

# 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 2015**

**2014/2015**

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## CHARITY AND COMPANY 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

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
80 Cheapside  
London EC2V 6DZ

### Solicitors

Jacobs Allen Hammond Solicitors  
5 Fitzhardinge Street  
London W1H 6EF

### Independent Examiners

WMT  
Chartered Accountants  
2nd Floor  
45 Grosvenor Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire AL1 3AW

### Investment Managers

Barings Fund Managers Limited  
155 Bishopsgate  
London EC2M 3XY

Investec Wealth  
30 Gresham Street  
London EC2V 7QN

### 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.

Dr Mark Altaweel  
Dr Gareth Brereton  
Edward Chaplin CMG, OBE  
Dr John Curtis OBE, FBA, President  
Peter Defty, Hon Treasurer  
Dr Nelida Fuccaro  
Daniel Lowe  
Dr John MacGinnis  
Joan Porter MacIver  
Dr Ellen McAdam  
Dr Augusta McMahon  
Professor Eleanor Robson, Chair of Council  
Professor Charles Tripp, FBA, Vice-Chair of Council  
Alasdair Watson

The Council presents this report together with the financial statements of BISI for the period of twelve months ended 30 June 2015. The statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 23 and comply with the charity's regulations, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued under the Charities Act 1993. The 2015 report and accounts reflect BISI's activities over the course of the current financial year. They represent the fifth year of the charity operating as a company limited by guarantee. The British Institute for the Study of Iraq, the former unincorporated charity, transferred all its assets to the new charity in 2010.

## 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.

### Council

A volunteer Council is responsible for the overall management of the charity and meets three times a year in London. It delegates much of its work to several Committees of the Council—currently Fieldwork and Research, Finance, the Fundraising Taskforce, Outreach, Publications, Strategy and Succession Planning.

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 three-year term. They may be re-elected for a further three-year term and must then stand down for a minimum of one 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 receive a welcome pack containing internal documents essential to helping them direct the work of the charity. 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 one Patron: The Rt Hon the Lord Lamont of Lerwick, one President: Dr John Curtis, and one Honorary Vice-President: Frank Baker, British Ambassador to Iraq.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting takes place 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. Any member of BISI who wishes to be present may attend the Annual General Meeting. Alternatively members are permitted to send in postal ballots for the election of Council members.

### Administration and Finance

A 70% part-time Administrator, Lauren Mulvey, ensures the smooth running of BISI's London office. Finances are overseen by a 20–30% self-employed Financial Controller, Karon Cook, who also provides guidance on governance issues. In 2014–2015, a 20% self-employed Development Co-ordinator, Adam Stone, assisted the Chair and the Fundraising Taskforce, and a 20% self-employed Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Co-ordinator, Kristian Girling, managed the programme of visiting scholars from Iraq.

BISI's income comes from its own resources and endowment. Although the British Academy grant-in-aid to BISI ceased in April 2009, the British Academy continues to give 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 support it provides.

## STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

'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.'

BISI:

- supports high-quality research across its academic remit by making grants and providing expert advice and input.
- assists with publications, both print and electronic, for academic and public dissemination of research activities.
- supports and facilitates academic exchange and collaboration between the UK and Iraq through programmes of visiting scholars and academic engagement.
- provides a focus for the UK public and the Iraqi community in Britain to engage with matters concerning Iraq.
- promotes public education through organising and supporting lectures, conferences, workshops and study days.
- provides expertise and specialist knowledge to government bodies, journalists and other parties.

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.

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 AND STRATEGIES

For the year 2014-2015 BISI continued to carry out its core aims - to advance research and public education about Iraq in the arts, humanities and social sciences, from the earliest times until the present.

Our objectives fell into the following areas:

**Research and Fieldwork:** to fund scholars to carry out relevant, high quality research into Iraq; and to assist and collaborate with colleagues in-country, in state and higher education sectors.

**Outreach:** to inform and engage the public about Iraq; and to give support to projects that add to the public's understanding of Iraq's history, society and culture.

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

Every year the Council reviews how these objectives should be realised, in the form of a rolling Five-Year Plan and a detailed Risk Review.

## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

At the very end of the last reporting period, in early July 2014, the so-called Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS, or Daesh) invaded northern Iraq. Using the city of Mosul as their base, they rapidly took control of key cities and communications routes in the northwest of the country and are now firmly entrenched. These events, and their repercussions in Iraq, the UK, and worldwide, have not surprisingly fundamentally shaped the way BISI has carried out its remit since then, and developed plans for future work.

A Risk Review, carried out as soon as possible after the invasion, established that none of BISI's in-country work was directly affected or at risk. We have been able to continue funding and support of programmes and projects in Kurdistan and southern Iraq as normal, and of course in the UK, as detailed later in this report.

However, several of our recent Iraqi Visiting Scholars, as well as longer-standing collaborators and friends of the Institute, were living in ISIS-occupied areas at the time of the invasion. Fortunately many managed to escape to Kurdistan, some even to Europe or the USA. On two occasions BISI worked with CARA, the Council for At Risk Academics, to help resettle refugee university teachers and researchers who work in areas of BISI's remit. We continue to monitor carefully the humanitarian situation of our northern Iraqi colleagues, most of whose employing institutions have now been forcibly closed. However, communication with them is sporadic and risky.

Meanwhile, we were able to continue our Iraqi Visiting Scholars Programme, with places offered to three researchers from Baghdad thanks in part to a donation from The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust. Unfortunately after the end of this reporting period, the UK Border Agency tightened its conditions on the issuing of visas to Iraqi (and Syrian) visiting academics, citing concerns about the risk of absconding. BISI is unable and unwilling to police its Visiting Scholars to the extent now required, so regretfully had to cancel the third of the offers made. The future of the programme is now under review.

The plummeting price of oil, the spiralling costs of the war against ISIS, as well as an anti-corruption drive, have together meant significant changes to the ways in which the Iraqi government funds work on the country's cultural heritage. As BISI does not receive Iraqi government funds there have been no direct financial consequences. But we will have to re-establish our standing with the Ministry of Culture in Baghdad, which has taken over the functions of the former Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. We are also working to offset the deleterious effects of the closure of the Iraqi Cultural Centre in London, which had been one of our main points of contact with the Iraqi expat community in the UK.

