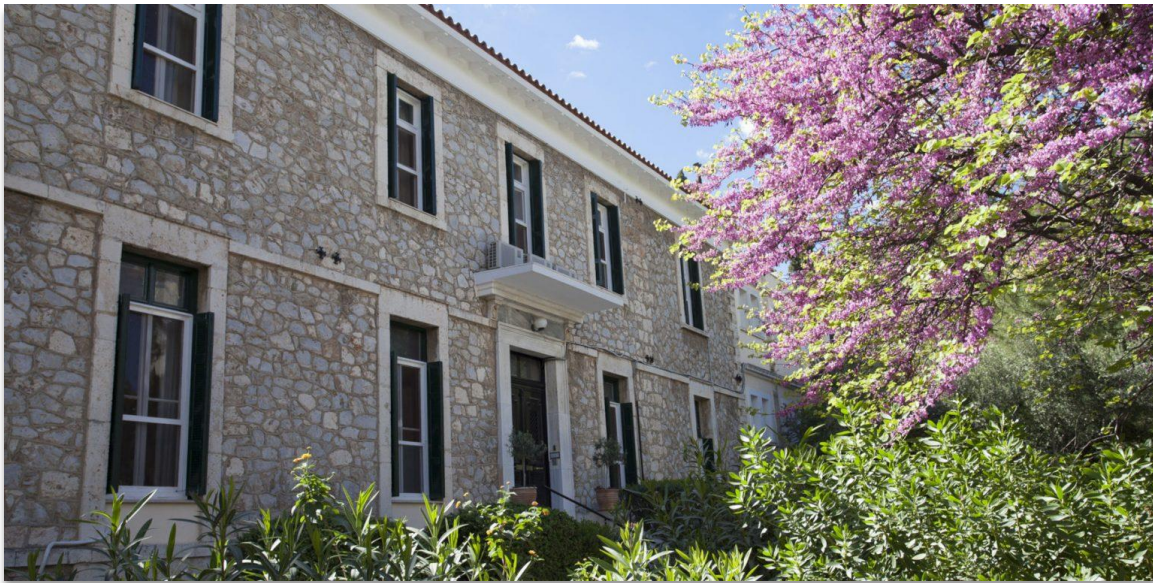


Philanthropy and the BSA



For 130 years, the British School at Athens (BSA) has brought together people who share a deep fascination for the history, archaeology and culture of the Greek world. Through its research, the BSA inspires a global community with the latest exciting discoveries, and it offers a living connection to both the ancient world and to the rich and vibrant culture of modern Greece.

Today the BSA is an institute for advanced research: an intellectual meeting place for people and ideas in the heart of Athens. It is home to one of the world's finest libraries dedicated to Hellenic Studies, with an archive of holdings dating back to the mid-19th century. Its Fitch Laboratory is a leading centre for science-based archaeology in the Mediterranean and beyond.

The BSA's long history at Knossos has played an important role in the academic development of generations of archaeologists. I am delighted to announce the successful conclusion of a major fundraising campaign for our Knossos 2025 Project which involved raising over £2.6 million and received a transformational gift from the Packard Humanities Institute. These donations are funding the complete redevelopment of the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos and will equip the BSA's Knossos Research Centre to the highest international standards.

The BSA has a rich tradition of philanthropy going back over 130 years. It was founded in 1886 thanks to the foresight, energy and generosity of individuals who had a passionate belief in the importance of studying all aspects of Hellenic culture. And that philanthropic spirit to support studies of Greece in their widest possible form continues today through the donations we receive from generous supporters and foundations.

Partnership is key to all our work with philanthropists and the BSA would love to engage with those who share its mission to research, preserve, and celebrate Greek culture past and present for the widest possible benefit.

We have many exciting fundraising projects and a track record of success and impact.

Please do contact me so that I can share our plans in more detail and discuss how you may wish to be more closely involved.

Professor Rebecca Sweetman | Director, British School at Athens | director@bsa.ac.uk

What makes the BSA unique

- The work of the BSA is strengthened by innovation, tradition, partnership and inclusivity. We are constantly building on our 130 years of learning and generating understanding to shape our approach to new research challenges: asking and answering pertinent questions while focusing on knowledge exchange, teaching, outreach and mentoring.
- We never lose sight of the importance of investing in the next generation of scholars from Greece, the UK and around the world. Our funded studentships and postdoctoral research fellowships provide critical support for the next cohort of academic leaders.



Left: Dr Elizabeth Foley, Dr Michael Loy and Dr Tulusi Parikh undertaking research at the BSA; Right: the BSA's offices in Athens



- Since its foundation, the BSA has undertaken fieldwork at over 120 sites including Knossos, Mycenae and Sparta, Olynthos and Chios, Melos and Ithaka. We conduct, facilitate and promote research of international excellence in all periods - from the Palaeolithic to the present - and across all humanities and social science disciplines including subjects as diverse as education, migration, society, economics and religion.



Left: Zoe Zgouleta conducting sample analysis at the Fitch Laboratory

- Our distinguished history brings with it a strong reputation, an excellent regional network, a superb collection of library and material resources, and a body of expertise that benefits UK and international researchers and those who engage with us as research partners. The BSA is home to one of the world's finest libraries dedicated to Hellenic Studies, in addition to an archive of travel diaries, excavation notebooks and works from leading philhellenes such as George Finlay and Captain Frank Abney Hastings dating back to the early 19th-century.



