



BSA Archive Project Assistant 1821 Archive Digitisation Project

6-MONTH FIXED TERM POST

Further Details of the Archive Project Assistant Post for the BSA research project, *Unpublished Archives of British Philhellenism During the Greek Revolution of 1821.*

Duties include:

- Converting the catalogue of the George Finlay Personal Papers from analogue to digital form.
- Migrating and curating digital catalogue to ISAD (G) standards to Collection Management Software, EMu (Electronic Museum Management System-Axiell ALM).
- Working closely with BSA Archivist and 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies who will oversee digitisation and selection of items respectively.
- Organising and delivering selected items for digitisation and curating the digital data in the EMu system.

The Archive Project Assistant will be based in Athens, work as part of a team in a specialised Archive/Library and form part of a vibrant research community.

Candidates will hold a postgraduate archive qualification. They will have excellent knowledge of collection management of archives and manuscripts, experience of cataloguing and working with electronic collection management systems, have excellent written and spoken English.

The successful candidate will be highly motivated and enthusiastic, with excellent interpersonal and organisational skills, the ability to work independently and in teams and have an interest in history.

The gross salary for the 6-month fixed term will be €9,500. The position is available from 20 September 2021. The Archive Project Assistant will report to the BSA Archivist, Ms Amalia Kakissis, but will also work closely with the 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies (to be appointed).

Further Particulars about the British School at Athens are given below and are available on www.bsa.ac.uk. Informal enquiries about the post may be addressed to the BSA Archivist, Ms Amalia Kakissis (archive@bsa.a.uk)

Applicants will be expected to have some understanding of the UK and Greek contexts within which the BSA operates.

Summary aims and objectives of the project

- 1) Full electronic cataloguing, digitisation, description, selective transcription (with accompanying translation from French, Italian or Greek as necessary) of unpublished documents relating to British Philhellenism between 1821 and 1833 preserved in the following collections:
 - i. Papers of Captain Frank Abney Hastings, part of the Finlay collection, British School at Athens (1822-1828);
 - ii. Papers of George Finlay, British School at Athens (selection relating to the period 1821-1833).
- 2) In collaboration with the National Library of Greece, and in parallel with that institution's ongoing programme of cataloguing and digitisation of its archive holdings relating to the 1821 Revolution, study and selective transcription of the Papers of the London Greek Committee (1822-1828).
- 3) Full electronic publication of all outputs listed under 1) above, to be available via the BSA website, with links to corresponding outputs by the National Library of Greece.
- 4) International conference, in collaboration with the National Library of Greece, to be held in Athens in 2023 in February or March (to commemorate the foundation of the London Greek Committee on 28 February 1823).
- 5) Edited volume of scientific papers arising from the conference, to be published in the series *Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies*, published by Routledge for the British School at Athens.

The 1821 Fellow will have lead academic responsibility for delivering the objectives of the BSA project, and will be fully supported by the BSA Archivist and (for the first 6 months of the project) by Archive Project Assistant.

Background to the Project

The contribution of British philhellenes to the successful outcome of the Greek Revolution has long been recognised. Probably the most famous of these was Lord Byron (1788-1824). A distinctive military contribution was made by Captain Frank Abney Hastings, commander of the first fighting steam-ship in world naval history, the *Karteria*. Scottish volunteers Thomas Gordon and George Finlay stand out as the earliest, and still among the most authoritative, historians of the conflict. In the context of commemorations of the bicentenary of the Greek Revolution, beginning in 1821, this project focuses on archive collections which have long been known to specialists but have remained virtually inaccessible to the general reader, and almost entirely unknown in Greece. Collectively, these archives reveal a great deal about the character, motivations and especially the military and political judgements of these individuals, as well as of many others, both British and Greek, with whom they interacted. The project will bring these invaluable primary sources for the first time into the public domain, through digitisation and online publication, an international conference on British Philhellenism, and a print publication in which international specialists will re-assess the nature and role of the philhellenes from the UK.