In the first months of 2015, ISIS released two propaganda videos showing the destruction of ancient Assyrian and Hatrene statues in Mosul museums, and the wholesale demolition of a 3000-year-old Assyrian palace on the nearby archaeological site of Nimrud. BISI was able to offer expert response, commentary and background to the international news media in the days and weeks that followed, thereby fulfilling an important element of our educational remit, as well as raising the profile of our work.

The site of Nimrud was the flagship research project of BISI's predecessor organisation the BSAI. It carried out major archaeological excavations there in 1948–63, under the direction of Sir Max Mallowan, and publication, interpretation and reanalysis of those discoveries continue to this day. Most recently, an AHRC-funded research project, which I directed, released a major online resource on the site (<http://oracc.org/nimrud>). It provides an accessible but authoritative account of the ancient city and those who lived there, as well as a critical analysis of the history of excavations and interpretations of the site. Equally importantly it serves as a portal for all known online documentation of archaeological artefacts from Nimrud, now distributed across the collections over nearly 80 museums worldwide.

The next step, headed by BISI's President Dr John Curtis and me, is to cost, fund and carry out the digitisation of Mallowan's excavation records of Nimrud, now held in the British Museum. This will be an essential resource in planning for the site's post-ISIS future, and will help to determine whether the destroyed palace can or should be

rebuilt to any extent and/or aid in the long-running American project to recreate it in virtual reality.

Also in the spring, BISI and Blue Shield intensified their long-running joint lobbying campaign for the UK government to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two concomitant protocols. Soon after the General Election in May the new government publicly announced its intention to do so, and the latest reports are that legislation will be enacted in the 2016-17 sitting of parliament. Along with BISI and Blue Shield's joint submission of evidence to the Chilcot Report back in 2010, we consider it a crucial part of our educational remit to inform parliamentarians and legislators of the potentially damaging consequences of war on Iraq's cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and to help them to mitigate the dangers of military action.

You can read more about the BISI's activities in 2014-2015 on the following pages.

*Professor Eleanor Robson  
Chair of Council*



The ziggurat at Nimrud and one of the ivories unearthed at Fort Shalmaneser (*Ivories from Nimrud* VII, Herrmann & Laidlaw, 2013). BISI's Nimrud Project will digitise Sir Max Mallowan's excavation records and serve as an essential resource for planning the site's post-ISIS future.



## RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

### Academic Grants

BISI supports UK-led research on the lands and peoples of Iraq, from the full breadth of the arts, humanities and social sciences subjects. We do this through several annual awards: research and conference grants (usually up to £4,000 per grant) and a pilot project grant (usually up to £8,000). In 2014/2015 we funded the following.

### Conference Grants

- **Richard Dumbrill (School of Advanced Study, University of London):** Fourth Babylon Festival for International Cultures and Arts at Babylon University, April 2015
- **Dr Yağmur Heffron (Cambridge University):** Textual Archaeology of the Ancient Near East: Are we doing it wrong? at Cambridge University, December 2015

### Research Grants

- **Dr Mark Altaweel (UCL):** Holocene Channel Formation, Landscape Change and Settlement in the Shahrizor, NE Iraq
- **Lana Askari (PhD Candidate, Manchester University):** Imagining Future: Agency and Temporality among Kurdish Returnees in Iraq
- **Gregory Bilotto (PhD Candidate, SOAS):** Early Islamic Period Metalwork of the Umayyads, Abbasids and Fatimids
- **Dr Jane Moon (Manchester University):** Ur Region Archaeology Project: Tell Khaiber Excavations 2015
- **George Richards (Independent Scholar):** Hymns to the Peacock King: Liturgical Chant of the Yezidi People of Iraq

### The Annual Pilot Project grant was awarded to:

- **Dr Janroj Keles (Middlesex University):** Migration, Transnational Mobility and Digital Social Networking: The Case of the Iraqi-Kurdish Young People in the UK

Applicants for Academic Grants should normally have an official affiliation with a UK Higher Education Institution. BISI funds can be put towards travel, equipment and consultancy costs.



The BISI-sponsored Shahrizor Survey Project, exploring Holocene Channel Formation, Landscape Change and Settlement in the Shahrizor, NE Iraq. *Photo: Shahrizor Survey Project*

## Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Programme

In November 2014, BISI appointed Kristian Girling as its Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Co-ordinator. This was a new position, dedicated entirely to supporting BISI scholars from Iraq. Under Kristian's supervision, the programme flourished. During the past financial year he laid the ground-work for the academic, practical and social arrangements for the following visiting scholars, who are both engaged in projects that conserve and deepen understanding of Iraq's diverse cultural heritage.

- **Salwa Al-Amin, Researcher Baghdad University**

Scholarship at Oxford University (May-June 2015) to prepare a research project on the history, archaeology and architecture of several ancient mausoleums and religious shrines in Iraq

- **Abather Saadoon, PhD Candidate Baghdad University**

Scholarship at SOAS (September-November 2015) to work with Dr Mark Weeden on the publication of tablets excavated from the site of Tell Al-Wilayah



BISI Visiting Scholar Abather Saadoon (front-left) with attendees at a workshop on 'Tell al-Wilayah and Eastern Watercourses,' SOAS, November 2015. The workshop was organised by Dr Mark Weeden as a way for Abather to share his research with leading archaeologists, assyriologists and geologists from the UK.

## Professional Development Programme with the Museum of the Holy Shrine of Imam Hussein

For several years now, BISI has been exploring the idea of facilitating museology courses at the Holy Shrines in Karbala. At a meeting at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), February 2015, we made important steps towards turning these plans into reality. At the time of writing this report, it is hoped that Tim Stanley, Senior Curator of the Middle Eastern Department at the V&A, will visit the holy shrines for one week this winter to deliver training to museum staff from all over Iraq, and scope the needs and prospects for a continuing series of courses, mentoring schemes and research projects.

