



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

BRITISH
SCHOOL
at
ATHENS

BRITISH SCHOOL *at* ATHENS
AN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH

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From the Director



It is a great pleasure to introduce the new Newsletter format. The now yearly edition allows us to cover all our news for the year including research, fieldwork, events, staff, fellows, students, interns and of course the BSA four-legged friends and we very much hope that you enjoy this bumper edition! Throughout the year, the supporters' e-Bulletin will keep you up to date with the very latest happenings and the BSA's social media pages and website are also packed with news, updates and events. The Annual Open Meeting is available to see on the BSA website and every year the reports of the BSA's Fieldwork projects are published in *Archaeological Reports* and are made available on the BSA website.

From this edition you will see that the Fitch's 50th year anniversary was celebrated in style. We started the academic year by planting an olive tree in the BSA garden in memory of Dr John Hayes (1938–2024), as pictured on the front cover. Throughout the 2024–25 session we also focused on developing our research and impact agenda. Our new research strategy focuses on environmental adaptation and resilience, technology and innovation, identity and society. These foci enable us to accelerate existing BSA strengths throughout the Archive, Fitch Laboratory, Knossos and Staff Research while supporting UK fieldwork and research through our library, permit and funding resources.

Three new projects went into the field and all three have a focus on environment and resilience. The Artemis project aims to reconstruct the palaeoenvironment around the Sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron and the Keros project focuses on the diachronic changes in the prehistoric environment. The new project at Knossos sees a return to a focus on the so-called Roman field, where we are pulling together legacy data with new material to gain a better understanding of everyday life in the Roman colony. The work of these projects is reported in full in *Archaeological Reports* and can be viewed on the BSA website too.

One of our current research themes at the BSA is on early BSA women. Rachel Phillips and I have made presentations of our work in several places including as part of the French School's series of conferences on Women in Archaeology. Rachel's blog on finding women in Archives and her BSA Annual bundle have highlighted the important contributions women have made to archaeology and the Joint BIRI Digital Archive project launched the Women Transcending Boundaries Story Map at the British Academy summer showcase.

The Fitch and its collaborations embody many of our research and impact goals for example with their focus on ancient and modern potters. Working on the theme of mobility and technology, fellows like Sergios Menelaou (Williams Fellow) have been examining Bronze Age potters in the East Aegean, while Petra Tušlová (Marie Curie Fellow) has been working on Roman potters in Thrace and Rosanna Valente (Fitch Bursary holder) worked on Byzantine pottery from Sparta. Vangelio Kiriati and Carlotta Gardner engaged the public on ancient pottery technologies at the Earth, Water, Fire festival at the traditional potting village of Thrapsano, Crete.

We pride ourselves on being at the intersection of STEM and Arts and Humanities and work on the Transforming Access project (AHRC RICHES funding) led by Nathan Meyer (BSA) and Mark Jackson (University of Newcastle) typifies this. The aim of the project is to build a system to make our scientific collections available to all and brings in fellow BIRI like the BSR and BIAA. Through this project the BSA Archive and Fitch have been collaborating closely with a focus on the Peter Ucko research on the traditional potters of Crete. Speaking of Crete, the Knossos Curator has been very busy organising the transfer of all the material from the Stratigraphical Museum into its temporary storage close to the Taverna. In spite of all this work, Kostis has continued to run a busy outreach programme at Knossos.

Our events through 2024–25 focused on poetry (in the Autumn), modern Greek studies (in the Spring) and philosophy in May. You can read all about our wonderful fellows and visitors to the BSA that make the variety of our activities possible.

Rebecca Sweetman

People

Fellows

THEODORA S. F. JIM

University of Nottingham, Visiting Fellow

Ever since I attended its life-changing Undergraduate course and Graduate Epigraphy course, the BSA has been a very special — and somewhat magical — place for me. It was therefore a tremendous privilege to return as Visiting Fellow in 2024–25.

During my stay I worked on a monograph provisionally entitled *Greek and Chinese Polytheism: (Re)thinking through Comparisons*, in which I challenge the ways we are accustomed to think about Greek and Chinese religions, and encourage historians to examine conventional disciplinary divides. I benefitted a great deal from the superb collections of the BSA Library and the extremely knowledgeable Librarians Evi and Evgenia, who went out of their way to help readers in various ways.

As epigraphic material forms the bulk of my research, I seized the opportunity to visit various archaeological sites. While on Rhodes I had the rare opportunity to examine without disturbance inscriptions on the Lindian acropolis and ancient Kamiros, which were shrouded in tranquillity in winter. The archaeological museum of Cos has a fantastic collection of inscriptions vital for reconstructing the religious history of the island. Unfortunately, the site of ancient Thera was temporarily closed. It was probably related to earthquakes: tremors started while I was on Santorini; I returned to the BSA safely but was disappointed not to have seen Artemidorus' rock-cut dedications!



Theodora in Athens

Back in Athens I had the opportunity to try out various aspects of my research in the BSA Upper House seminar in March 2025. I am grateful to the audience for generously sharing their thoughts and expertise. Several graduate students talked to me afterwards about comparative work: I hope this is a sign that the research has encouraged the young!

I owe a great deal to everyone at the BSA, and special thanks are owed to its wonderful staff, who make everyone feel at home. To have spent such a fruitful few months in Athens has made me ponder all the more about 'BSA magic', and I realise it is above all its incredible people that have made this place such a magical one.



SAMUEL GARTLAND

University of Leeds

Sam was our other Visiting Fellow in 2024–25. He completed work on two major publications as well as launching the Epichorios research project at the BSA with a one-day conference in January 2025.

Sam in the BSA grounds

RACHEL PHILLIPS

A.G. Leventis Fellow in Hellenic Studies

I returned to the BSA in January 2025 as the A.G. Leventis Fellow in Hellenic Studies. My postdoctoral project examines the intersection of art, death, and ritual action in early Greece, with a focus on the aesthetic expressions of ritual depositions across the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. I am also working on the publication of my doctoral thesis as a monograph, titled *Curating the Dead: Body and Image in Early Mycenaean Burials*. My research is driven by the conviction that we need to pay more attention to early Greek art — to develop new and critical methods that incorporate diverse forms of evidence within the canon.

In 2025, I continued working with the Mycenaean collection in the Hellenic National Archaeological Museum in Athens and I returned to Palaikastro to continue analysing the pottery from the 2022 excavations at the site.

I also continued working with the BSA archive — blog posts on the research of women archaeologists in the first decades of the BSA are available on the Explore Your Archive and Cambridge Core websites.

I am hugely thankful to the BSA for their support during the first year of the fellowship. It has been a joy to remain part of the BSA community, and I have learnt so much from the students and scholars at the school.



In January 2025, the BSA was delighted to welcome back former School Student, Rachel Phillips, as the new A.G. Leventis Fellow in Hellenic Studies

SERGIOS MENELAOU

Williams Fellow in Ceramic Petrology, Fitch Laboratory

Now in my third year, 2024–25 has been a year full of research, fieldwork, new collaborations, conferences, and publications, reflecting both the richness of the material studied and the strong research environment fostered by the BSA. The year was also marked by the award of a competitive research fellowship, the Early Career Fellowship in Hellenic Studies (2024–25) from Harvard University, which provided valuable support and recognition for my ongoing work.



Sergios conducting fieldwork on Syros

My main research project explores maritime connectivity and pottery circulation in the northeast Aegean during the third millennium BCE. Over the past year, this research has progressed significantly through a series of publications on petrographic and geochemical analyses of pottery and raw materials from Poliochni on Lemnos (*Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, October 2024) and Thermi on Lesbos (*Annual of the British School at Athens* 2025), as well as ongoing studies of material from Troy and Emporio on Chios. Together, these studies provide new insights into how pottery was produced, exchanged, and used during the Early Bronze Age.

In parallel, I carried out petrographic analysis of pottery assemblages from several sites in Cyprus, including Erimi-Laonin tou Porakou, Kissonerga-Mosphilia, and Kissonerga-Skalia, spanning periods from the Chalcolithic to the Late Bronze Age. A further highlight of the year was the award of a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, which supports a collaborative project with Andrew Bevan (UCL) on long-term traditions of storage jars on Chios, from prehistory to the present.

A major part of the year was devoted to fieldwork and material study across a wide geographical range. In the Aegean, this included work in southwest Samos with the Samos Archaeological Survey, the Emporio Hinterland Survey Project on Chios, and the Kampos Survey on northern Syros. Further research took place in Cyprus, in the archaeological museums of Nicosia and Larnaka, and in northern Morocco, where I studied pottery from the excavation at Kach Kouch. Ongoing collaborations also include projects with the German Archaeological Institute and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina. Throughout the year, I presented this research at numerous conferences and workshops.

