

Notable Donations and Legacies to the British School at Athens

The BSA has a rich tradition of philanthropic support reaching back nearly 140 years. We hope that the following examples will be a source of inspiration to our supporters and encourage them to make a donation or to leave a legacy.



BSA Annual Report 1886-87_ original cover with engraving by O. Lacour – and the BSA today



1883 – HRH The Prince of Wales, later HM King Edward VII, summons a meeting at Marlborough House in London to discuss the establishment of a British School at Athens. It is attended by Mr Gladstone, the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury and Lord Rosebery. The £4,000 required is raised through donations. His Excellency Joannes Gennadius (1844-1932), the Greek diplomat and book collector, is one of the first donors. Jane Ellen Harrison (1850-1928), the classical scholar and linguist, raises the enormous sum of “£190, 3 shillings” through her public lectures. This is the sixth biggest donation in the subscriptions given, and the largest from a woman.



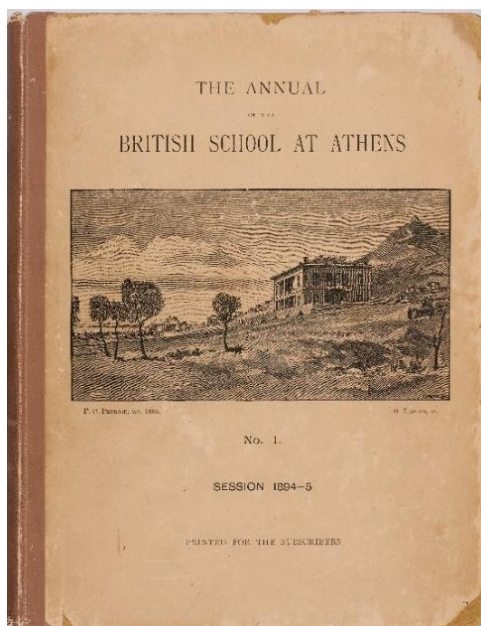
Left: Jane Harrison as Alcestis in 1887. Courtesy of The Principal and Fellows, Newnham College, Cambridge

Right: Joannes Gennadius in Vanity Fair, 1888 – Wikimedia Commons



1884 – The Greek government generously gifts a site on the lower slopes of Lykabettus to the BSA.

1886 – The BSA opens with Francis Penrose (1817-1903) as its first director. His daughter Emily’s diary for 1887 is now in the BSA Archive and gives a vivid picture of life in the BSA in its first year of existence.

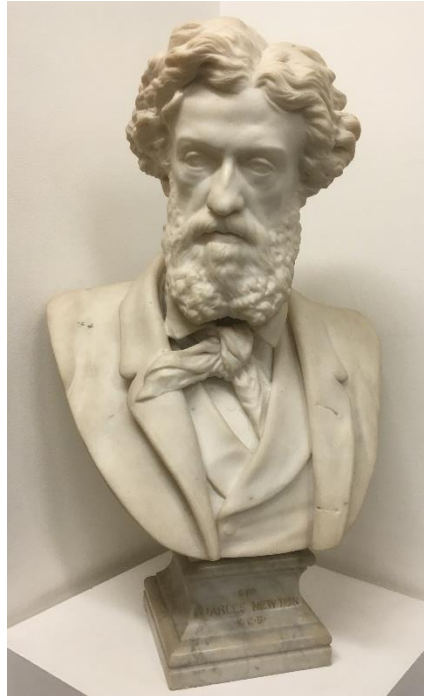


Left: BSA Annual Report 1886-87_ original cover with engraving by O. Lacour

Right: from the BSA Archive, BSAA-7_020_Penrose



1890 – Sir Charles Newton (1816-1894), archaeologist and the first Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum (from 1861 to 1885), was a great advocate for the BSA. On his retirement from the Museum, he requests that the testimonial donated in his honour, some £400, be given to the BSA to support its Library and to fund a studentship.



