusion of investments at market value.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Institute is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Where applicable income is stated after trade discounts and net of VAT.

Investment income is recorded when receivable. Income arising on endowment funds is treated as unrestricted.

Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of the service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Expenditure

Grants are included in the accounts in the period to which they relate. Time related grants received in advance are treated as deferred income.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets over £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows;

Computer and Office Equipment: 3 years straight line

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Heritage Assets

The ivories held by the British Museum were donated to the Institute and have been treated as heritage assets and included in the accounts at market value. No depreciation has been charged on these assets (see note 8) as they are considered to have an indefinite life.

Investments

Investments are carried at market value. Changes in market value are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year that they occur.

The value of Investment transactions (purchase price, sale price, unrealised and realised gain) are apportioned across the general and restricted funds in line with the value generated by the sale of each fund portfolio when the investment managers were changed in 2015.

Financial Instruments

The Charity only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as debtors and creditors. Financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value. They are assessed at the end of each report period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the SOFA.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment losses.

Stock

Stock of publications is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes the current bank accounts and no notice deposit bank accounts of the Institute.

Liabilities

Liabilities for expenditure are recognised in accordance with the accruals concept. Support costs are allocated in full to expenditure incurred on charitable activities. The majority of costs are allocated on a pro-rated basis over the different activities undertaken by the institute, excluding activities which are financed by restricted funds. Support costs which are related to a specific activity are allocated to that activity in full. The Trustees consider this to be the most appropriate method of allocation.

Judgements, Estimates and Assumptions.

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the period. The nature of estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Estimates relating to the Institute's pension scheme and their impact on the financial statements are detailed in note 14.

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Pension Scheme

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi- employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in the profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The trustees are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving the financial statements.

	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
2. Income from Donations and Legacies					
Donations	10,898	31,000	-	41,898	41,394
Gift aid recoverable	65	-	-	65	137
Provision of office facilities and rent in kind	20,000	-	-	20,000	20,000
Provision of storage facilities in kind	925	-	-	925	925
Total Income from Donations and Legacies	31,888	31,000	-	62,888	62,456
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
3. Income from Charitable Activities					
Membership subscriptions	7,610	-	-	7,610	8,917
Events	-	1,529	-	1,529	1,633
Publication sales and copyright fees	6,060	-	-	6,060	12,705
Total Income from Charitable Activities	13,670	1,529	-	15,199	23,255
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
4. Income from Investments					
Investment income	45,488	183	-	45,671	49,105
Bank interest	20	-	-	20	22
Total Income from Investments	45,508	183	-	45,691	49,127
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
5. Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Investment manager fees	7,737	35	975	8,747	8,692
Total Expenditure on Raising Funds	7,737	35	975	8,747	8,692
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
6. Expenditure on charitable activities					
Grants payable (note 6a)	17,439	21,065	-	38,504	50,621
Other charitable activity costs (note 6b)	92,667	26,141	-	118,808	117,529
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	110,106	47,206	-	157,312	168,150