PETRA TUŠLOVÁ

Charles University, MSCA Fellowship CZ

In February 2025, I began my two-year MSCA Fellowship CZ at the British School at Athens, carrying out an interdisciplinary project *Transfer of Technology: Exploring Pottery Manufacture and Trade in Roman Thrace using the Yurta-Stroyno Case*. While based at the Institute of Classical Archaeology at the Charles University in Prague, I got an incredible opportunity to collaborate with the Director of the Fitch Laboratory and Silvia Amicone, a pottery analysis specialist based at the University of Tübingen, where I also undertook a three-month secondment.

The interdisciplinary approach to my study of local pottery production in Roman Thrace includes archaeometric analysis of pottery and the study of local geology, including petrography and chemical analysis of both the ceramics and geological samples. I also apply X-ray microtomography and analysis of organic residues found in the vessels in collaboration with my colleagues from the Czech Republic, Richard Thér and Veronika Brychová. The ultimate goal is to achieve a deeper understanding of the nature of local production — the technologies used, the natural resources employed, the function of different types of vessels, and their distribution within the observed region.

While undertaking pottery analyses and clay experiments, I have been learning new analytical methods at the Fitch and Tübingen. In parallel, I began to explore the vibrant archaeological scene in Athens, full of engaging talks, workshops, and conferences, while meeting a wide range of fascinating people with diverse research backgrounds and interests. The British School is not only an incredible basecamp for learning and conducting research but also a fantastic hub for networking, exploring Greece's rich archaeological landscape, and immersing myself in the local archaeological environment.

Petra taking photos of ceramic thin-section at the Fitch Laboratory



Students

LAURA NASTASI

Cary Student

I had the wonderful opportunity of joining the BSA community as the Cary Student in January, after completing my PhD and a short Lectureship at the University of Manchester. My research focuses on Greece in the Roman period and lies at the intersection between epigraphy and linguistics. My PhD dissertation focused on inscriptions from Roman-period Corinth to investigate linguistic and cultural interaction between Romans and Greeks in a Roman colonia. The time and facilities at the BSA allowed me to revisit this work with fresh eyes and rethink my thesis as I turn it into a book, while also developing ideas for journal articles and new research projects.

My time at the BSA was my first extended stay in Greece. This made a tremendous difference to my research. I visited Corinth regularly and finally saw in person some inscriptions I had previously studied only through photographs. Beyond Corinth, I saw many remarkable inscriptions in Attica and elsewhere. A particularly memorable trip was a visit to Patras, and the material I studied will form the basis for another article. I also had the pleasure of contributing to two BSA courses, The City of Athens and The Archaeology and Topography of Greece. These were among the most rewarding teaching experiences I've had so far.

Equally important were the people I met at the BSA. Conversations with scholars deepened my understanding of the ancient world and enriched my work in many ways. I attended many inspiring talks at the Upper House and in the Finlay Room, and organised many fun events. I am extremely grateful to have shared this journey with Jan and Eddie; I thank them for the chats, the beach trips, and the many walks up Lykavittos. I will always cherish my time at the BSA, and I hope to return soon.

Laura admiring an inscription in Messene. Photo: Tulsı Parikh



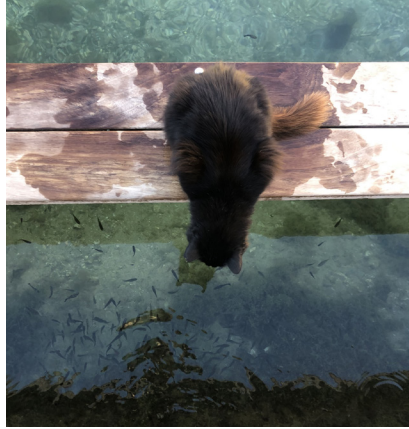


BSA School Students 2024–25, from left to right: Edward Jones (the Macmillan-Rodewald Student), Laura Nastasi (the Cary Student) and Jan Sienkiewicz (the Richard Bradford McConnell Student)

EDWARD JONES

Macmillan-Rodewald Student

I had a wonderful and intellectually rewarding year in Athens as the Macmillan-Rodewald Student. My book project on accountability and accounting in Classical Athens benefitted enormously from detailed study and photography of inscribed accounts held in the Acropolis Museum, the Epigraphic Museum, and the Archaeological Museum of Eleusis. Working closely with this material helped me to refine both the arguments and the structure of the book. During the year, I presented research from the project to an enthusiastic audience at the Upper House Seminar. I also completed a chapter for an edited volume and an article, both of which were published over the summer.



A fisherman waiting patiently, Lake Vouliagmeni

Along with my fellow Students, Jan and Laura, I helped organise informal research seminars, social events, and the much-enjoyed annual carnival party. Daily conversations with resident scholars and visiting fellows were among the most stimulating aspects of the Studentship. I should also single out Henry and Magnus, feline companions who help make the School garden a truly idyllic haven, though not one where it is easy to eat one's lunch in peace.

One of the highlights of the year was teaching on the School's undergraduate courses. Lecturing at archaeological sites to small groups of students, often in intense heat, was challenging but incredibly rewarding. The trips around Attica — to Marathon, Brauron, Thorikos, and Sounion — were particularly fun, and offered students the chance to encounter the diversity of the Attic landscape and its ancient towns and villages.



I managed a brief trip to beautiful Paros in May, occasional swims at Lake Vouliagmeni, and regular climbing of Lykavittos. I am deeply grateful to the Director, staff, Students, and wider community of the School for an exceptional year, and for an experience that has shaped my research and deepened my love of Greece.

Eddie (L) and tortoise (R) on Philopappos Hill



Jan teaching on site at Brauron for the City of Athens course

JAN SIENKIEWICZ

Richard Bradford McConnell Student

My year at the BSA was marked by some of the most rewarding experiences I have had as a researcher, teacher, archaeologist, and traveller.

I visited many sites and museums on the mainland and on the islands, and made unexpected discoveries, one of which is likely to rewrite the history of one of the most important monuments of prehistoric Greece. Sharing my research with others, particularly through the Upper House Seminar, connected me with scholars whose work I had long admired — this was a dream come true (I felt like an aspiring actor suddenly invited to exchange emails or share a coffee with Cate Blanchett). Helping out with the BSA undergraduate courses was another milestone moment, as I got to lead tours of the most iconic sites, including the Acropolis itself, and interact with some of the most brilliant and intellectually curious students I have ever met.

Being a Fellow at the BSA allowed me to accomplish three major goals. First, produce an academic article that exposes how modern politics obscured our understanding of social relations in prehistory — how the present distorted the past (accepted for publication). Second, secure a place on an excavation project, ideally on Crete (I spent July on this beautiful island, digging up a fascinating secluded mountain settlement). Third, run through the hills around the Acropolis at sunrise (it was magical).

Bursary & Award holders

EMILY G. OLDRIDGE

Vronwy Hankey Memorial Fund for Aegean Studies

I am incredibly grateful for the Vronwy Hankey Memorial Fund which allowed me to spend a month at the BSA in September/October 2024. Using library resources and online archival material (from the BSA and the University of Cambridge), visits to Mycenae and museums in Athens, I investigated the use and function of the East Wing at the Palace of Mycenae (an area previously identified as a workshop with little supporting evidence). The library at the BSA was an inspiring place to study with an excellent collection of books which aided my research on Mycenaean palatial spaces.

I would like to thank everyone at the BSA for making it such a welcoming place. At the time, I was also preparing applications for doctoral study, and I was very grateful for the advice I received from many people at the BSA. I look forward to visiting the BSA again soon!



Emily at the Treasury of Atreus, Mycenae

NURAY NISAN KÖKNAR

The Richard Bradford McConnell Fund for Landscape Studies

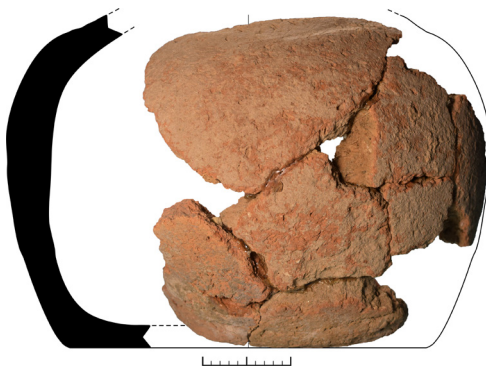
Receiving the Richard Bradford McConnell Fund for Landscape Studies has provided an important opportunity for advancing my research. Chios serves as one of the case studies, focusing on Kato Phana, Pyrgi, Nagos, Volissis, and Anemomylos in my research for the Late Bronze Age communication with Western Anatolian coastal sites. Visiting the sites and the museum helped to improve my data for combining GIS-based environmental analysis with archaeological data. It supported my main aim of the study which is to refine the interpretation of LBA harbour sites and propose a revised model of cultural networks and maritime interaction across the eastern Aegean and Western Anatolia.