Bust of Sir Charles Newton, British Museum – photo by Miles Stevenson

1895 – Funds are raised to create a new Residential Hostel at the BSA so that students can have the advantage of “living a common life under one roof”. The foundation stone is laid by the Queen of the Hellenes.

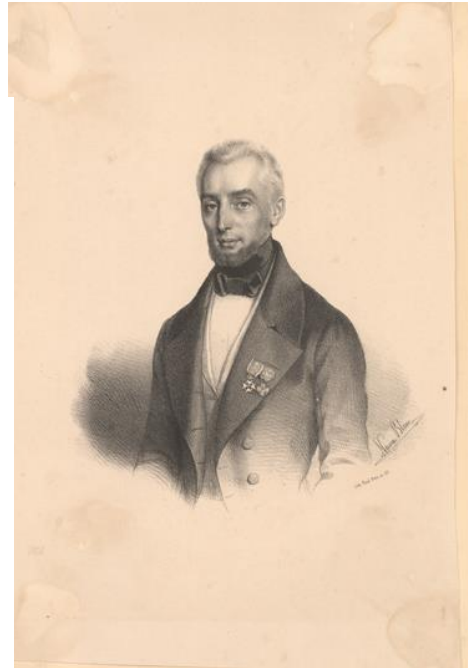


The Penrose Library and Hostel, west front, 1904, by Heaton Comyn

1899 – The magnificent collection of George Finlay (1799-1875), the Scottish historian, Philhellene and participant in the Greek War of Independence, is presented to the BSA by W.H. Cooke, his nephew and executor. 5,000 books together with the original bookcases, Finlay’s personal papers, his collection of maps and pamphlets, and antiquities are donated. The large western common room is named the Finlay Library in his memory with a large dedication plaque over the fireplace.



Left: From the BSA Archives, PMY Collection_B
696_Finlay Inscription



Right: George Finlay, from the BSA Archives

c. 1900 – The BSA’s garden was first laid out “at private cost”. This phrase may conceal the identity of Robert Carr Bosanquet (1871-1935), a student at the BSA for 5 years and then its Director from 1900 to 1906, who had a life-long interest in the BSA garden. The grey marble *exedra* in the gardens was erected from his bequest “to provide something of lasting beauty and dignity in the garden.”



Above: R.C. Bosanquet, from the BSA Archives, BSAA-10_7_Bosanquet



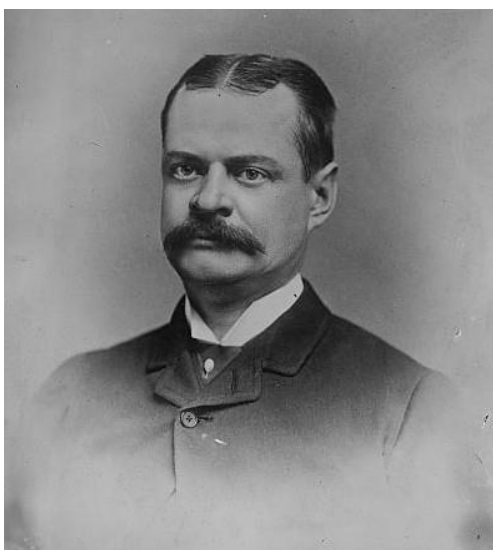
Above: Dawkins, Wace and Bosanquet, from the BSA Archives, BSAA-7_033

1903 – After the death of Francis Penrose in February 1903, funds are raised to build an extension to the north of the Hostel and the Penrose Library is created in his memory. It is opened in April 1904 by Crown Prince Constantine of the Hellenes.



Above: The Penrose Library under construction ca. 1903 - view towards Upper House. From the BSA Archives

1907 – William Waldorf Astor (1848-1919), later 1st Viscount Astor, the American-British businessman and philanthropist, donates £1,000 to support the BSA's Laconian Excavation Fund for excavations at the Sanctuary of Artemis Orthia and Menelaion sites near Sparta.