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
a. Grants Payable					
Grants Payable					
Research, Travel and Conference Grants	16,939	-	-	16,939	20,575
University Engagement Grants (previously Outreach Grants)	500	-	-	500	1,784
Pilot Project Grants	-	-	-	-	6,890
Visiting Scholars Grants	-	21,065	-	21,065	23,372
Returned Grants	-	-	-	-	(2,000)
Total Grants Payable	17,439	21,065	-	38,504	50,621
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
Grants Payable - BISI made grants to 6 individuals in the year (11 individuals in 2019)					
Research, Travel and Conference grants					
Dr Mark Altaaweel : Understanding Nippur's Paleobotanical Remains	3,350	-	-	3,350	-
Yousif Al-Daffaie: The (re)inscription of Memory: Valuing the Informal Practices, Spatial Memory and Local Narratives within the Physical Recovery of Mosul's Old Town	2,204	-	-	2,204	-
Dr Claudia Glatz: Food and the first cities: Social organisation and colonial encounter in the Sirwan/Upper Diyala River Valley, Kurdistan Region of Iraq	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Dr Callah Jackson: The Jalayirid arts of the book, c. 1350-c. 1410	3,385	-	-	3,385	-
Professor Nicholas Postgate: Resumption of fieldwork at Abu Salabikh	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Dr John MacGinnis: East meets West: The Rise of Parthia	-	-	-	-	4,000
Dr Clemence Scalbert Yucel: At the Borders of the Literary Field and Feminist Activism? Kurdish Women Poets in Iraqi Kurdistan	-	-	-	-	2,000
Prof Nicholas Postgate: Analysis and Publication of Zoo-Archaeological Evidence from Abu Salabikh	-	-	-	-	2,070
Prof Roger Matthews: Digitising Jemdet Nasr 1988-1989	-	-	-	-	1,500
Dr Augusta McMahon & Dr Recht : Fierce Lions, Angry Mice and Fat-Tailed Sheep: Animal Encounters in the Ancient Near East	-	-	-	-	4,000
Dr Louise Rayne: Landscape Archaeology of the Eridu Region: Discovering the Ancient Farms	-	-	-	-	4,000
Dr Zhara Ali: Protest and Repress: Issue politics, "Militia-zation" and Toxicity of Everyday Life in Iraq	-	-	-	-	2,605
Laith Shakir: Thomas Cook and the Rise of Iraqi Tourism	-	-	-	-	400
Total Research, Travel and Conference Grants	16,939	-	-	16,939	20,575
University and Museum Engagement Grants (previously Outreach Grants)					
Joseph Barber: The Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Above Grant rescinded as event could not go ahead due to Covid 19	(1,000)	-	-	(1,000)	-
Dr Paul Collins: Owning The Past: From Mesopotamia to Iraq	500	-	-	500	-
Lynn-Salammba Zimmermann: Contribution towards the 8th Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology	-	-	-	-	1,000
Dr Hayder Al Hamdany \$1000:Contribution towards the Second International Conference for Research and Protection on the Archaeological Heritage of Iraq.	-	-	-	-	784
Total University and Museum Engagement grants (previously Outreach Grants)	500	-	-	500	1,784
Pilot Project grants (BISI decided not to award a pilot project grant in 2019/20 and instead the funds (up to £8,000) were repurposed and used for the Jews of Iraq Conference in Sept 2019)					
Dr Daniel Calderbank :At the Margins of Power - Tepe Bor and the Political Landscape of the Upper Diyala during the 2nd Millennium BCE	-	-	-	-	6,890
Total Pilot Project Grants	-	-	-	-	6,890

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Grants payable - Restricted funds

In addition to the grants detailed above, BISI funded 5 visiting scholars during 2019/20 (during 2018/19 BISI funded 5 scholars).

	Unrestricted (£)	Restrict d (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)
Visiting Scholar grants					
Dilshad A. Mutalb Mustafa	-	4,869	-	4,869	-
Dr Ali Naji Attiyah	-	6,315	-	6,315	-
Dr Sadiq Khalil	-	2,136	-	2,136	-
Dr Alaa Hamdon	-	-	-	-	5,910
Dr Maher Al Helli	-	-	-	-	6,056
Mr Ali Al-Makhzomy	-	-	-	-	5,028
Dr Rozhen Mohammed-Amin	-	-	-	-	4,000
Mohammed Jasim Aal-Hajjahmed	-	1,813	-	1,813	2,222
Professor Nasser Jassim	-	5,932	-	5,932	155
Total Visiting Scholar Grants	-	21,065	-	21,065	23,372
	Unrestricted (£)	Restrict d (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)	2019 (£)

b. Other Charitable Activity Costs

Programme related costs

Visiting Scholars expenditure (excluding visiting scholar grants)	-	9,827	-	9,827	7,658
London activities and lecture expenditure	3,777	125	-	3,902	3,586
BISI Archaeological Archives	1,632	-	-	1,632	-
Academic Conference - The Jews of Iraq – engagement with modernities	-	15,895	-	15,895	-
Other conferences	1,000	-	-	1,000	6,817
PR, newsletter and website expenses	750	-	-	750	771
Total Programme related costs	7,159	25,847	-	33,006	18,832

Other direct costs

Printing annual report	751	-	-	751	750
Publication and journal costs	8,188	-	-	8,188	12,347
Total Other direct costs	8,939	-	-	8,939	13,097