IOANNA SIAMIDOU

Elizabeth Catling Memorial Fund for Archaeological Draughtspersonship

I was supported by the Elizabeth Catling Memorial Fund for Archaeological Draughtspersonship to produce publishable drawings of unfired earthenware pots from Neolithic Dispilio and Paliambela-Kolindrou in Greece. Although coil-built, like fired ceramics, unfired pots are fragile and have irregular shapes and walls of varying thickness — and so are challenging to draw. They are important evidence for storage containers (in this case, for dry goods), however, which are absent or scarce among fired ceramics from the earlier Neolithic. Moreover, some of these vessels were repaired and some decorated (e.g., with applied facial features), indicating a longer and more valued use-life than anticipated. A detailed description of these vessels and evaluation of their likely significance, drawing on these archaeological observations and also on oral-historical accounts of their manufacture and use within living memory in Türkiye, is in preparation for publication with Niki Saridakis, Anne French, Özlem Saritas, Paul Halstead, and Kostas Kotsakis.



Ioanna; Middle Neolithic Paliambela-Kolindrou: base of small closed unfired vessel

CENTENARY BURSARIES

Symeon Gkinoudis (the Cyprus Institute) and **Maria Mina** (University of the Aegean) were the recipients of the Centenary Bursary 2024–25. Both spent time in the UK as part of their awards, with Symeon researching at the University of Oxford and Maria researching at British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and Fitzwilliam Museum.

LAUREN COX

School Teacher Fellow

In April 2025, School Teacher Fellow Lauren Cox (Reigate College) spent a week at BSA and around Athens to conduct research to benefit her teaching. Her proposal focused on researching women's role in Greek Religion and delving deeper into the experience and voices of women themselves, an area often under developed in typical teaching resources. From accessing texts such as *The Great Mother* by Erich Neumann in the BSA Library, to visiting Eleusis and putting the research into context, we were delighted to hear that the fellowship has given her a greater confidence to teach this subject and benefitted teaching practice overall.



Lauren at the BSA in April 2025

In Lauren's words, *"more women writing about women is crucial in improving our understanding in this area. This experience has helped me rediscover my value as a professional, and for that I am truly grateful"*.

GARY WATSON

School Teacher Fellow

The School Teacher Fellowship at the BSA in July 2025 was a great opportunity to use the resources and material at the BSA and visit local archaeological sites. I was able to use the historic library facility to put together a scheme of work for secondary school students in the UK. The scheme is designed to introduce classics to secondary school students, from deprived areas, who have had little or no exposure to classics or ancient history. In the UK access to classical education is increasingly limited, but the interest and hunger for it is not. My scheme of work introduces students from deprived areas to the rudiments of the classics: from Roman and Greek thought and history to the beginnings of Latin and Ancient Greek. The idea is that students then have the basis to take classical studies further and can approach opportunities with some knowledge and experience that they would not otherwise have had.



Gary at the Acropolis. *"The Parthenon was one of the many historic sites that provided valuable material and images for the scheme of work."*

RAFAEL LAOUTARI

Fitch Bursary

My three-month bursary at the Fitch Laboratory focused on exploring potters' choices within the prehistoric community of Oued Beht, Morocco. Oued Beht is a newly uncovered, complex farming society in northwest Africa (c. 3400–2900 BC), currently unique west of Nilotic Egypt. The site has been systematically investigated since 2021 by the OBAP project, a British-Italian-Moroccan collaboration in which the Fitch Laboratory is a key partner. Its involvement has included (i) active participation in geological prospection around the site, (ii) selection of archaeological ceramic samples for lab-based analysis, and (iii) the oversight of this three-month bursary. During the bursary, I focused on the preparation of experimental briquettes using geological samples from the site and the petrographic study of all selected archaeological and geological samples. I am deeply grateful to Evangelia Kiriatzis, the Fitch Laboratory team, and the wider BSA community for their invaluable guidance and warm academic support during this research residency.



Rafael working with clay from Oued Beht to make briquettes

ARIADNE MARKETOU

Myrto Georgakopoulou Award

I was honoured to be the first recipient of the Myrto Georgakopoulou Award to support my research on the colourants from the Early Cycladic II settlement of Skarkos (Ios), where evidence of pigment processing and use was brought to light. In collaboration with Andreas Karydas and Marisa Marthari, we conducted micro-XRF analysis of raw pigment lumps, figurines, and tools bearing traces of red colour from Skarkos. Preliminary results demonstrate the use of iron oxides for red, while cinnabar was not identified. Significant variations in the elemental composition of the finds allow for the distinction of different varieties of red earths, indicating the use of various geological sources. Further analysis, including petrographic characterisation and provenance studies through lead isotope analysis, will deepen our understanding of the use and value of colour in the Keros-Syros culture.

LINDA FRANCE

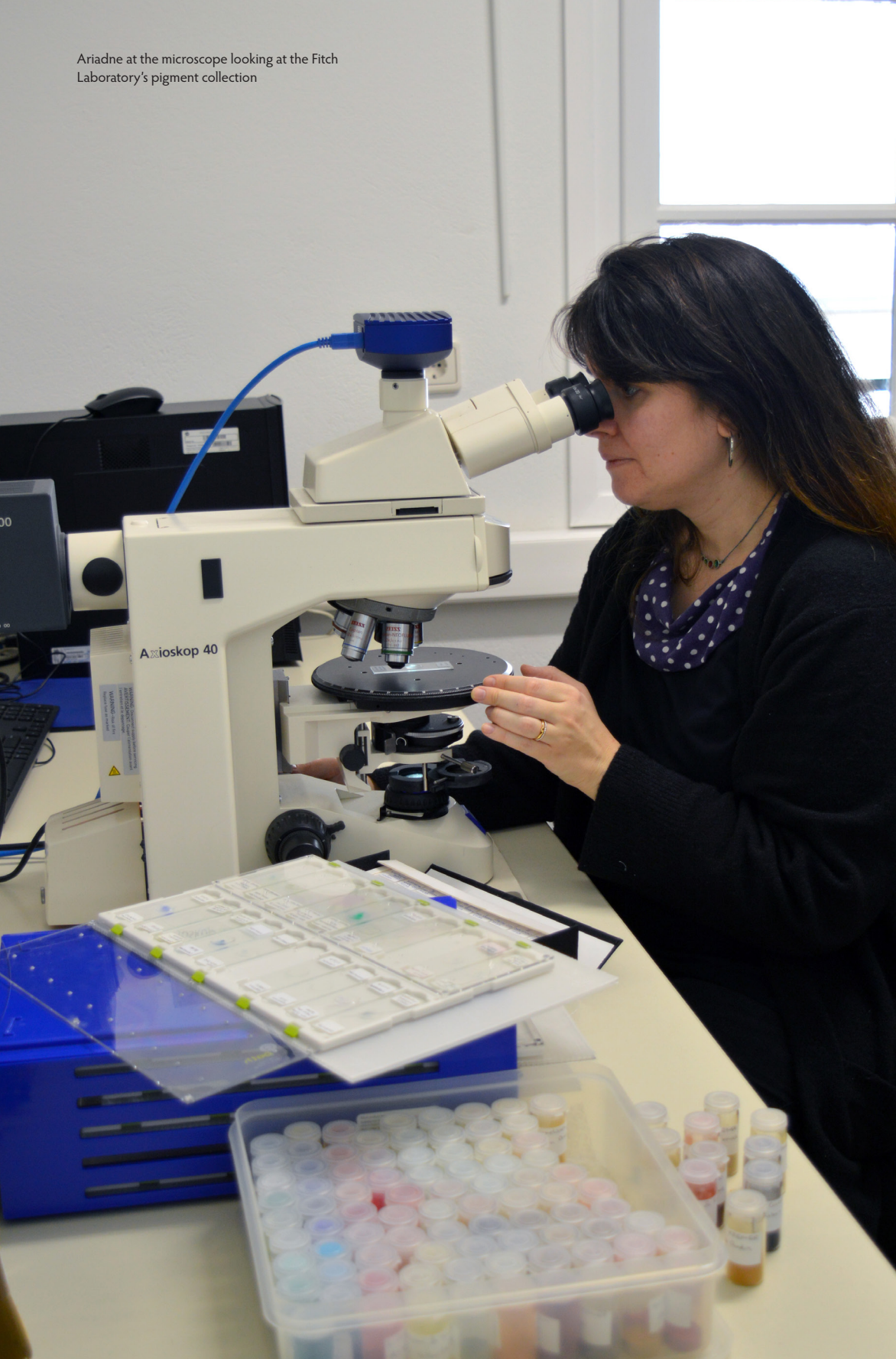
Marks Award Poet in Residence

One of the poems I wrote during my Residency at the BSA in October 2024 will soon be published in *Stand* magazine (University of Leeds). After a wonderful visit to the Parthenon, with Rebecca as my brilliant guide, I spent several hours in the Acropolis Museum and was particularly struck by a carved marble of a bear cub, fur a mass of curls. The information panel suggested it was associated with an initiation ritual for adolescent girls, dedicated to Artemis. I was intrigued: what would it have been like to be among that gathering? Similar questions came up all the time during my stay in Athens. I came home with a notebook full of ideas I know I'll keep referring to. The whole experience was the perfect nourishment for a poet, whose job it is to be interested in everything, a precious opportunity to be refreshed at poetry's Classical source.