*Left: William Waldorf Astor in 1914.
Wikimedia Commons*



*Right: Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian.
Wikimedia Commons*

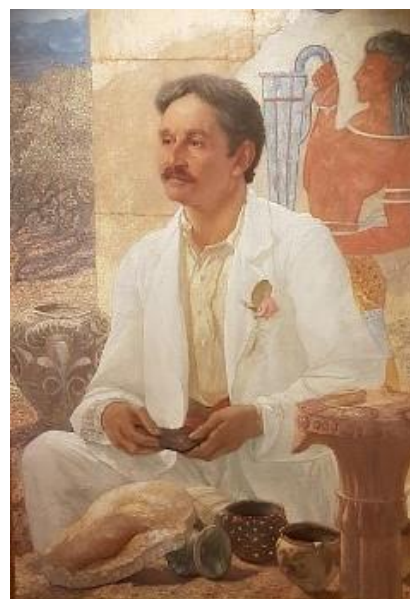
1925 – Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian (1869-1955), the British-Armenian businessman and philanthropist, donates to the BSA excavations at Sparta.

1927 – George Augustin Macmillan (1855-1936) funds an endowment for a BSA studentship. Macmillan was a King's Scholar at Eton and a member of the famous publishing family. He was a founder of the Hellenic Society, London Secretary of the BSA (1886-1898) and Chair of the BSA (1903-33). "In the spring of 1877 I made my first visit to Greece. This memorable journey laid the foundation of my keen interest in Greek archaeology."



Left: George A. Macmillan, from the BSA Archives, BSAA-10_1_Macmillan

Above right: 'Sir Arthur Evans among the Ruins of the Palace of Knossos' by William Richmond, 1907. Wikimedia Commons.



1936 – The BSA celebrates its Golden Jubilee with a major exhibition at Burlington House at the Royal Academy of Arts (also shown in Manchester and Edinburgh). It consists of a special display of Minoan culture related to the discoveries at Knossos by Sir Arthur Evans as well as the excavations by the BSA. A fundraising dinner is held at Princes Galleries and £2,000 is raised in new donations and subscriptions.

1937 – The Seager Bequest is an endowed excavation fund established in 1937 under the will of Richard Berry Seager (1882-1925) after the death of his widow. He was a pioneering American archaeologist who excavated at Vasiliki, Mochlos and Pseira in eastern Crete. Seager was a great friend of Sir Arthur Evans and an admirer of the BSA.

1941 – Sir Arthur Evans, FRS, FBA (1851-1941), the distinguished archaeologist, pioneered the study of Aegean civilisation in the Bronze Age most famously at the Palace of Knossos in Crete. In 1924 by Deed of Gift, he donates the Knossos site to the BSA with an endowment of £6,800 towards the salary of its Curator. In 1928 he pays for the conversion of the Taverna into accommodation for the BSA. In his will of 1938, he leaves an additional sum to be endowed "for further excavation of the site of Knossos."

1943 – Captain John Pendlebury (1904-1941) was a scholar, a soldier and an international athlete. His love of Greece, and especially Crete, was immense and in his will (which his executors finalised in 1943) he left his important library and papers to the BSA.