Brief description of resources

British School at Athens: The Finlay Papers

1) Papers of Captain Frank Abney Hastings. Until he was killed in action at sea off Mesolonghi in 1828, Hastings brought to the conflict in Greece a unique blend of naval experience and strategic insight. He was one of the first to propose using steamships in warfare, and captained the first ever built for the purpose, the *Karteria*. His papers include correspondence and memoranda on strategy. Although extracts have appeared in different publications, the full importance of his surviving papers has never yet been given appropriate attention.

2) George Finlay's papers. Finlay first went to Greece in 1823 and spent most of the rest of his life there until his death in 1875. As well as being an eyewitness to many of the events of the Revolution and the confidant of leading British philhellenes, including Hastings, he would later write the two-volume *History of the Greek Revolution* (1861), widely regarded ever since as one of the fullest and most authoritative accounts of the conflict. Finlay's papers amount to more than 30,000 documents and cover the whole period of his life in Greece. The *Finlay Papers: A Catalogue* by J.M. Hussey was published in 1973 (BSA/Thames & Hudson) and is available online at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40855968>. For the purposes of the project, only those documents that directly relate to the period 1821-c.1833 will be digitised, along with the full catalogue.

National Library of Greece / Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη της Ελλάδος (EBE)

The Papers of the London Greek Committee (LGC) consist of eleven folders containing material, mostly in English with some in French, Italian and Greek, dating between 1822 and 1828, that were given to the National Library of Greece in 1924. With the exception of a small number of letters by Byron, which have been fully published, the papers are not yet generally accessible or included in the Library's online catalogue. The Library has already produced a first provisional catalogue as part of its preparation for the 1821 bicentenary, and plans to complete this work, with full digitisation of the above material, in the course of its funded programme to mark the anniversary. Extensive, but necessarily only selective, use of this material was made by William St Clair in his classic study *That Greece Might Still be Free: The Philhellenes in the War of Independence* (first published 1972, 2nd edition 2008; first Greek edition in press for 2021), Roderick Beaton in *Byron's War: Romantic Rebellion, Greek Revolution* (2013, Greek edition 2015), and students working for doctorates at universities in Greece and worldwide.

The only published description of this rich resource is to be found in E.S. De Beer and Walter Seton, 'Byroniana: the archives of the London Greek Committee,' *The Nineteenth Century* (Sept 1926), 396-412. Its authors, almost a hundred years ago, expressed the hope 'that Greek students will come forward to examine these documents, and to publish them as adequately as they deserve' (p. 397). The proposed project, in tandem with the Library's own programme for 2021, addresses this desideratum.

Further details about the British School at Athens

An educational charity founded in 1886, the British School at Athens (BSA) is the UK's research hub in the humanities and social sciences in Greece and its wider Balkan, European, Mediterranean and Levantine contexts. It conducts, facilitates and promotes research of international excellence in all periods – from the Palaeolithic to the present – and across all humanities and social science disciplines, as well as offering targeted courses to develop the next generation of researchers and academics in those fields. Greece's

centrality in the history of the western tradition, combined with its key position in post-Ottoman southern Europe and on the front line of the current refugee crisis, make it an unusually rich location for research.

The BSA forms part of the British Academy's network of British International Research Institutes (BIRI) which sustains and supports British research overseas:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes>. In Athens we support research in Greece and neighbouring countries as well as collaborations with local institutions. Our 130-year history brings a strong reputation, an unparalleled regional network, an accumulation of library and material resources, and a body of expertise that benefit both UK-based researchers and those who engage with us as research partners. Typically over 600 researchers and almost 1,000 students use our facilities and the BSA collaborates with around 20 UK and 60 institutions worldwide, the majority in Greece.