*Note: BISI funded the travel costs of Dr Alaa Dheyauldeen, Director of the Imam Hussein Museum, to enable him to attend the February planning meeting in person.*

## OUTREACH

### Outreach Grants

BISI offers Outreach Grants to public engagement projects about Iraq's history, society and culture. In 2014/2015 we supported two conferences, a museum project, a feature-film, and an art exhibition:

- **Louise Alden:** Developing KS2 teaching resources and a teachers' study day on Ancient Sumer at Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery
- **Laura Hawkins:** Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology 2015 at Wolfson College, March 2015
- **Dr Erica Hunter:** Iraqi & Syrian Christianity in Crisis Conference at SOAS, April 2016
- **Koutaiba Al-Janabi:** The Window - a feature-film
- **Joy Stacey:** Autonomy of Self - a group exhibition and symposium, featuring the Iraqi artist Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, at the P21 Gallery and the London College of Communication, September-October 2015



One of the images from *Autonomy of Self*, a group exhibition, which BISI supported through its Outreach Grant Scheme. Photo: *30 Years After*, Sejla Kamerić (2006)

### Events

BISI's free lectures aim to give the public the opportunity to learn about ancient, medieval and modern Iraq. We held the following talks at the British Academy this year:

- Dr Jane Moon on *Back to Babylonia: Recent excavations at Tell Khaiber* (November 2014)
- Jonathan Watkins on *Welcome to Iraq – the Iraqi Pavilion for the 2013 Venice Biennale* (February 2015)
- Professor Emilie Savage-Smith on *Surgeons and Physicians in Medieval Iraq* (June 2015)

In addition to our regular programme, we organised a special evening at the Iraqi Cultural Centre with Dr Nelida Fuccaro on *Oil Lives and Cultures in Iraq under the Monarchy* (December 2014). This was a community event, featuring images from the Iraq Petroleum Company archives – and a chance for audience members to share their stories of Iraq's oil industry before the 1958 Revolution.

BISI was also delighted to be a partner in the Association of Iraqi Academic's discussion on *Iraq Heritage: The Challenges and Solutions* at SOAS (March 2015).

### Press and the Media

One of BISI's charitable objects is to provide expertise to journalists reporting on Iraq's cultural heritage. During the atrocities committed by ISIS in northern Iraq from February to March 2015, BISI trustees gave hours of their time to explain to the media the significance of the cultural sites that had been destroyed – in particular, Mosul Museum, and the ancient cities of Nimrud, Nineveh and Hatra. BISI Trustees appeared in features for numerous media outlets, including the BBC, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Guardian*, the *Times*, the *New York Times*, Al Jazeera and Levant TV.

## PUBLICATIONS

Our predecessor organisation, the BSAI carried out many excavations during its presence in Iraq from the 1930s-1990s. An ongoing project for us today is to ensure that all of 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. This year we were delighted to have facilitated the publication of the *Archaeological Atlas of Samarra: Samarra Studies II* by Alastair Northedge and Derek Kennet (May 2015). The volume was published in conjunction with the Fondation Max van Berchem who also provided a generous subvention. The second volume in the *Samarra Studies* series catalogues all of the buildings of one of the world's largest ancient cities, from the palaces to the smallest hovels. It is a vital resource for Islamic historians and archaeologists. Part 1 of *Samarra Studies II* is freely available as an open access PDF on [www.bisi.ac.uk](http://www.bisi.ac.uk)

In order to assist previous field directors in preparing their BSAI archaeological reports for dissemination, we also offer 'Publication Support Grants.' In 2014/15 year we awarded grants to the following:

- J.N.Postgate for *Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud VI*
- St John Simpson for *Glimpses into life by the Tigris from late Antiquity to the post-medieval period: the results of rescue excavations and surface collections at Qara Dere and Babneet Village (Eski Mosul) by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq*

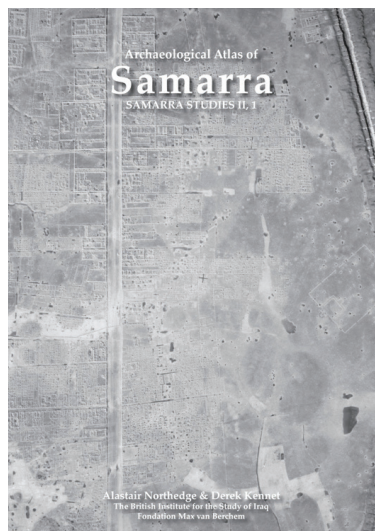
## The Journal IRAQ

BISI's journal IRAQ has appeared continuously since 1934. Today the journal publishes 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.

In 2014, Cambridge University Press became the publisher of the journal. Thanks to this partnership, 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 76 (2014) co-edited by Dr Michael Seymour (Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Dr Jon Taylor (British Museum), published in March 2015
- IRAQ 77 (2015), currently in production, with co-editors Dr Paul Collins (Ashmolean Museum) and Dr Jon Taylor (British Museum)

BISI awards the co-editors an Honorarium of £1,000 each in acknowledgement of the enormous amount of work and dedication that goes into every journal. The co-editors are supported by an Editorial Board, presently including Council members: Dr Mark Altaweel, Dr Augusta McMahon and Alasdair Watson, with further expertise provided by Dr Mark Weeden of the School of Oriental and African Studies.



*The Archaeological Atlas of Samarra: Samarra Studies II* by Alastair Northedge and Derek Kennet was published by BISI, in conjunction with the Fondation Max Van Berchem in May 2015.

## FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2014/2015, we were delighted to receive a donation of £3,000 from The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust to enable students and young professionals from Iraq to engage in research and training in the UK.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the late Sir Thomas Oates, who became a monthly donor to BISI from spring 2013 until his death in June 2015. Sir Thomas was the brother of the archaeologist and long-standing BSAI associate, David Oates. His donations made a significant difference to the Institute.

Dr Adam Stone was BISI's first Development Co-ordinator and helped us to initiate a new phase in our development and public relations. At the end of the summer he moved on from the post and we all thank him for his important contribution.

## VOLUNTEERS

BISI would never have been able to achieve its educational and academic goals for the past financial year without the help of volunteers. We would like to make a special thank you to two long-serving helpers:

- **Jennifer Hicks, Voluntary Social Network Co-ordinator** – whose creativity and hard work have advanced BISI outreach and communications beyond our expectations (60 hours)
- **Alan Sandall, Voluntary Fundraising Secretary** – an indispensable member of the development team who also kindly stepped in to cover the Administrator's duties during a period of ill-health in February 2015 (25 hours)

The following gave their time to help with BISI projects in 2014/2015 and we are deeply indebted to them all:

- **Dr Mirjam Brusius:** updating BISI's Academia page with resources for scholars (12 hours)
- **Manar Habib:** cataloguing the books and journals BISI receives through scholarly exchanges (12 hours)
- **Joan Porter MacIver:** filing and transportation of BISI's historical archives (56 hours)
- **Francesca Melia:** circulating notices about BISI grants and opportunities at the University of Manchester (2 hours)
- **Mladen Rachev:** scanning the BSAI/BISI annual reports and accounts, from 1932 to the present, for the online archive at [www.bisi.ac.uk](http://www.bisi.ac.uk) (6 hours)

In addition we must credit the great number of volunteers who have assisted with BISI Visiting Iraqi Scholarships in the current year – building lasting links with our scholars, and lending resources and expertise:

Dr Orit Bayley, David Brackman, Rabbi Eli Brackman (Oxford Chabad Society), Sue Forteath (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies – OCHJS), Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr, Dr Sara Hirschhorn (OCHJS), Professor Ruth Itzhaki (Manchester University), Dr Shaul Itzhaki, Dr Sylvia Kedouri, Daniel Lowe (British Library), Dr Augusta McMahon (Cambridge University), Professor Alison Salvesen (OCHJS), Martine Smith-Huvers (OCHJS), Dr Mark Weeden (SOAS), Dr Martin Worthington (Cambridge University), Dr Yuval Yekutieli (Ben-Gurion University) and Milena Zeidler (Leopold Muller Memorial Library).