Support costs allocated to activities

London office salaries and contractor costs	39,457	-	-	39,457	38,087
Pension costs	6,642	-	-	6,642	5,179
Office expenditure	3,784	-	-	3,784	4,251
Rent and service charges	20,000	-	-	20,000	20,000
Bank and credit card charges	1,034	294	-	1,328	766
Examination fee	4,546	-	-	4,546	3,819
Payroll costs	573	-	-	573	466
Council and committee meetings	112	-	-	112	815
Council and other travel expenses	381	-	-	381	420
Depreciation	40	-	-	40	-
Total Support costs allocated to activities	76,569	294	-	76,863	85,600
Total other charitable activity costs	92,667	26,141	-	118,808	117,529

7. Fixed Assets

Cost	Office Equipment £	Total £
brought forward 1st July 2019	-	-
Additions	1,442	1,442
carried forward at 30 June 2020	1,442	1,442
Depreciation		
brought forward 1st July 2019	-	-
Charge for the year	40	40
carried forward at 30 June 2020	40	40
NBV at 30 June 2019	-	-
NBV at 30 June 2020	1,402	1,402

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	Designated Funds (£)
8. Heritage Assets - movements in the year	
brought forward 1 July 2019	1,326,000
Movements in the year	-
carried forward at 30 June 2020	1,326,000

The heritage assets of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq are held at cost.

During 2010/11 the Council of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding with the British Museum, that detailed the donation by the charity of certain specific ivories totalling £1,404,000 in value in consideration of the care the Museum had taken in conserving these valuable heritage assets for over two decades. The Museum was able to raise funds through its 'Nimrud Ivories Appeal' to acquire specific ivories totalling £1,170,000 in value from the Institute and the sixty-five ivories, valued at £1,326,000 have been retained and are shown in the accounts as heritage assets. The Institute retains a written record describing the 65 ivories and as part of the arrangements the British Museum will continue to take care of these ivories, which will now be covered under UK government indemnity against loss or damage. There is currently no public access available to the ivories.

The value of the Nimrud Ivories is recorded within a designated fund within the Institute's accounts. This designation recognises that the Trustees are not able to dispose of the Ivories on the open market.

9. Investments

Investments	2020		2019	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Listed Investments	£	£	£	£
Endowment Fund				
	125,615	130,943	126,658	137,478
Total Endowment Funds	125,615	130,943	126,658	137,478
Restricted Funds				
Bonham Carter Lecture Fund	2,365	2,465	2,385	2,588
Mallowan Fund	2,156	2,248	2,174	2,360
Total Restricted Funds	4,521	4,713	4,559	4,948
Unrestricted Funds				
	996,880	1,039,162	1,005,156	1,091,024
Total Unrestricted Funds	996,880	1,039,162	1,005,156	1,091,024
Total Investments				
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
Total Endowment Fund	125,615	130,943	126,658	137,478
Total Restricted Funds	4,521	4,713	4,559	4,948
Total Unrestricted Funds	996,880	1,039,162	1,005,156	1,091,024
Total	1,127,016	1,174,818	1,136,373	1,233,450

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Movement in Investment Assets		
Brought forward at 1 July	1,208,248	1,224,502
Investment additions	104,287	112,144
Investment disposal proceeds	(160,414)	(139,804)
Investment realised and unrealised gains/(losses)	(49,886)	11,406
Investments carried forward at 30 June	1,102,235	1,208,248
Capital Account	72,583	25,202
Total carried forward	1,174,818	1,233,450

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
10. Debtors		
Trade Debtors	682	1
Prepayments	1,056	1,322
Publication Income due	233	199
Tax Recoverable	524	459
Other debtors	80	-
VAT Receivable	139	274
Total Debtors	2,714	2,255

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
11. Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Accounts and Cash	84,457	110,149
Deposit Accounts	2,592	2,592
Total Cash	87,049	112,741

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
12. Creditors – due in less than one year		
Trade Creditors	6,489	1,342
Grants Payable	13,933	20,195
Accruals	12,951	4,322
Payroll Liabilities	-	497
Total Creditors due in less than one year	33,373	26,356

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
13. Employees		
Salaries	29,541	28,124
Pension Contributions	6,642	16,976
Total Employees	36,183	45,100

The Institute employed 1 full-time employee during the year (2019:1)

One employee received remuneration between £20,001- £30,000, (2019:1 between £20,001 and £30,000)

Key management personnel compensation for 2020 was £36,183 (2019 - £33,303)

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

14. Pension Costs and Provisions

The total cost charged to the profit and loss account is £6,119 (prior year: £11,797).