The BSA's goals are achieved through:

- an academic programme of seminars, lectures, and conferences;
- its internationally renowned library;
- the work of the Fitch Laboratory in science-based archaeological research across the Mediterranean;
- supporting the work of individual researchers from the UK and elsewhere, including applications for study and fieldwork permits; advice on the development of research programmes; accommodation and facilities in Athens and Knossos; and provision of online services;
- making research carried out at the BSA or with its assistance known through the publication of its journals and monograph series;
- promoting the use of its archival, laboratory, and museum collections by the scholarly community worldwide;
- providing funding (including studentships and visiting fellowships) for research in Greece, and to enable Greek researchers to visit the UK;
- providing internships and training courses for undergraduates, postgraduates, and schoolteachers.

The BSA's biannual Newsletters (June and December since 2017), Corporate Plan and Strategic Plan for Research 2015-2020 are posted on www.bsa.ac.uk.

Size and Scope

The BSA, founded in 1886, is an institute for advanced research and a registered UK charity (no. 208673). It maintains a hostel, world class library, archive, laboratory for archaeological science and offices in Athens; a smaller hostel, library and museum for study purposes in Knossos; and an office in London. It has five full-time academic staff (including the Knossos Curator), two research fellows, three full-time and two part-time administrative/secretarial staff, three full-time library/archival staff; and five full-time and two part-time domestic staff. The academic staff, the research fellows, the IT Officer, and the Archivist are all actively engaged in research, and all staff are actively encouraged to undertake professional development. In addition, the BSA is supported by research-active non-executive staff in the UK – in particular the Chair of

Council (Dr Carol Bell), Vice-Chair of Council (Professor Robin Osborne) and the Deputy Honorary Treasurer (Huw Smith). Its turnover for the financial year 2019-20 was approximately £1.5m. It offers two full-year research fellowships ('studentships') and several smaller bursaries for scholars every year. The BSA has over 260 supporters and over 220 members, i.e. scholars or scientists who use its facilities for study purposes every year. In addition, around 1,000 researchers, who are not members, are given rights to use the library each year.

Staffing

The BSA has the following research staff, details of whose research interests and publications are available on the BSA's website (www.bsa.ac.uk):

Full-time academic staff: Prof. John Bennet, Director; Dr Evangelia Kiriati, Director of the Fitch Laboratory; Dr Michael Loy, Assistant Director; Dr Noémi Müller, Scientific Research Officer; Dr Kostis Christakis, Knossos Curator.

Full-time research fellows: the current Leventis Fellow, Dr Bela Dimova; the Williams Fellow in Ceramic Petrology, Dr Carlotta Gardner.

Research-active staff with other primary responsibilities: Ms Amalia Kakissis, Archivist.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The BSA's principal research infrastructure consists of its Library, its Museum, the Fitch Laboratory and its facilities at Knossos. Most staff are based in Athens, but a London office is maintained in the British Academy (10 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AH), staffed by a part-time Administrative Assistant and a Development Officer.

The Library in Athens contains over 70,000 volumes, 1,300 periodical titles and 2,000 maps, and has space for 50 readers. Its collections and desk spaces are housed on several different levels, which are served by stairs, reflecting its evolution over 120 years. It is staffed by two full-time librarians (Mrs Evi Charitoudi and Ms Sandra Pepelasis) with the help of a student library assistant. Members have 24-hour access. While providing a broad, research-level coverage of Greek archaeology of all periods, it specialises in the fields of Aegean prehistory, ancient art and epigraphy, and Byzantine and modern Greek studies (recently enriched with a major donation); it also houses historical collections (such as George Finlay's library) and a particularly good collection of Greek and Balkan journals. Its collections are complemented by those of the other foreign schools and institutes in Athens with whom we have reciprocal arrangements giving access to a unique collection of more than 450,000 titles on Hellenic Studies. We have particularly strong links with the neighbouring Blegen and Gennadius libraries of the American School, with whom we share a common online library catalogue (AMBROSIA, American British Online Search in Athens).