## FUTURE EVENTS AND PLANS

### Research and Fieldwork

BISI will continue to support high quality, UK-led research into Iraq, through its research, conference and pilot project grants.

We will also strive to support Iraqi academics even in difficult circumstances. BISI is currently exploring how it can preserve knowledge and research into the archaeological site of Nimrud, which was attacked by ISIS in March 2015. Our aim is to create a comprehensive database, assembling excavation reports and photos to help Iraqis to reconstruct the destroyed city.

We had hoped to sponsor a third scholar in autumn 2015 – Dr Nassier al-Zubaidi of Baghdad University, who wished to spend a period at Cardiff University on a linguistic project on Baghdadi gravestones. Unfortunately this visit had to be cancelled due to stringent conditions on his visit, imposed by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), which BISI has neither the staff resource nor the political will to implement. However we would like to thank those who supported Nassier in the preparations for his visit, namely Dr Tom Bartlett and Professor Tess Fitzpatrick of the School of English, Communication & Philosophy (ENCAP) at Cardiff University.

Funds for Visiting Iraqi Scholarships are almost spent. A challenge for the future will be looking at how we can run and resource the programme under the increasingly restrictive UK visa regime, and continue to foster academic relations between the UK and Iraq.

In September 2015, Kristian Girling left his post as Visiting Iraqi Scholarship Co-ordinator in order to concentrate on his own research and teaching.

## Outreach

### Communications

The Institute undertook a comprehensive review of its online presence in 2014/2015. It was agreed that its social media – blog, Facebook, Twitter – were working effectively. However, Council members decided that as a tool for clear and engaging public communications the BISI website was failing, and needed to be revamped and modernised.

In September 2015, we appointed the web agency Pedalo/Allsund to develop the existing site, in order to make it visually attractive and a place where visitors can easily find the information they need for their research and education. Ensuring that the site can be accessed by mobile or tablet is another important task ahead: users from Iraq mainly view the website through hand-held devices, and we must endeavour to make our resources available to them.

### Events

In 2015/2016, we will continue our public lecture series at the British Academy, exploring ancient, medieval and modern Iraq. We have already planned the following talks:

- 18 November 2015, Professor Helen Berry  
*Gertrude Bell and the 'Woman Question'*  
(supported by Newcastle University)



An illustration from Professor Helen Berry's BISI lecture.  
Gertrude Bell outside her tent at Babylon, Iraq (1909).  
Photo: Gertrude Bell archive, Newcastle University

- 16 December 2015, Dr G  r  ldine Chatelard *The management plans for the Marshlands and the Sites of Eridu, Ur and Uruk in the Context of their Submission for World Heritage Inscription*
- 24 February 2016, Dr Birger Ekorn  sv  g Helgestad & Dr Jon Taylor *Walking in Woolley's Footsteps: Ur Brought to Life for the Digital Age*

### Awards

In 2015, BISI will launch a new Student Poster Award for undergraduate and postgraduate students engaged in the study of Iraq. The award is part of a wider scheme to encourage student involvement, and to give students the opportunity to present and discuss the innovative research that they are undertaking with both the academic community and the wider public.

As in previous years, BISI will continue to award Outreach Grants to individuals and organisations seeking to increase public understanding about Iraq – whether through publications, arts projects or events.

### Public Repository of Excavation Images

Creating a structured archive of the records, including images, of our sponsored excavations in Iraq has been a long-running ambition of the Institute. BISI Trustees Dr Ellen McAdam and Joan Porter MacIver have begun to lay the foundations for a project to create a comprehensive archive of excavation materials, from the early days of BSAI in the 1930s to the most recent fieldwork funded by BISI. Part of the project would involve digital access to the archive, with the University of Birmingham as a potential partner. Such a repository would have clear benefits for research and teaching on the history of British Archaeology in Iraq.

### Humanities Education in Iraq

BISI is also persevering with its educational collaboration with the Culture for All Centre in Baghdad. The aim of the collaboration is to assist in the teaching of humanities subjects in primary and secondary schools in Iraq, through the provision of practical lesson plans and resources.

## 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 2015/2016:

- *Umm Dabaghiyah* by Stuart Campbell
- *Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud VI* by J.N. Postgate
- *Glimpses into life by the Tigris from late Antiquity to the post-medieval period: the results of rescue excavations and surface collections at Qara Dere and Babneet Village (Eski Mosul) by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq* by St. John Simpson

Producing Arabic translations of our publications is an ongoing priority – which has sadly been held back over recent years due to a lack of funds.

Volunteer editors Charles Tripp and Paul Collins are also working very hard to bring together the final papers of the much-awaited proceedings of the *Gertrude Bell and Iraq: A Life and Legacy* conference which BISI co-organised with the British Academy in September 2013.

## Fundraising and Development

In October 2015, we appointed Ali Khadr and Phoebe Walker as BISI's Development Co-ordinators. Over the next year this new Development Team will enable us to build upon our relations with companies and trusts who can help us to further realise our charitable aims to support Iraq and its cultural heritage.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts for the year ended 30 June 2015 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 £44,148 before unrealised gains or losses on investment assets. This was made up of a deficit for the year for unrestricted funds of £43,802 to support BISI's ongoing work. A deficit to the restricted funds for the year of £3,254 related mostly to the funding of Visiting Iraqi Scholars.

During the year the Institute sold its holding in the Barings Targeted Return Fund and invested the cash realised in a balanced portfolio managed by Investec. The sale of the units in the Barings fund resulted in a realised gain of £57,066. Investment assets within the Investec portfolio were marked to market at the year-end and resulting in an unrealised loss of £21,480 for the year.