Left: The Penrose Library

- The Fitch Laboratory is a leading centre for science-based archaeology in the Mediterranean, working at the intersection of Arts, Humanities and Sciences in a way that few institutions are able to do. Our unique study collections in the Fitch Laboratory, Library, Archive and Museum are the core of agenda-setting research projects and vital for teaching and community engagement.
- Every year close to 500 researchers and almost 1,000 students use our facilities. The BSA collaborates with over 100 institutions in the UK, Greece, throughout Europe, North America, the Middle East and Australia. This includes the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and universities throughout Greece.



Above: BSA teaching and outreach activities

- The BSA shares its discoveries through research-led teaching and has a programme of regular outreach with school children and displaced, unaccompanied minors to communicate ideas of a shared past through archaeology and culture. Since its creation, women have played a pioneering role in the work of the BSA and we are especially proud of the Fitch Laboratory's mentorship for women in sciences.

The Importance of Philanthropy

The BSA has a rich tradition of philanthropic support going back over 130 years. Indeed, it owes its existence today to the foresight, energy and generosity of its early supporters who included supporters as diverse as Prime Minister William Gladstone, the Greek diplomat and book collector His Excellency Joannes Gennadius, and the pioneering female classical scholar Jane Ellen Harrison.

Donations and legacies to the BSA continue to have a powerful impact on the work of the BSA and those who engage with it. As we look to the future, we acknowledge the vital role that charitable giving can play in providing both financial stability and agility. This will ensure that the BSA leads the way in promoting and facilitating research and scholarship in the broadest possible sense.

The BSA is a member of the British Academy's network of International Research Institutes which promote overseas research. Just under 50% of the BSA's annual funding of £1.5 million comes from the British Academy. The remainder comes from its investments, donations and institutional sponsors demonstrating the vital role that philanthropy plays for our continued success.

Moreover, the BSA has participated in cutting-edge research projects and international/European training networks funded through grants by the European Union and funding bodies such as CNRS-France, NSF-USA, The Austrian Science Fund, the Wenner Gren Foundation (to mention just a few).

Donations have ensured the success of a whole range of initiatives

- Capital Projects for buildings and equipment
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Excavations, fieldwork and publications
- The Library, the Fitch Laboratory and our Archives
- Conferences, events, outreach and specialist courses for students and teachers

Donations have already improved our Athens premises to meet the needs and expectations of 21st-century researchers, artists and students; the '1821 Fellowship' in Modern Greek Studies is funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; we have the A.G. Leventis Fellowship in Hellenic Studies and the Williams Fellowship in Ceramic Petrology; our recent campaign raised over £2.6 million to build a new 21st-century research centre and Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos.



Above left: An aerial view of plans for the new Stratigraphical Museum



Above right: Knossos Fresco - CAM 277

Current Fundraising Priorities (2023-2030)

The BSA has a rolling portfolio of development projects which aim to provide supporters with a wide range of philanthropic opportunities including:

- A campaign around the 50th anniversary of the Fitch Laboratory (in 2024), to ensure that it continues to be a world-leading centre for science-based archaeology and the study of Ancient Technology and Crafts. The ideal aim is to build a new, larger Fitch on its current footprint to expand its activities and to provide additional space for the BSA Library/Archive.
- “Sustaining the BSA” - an environmental initiative to improve the energy efficiency of all our buildings in Athens including the refurbishment of the “Saloni” and reception rooms for conferences and lectures in the Upper House.
- Long term funding for staff positions in the Library and Archive.
- Digitisation, new technology and equipment.
- Scholarships, Studentships and Fellowships. The cost of a full-year BSA Studentship is currently around £25,000, while a BSA Post-Doctoral Fellowship currently costs around £40,000 per year.
- The new Harrison-Jebb Memorial Fund: a flexible fund to provide valuable, long-lasting financial support for all aspects of the BSA’s work.

In addition to the projects set out above, other examples of what a donation could fund include:

- £5,000 - Annual maintenance of our grounds as an ‘oasis’ in central Athens
- £10,000 - Annual running costs of the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos
- £20,000 - Environmentally sustainable improvements to our landmark 19th-century buildings
- £25,000 to fund a BSA Studentship at a critical point in the career of a young academic
- £100,000 Investment to ensure the sustainable future of the BSA

Private philanthropy makes a huge difference to the BSA. Your donation will have a profound effect on future generations of scholars and students. As has always been the case, the BSA will recognise transformative generosity through the naming of studentships and other aspects of life at the School. We will be creating Donor Honour Boards at both Athens and Knossos to acknowledge particularly generous supporters.

“*My career as a Greek scholar began at the BSA, almost half a century ago. The School has in various ways been part of my professional life ever since. I went to Athens in the 1970s to work on a doctorate on Greek folk songs – and ended up playing traditional Greek music in a band formed of fellow-students.*

That’s the wonderful thing about the BSA: it provides a hospitable and welcoming environment for all kinds of study of Greece and Greek culture, of all historical periods, including the present day. ”

Prof. Roderick Beaton FBA | Chair of the British School at Athens

Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek & Byzantine History, Language & Literature, King’s College London and recipient of the Medal of the Commander of the Order of Honour of the Hellenic Republic