Deficit recovery contributions due within one year for the institution are £615 (prior year: £448).

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Provision for Liabilities		
Pension Deficit Provision b/f	11,797	-
Pension Deficit charge for the year	596	11,797
Pension deficit provision c/f	12,393	11,797

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method. A valuation as at 31 March 2020 is underway but not yet complete.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions.

At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles.

Pension increases (CPI)	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the Fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.
Discount rate (forward rates)	Years 1-10: CPI + 0.14% reducing linearly to CPI – 0.73% Years 11-20: CPI + 2.52% reducing linearly to CPI + 1.55% by year 21 Years 21 +: CPI + 1.55%

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

Mortality base table

2018 valuation

Pre-retirement:

71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AFC00 (duration 0) for females

Post retirement:

97.6% of SAPS S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females

Future improvements to mortality

CMI_2017 with a smoothing parameter of 8.5 and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2018 valuation	2017 valuation
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24.4	24.6
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.9	26.1
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26.3	26.6
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.7	27.9

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2020 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2020	2019
Discount rate	3.00%	3.0%
Pensionable salary growth	3.00%	1.0%

15. Related Party Transactions

During the year, 2 Trustees were paid a total of £381 (2019: £305) in travel expenses. No trustees received remuneration in the year. Dr Paul Collins was awarded a £500 university engagement grant which was outstanding at the year end. (2019: Dr Paul Collins was paid £811 for reimbursement of fees of \$1,000 that were paid to a conference speaker.)

	Visiting Scholar Fund 2020 (£)	Bonham Carter Lecture Fund 2020 (£)	Mallowan Fund 2020 (£)	Sumerians Fund 2020 (£)	Nimrud Digitisation Fund 2020 (£)	Basrah Museum Fund 2020 (£)	Jews of Iraq Conference Fund 2020 (£)	Total Restrict ed Funds 2020 (£)
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16. Restricted Income Funds

Donations and legacies	31,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,529	32,529
Charitable activities income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Income	-	96	87	-	-	-	-	183
Raising Funds	-	(18)	(17)	-	-	-	-	(35)
Charitable activities expenditure	(30,892)	(75)	(50)	-	-	-	(16,189)	(47,206)
Gains/(losses) on revaluations and disposal of investment assets	-	(105)	(95)	-	-	-	-	(200)
Net income/(expenditure)	108	(102)	(75)	-	-	-	(14,660)	(14,729)
Transfer from unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,649	7,649
Net movement in Funds	108	(102)	(75)	-	-	-	(7,011)	(7,080)
Fund balance brought forward	10,765	3,799	3,043	17,600	8,168	3,000	7,011	53,386
Fund balance carried forward	10,873	3,697	2,968	17,600	8,168	3,000	-	46,306

The original Appeal Committee transferred all investments held for or on account of the Appeal Fund to the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) as an endowment, to be administered by the Council of the School pursuant to the resolution passed at a meeting held on the 14th day of January 1932. The Council has the power from time to time to vary or transpose any investments forming part of the Endowment Fund. The Charity changed its name with the approval of its members on 12 December 2007 and all the assets are now in the name of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial).

The Bell Fund was created by the bequest from Gertrude Lowthian Bell CBE (died on 12 July 1926). "To pay the sum of six thousand pounds to the trustees for the time being of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq if shall have been founded before my death such sum to be invested by them and the income thereof to be used by them for

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

archaeological work in Iraq..." (the first bequest) and by a second bequest from Sir Thomas Hugh Bell (died on 29 June 1931) of four thousand pounds. As the British School of Archaeology in Iraq was not established until 14 January 1932, the first bequest and the second bequest were vested in the Retiring Trustees of the British Museum, who invested the same and paid the income therefore to the trustees from time to time of the British Museum to the British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

In 1973/74 The Bonham Carter Lecture Fund was endowed to support the lecture expenses of the Bonham-Carter lecture which takes place annually in memory of Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter, a long standing member of the former Executive committee of the BSAI Council.

In 1977 Sir Max Mallowan bequeathed £2,500 for an endowment to the school. The income derived from the bequest was to be applied to the costs of providing an annual dinner at which a toast was to be made in memory of Sir Max and his late wife Dame Agatha Mallowan DBE. In 2004 the school approached Mrs Rosalind Hicks (Dame Agatha's daughter) and Mr Matthew Prichard and members of the family who agreed that the bequest could be utilised to support the costs of the Annual General Lecture.