Linda at her Poetry Reading at the BSA Upper House in October 2025; Marble sculpture of a bear cub in the Acropolis Museum



Ariadne at the microscope looking at the Fitch Laboratory's pigment collection





Clockwise, from above: Geophysical survey underway for the 'Roman Knossos: Space and Place' project, May 2025; Keros: excavation in Trench 8; the 2025 excavation team at Toumba Serron



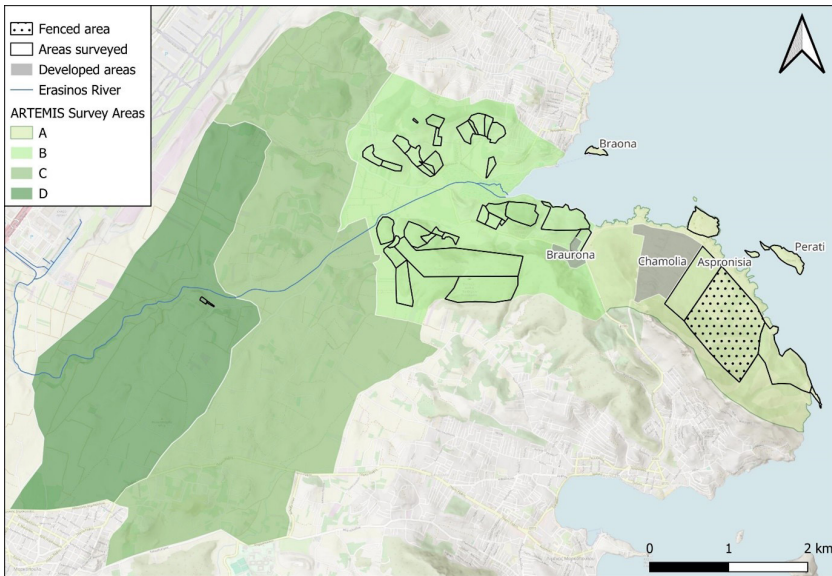
Fieldwork & Research

In Summer 2025, ground breaking BSA fieldwork and surveys took place across Greece. Full reports can be found on our website, and you can read more about the work in *Archaeological Reports*. What follows is a taster of the exciting discoveries and new interpretations brought about by our fieldwork in 2025.

The **Toumba Serron Research Project**, centred on the lakeland environment of the Strymon river valley in northern Greece, is now in its 4th season investigating a Late Neolithic (5300–4500 BCE) settlement. A 20-person team undertook further excavation, finds processing, digital recording (using the University of Lund's AIR system), while activities for the public involved the TETRARCHs project focused on reusing data for storytelling, and an art installation on site. The excavation uncovered a potential oven next to a LN II house, and a LN II clay figurine.



Upper torso of a female figurine from Toumba Serron. Front (L), back (R)

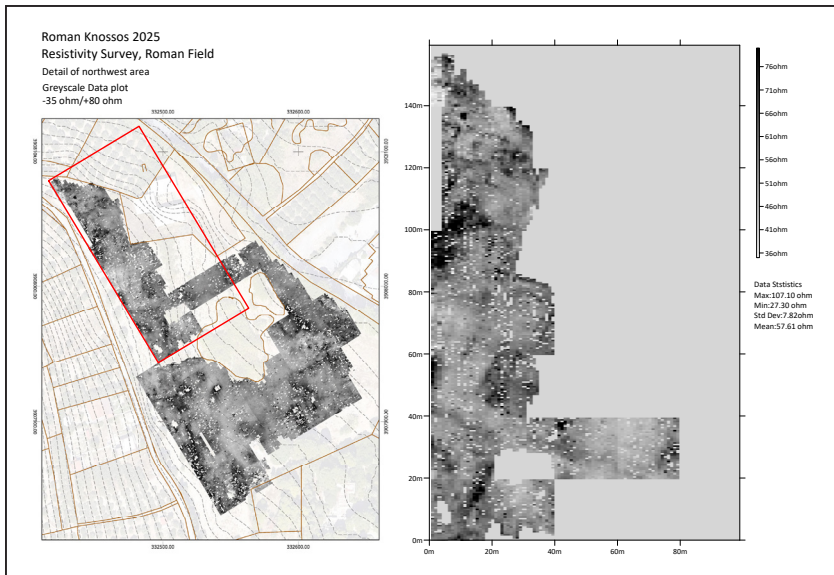


Areas covered by the extensive ARTEMIS survey

The **Attica Regional inTegrated Environmental and Materlal Survey (ARTEMIS)**, a synergasia with the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, is designed to investigate the long-term relationships between people, landscapes, and environments in East Attica, seeking to uncover the stories of ancient Greek rural communities, shifting focus away from Athens toward the countryside. The project uses a novel interdisciplinary methodology combining archaeological survey, palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, and palaeoclimatic analysis to trace the development of the Sanctuary of Artemis Brauronia, and investigate how rural communities adapted to environmental change. This year's fieldwork included survey on the islets of Perati, Aspronisia, and Braona as well as the Attic mainland, as well as sampling for environmental reconstruction.

The British School is very excited to return to one of its flagship sites, Knossos, with the first season of the **Roman Knossos: Space and Place** project, slated to run for the next five years. We began in May 2025 with a geophysical survey of the area to the north of the Minoan palace called the Roman Field. Often overshadowed by the Minoan period, the aim is to bring to light the vibrancy and diversity of the Roman city, which was one of the most important cities in the Aegean during the empire. The geophysical survey carried out this year will be the foundation for excavation over the next four years. Substantial traces of public buildings, streets, and a domestic structure suggest we are close to the centre of the city and will now be investigated through excavation in coming years.

The long-running **Keros Project**, initiated 20 years ago by Colin Renfrew, returned to the field in 2025, now in the form of a synergasia with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. Keros is an uninhabited island in the centre of the Cyclades with remarkable evidence for a third millennium BCE central place (the 'sanctuary'), and precocious indications of urbanisation, social development and craft practice. The project continued the



Northwest area of geophysical survey in the Roman field, Knossos

excavation of enormous terraces and beautifully-built marble structures on the islet (formerly promontory) of Dhaskalio at the west end of Keros. Elsewhere on Keros evidence for habitation of the fourth millennium BCE, and for a building dating approximately to 1750 BCE, and then a grave of around 1400 BCE, have filled out our picture of the long prehistoric habitation of the island.

Visit our website for much more on all of these projects, and other recent fieldwork.

Keros, excavation in progress in Trenches P and R





Conferences

- *Craft and Production in Sparta and Laconia between LH III and the Hellenistic Times*, organised by Florentia Frangopoulou (Hellenic Ministry of Culture) & Nicolette Pavlides (Edinburgh) round table for 20 participants (2–3 September, Athens), BSA Upper House
- *Hephaestus at Work: A Celebration of Myrto Georgakopoulou's Work and Legacy*, organised by Evangelia Kiriati (BSA), Cyprian Broodbank, Thilo Rehren, 19–20 September 2024, BSA Library
- *Half a Century of Archaeological Science in Greece: Past, Present, & Future. Celebrating 50 Years, The Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory for Archaeological Science*, keynote: Shadreck Chirikure (Edward Hall Professor of Archaeological Science, Director of RLAHA, British Academy Global Professor, University of Oxford): "Archaeological science in a postcolonial era", 29 Nov–1 Dec 2024, British Academy

Sinclair Hood Archive Project

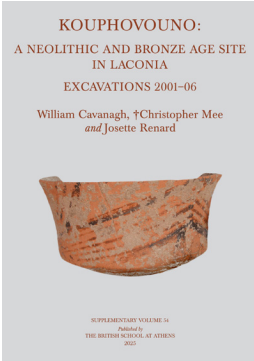
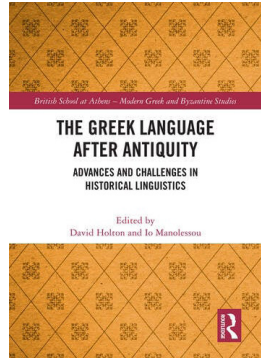
Hannah Gwyther, Sinclair Hood Project Archivist, reports

The Sinclair Hood archive has now been organised into Personal and Excavation Papers, with the former revealing insights into Hood's time as a conscientious objector during WWII, and the latter now integrated into the wider Knossos Excavation Records. Processing these records and linking them to campaigns has uncovered a wealth of drawings, notes, photographs, and catalogue cards — essentially an early paper database — that enrich our understanding of major and lesser-known excavations. A highlight has been supporting Nicoletta Momigliano's project to publish Hood's Royal Road excavations, one of Knossos's most substantial campaigns.