### Unrestricted Funds

BISI had four principal sources of unrestricted income. They were from subscriptions & donations (£20,444), the donation of office facilities and rent in kind (£22,768), investment income from the investment assets (£28,791) and publication sales (£15,077).

### Restricted Funds

Continued activity in the Iraqi Visiting Scholars Programme resulted in net outgoing resources of £3,254, a realised gain of £143 and an unrealised loss of £86 which reduced the restricted funds carried forward to £36,733.

## 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.

In 2013/2014 the Finance Committee undertook a review of the performance of the investment portfolio and decided that an alternative investment vehicle should be sought for the portfolio to better meet the criteria required by the trustees from the Institute's investments. Two Investment Managers were invited to put a proposal to the Finance Committee and Investec was chosen to manage the Institute's investments. The current portfolio (held at Barings) was liquidated and a managed portfolio set up with Investec during 2015. 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 (charity no. 1135395) 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 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**

Council undertakes a review of the major risks to which BISI is exposed, and systems designed to mitigate those risks have been considered. Council is determined to hold the working fund reserves at a level sufficient to cover operating costs for at least twelve months. 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**

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 council, 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.

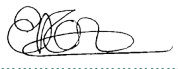
The following served as members of the BISI Council for all or part of the year ended 30 June 2015.

Dr Mark Altaweel  
Dr Gareth Brereton  
Edward Chaplin CMG, OBE  
Dr Paul Collins  
Dr John Curtis OBE, FBA  
Peter Davies  
Peter Defty  
Dr Nelida Fuccaro  
Daniel Lowe  
Joan Porter MacIver  
Dr Harriet Martin  
Dr Ellen McAdam  
Dr Augusta McMahon  
Dr Glen Rangwala  
Professor Eleanor Robson  
Professor Emilie Savage-Smith FBA  
Professor Charles Tripp FBA  
Alasdair Watson

Two members of Council resigned before the end of the financial year: Peter Davies in December 2014 and Professor Emilie Savage-Smith in January 2015. Drs Paul Collins, Harriet Martin and Glen Rangwala stepped down from Council in February 2015, having each completed six year terms.

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**



**Eleanor Robson**  
Chair



**Peter Defty**  
Hon Treasurer

**Dated: 8 December 2015**

## 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.

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

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the members of The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) for the year ended 30 June 2015**

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2015 as set out on pages 21 to 35. 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.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state where particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



**Elizabeth Irvine FCA  
WMT - Chartered Accountants**

21 December 2015

45 Grosvenor Road  
St Albans  
Herts; AL1 3AW

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

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 30 June 2015**

		Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund (Nimrud Ivories)	Restricted Funds	Endow- ment Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>							
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>							
Voluntary income:							
Donations and subscriptions	2a	40,212	0	3,000	0	43,212	46,413
Appeal and event income	2b	0	0	100	0	100	4,104
Investment income	2c	28,791	0	118	3,180	32,089	42,292
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>							
	2d	15,077	0	0	0	15,077	13,293
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		84,080	0	3,218	3,180	90,478	106,102
<b>Resources Expended</b>							
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>							
Investment management costs		2,158	0	9	272	2,439	0
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Grants payable	3a	25,957	0	3,528	0	29,485	46,266
Other charitable activity costs	3b	72,237	0	2,935	0	75,172	112,522
Cost of publications	3b	22,812	0	0	0	22,812	21,235
<b>Governance costs</b>	3b	4,718	0	0	0	4,718	7,836
			0				
<b>Total resources expended</b>		127,882		6,472	272	134,626	187,859
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>		(43,802)	0	(3,254)	2,908	(44,148)	(81,756)
<b>Transfers</b>							
Gross transfers between funds		(1,326,000)	1,326,000	0	0	0	0
<b>Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses</b>		(1,369,802)	1,326,000	(3,254)	2,908	(44,148)	(81,756)
Realised gains on disposals of investment assets:	5	52,938	0	143	3,984	57,066	1,427
		(1,316,864)	1,326,000	(3,111)	6,892	12,918	(80,330)
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>							
Unrealised gains on revaluation of investment assets	5	(19,005)	0	(86)	(2,389)	(21,480)	54,142
<b>Net movement of funds for the year</b>		(1,335,869)	1,326,000	(3,197)	4,503	(8,563)	(26,188)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Funds brought forward		2,566,194	0	39,930	133,224	2,739,348	2,765,536
Net movement of funds for the year		(1,335,869)	1,326,000	(3,197)	4,503	(8,563)	(26,188)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		1,230,325	1,326,000	36,733	137,727	2,730,785	2,739,348

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

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

### Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	£	2015 £	£	2014 £
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>					
Tangible Assets - computer and office equipment	4a		937		0
Heritage Assets - Nimrud Ivories	4b		1,326,000		1,326,000
Investments :					
Endowment Fund	5		130,915		128,557
Other Funds	5		1,046,031		1,228,693
			<u>2,503,883</u>		<u>2,683,250</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>					
Stock of publications		30,461		34,478	
Debtors	6	15,977		17,617	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	187,280		13,441	
		<u>233,718</u>		<u>65,536</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	6,816		9,438	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>226,902</u>		<u>56,098</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>2,730,785</u>		<u>2,739,348</u>
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>					
Unrestricted Fund	15		1,230,325		2,566,194
Designated Fund (Nimrud Ivories)	15		1,326,000		0
Endowment Fund (including transfer from G Bell Fund)	14		137,727		133,224
Restricted Fund	13		36,733		39,930
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>			<u>2,730,785</u>		<u>2,739,348</u>

The Institute was entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of Section 475 and 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member has deposited notice with the Institute requesting that an audit be carried out.

The members of the Council acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 Companies Act 2006.
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its statement of financial affairs for the period in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 Companies Act 2006 and which otherwise complies with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts so far as they are applicable to the company.