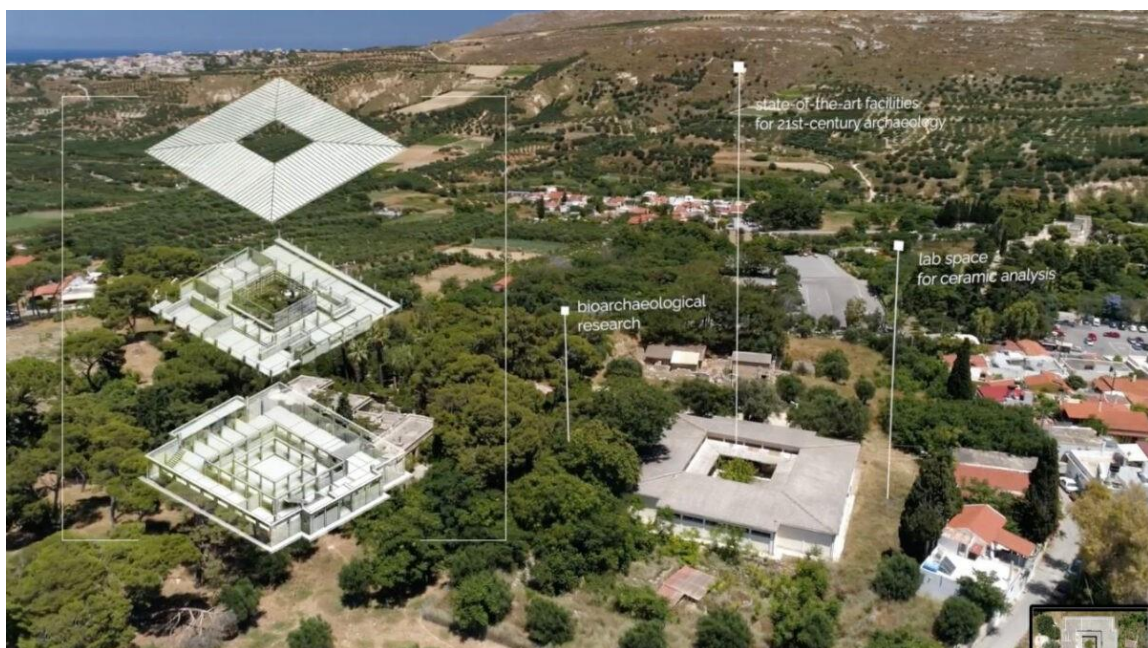
Left: John Pendlebury. From the BSA Archives, PEN_07.02.006.666



Right: John Pendlebury on the steps of the BSA. From the BSA Archives, PEN_07.01.001.248

1948 – William Miller, FBA (1864-1945), the noted historian of Medieval Greece, leaves the BSA £500 to endow a fund for the maintenance of the Garden. He was particularly interested in the Frankish period of Greek History following the Fourth Crusade and was a regular user of the BSA library. He was an active supporter of the BSA, and was elected an Honorary Student in 1926 having left Italy finding Benito Mussolini's rise to power intolerable. He leaves Athens for South Africa in 1941 following the German invasion.

1966 – A purpose-built Stratigraphical Museum is created at Knossos largely through the generosity of the art historian Dame Joan Evans (half-sister of Sir Arthur Evans) and the philanthropist Dr Marc Fitch. They also funded the champagne and raki for the opening ceremony in February 1966.



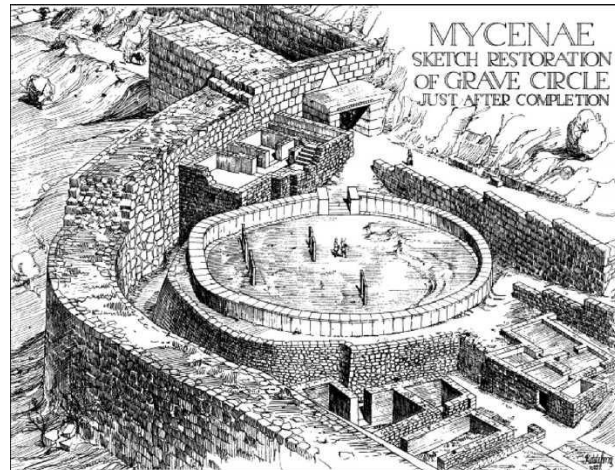
Above: Plans for the Knossos 2025 Project to create a Stratigraphical Museum for the C21st

1969 – A large workroom wing is built onto the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum through a legacy from Piet de Jong (1887-1967), the archaeological illustrator and architect. He was the first person appointed as the official architect to the BSA, was involved in many excavations in Greece in the 1920s and was Curator at Knossos from 1947-1952. He was also a talented caricaturist and he bequeathed 44 caricatures of archaeologists, students and Hellenophiles to Minoan archaeologist and BSA Director Sinclair Hood (1954-1962). These artworks have been held in the archives of the Knossos Trust since 1990.