Publications

BSA Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies — Routledge:

- D. Holton and I. Manolassou (eds), *The Greek Language After Antiquity: New Perspectives in Historical Linguistics* (published March 2025: ISBN 9781032427348)



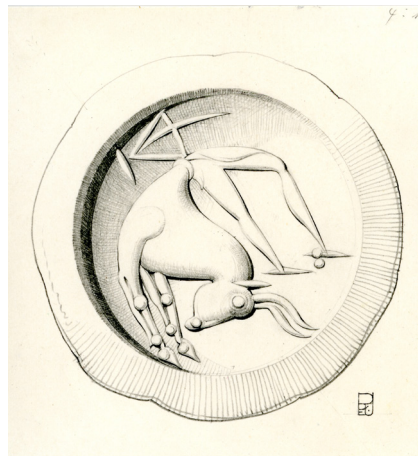
BSA Supplementary Volumes — Script Books:

- W. Cavanagh et al., *Kouphovouno: a Neolithic and Bronze Age Site in Laconia, Excavations 2001-06* (published May 2025, with supplementary material online: ISBN 0904887766)

The Cretan Material Culture Project (CMCP) Archive

Ian Knight, Digital Humanities Assistant, reports

The Cretan Material Culture Project (CMCP) Archive, originally assembled under the direction of Peter Ucko between 1983 and 1985, documents modern Cretan traditional pottery production during a time of cultural transition. The CMCP Archive, donated to the BSA in 2019, includes audio recordings of interviews with potters, pottery workshop site plans, extensive photographic and textual documentation, and other unique content. Cataloguing of the CMCP Archive began in April 2025, in coordination with the RICHeS: Transforming Access Project, with the intention of facilitating access to a rich source of information on an endangered cultural heritage.



Pencil drawing on paper by Piet de Jong from the Hood Archive of a seal stone (sealing), showing a composite figure — half bull, half human — from Bronze Age Knossos. Hood Inventory No. S23.001 (1)
© British School at Athens



Peter Ucko (1938–2007), former
Director of the Institute of
Archaeology, University College
London. (uncatalogued) Cretan
Material Culture Project Archive
©British School at Athens

Teaching & Courses

The British School at Athens offers a range of high-quality, immersive courses in archaeology, history, and classical studies, tailored for postgraduate or undergraduate level, school teachers, and professionals. Our courses combine expert-led teaching with hands-on experience at some of the most important archaeological sites, museums, and research facilities in Greece. Training the next generation of scholars is a key aim of the School, and so our teaching programme for the 2024–25 season has been significantly expanded.

Communicating Archaeology: knowledge exchange, impact and public engagement

The Communicating Archaeology course returned for its second iteration in January 2025. Designed for postgraduate students and professionals, the week-long programme offered hands-on experience in sharing archaeology with diverse audiences.



Participants of the Communicating Archaeology course undertaking a workshop in printmaking in the BSA Museum, January 2025

Participants worked with experts from the British School at Athens and partner institutions, including the Benaki Museum, the Agora Museum, and the Canellopoulos Museum. Through on-site teaching and practical activities, the course highlighted inclusivity and best practice in public engagement.

Directed by Rebecca Sweetman (BSA Director) and Tulsi Parikh (BSA Research Associate), the course welcomed thirteen students. Alongside lectures and workshops, participants met journalists and museum professionals to explore different approaches to communicating archaeology. The week concluded with practical assessments: teaching school students, guiding embassy members at ancient sites, and curating a display in the BSA Museum.


History and Philosophy of the Olympic Games: understanding ancient ideas and communicating modern ideals

In February 2025, we successfully launched our new course exploring the ancient roots of the modern Olympic Games, led by Assistant Director Giorgos Mouratidis. Designed for postgraduate students and professionals — including athletes, coaches, teachers, journalists, tour guides, and sport managers — the programme examined how Olympic history can be communicated effectively to diverse audiences.

The course traced the Games back in time, beginning with Paris 2024 Summer Olympics and Athens 2004 Summer Olympics, moving through the revival of 1896 Summer Olympics, and arriving at their traditional origins at Olympia in 776 BCE.

Organised around shared themes — ceremonies, athletes, contests, and rewards — it explored the origins of the Olympic flame, the athletes' oath, and the concept of peace. Participants compared ancient and modern events and examined how victors were celebrated. Each participant developed a tailored project, ranging from academic research to lesson plans and digital media outputs.

Olympic Games course participants ready to race at the stadium of Nemea



“Being able to fully immerse into the sites via two incredibly knowledgeable tour guides — once in a lifetime opportunity”



Participants of the Numismatics course in the BSA Museum

Greek Numismatics

Clare Rowan (Warwick) and Mairi Gkikaki (Warwick) welcomed fifteen PG students to a two-week numismatics training course in March 2025. This intensive programme introduced the key methods of numismatic investigation and traced the development of Greek coinage from its origins in Asia Minor in the late seventh century BCE to the Hellenistic period. Teaching was delivered by the course directors and leading specialists, including Selene Psoma, Sophia Kremydi, and Panagiotis Tselekas. Participants visited Lavrion, Thorikos, the Numismatic Museum, and the National Archaeological Museum, and handled coins from the BSA collection. Each student researched and presented four assigned coins.

We are deeply grateful to the A.G. Leventis Foundation for its generous support, which enabled wider access to this opportunity.

Numismatics course participants at Thorikos



Democracy and Ancient Athens Workshop for Teachers

In March 2025, we were delighted to launch our first online CPD workshop for schoolteachers. Previously delivered as a four-day lecture series, the programme was redesigned this year to encourage greater discussion and improve accessibility. To strengthen links between academia and professional practice, the workshop also featured contributions from schoolteachers with academic backgrounds. Titled *Democracy and Ancient Athens*, the workshop explored approaches to primary sources and ways of communicating current research to secondary educators in the UK. Speakers included Peter Liddel (Manchester), Polly Low (Durham), Chris De Lisle (Durham), Karen Stears (Devonport High School for Boys, Plymouth), and Athina Mitropoulos (Queen's Gate School). Presentations introduced key themes and fresh case studies, followed by an interactive discussion and audience Q&A.

Archaeology in Schools Workshop for Teachers

March also saw the revised version of the last year's inaugural CPD programme for Greece-based schoolteachers. Titled *Αρχαιολογία και Μέση Εκπαίδευση (Archaeology in School Education)*, and delivered entirely in Greek, the workshop explored challenges, opportunities, and practical approaches to teaching archaeology and ancient history at secondary level. The programme aims to support teachers' professional development and enhance the classroom impact of these subjects. 160 teachers attended the workshop and contributed to the discussion. Presentations were made by Panagiota Koutsiana & Maria Selekou (National Archaeological Museum), Kostas Kasvikis (University of Western Macedonia), Kostis Christakis (BSA), the Theodoros Papakostas (Archaeostoryteller), and Vasilis Evangelidis & Natasa Michaelidou (Athena Research and Innovation Centre in Information Communication and Knowledge Technologies), combining academic expertise with experience in public engagement and education.

The Ancient City of Athens

This one-week residential course in June 2025, gives UK-based UG students an opportunity to explore the physical landscape, the history and archaeology of Athens. Participants engaged with material evidence designed to complement university teaching and to expand their range of knowledge and skills, as well as engage



with important concepts such as multitemporality, anastylosis and archaeopolitics, which they can then bring to bear in the course of their degrees. Teaching was primarily site-based and focused on the application of

School Students teaching on site at the Ancient Agora for the City of Athens Course



Participants of the Archaeology and Topography of Greece:
Summer School at the Ancient Agora in August 2025

archaeology to the study of the history, language, culture, and anthropology of Greece. It is particularly relevant to university courses on Greek Archaeology, History, and Classics, but includes also the study of later period.

Thirteen undergraduate students from 11 different UK universities participated in the course, which was directed by Georgios Mouratidis (BSA Assistant Director), with additional teaching by BSA Studentship holders, Jan Sienkiewicz, Edward Jones and Laura Nastasi.