Approved by the Council and signed on its behalf:



Eleanor Robson - Chair of Council



Peter Defty - Hon Treasurer

Dated 8 December 2015

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

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

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2015**

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

- a) The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention with the exception that investments are valued at market value. The accounts are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2005 (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) and comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- b) Investment income is recorded when receivable. Income arising on endowment funds is treated as unrestricted.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.
- d) Grants are included in the accounts in the period to which they relate. Time related grants received in advance are treated as deferred income.
- e) 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.
- f) Investments are carried at market value. Changes in market value are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year that they occur.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) 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 4) as they are considered to have an indefinite life.
- 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 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
- j) Stock of publications is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- k) The Institute participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a defined benefit pension scheme, which is contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the scheme's assets are not hypothecated to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The Institute is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as required by FRS 17 "Retirement Benefits" accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015 (CONTINUED)**

**2 Incoming Resources**

**Incoming resources from generated Funds**

				<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>a Donations and subscriptions</b>					
Subscriptions from members	14,186	0	0	14,186	22,680
Gift Aid - recoverable	1,026	0	0	1,026	1,113
Provision of office facilities and rent in kind	22,768	0	0	22,768	21,227
Other donations	2,232	3,000	0	5,232	1,393
<b>Total Donations and subscriptions</b>	<b>40,212</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,212</b>	<b>46,413</b>

				<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>b Appeal and event income</b>					
Appeal	0	100	0	100	4,104
<b>Total Appeal and event income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,104</b>

				<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>c Investment income</b>					
Dividends on:					
Barings investments	21,768	83	2,296	24,147	41,952
Bank of COIF deposit interest	6	3	0	9	340
Investec portfolio	7,017	32	884	7,933	0
<b>Total Investment income</b>	<b>28,791</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3,180</b>	<b>32,089</b>	<b>42,292</b>

Any income arising on investments in the endowment fund is treated as unrestricted income.

				<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Publication sales and copyright fees	5,529	0	0	5,529	13,293
Publication subventions	9,548	0	0	9,548	0
<b>Total incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	<b>15,077</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,077</b>	<b>13,293</b>



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

**3 Resources Expended**

**Charitable Activities**

**a Grants payable - Unrestricted funds**

BSI made grants to 15 individuals in the year (20 in 2013/14) and no organisations (1 in 2013/2014).

	2015	2014
	£	£
Research, travel and conference grants	17,000	11,864
Pilot project grants	8,000	8,000
Development/outreach grants	2,500	4,661
Publication support grants	1,700	3,000
Artefact preservation grant	1,757	0
Returned grants	(5,000)	0
	<b>25,957</b>	<b>27,525</b>

**Research, Travel and Conference and Fieldwork Grants**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Unrestricted research grants were made to 7 individuals (6 in 2013/14)		
Dr Mark Altaweel : Holocene Channel Formation, Landscape Change and Settlement in the Shahrizor, NE Iraq	4,000	0
Lana Askari : Imagining Future: Agency and Temporality among Kurdish Returnees in Iraq	2,300	0
Gregory Bilotto : Early Islamic Period Metalwork of the Umayyads, Abbasids and Fatimids	2,000	0
Dr Jane Moon : Ur Region Archaeology Project	4,000	3,500
George Richards : Hymns to the Peacock King: Liturgical Chant of the Yezidi People of Iraq	1,660	0
Richard Dumbrill: Fourth Babylon Festival for International Cultures and Arts at Babylon University, April 2015	1,500	0
Dr Yağmur Heffron: Textual Archaeology of the Ancient Near East: Are we doing it wrong ? at Cambridge University, December 2015	1,540	
Dr Julien Charbonnier & Kristen Hopper: The qanât: Archaeology and Environment at Durham University, October 2014	0	1,000
Dr Jon Taylor: Talking Tablets: Understanding the Materiality of Cuneiform Tablets and its Implications for Research and Preservation at the British Museum	0	3,000
Dr Eleni Asouti: Eastern Fertile Crescent Prehistory Project: Environmental change, Resource Management Strategies and Community Interactions in North-Eastern Iraq at the Dawn of Agriculture	0	3,500
Emanuelle Degli Esposti: Through the Fractured Looking Glass: Reflections of Power, Subjectivity, and the Self in the Iraqi Shi'a Diaspora	0	3,500
Emma Notfors: Writing the Wastes: A Literary Chorography of the Arabian Desert in the Works of TE Lawrence and Gertrude Bell	0	460
Less overprovision of research grants in previous years	0	(3,096)
<b>Subtotal Fieldwork, Research &amp; Academic Conference Grants</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>11,864</b>

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

### Pilot Project grants

Unrestricted pilot project grants were made to 1 individual (1 in 2013/14)

Dr Janroj Keles : Migration, Transnational Mobility and Digital Social Networking: The

Case of the Iraqi-Kurdish young people in the UK

8,000

0

Dr Claudia Glatz : Tracing the Emergence of Social Complexity in Southern Mesopotamia:

0

8,000

The Sirwan/Upper Diyala Regional Project

### Total Research Grants

25,000

19,864

### Development / Outreach Grants

Unrestricted Development grants were made to 5 individuals (12 in 2013/14) and no organisations (1 in 2013/14)

2015

2014

£

£

Dr Erica Hunter : Iraqi and Syrian Christianity in Crisis Conference, April 2016

500

0

Koutaiba Al-Janabi : The Window (feature-length film)

500

0

Laura Hawkins : Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology 2015, March 2015

540

0

Louise Alden : Project to develop KS2 teaching resources and a teachers' study day on Ancient Sumer at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

500

0

Joy Stacey : Autonomy of Self - a group exhibition and symposium, featuring the Iraqi artist Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, September-November 2015

460

0

Dr Mark Altaaweel: Teaching Geoarchaeological and Environmental Research Methods to Iraqi Archaeologists in Erbil

0

500

Dr Kate Craddock: The GB Project at Live Theatre, Newcastle, April 2014

0

500

Fran Hazleton, The Enheduanna Society: The Gilgamesh epic project

0

500

Tara Jaffar: Stories My Mother Told Me: A Creative Exploration into Iraqi Identity and Belonging in London, Iraqi Cultural Centre – UK, November 2013

0

250

Kate Kelley: Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Assyriology 2014, April 2014

0

525

Zarina Keyani: The Gardens of Eden Project art-work and exhibition

0

500

Dina Mousawi: RETURN theatrical workshops, Richmix Theatre, January 2014

0

500

Taqasim Music School: Discovering the Iraqi Maqam on the Oud: An Introduction and Recital, St Ethelburga's Centre, June 2014

0

450

Rana Ibrahim: Iraqi Story and Proverb Book for Children

0

200

Ra Page, Comma Press: Iraq + 100 Short Story Anthology

0

500

Richard Wilding: Erbil - Research, Interpretation and Conservation of the World's Oldest City