The BSA's Archive collections contain records of the BSA's field projects going back to 1886; material from the Byzantine Research Fund, c. 1895-1936 (c. 6,500 unique plans, drawings and photographs of Byzantine architecture - some of buildings now destroyed); the George Finlay papers, including journals from the Greek War of Independence; travel notebooks (Gell, Stuart); Noel-Baker family papers; ethnographic records and a

large collection of glass negatives. Our Archivist is responsible for access and conservation of the collection and has secured outside funding in support of projects to conserve, electronically catalogue and digitise images from selected collections. An increasing number of items is available digitally on the BSA Digital Collections platform: <https://digital.bsa.ac.uk>. The Archive hosts an annual lecture by a visiting scholar on a relevant topic.

The Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory for Archaeological Science, founded in 1974, was the first of its kind in Greece. It specialises principally in the analysis of inorganic materials (mainly pottery, as well as metals, wall paintings, glass) and in geophysical prospection, specialisms which are complementary to the neighbouring Wiener Laboratory of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. It maintains facilities for petrological analysis of pottery (facilities for thin section preparation and 3 research polarising microscopes coupled with digital photography system) and a WD-XRF spectrometer for chemical analysis. It houses comparative collections of over 10,000 archaeological samples and over 3,000 geological samples. For the needs of geophysical prospection it has a magnetometer and a resistivity meter. It also maintains reference collections of mammal and fish bones as well as of seeds with ample space for strewing archaeological material, and offers annually two bursaries for graduate students or early-career postdocs and a visiting lectureship. It is staffed by its Director, a Scientific Research Officer, an administrator/analytical assistant, a research fellow, and visiting researchers or research associates linked to specific externally-funded projects. The Fitch plays a full part in the BSA's postgraduate teaching activities, currently staging short courses on ceramic petrology and the study of ancient glass.

Knossos has been a highly productive centre of research for the British School at Athens since 1900, when Sir Arthur Evans and David Hogarth, then BSA Director, began systematic excavations there. It remains a powerhouse of research, both in the field and in the study of excavated material, under the aegis of the BSA. The Knossos Research Centre (KRC) is focused upon the Stratigraphical Museum (a study centre and finds archive for all British fieldwork at Knossos since the time of Evans, and for several other BSA projects focused elsewhere in Crete) and has a self-catering hostel (the Taverna) and library, open year-round. The Library has a good collection of books and offprints (especially about Crete), and full access to e-resources via AMBROSIA. The Library is also used by local researchers, members of the Archaeological Service, the University of Crete, and other institutions. The Taverna serves principally as a base for those studying in the Stratigraphical Museum or the Herakleion Museum. Knossos is fully integrated into the BSA's ICT network. There is a resident Curator and a small domestic staff. The KRC hosts an annual postgraduate course on Prehistoric, Greek and Roman pottery, drawing on the collections in the Stratigraphical Museum.

In addition, the BSA's administrative and academic staff (principally the Administrator) makes use of the BSA's wide-ranging connections to help individual scholars with permit applications.

Dissemination and Publication of Research

The BSA maintains a policy of publishing the results of research in all fields of Hellenic Studies, particularly in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy and history, but increasingly also in modern Greek studies. The BSA's Annual (running since 1895 and published by CUP) is devoted to publishing research in all areas of the BSA's broad scope, including work carried out by its officers and other members. The BSA also compiles annually, in collaboration with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, *Archaeology in Greece*, a collection of synthetic articles on recent archaeological fieldwork in Greece which draws on *Archaeology in Greece Online*,

a regularly updated database of fieldwork reports produced in collaboration with the École française d'Athènes. Final reports on major excavation or survey projects usually appear in the BSA's Supplementary Volumes, while other collections are published in two series: *BSA Studies in Greek Antiquity* (CUP) and *BSA Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies* (Routledge). The BSA recognises its role in conserving and facilitating access to the archives (in all media) produced by major excavations, surveys or other studies. To this end we are active in cataloguing and digitizing our archive, and in making it available via the BSA's website through our Digital Collections platform: <https://digital.bsa.ac.uk>.