The Archaeology and Topography of Greece: Summer School

In August–September 2025, we welcomed 30 students from 20 UK universities to our three-week intensive summer school on the archaeology and topography of Greece. Exploring more than 50 locations, participants combined lectures with site and museum visits spanning prehistory to the Byzantine and Early Modern periods.

In Athens and Attica, highlights included a rare visit inside the Parthenon and the temple of Hephaestus. The group then travelled to Delphi, the Osios Loukas Monastery, and Thebes, before a seven-day tour of the Peloponnese, which included visits to Mycenae, Epidaurus, Olympia, Mystras, and Sparta. This year's programme took a truly diachronic approach, from the Bronze Age to Modern Greece, with particular emphasis on archaeology's role in 19th-century state formation and Philhellenism.

The course was directed and taught by Georgios Mouratidis, with additional teaching from Rachel Phillips (BSA), Tulsi Parikh (BSA and CYA), Jan Sienkiewicz (BSA), Edward Jones (BSA) and Laura Nastasi (BSA), Sergios Menelaou (BSA), Niki Papakonstantinou (BSA), and Amalia Kakkis (BSA).

The course was made more accessible thanks to generous funding. Seventeen bursaries, including two full scholarships, were awarded with support from the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the Craven Committee (Oxford), the Classics Faculty (Cambridge), the Gilbert Murray Trust, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and the Classical Association.

Library

The Library had another busy year. Olivia Mc Phee (Edinburgh, Open University) was this year's library/archive intern (March–December). Olivia helped the day-to-day running of the library. Giannis Papantonis, (University of Athens) worked as Atlas intern at the library in September and October. Giannis helped with many tasks, but we are particularly grateful to him for helping us prep the rare books room for maintenance by carefully removing fragile material and for adding old periodical volumes into the library system.

Assistant librarian Evgenia Villioti visited Knossos Research Centre and worked at the library there for four days. There was significant backlog in new acquisitions and the need to review some classification information. Evgenia did a lot of shelving and rearrangement as well.

As a member of the Committee for the Support of Libraries-Synergasia, the library staff participated in organising a conference titled *Artificial Intelligence and Libraries* held at Goethe Institut Athen on 2nd December 2024. Mia Ridge, the British Library's Digital Curator for Western Heritage Collections was invited by the BSA to give a talk on AI and digital scholarship at the British Library.

Evgenia working at the Knossos Library

Mia Ridge talking at the *AI and Libraries* conference



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND LIBRARIES

Machine learning / AI and British Library collections

Dr Mia Ridge, Digital Curator, British Library
@mia@hcommons.social @miaout.bsky.social
<https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/>
Artificial Intelligence in Libraries, Goethe-Institut, Athens
2 December 2024



Eyjólfur Kjalar Emilsson with Katerina Ierodiakonou after the Frede memorial lecture in May 2025

Ian stamping books from Keith Rutter's bequest as he enters the Library Collection, July 2025



The annual Michael Frede Memorial lecture, a collaboration of the BSA with the Department of History of Philosophy of the University of Athens and particularly with Katerina Ierodiakonou was held on 19 May 2025. Eyjólfur Kjalar Emilsson, emeritus professor at University of Oslo gave a lecture titled "Idealist, dualist or something else? Plotinus on the status of the sensible world". The Upper House seminar room was at full capacity.

In July 2025 the BSA library received the personal library of the acclaimed numismatist Keith Rutter, as a generous bequest. This remarkable collection of books and pamphlets, covering Greek, Roman, and Byzantine numismatics, now has a permanent home at the BSA, accompanied by dedicated funding to ensure full and timely shipping processing and cataloguing of these valuable materials. Digital Humanities Assistant Ian Knight is currently working on accessing the collection into the library. The collection both extends and complements the current BSA collection, as it features both the most current as well as historical publications, rarer and more unique items as well as generalist materials.

We are indebted to all our donors who contribute to the enrichment of the collection by offering us their publications or materials from their personal collections. This year we particularly thank professor Samuel Lieu for offering major volume reference works on Libanius. As every year we are thankful to the BSA Friends for their continuous support.

Archive

This year our Archivist, Amalia Kakissis, oversaw the end of the BIRI Digital Coordination and Strategy Project with the BSA as lead then passing the project over to the British School at Rome at the end of March. She also supervised a variety of archive projects, in particular, the ongoing Sinclair Hood Archive Project and the new Cretan Materials Culture Project (CMCP) as well as co-organising a workshop on the BSA 1936 Exhibition with the Ashmolean Museum, and organising the Annual Father Bader Archive Lecture.



Charlotte Townsend presenting the cataloguing of the 1936 Exhibition Collection at the Ashmolean Workshop

The 3rd year of the British Academy funded BIRI Digital Coordination and Strategy Project (DCS), focused on showcasing the value of connections between the different BIRI archives and their potential in both public engagement and academic research. The main outputs of the year included producing two digital stories, "A Connected History of the BIRIs" and "Network of Women Archaeologists", highlighting the added value gained from reading these histories together. The first digital story with the finalised title of "Women transcending boundaries: over a century of scholarship, fieldwork and friendship across the British International Research Institutes" was launched in May 2025 and was also displayed for the British Academy Showcase in June 2025. The digital story for the Connected History of the BIRIs will be launched for the British Academy Showcase in June 2026. Continued support was also given towards skills training for the BIRI team as well as support for conferences and public engagement workshops for the BIRI team members to present the work of the project internationally with some presentations resulting in publications about aspects of the project. We would like to thank both BIRI Lead Project Coordinators, Konstantina Georgiadou and Jessica Holland, who were with the project for the 2 years under BSA leadership, for their excellent work.



Georgia Flouda (Head of Dept. of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Archaeological Museum of Herakleion) gave a presentation on 12th May 2025 for the Annual Bader Archive Lecture about her research into illicit antiquities from Crete, "Adventures in the archives: Reconstructing archaeology in Nazi-occupied Crete".

Georgia Flouda presenting the Bader Archive Lecture in May 2025

The Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory

The academic year 2024–25 was defined by the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory, alongside sustained research activity and strategic consolidation.

Anniversary events began in October 2024 with a London celebration at the British Academy, highlighting research connections between the UK and Greece. Maria Duggan presented her British Academy-funded research on Tintagel and its Mediterranean links; Cyprian Broodbank explored wider Mediterranean connectivity; and Evangelia Kiriati reflected on the Laboratory's history. Introduced by Rebecca Sweetman and chaired by Carl Heron, the event attracted more than 100 attendees, reconnecting long-standing supporters while reaching new audiences.

The central anniversary event followed in Athens (29 November–1 December 2024): the international conference *Half a Century of Archaeological Science in Greece: Past, Present, Future*. Hosted at the BSA Library, the conference brought together 320 people in person and online from 24 countries, with 178 participants presenting either posters or oral contributions.

The opening sessions reflected on the Laboratory's development and the broader history of archaeological science in Greece. The keynote lecture by Shadreck Chirikure called for a critical and inclusive approach to archaeological science, emphasising education, interdisciplinarity, and public engagement. Thematic sessions addressed Landscape and Environment, Mobility and Movement, and Everyday Life, demonstrating how scientific approaches illuminate human–environment interactions, mobility, and daily practices

Participants of the conference *Half a Century of Archaeological Science in Greece: Past, Present, Future*





Past and present members of the Fitch Laboratory team gather to blow out the anniversary candle during the international conference celebrating the Laboratory's 50th anniversary

The Fitch Laboratory participating in the *Earth, Water, Fire* Festival in Thrapsano, Crete, July 2025

across time. A concluding panel discussion reinforced the importance of outreach, policy engagement, and methodological integration.

The conference was generously supported by Aegeas (Grand Sponsor), Publitec Audio Visual, Enzyme, Analytical, Antisel, and communication sponsor *Kathimerini*, which also provided significant media coverage. Additional anniversary publications included features in *Greece Is* and *Ceramic Review*, an *Archaeological Reports* article, and a commemorative ABSA bundle marking fifty years of interdisciplinary research.



Alongside these celebrations, research remained central. Laboratory staff and collaborators presented work at international meetings, including the ARCH-RNT Symposium (Kalamata), the Amarynthos Sanctuary Workshop (Athens), and the Thessaloniki Toumba anniversary conference. Visiting researchers included Rafael Laoutari (Fitch Bursary holder, University of Cambridge), who conducted a three-month ceramic technology study on early farming communities in Morocco. Major collaborative projects continued, including MATEGEE and RICHeS, with Fitch staff contributing significantly to digital integration and research coordination.