0

500

Rosie Garthwaite: Back to the Baghdad Bulletin

0

500

Returned Grant: Layla Alroomi

0

(500)

Less overprovision of grant in 2013/2014

0

(264)

2,500

4,661

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

**Publication Support Grants**

Two publication support grant were made to 2 individuals in 2014/15 (1 in 2013/14)	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
St John Simpson : Glimpses into life by the Tigris from late Antiquity to the post-medieval period: the results of rescue excavations and surface collections at Qara Dere and Babneet Village (Eski Mosul) by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq	1,500	0
Professor J.N Postgate : Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud VI	200	0
Georgina Herrmann & Stuart Laidlaw: The Burnt Palace Archive: Ivories from Nimrud VIII	0	3,000
	<u>1,700</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Artefact Preservation Grant	1,757	0
Total Unrestricted Grants Payable	<u>30,957</u>	<u>27,525</u>

**Grants payable restricted funds**

**Visiting Scholars Grants**

In addition to the 2014/15 grants detailed above, BISI funded 1 Iraqi Visiting Scholarship (5 during 2013/14)

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salwa Al-Amin	3,528	0
Dr Amira Edan	0	3,541
Mr Qahtan Al Abeed	0	3,057
Dr Nabeel Nooruldeen Hussein	0	3,065
Father Behnam Sony	0	5,616
Dr Alaa Dheyauldeen	0	3,462
	<u>3,528</u>	<u>18,741</u>

**Returned Grants (unrestricted)**

Returned from Rosie Garthwaite	500	0
Returned from Mike Laird	1,000	0
Returned from Dr Jon Taylor	3,000	0
Returned from Dr Mark Altaaweel	500	0
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>

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

**b Other Charitable Activity costs**

	Working fund directly attributed to costs	Restricted	Governance	2015 total	2014 total
	£	£	£	£	£
(including support costs)					
<b>Directly allocated costs London</b>					
Visiting Scholars expenditure and appeal events (excluding visiting scholar grants)	0	2,768	0	2,768	4,922
London activities and lecture expenditure	7,174	167	0	7,341	16,832
PR and newsletter expenses	1,796	0	0	1,796	1,143
Total London Expenditure	8,970	2,935	0	11,905	22,897

**Other direct costs**

Printing annual report	0	0	456	456	350
Publication and journal costs	22,812	0	0	22,812	21,235
<b>Total Other direct costs</b>	22,812	0	456	23,268	21,585

**Support costs allocated to activities**

London office administration salary & pension	37,730	0	0	37,730	42,571
Office expenditure	1,973	0	0	1,973	3,699
Rent and service charges	22,768	0	0	22,768	21,227
Bank and credit card charges	796	0	0	796	919
Examination fee	0	0	1,551	1,551	1,275
Accountancy (including support)	0	0	339	339	1,428
Consultancy costs	0	0	0	0	22,128
Legal fees and miscellaneous	0	0	15	15	588
Council and committee meetings	0	0	1,570	1,570	2,751
Council and other travel expenses	0	0	319	319	373
Depreciation	0	0	468	468	152
Total Support costs	63,267	0	4,262	67,529	97,111
<b>Total Resources expended (excluding grants)</b>	95,049	2,935	4,718	102,702	141,593

The independent examination fee for the year amounted to £1,530 (2014 fee £1,275).

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### 4 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>a Cost</b>		
brought forward at 1 July 2014	4,172	4,172
Aquisitions	1,405	1,405
carried forward at 30 June 2015	5,577	5,577
<b>Depreciation</b>		
brought forward at 1 July 2014	4,172	4,172
charge in the year	468	468
carried forward at 30 June 2015	4,640	4,640
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At 30 June 2015</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>937</b>
At 1 July 2014	0	0
<b>b Heritage Assets</b>		
	<b>Nimrud Ivories £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Movements in the year		
brought forward at 1 July 2014	1,326,000	1,326,000
carried forward at 30 June 2015	1,326,000	1,326,000

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. As part of the arrangements the British Museum will continue to take care of the remaining ivories, which will now be covered under UK government indemnity against loss or damage.

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Investments		2015		2014	
		Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
		£	£	£	£
Endowment Fund					
Gertrude Bell memorial	Barings Targeted Return Fund	0	0	123,778	128,557
Listed Investments	Investec portfolio	133,304	130,915	0	0
		133,304	130,915	123,778	128,557
Restricted Funds					
Bonham-Carter Lecture Fund	Barings Targeted Return Fund	0	0	2,330	2,420
Mallowan Fund	Barings Targeted Return Fund	0	0	2,125	2,207
Bonham Carter-Lecture Fund	Investec portfolio	2,510	2,465	0	0
Mallowan Fund	Investec portfolio	2,288	2,247	0	0
Total Restricted Funds		4,798	4,712	4,455	4,627
Unrestricted Funds					
	Barings Targeted Return Fund	0	0	1,137,505	1,224,066
	Investec portfolio	1,060,324	1,041,319	0	0
		1,060,324	1,041,319	1,137,505	1,224,066
Total Investments					
			2015		2014
		Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
		£	£	£	£
Total Endowment Fund		133,304	131,195	123,778	128,557
Total Restricted Funds		4,798	4,712	4,455	4,627
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,060,324	1,041,319	1,137,505	1,224,066
		1,198,426	1,176,946	1,265,738	1,357,250
Movements in Investment Assets					
	Brought forward at 1 July 2014	1,265,738	1,357,250	1,298,233	1,336,681
	Disposals	(1,265,738)	(1,414,316)	(32,495)	(35,000)
	Acquisitions	1,198,426	1,198,426	0	0
	Increase/(decrease) in valuation	0	(21,480)	0	54,142
	Realised gain	0	57,066	0	1,427
	carried forward at 30th June 2015	1,198,426	1,176,946	1,265,738	1,357,250

All investments were held in the UK.