1974 – Marc and Ismene Fitch donate £10,000 in 1973 to establish a Research Laboratory at the BSA on condition that recurrent running expenses are guaranteed. The British Academy agrees to meet this condition and the facility is named *The Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory* in their honour. It is opened by the British Ambassador, Sir Brooks Richards on 29th November 1974. The Fitches continue to support the BSA and to fund equipment for a new petrological laboratory.

1979 – Dr Charles K. Williams II, Director of the American School's Corinth excavation establishes a Fellowship in Petrology at The Fitch Laboratory. He has continued to make major benefactions to enable the laboratory to update its equipment and expand its research and training activities, including the installation of a WD-XRF instrument in 2009. The laboratory is a world-leading centre for science-based archaeology and was the first to be established in Greece.

1981 - The Rodewald Fund was established in 1981, to support a student at the school, with a donation of over £26,000 by Cosmo Rodewald (1915-2002). Mr Rodewald was born in America where his grandfather had amassed a fortune on the Stock Exchange during the late C19th, and Cosmo later inherited the Rodewald Fund which he used to support many institutions engaged in the Arts. He moved to England where he was awarded a First in Greats at New College, Oxford. He was a student at the BSA in 1938-39 studying the Greek colonies on the Black Sea coasts of Bulgaria and Roumania. He had a long career as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Manchester, where a concert hall is named in his honour in recognition of his generosity.



Above: Artist's reconstruction of Grave Circle A, as it appeared at Mycenae c. 1200 BC. Drawing by Piet de Jong, Annual of the British School at Athens 25: plate XVIII.

1985 – Dr Lilian Hamilton Jeffery, FBA (1915-1986), known as ‘Anne’, was an archaeologist, classical philologist and epigraphist best remembered for her 1961 work *The Local Scripts of Archaic Greece*. She won the Walston Studentship to the BSA in 1937; from 1955 until 1961 she was editor of the BSA’s *Annual*; and was a Visiting Fellow in 1962/3. She leaves half of her residual estate to create an endowment for student support at the BSA.



Above: Dr L.H. Jeffery. From the BSA Archives, BSAA-6_no.22 L.H. Jeffery

1986 – Director Dr Hector Catling presides over the launching of the Centenary Appeal. Its lasting legacy is an endowed Bursary Fund to bring Greek and Cypriot scholars to study in the UK.

1989 – Dr Hector Catling, FSA (1924-2013) and Mrs Elizabeth Catling (1924-2000) establish a Bursary Fund. They also endow a doctoral award, a Library fund and a prize for archaeological draughtsmanship. He held a studentship at the BSA in 1951 and recalled how he was “greeted on arrival in the Finlay Common Room with a glass of ouzo.” Hector was the BSA’s longest serving Director - from 1971 to 1989 - and set up the Friends of the BSA.



Above left: BSA Album-Finlay 2_1980-82_Easter 82-Hector and students



Above right: Hector and Elizabeth Catling. From the BSA Archives

Since then, the Friends of the BSA has gone on to raise almost £500,000 through fundraising events, subscriptions and donations. It has contributed to many BSA projects providing, amongst other things, the air conditioning in the library, numerous grants to the library for books, funding for the archives, the redecoration of the Finlay Common Room, and a donation to the studio in the Upper House.

1995 – Gift in memory of Lord William Taylour (1904- 1989), second son of the 4th Marquess of Headfort. He had a career in banking and interior design in New York, served in North Africa with the 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry in World War 2 and then, at the age of 42, enrolled to study Archaeology at Cambridge. From 1957 to 1969, he was the director of the BSA excavations at Mycenae. He founded the Mediterranean Archaeological Trust, which has helped to fund many excavations throughout Greece. In 1995, the Trust generously donated funds in his memory to the BSA to provide travel bursaries.