The year also honoured the memory of Myrto Georgakopoulou. In addition to the dedicated conference co-organised in September 2024 with colleagues from Cambridge and the Cyprus Institute, the inaugural Myrto Georgakopoulou Research Fellow, Ariadne Kostomitsopoulou Marketou (University of Oslo), began her innovative project on Early Cycladic colour technologies at Skarkos (Ios). A second call for applications has since been announced, while further donations have strengthened the long-term sustainability of the Award.

Publications advanced work on Bronze Age pottery (Palaikastro, Thermi, Toumba Thessaloniki), Roman ceramics from Corinth, experimental ceramic technologies, and bioarchaeological studies. Public engagement continued, notably through participation in the *Earth, Water, Fire* Festival in Thrapsano, Crete.

2024–25 reaffirmed the Fitch Laboratory's central role within the British School at Athens: a hub of interdisciplinary research, international collaboration, and public engagement in archaeological science.

Knossos Research Centre

In 2024–25, the transfer of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum (KSM) collections into 26 containers was successfully completed, in full compliance with all requirements set by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The collection comprises 10,895 wooden boxes containing pottery sherds, fragmentary small vessels, and small finds; 1,629 plastic crates with pottery sherds; 180 plastic crates containing small architectural members and soil samples; 30 plastic baskets with stone tools and small architectural fragments; 419 ceramic vessels (the majority intact); and approximately 450 boxes of bioarchaeological material. All artefacts were meticulously packed by the conservator, Veta Kalivianaki, whose dedication and professionalism were instrumental in ensuring the safe handling and transport of the material. The bioarchaeological collection was stored in specially adapted spaces within the Knossos Research Centre Hostel, as the containers were deemed unsuitable for the preservation of sensitive ecofacts.

Despite the considerable volume of material, the operation was completed with remarkable efficiency and coordination largely due to the skill and unwavering commitment of the Knossos Research Centre handyman, Mr Zacharias Pechinakis, and his team, who worked tirelessly — often under adverse weather conditions — to ensure the project's successful completion.

The entire process is being professionally documented, both for archival purposes and for the production of a documentary film on the history of the Stratigraphical Museum,

Pictures from the event on Minoan marine world





Knossos Research Centre handyman, Mr Zacharias Pechinakis, and his team

tracing its development from its foundation in 1905 to the present day. The film, directed by Manolis Finikianakis, has been made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the British School at Athens in the United Kingdom.

In spite of the changes to the Stratigraphical Museum, a number of UK and international projects and scholars focusing on the study and final publication of significant archaeological material were hosted, while the Library continued to be actively used by students and academics. The Curator organised museum education programmes, gave radio and television interviews on Knossos and the Knossos Research Centre. In collaboration with Heraklion Archaeological Museum, the Region of Crete, the French Institute of Greece, and the non-profit organisation Photoxenia, an event on marine world in Minoan Crete was organised. For the fourth consecutive year, co-organised —together with the Thrapasano Cultural Association and the Centre for the Study of Modern Pottery — G. Psaropoulos Foundation — the event *EARTH WATER FIRE: Celebrating Cretan Pottery from Antiquity to the Present*.

Museum educational programme on books, maps and pottery



Development

All at the BSA, especially the Director, Chair and Development team, are sincerely grateful to all of the generous individuals and institutions who continue to provide the vital support which is so critical to our work. The 2024–25 academic year kicked off with a lecture given by the Governor of the Bank of Greece, Yannis Stournaras, for supporters and special guests in the atmospheric setting of the BSA Library, with the invaluable support of Development Committee member Mahi Georgakopoulou. 2024 was a big year for the BSA with the Fitch Laboratory's 50th Anniversary, including celebratory events and conferences in London and Athens, as reported in our last newsletter.

David McClay joined the team as Head of Development in January 2025 and has really enjoyed getting to know our donors, legacy pledgers, Friends and Circle supporters. A survey in the



Yannis Stournaras in the Penrose Room of the BSA Library ahead of his lecture

Natalie Haynes and Rebecca Sweetman in conversation at the BSA Summer Supporter event at the British Academy





David McClay (centre) began his role as Head of Development in January 2025, pictured here with the Chair and Director; Catriona Gallagher and Flora Michelaki at the Stourmaras event

summer provided a very useful insight into the activities our supporters would like to see more of and has provided a useful steer on future activities.

Supporters gathered in February 2025 for the Director's Circle dinner in London and in June for the annual summer event at the British Academy, where Natalie Haynes (now a BSA Vice-President alongside Victoria Hislop and Sir Adam Ridley) gave fascinating insights into her *life in Greek myth*. The Friends in the UK continued their regular events programme at Senate House in London and online, and the Friends of the BSA Greece hosted events at the Upper House and exhibition tours around Athens.

The Library continues to benefit from the support of longstanding donor Pantelis (Lou) Kollakis. Thanks to his family's generosity, Evi Charitoudi, the Kollakis Librarian, continues to manage and develop these important research collections.

Our Archive has also benefitted from support. A successful American campaign began in Summer 2025 to help fund a position to archive the excavation records of the distinguished archaeologist Hugh Sackett. The generous and rapid response has shown the high regard he, his wife Eleanor and of course his work are held. His distinguished six and a half decade association with the BSA, along with his teaching of classics and Greek archaeology at Groton School in Massachusetts is honoured by this response.

The project to rebuild the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos in Crete continued in 2024–25, and progress is reported above.

Thank you again to all who have supported the BSA in the last and previous years. With ongoing and fresh challenges and opportunities, the Development team are sure that our supporters will continue to play a vital and very much appreciated role.

IT & Digital

2025 was the first of a two-year initiative to transform BSA digital humanities infrastructure. In collaboration with Newcastle University and BIRI partners at the British School at Rome and British Institute at Ankara, and funded by the AHRC RICHeS programme for cultural heritage science, the BSA is building out a modern collections management and open science publishing platform for its digital collections. The platform uses community-standard tools of Omeka S, Cantaloupe Image Server and ArcGIS.

Year one was devoted to developing a CIDOC-CRM compliant base ontology, collection management and web-publishing requirements, and prototyping extensions to the Omeka S platform. In year two we will build the infrastructure and begin loading digital collections. The resulting ontology and custom extensions will be made available as open source.

In addition to BSA-specific customisation, the project is working with Omeka S and DELVING to create two much requested community enhancements to the core Omeka S offerings: Exports and FAIR Omeka. Both of these enhancements aim to unlock the data in the Omeka S database and make it widely available to the open science community via csv exports and OAI PHM services. Both enhancements will be open source and free to the broader Omeka S community.

Nathan Meyer, BSA IT Officer, leading the RICHeS tour of the BSA for the Transforming Access project in May 2025





Interns

Library/Archive Interns

Melissa Bergoffen (University of Athens) who finished her term as Library/Archive Intern in December 2024 assisted with a variety of archive tasks, including listing the Robert C. Bosanquet papers as well as cataloguing the Astakos Excavation Records and restructuring the Sylvia Benton Personal Papers. She went on to a PhD position at the University of Crete in February 2025.

Olivia McPhee (University of Edinburgh) took up this post in March 2025. She inventoried new archive donations and catalogued the Tocra and Smyrna Excavation Records as part of her archive work. Olivia reports:

They say time flies when you're having fun and never have I felt this to be truer than coming to the end of my ten-month Library/Archive internship at the BSA. It felt like only yesterday — rather than last year — I was stressing over visas and preparing to move to the other side of the continent. I arrived in Athens as a recent graduate in classics and now I have an abundance of experience in library and archive work.

When I first began the library work I will admit I had no experience beyond being a reader myself, but in ten months I went through the entire process of seeing a new book arrive to getting it on the shelf for our readers. This includes classifying the book to see where it best fits among our collection, creating labels and index cards, and of course shelving the books. I was even taught some *proper* librarianship by cataloguing the items on our library software system. And this is only a fraction of what I did in the library every day.

Up in the archives, I am proud to say I completed two full projects on my own (well, with a bit of help from Amalia). As a previous archival volunteer, you do tend to get stuck on the same repetitive tasks, so to see through two collections from donation to digitisation and every step in between was an amazing feeling to achieve.

I couldn't write this post without thanking everyone at the BSA for welcoming me with open arms, not only with the work I came here to do but with navigating me through everyday Greek life. I am nervous but excited to see what 2026 brings me and wish the BSA team all the best!



Archive Interns

Sarah Hinks and **Luke Boswell** were at the BSA from 7–17 January 2025 for their 2-week placement in fulfilment of one of their modules in the Masters in Archives and Records Management (MARM) Programme at the University of Liverpool. They worked on the appraisal of the Colin Renfrew Personal Papers.



Sarah Hinks and Luke Boswell, MARM Programme interns, working on the Colin Renfrew Personal Papers

Jorge Torres Hernández did his practicum, as part of the MA in Archives programme at the University of Carlos III, between March and May 2025. He

inventoried the John Ellis Jones Papers, did a first appraisal to separate the collection into Personal Papers and Excavations Records, and then began the archival arrangement of the Agrileza Excavation Records.