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**6 Debtors**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2015 Total	2014 Total
	£	£	£	£
Tax recoverable	1,026	0	1,026	1,113
Prepayments	910	0	910	0
Grants returnable	0	0	0	0
Investment income	11,851	48	11,899	12,353
Publication income due	1,922	0	1,922	4,061
VAT recoverable	220	0	220	90
	<u>15,929</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>15,977</u>	<u>17,617</u>

**7 Cash and Deposits at Bank**

	2015 Total	2014 Total
	£	£
Current Account and cash	184,690	10,850
Deposit account	<u>2,590</u>	<u>2,591</u>
	<u>187,280</u>	<u>13,441</u>

**8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2015 £	2014 £
Accrued expenses	4,300	0	4,300	1,530
Accounts payable	2,284	0	2,284	2,673
London Office - Grants payable	0	0	0	5,000
Pension liability	24	0	24	24
Payroll liability	208	0	208	211
	<u>6,816</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,816</u>	<u>9,438</u>

**9 Employees**

	2015 £	2014 £
The Institute employed 1 part-time employees during the year (2014: 1)		
Salaries	19,006	22,579
Social security	88	1,003
Pension contributions (see note below)	<u>3,041</u>	<u>3,613</u>
	<u>22,135</u>	<u>27,195</u>

All employee costs in 2015 and 2014 were made out of unrestricted funds.

There were no employees that earned in excess of £60,000 during the year.

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### 10 Pensions

The company participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a defined benefit scheme which is contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The assets of the scheme are held in a separate fund administered by the trustee, Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited. The company is required to contribute a specified percentage of payroll costs to the pension scheme to fund the benefits payable to the company's employees. In 2015, the percentage was 16% (2014: 16%). The company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as required by FRS 17 "Retirement benefits", accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The total cost charged to the profit and loss account is £3,041 (2014: £5,330) as shown in note 9. There was neither a prepayment nor an accrual at the end of the financial year in respect of these contributions. The disclosures below represent the position from the scheme's financial statements.

The 2014 valuation has recently been finalised and the audit process is in progress. Therefore the latest available audited triennial actuarial valuation of the scheme was at 31 March 2011 ("the valuation date"), Page 2 of 2 which was carried out using the projected unit method. The 2014 valuation indicates that employer contributions will increase to 18% from 1 April 2016.

The 2011 valuation was the second valuation for USS 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 £32.4 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £35.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £2.9 billion. The assets therefore were sufficient to cover 92% of the benefits which had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

FRS 17 liability numbers have been produced for the using the following assumptions:

	2015	2014
Discount rate	3.3%	4.5%
Pensionable salary growth	3.5% in the first year and 4.0% thereafter	4.4%
Price inflation (CPI)	2.2%	2.6%

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. Mortality in retirement is assumed to be in line with the Continuous Mortality Investigation's (CMI) S1NA tables as follows:

Male members' mortality	S1NA ["light"] YoB tables	– No age rating
Female members' mortality	S1NA ["light"] YoB tables	– rated down 1 year

Use of these mortality tables reasonably reflects the actual USS experience. To allow for further improvements in mortality rates the CMI 2009 projections with a 1.25% pa long term rate were also adopted for the 2014 FRS17 figures, for the March 2015 figures the long term rate has been increased to 1.5% and the CMI 2014 projections adopted, and the tables have been weighted by 98% for males and 99% for females. The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2015	2014
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24.2	23.7
Females currently aged 65 (years)	26.3	25.6
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26.2	25.5
Females currently aged 45 (years)	28.6	27.6



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	2015	2014
Existing benefits		
Scheme assets	£49.0bn	£41.6bn
FRS 17 liabilities	£67.6bn	£55.5bn
FRS 17 deficit	£18.6bn	£13.9bn
FRS 17 funding level	72%	75%

**11 Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability exists in relation to the pension valuation recovery plan, since the company is an employer of members within the scheme. The contingent liability relates to the amount generated by past service of current members and the associated proportion of the deficit. Given that the scheme is a multi-employer scheme and the company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities, the contingent liability is not recognised as a provision on the balance sheet. The associated receivable from the scheme in respect of the reimbursement of the company's expenditure is similarly not recognised.

**12 Related Party Transactions**

The Trustees and Committee members were paid a total of £ 125 (2014 £373) in travelling expenses. No trustees received remuneration in the year. Dr Mark Altaweel was given an outreach grant of £4,000 (2014: £500). Dr Altaweel applied through the normal outreach grant process and took no part in the decision to make the grant. In 2014 the Trustees attended a meal to mark the leaving of a long-standing employee. The total cost of the meal amounted to £271. There was no expenditure in this respect in 2015.

	Appeal & Fund for Iraq	Mallowan Fund	Bonham Carter Lecture Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>13 Restricted Income Funds</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Other donations	3,000	0	0	3,000
Appeal	100	0	0	100
Investment income	3	55	60	118
	3,103	55	60	3,218
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Direct charitable expenditure	(6,347)	(50)	(75)	(6,472)
Net outgoing resources before valuations and investment assets disposals	(3,244)	5	(15)	(3,254)
<b>Gains/(losses) on revaluations and disposal of investment assets</b>				
Unrealised	0	(41)	(45)	(86)
Realised	0	68	75	143
Net movement in funds	(3,244)	32	15	(3,197)
Fund balance brought forward	33,693	2,707	3,531	39,930
Fund balance carried forward	30,449	2,738	3,546	36,733

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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 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.

### 14 Analysis of Total funds

	Endowment Fund	Designated Fund	Working Fund - unrestricted	Appeal & Fund for Iraq	Mallowan Fund	Bonham Carter Lecture Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments	130,915	0	1,041,319	0	2,247	2,465	1,176,946
Heritage Assets	0	1,326,000	0	0	0	0	1,326,000
Tangible Fixed Assets	0	0	937	0	0	0	937
Stock	0	0	30,461	0	0	0	30,461
Debtors	0	0	15,929	0	23	25	15,977
Cash and deposits at bank	0	0	187,279	1	0	0	187,280
Creditors	0	0	(6,816)	0	0	0	(6,816)
Inter fund transfers	6,812	0	(38,785)	30,448	469	1,056	0
Balance of Funds at 30 June 2015	137,727	1,326,000	1,230,325	30,448	2,739	3,546	2,730,785

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### 15 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2014 £	Net Outgoing Resources £	Realised and Unrealised gains and losses £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2015 £
General Fund	2,566,194	(43,802)	33,933	(1,326,000)	1,230,325
Designated Fund- Nimrud Ivories	0	0	0	1,326,000	1,326,000
	2,566,194	(43,802)	33,933	0	2,556,325

The general fund represents the free reserves after allowing for designated funds and are available to be spent for any purpose of the charity. Due to the fact that the ivories cannot be sold on the open market, the Council of Management have made a transfer to a designated reserve representing the market value of the ivories. Further information is provided in the Report of the Council of Management.

The Council of Management has reviewed the level of the unrestricted fund and has concluded that it sufficient to cover contingencies. A separate contingency fund was deemed unnecessary.

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