1995 – Professor Max Cary (1881–1958) was professor of Ancient Greece at the University of London from 1908-1946. He was the author of *The Geographic Background of Greek and Roman History* and editor of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. The terms of the legacy in his memory were set by his widow, Ann, and were then realised upon the death of their daughter Agnes Mary Cary in 1994. The fund now has a value of over £220,000 and provides support for students at the BSA. The first holder of the Max Cary Studentship was Rebecca Sweetman who became the Director of the BSA in 2022.

1998 – Mrs Vronwy Hankey (née Fisher), FSA (1916-1998). The Vronwy Hankey Memorial Fund for Aegean Studies was established with monies donated in her memory and is used to provide grants for research expenses. She joined the BSA in 1938 and was involved in excavations at Knossos and Mycenae. She continued her interest in archaeology alongside her duties as a diplomat's wife and was the archaeologist "who identified Cyprus as the crucial link between East Mediterranean shipping in the late Bronze Age." Her husband Henry was a talented cartoonist who contributed sketches to several publications, including the front cover of John Chadwick's *The Mycenaean World* (1976 – English edition).



Above left: Vronwy Hankey on the Finlay Balcony, 1939



Above right: Vronwy Hankey (née Fisher), left, with Edith Eccles at the BSA in 1939

2001 – The Richard Bradford Trust endows a fund for Landscape Studies to assist research in the interaction of place and people in Greece and Cyprus in any period. Richard Bradford McConnell, CBE (1903-1986) was a distinguished geologist and he founded the Richard Bradford Trust to explore the relation between scientific investigation and artistic creation.

2006 – The Reverend Edward Bader (1934-2007), of the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, establishes an endowment fund to provide additional funds to support the BSA's archive management. An annual Archive Lecture is held in his name, given by a scholar who spends a week researching in the BSA's rich Archive.



Right: Rev. Bader (far-right). From the BSA Archives.

2007 – Mr Pantelis (Lou) Kollakis funds a Library extension in honour of his mother Anastasia. The Friends of the BSA raise the costs of the fittings through a sponsored walk from the Isthmus to Sparta. In 2010 Mr Kollakis funds the creation of an artist-in-residence studio in the attic of the Director's Residence. It is named in honour of his father, Eleutherios Kollakis.

2012 – The BSA Annual Report of 2012/13 notes that The Richard Bradford McConnell Fund was established in 1969 in honour of his ancestor 'The Rev. Richard Bradford' by Dr R.B. McConnell who described himself as 'a professional geologist with a love for the Arts'. In 2012, the Trust is terminated and the trustees choose the BSA as a recipient with a benefaction of £400,000. The BSA agrees to name one of the School Studentships as the "Richard Bradford McConnell Studentship" in his memory.

2017 – A generous donation in memory of Elizabeth Schofield (1935-2005) enables the restoration of the exterior of the Director's Residence.



2021 – A legacy of £10,000 for the Harrison-Jebb Memorial Fund is received from the estate of Sinclair Hood (1917-2021), the British archaeologist and academic. He was Director of the BSA from 1954-62 and led the excavations at Knossos from 1957 to 1961.



Above left: Sinclair Hood enjoying lunch at Porto Raphti, March 1962. From the BSA Archives, Hood Inventory no. S30.12



Above right: Sinclair Hood (centre front), From the BSA Archives, BSAA-6_77

2023 – A legacy of £20,000 is received from the estate of Dr Chris Williams and is added to the Harrison-Jebb Memorial Fund. Dr Williams was an active supporter of the BSA and a member of the Society for Modern Greek Studies. He had a broad interest in the Classical and modern Greek world, especially its music, and delivered papers on subjects as diverse as “The Music of the Jews of the Ottoman Empire” and “The Tabahaniotika and Cretan Musical Tradition”. In 2003 he published “The Cretan Muslims and the Music of Crete”. He was on the organising Committee of the 2019 BSA Conference “Popular Music in the Greek World”.



Left: Chris Williams demonstrating the intricacies of the Cretan lyra at the conference on Popular Music in the Greek World.