Saoirse Keirn (University of Birmingham) undertook the appraisal and first arrangement of the Emborio Excavation Records between April and June 2025.

Maria Theotokatou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) prepared summaries of the documents in the Edward Noel and Alice Noel Series of the Noel Baker Family Papers. The aim of this short-term project was to harvest information from the correspondence related to George Finlay and his era as well as the role of women of the time.

Jorge Torres Hernández at work on the John Ellis Jones Papers; Saoirse Keirn working on the Emborio Excavation Records



Events

OCTOBER 2024–SEPTEMBER 2025

Upper House Seminars

- Dr Sergios Menelaou (BSA) "From ceramic landscapes to mobility dynamics in the Late Chalcolithic–Early Bronze Age northeast Aegean" (18 Nov, Athens)
- Professor Dimitris Plantzos (University of Athens) "Greeks, Macedonians, Thracians, and a few others: inventing the ancestors in southeastern Europe" (2 Dec, Athens)
- Dr Edward Jones (BSA Macmillan-Rodewald Student) "The function and significance of inscribed accounts in Classical Athens" (16 Dec, Athens)
- Jan Sienkiewicz (BSA Richard Bradford-McConnell Student) "Islands between palaces: the 'Mycenaean' civilisation reconsidered" (27 Jan, Athens)
- Dr Marina Sakali, Lady Marks in conversation with Bruce Clark "The uses of oppression: the Ottoman Empire through its Greek newspapers, 1830–1862" (17 March 2025, Athens)
- Dr Artemis Papatheodorou (The Metropolitan Museum of Art) "The Ottoman laws on antiquities in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" (26 March 2025, Athens)
- Laura Nastasi (BSA Cary Student) "Language set in stone: Graeco-Latin bilingualism and writing culture in Roman Corinth" (7 April 2025, Athens)
- Dr Roderick Bailey (University of Oxford) "Anglo-American attitudes to the protection of Jewish cultural heritage in Thessaloniki, 1943–46" (28 April 2025, Athens)
- Dr Alessandra Ricci (Koç University) "How did it begin?: The institutionalization of Byzantine studies in Turkey and Sir Steven Runciman" (5 May 2025, Athens)

Annual Open Lectures

- Professor Rebecca Sweetman (BSA Director) "The work of the BSA in 2024" (Thessaloniki 11 Feb, Athens 13 Feb, London 18 Feb 2025)
- Professor Carl Knappett (University of Toronto) "The coastal world of Minoan Palaikastro" (Thessaloniki 11 Feb, Athens 13 Feb 2025)
- A. E. Stallings (Oxford Professor of Poetry) "The moving van of metaphor: an

Anglophone poet & classicist in Greece" (18 Feb 2025, London)

Visiting Fellow events

- Dr Samuel Gartland (University of Leeds) "Epichorios research day: epichoric traits of Ancient Greek history and culture" closed event for invited participants (13 Jan, Athens)
- Dr Theodora Jim (BSA Visiting Fellow/University of Nottingham) "Thinking through Greek and Chinese gods from a comparative perspective" (10 March 2025, Athens)

Library / Archive Lectures

- Dr Georgia Flouda (Archaeological Museum of Heraklion) "Adventures in the archives: reconstructing archaeology in Nazi-occupied Crete" Archive Lecture (12 May 2025, Athens)
- Professor Eyjólfur Kjalar Emilsson (University of Oslo) "Idealist, dualist or something else? Plotinus on the status of the sensible world" Frede lecture (19 May 2025, Athens)

BSA/ICS/NHRF Autumn Lecture

- Professor Judith Barringer (University of Edinburgh), "Seeking the divine in a faraway place: Western Greeks and sanctuaries abroad" (4 Nov, NHRF Athens)

BSA/Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Autumn Lecture

- Professor Peter Sarris (Cambridge) "Writing the reign of Justinian" (13 Nov, KCL London)

BSA/KCL Centre for Hellenic Studies Panel

- Chair: Professor Sir Roderick Beaton, Panel: Dr Dionysis Kapsalis, Professor Nasos Vayenas, Professor Athina Vogiatzoglou, A. E. Stallings and Professor David Ricks, "Poetry between languages: writing and translating poetry in English and Greek" (20 Jan, Athens)

BSA/Anglo Hellenic League event

- Professor Islam Issa (Birmingham City University) "The Alexandrian dream" (9 Dec, Athens)

Fitch Weiner Seminar

- Dr Nathalie Bries (Sorbonne University) "A new research approach for the study, conservation and dissemination of archaeological textiles and silhouettes" (21 Jan, Weiner Lab Athens)
- Andreas Karydas "X-ray vision for the past: exploring antiquities and artworks through MA-XRF omaging" (26 Feb 2025, Athens)
- Dr Edyta Marzec (BSA; PCMA, University of Warsaw; NCSR Demokritos) "Pottery from the Cyclades: an interdisciplinary approach" (30 April 2025, Athens)

Development events

- Yannis Stournaras (Governor of the Bank of Greece) "The Greek economy, past, present, future" (3 Oct, Athens)
- Director's Circle dinner (18 Feb, London)
- Annual Athens Garden Party (5 June 2025, Athens)
- Annual London Supporter Event "For the love of gods: my life in Greek myth" Natalie Haynes in conversation with Rebecca Sweetman (24 June 2025, London)

Outreach event

- British Academy Summer Showcase — Women Transcending Boundaries (20–21 June 2025, London)

Fitch at 50 event

- Dr Maria Duggan (Newcastle), Professor Cyprian Broodbank (Cambridge), Dr Evangelia Kiriati (BSA), Dr Carl Heron (British Museum) "Timeless connections: linking Britain and Greece through archaeological science" Fitch Anniversary event (24 Oct, London)

Poetry Reading

- Linda France (Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets — Environmental Poet of the Year 2022–23), "Poetry reading by Linda France" (14 Oct 2024, Athens)

UK Friends' Lectures

- Dr Gordon Davies (Cambridge Museum of Technology) "Filming archaeology in Hellas: technopolis city of Athens (and beyond)" (3 Dec, online)
- Dr Pamela Armstrong (University of Oxford) "The two castles of Torone" (21 Jan, London)
- Professor Paul Halstead (University of Sheffield) "The importance of olive growing and oil exports in Archaic–Classical Athens:

the contribution of 'citizen science'" (18 March 2025)

- Professor Elias Kolovos (NHRF) "How the Ottoman traveller Evliya Çelebi set foot on the Mani Peninsula, but left in a hurry... Ottoman imperial administration in the Greek lands and its limits" (April 2025, online)
- Dr Maria Mina (University of the Aegean) "Sacred caves outside Crete: Daskalio Cave on Kalymnos and its connections to Minoan ritual practices" (27 May 2025, online)
- Professor David Gill, "The importance of olive growing and oil exports in Archaic-Classical Athens: the contribution of 'citizen science'" (16 September 2025, online only)

Greek Friends' events

- Ginger Zaimis (writer and translator) "Poets, patriots & philhellènes: through the eyes of Greece" (25 Nov, Athens)
- Dr Nikos Daskolothanassis (Athens School of Fine Art) "The first educational art institution in Greece: the history of the Athens School of Fine Arts" (15 Jan, Athens)

Knossos events

- *Earth Water Fire*, Thrapsano cultural festival, Crete (3–6 July 2025, Crete)

Other events

- R. L. N. Barber *et al.* "Phylakopi, Melos, 1896–99. The finds in the National Archaeological Museum, Athens, BSA Suppl. Volume 53" (1 April 2025, National Archaeological Museum, Athens)
- "Everyday life under dictatorship in southern Europe: intimacy, sociality, and loneliness" Speakers: Professor Kate Ferris (University of St Andrews), Dr Huw Halstead (University of Edinburgh), and Dr Yannick Lengkeek (University of Birmingham); Respondent: Dr Daniel Knight (University of St Andrews) Chaired by: Dr Michalis Sotiropoulos (University of Edinburgh) (4 April 2025, Edinburgh)
- "The role of the Diaspora in Greek American relations, 1974–2024" Chaired by: Professor Eirini Karamouzi (American College of Greece/University of Sheffield) and Dr Lamprini Rori (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Discussants: Professor Alexander Kitroeff (Haverford College) & Professor Constantinos Arvanitopoulos (Panteion University/ Director General of the "Konstantinos G. Karamanlis" Foundation) (26 May 2025, Athens)

Then & Now!



January 1957: Panthi and Maurice Pope on the BSA's Finlay Balcony (BSA Archive BSAA-6_95);
February 2026: Henry and Evgenia Villioti on the BSA's Finlay Balcony

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