The Sumerians Fund was funded by the generosity of David Dangoor and Dangoor Education with the aim of producing a book for children on the Sumerians.

The Nimrud Digitisation Fund was established thanks to generous support from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. BISI is undertaking this important initiative to digitise and release online documents relating to the excavation of Nimrud. This will be an important contribution to the international effort led by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage to manage and conserve this globally important cultural site.

A donation of £3,000 was received in the prior year from the Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust to be used for the further development of the Basrah Museum.

The Jews of Iraq Conference Fund was established to hold donations and record expenditure related to the conference **The Jews of Iraq – Engagement with Modernities** held in September 2019. The trustees agreed to support the fund with a transfer of up to £8,000.

	Visiting Scholar Fund 2019 (£)	Bonham Carter Lecture Fund 2019 (£)	Mallowan Fund 2019 (£)	Sumerians Fund 2019 (£)	Nimrud Digitisation Fund 2019 (£)	Basrah Museum Fund 2019 (£)	Jews of Iraq Conference Fund 2019 (£)	Total Restrict ed Funds 2019 (£)
17. Comparative Year Restricted Income Funds								
Donations and legacies	30,194	-	-	-	-	3,000	8,000	41,194
Charitable activities income	995	-	-	-	-	-	638	1,633
Investment Income	-	103	94	-	-	-	-	197
Raising Funds	-	(18)	(17)	-	-	-	-	(35)
Charitable activities expenditure	(31,030)	(75)	(50)	-	-	-	(1,627)	(32,782)
Net incoming resources before valuations and investment assets and disposals	159	10	27	-	-	3,000	7,011	10,207
Gains on revaluations and disposal of investment assets								
Realised and Unrealised	-	24	22	-	-	-	-	46
Net movement in Funds	159	34	49	-	-	3,000	7,011	10,253
Fund balance brought forward	10,606	3,765	2,994	17,600	8,168	-	-	43,133
Fund balance carried forward	10,765	3,799	3,043	17,600	8,168	3,000	7,011	53,386

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

18. Comparative Year Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2019 (£)	Designated Funds 2019 (£)	Restricted Funds 2019 (£)	Endowment Fund 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Statement of Financial Activities						
Income and Endowment from:						
Donations and legacies	2	21,262	-	41,194	-	62,456
Charitable Activities	3	21,622	-	1,633	-	23,255
Investment income	4	48,930	-	197	-	49,127
Total		91,814	-	43,024	-	131,838
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds:	5	(7,688)	-	(35)	(969)	(8,692)
Charitable Activities:	6	(135,368)	-	(32,782)	-	(168,151)
Total		(143,056)	-	(32,817)	(993)	(145,769)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		10,088	-	46	1,272	11,406
Net income/(expenditure)		(41,154)	-	10,253	303	(33,598)
Net movement in funds		(41,154)	-	10,253	303	(33,598)

Reconciliation of Funds

Brought forward	1,177,623	1,326,000	43,133	143,682	2,690,438
Carried forward	1,136,469	1,326,000	53,386	143,985	2,656,840

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 (£)	Endowment Fund 2020 (£)	Designated Fund 2020 (£)	Visiting Scholars Fund 2020 (£)	Mallowan Fund 2020 (£)	Bonham Carter Lecture Fund 2020 (£)	Sumerians Fund 2020 (£)	Nimrud Digit- isation 2020 (£)	Basrah Museum Fund 2020 (£)	Jews of Iraq Conference Fund 2020 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
19. Analysis of Total Funds											
Tangible Assets	1,402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,402
Investments	1,039,162	130,943	-	-	2,248	2,465	-	-	-	-	1,174,818
Heritage Assets	-	-	1,326,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,326,000
Stock	21,456	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,456
Debtors	2,032	-	-	682	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,714
Cash and deposits at bank	45,916	6,507	-	11,555	720	1,232	17,600	8,168	3,000	(7,649)	87,049
Creditors including pension scheme liability	(44,402)	-	-	(1,364)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(45,766)
Inter fund transfers – pilot project grant repurposed for Jews of Iraq Conference	(7,649)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,649	-
Balance of Funds at 30 June 2020	1,057,917	137,450	1,326,000	10,873	2,968	3,697	17,600	8,168	3,000	-	2,567,673

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