



The British Institute of Persian Studies

Annual Review 2023



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.

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About the British Institute of Persian Studies

The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) continues to be the UK's foremost learned society dedicated to increasing public knowledge and supporting scholarship on Iran and the wider Persianate world, including South and Central Asia. The Persianate world includes territories historically associated with Persian and Iranian culture and language, these areas are, but not limited to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral and South Asia. BIPS is invested in supporting a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and subjects include Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics, Cultural Studies, History, Language, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies and Sociology.

BIPS is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee, with a self-governing membership organisation, whose members are elected on a three-yearly basis to serve on BIPS Governing Council as trustees of the charity and directors of the company. Most Governing Council members are academics in the field of Persianate studies, but some offer expertise in other areas, as do our co-opted members.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI) – a group of research institutes with overseas centres in Europe, Southwest Asia, North and East Africa. The BIRI are financially supported by and headquartered in the British Academy.

BIPS was founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963; however the Institute in Tehran remains closed to the public. In the UK, BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of the field, by campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. BIPS's activities include the biannual awarding of research and travel grants and an extensive programme of workshops, events, lectures, as well as recitals in the UK. BIPS has published its journal, *IRAN*, every year since 1963. It also publishes the *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series* in conjunction with Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris and the *Archaeological Monograph Series* with Oxbow Books.

BIPS has approximately 270 members from around the world. Our membership year runs January to December, but we welcome new member applications at any time. Member benefits include receipt of our journal, *IRAN*, twice yearly and

discounts on other publications and exclusive access to events, (both BIPS and other institutions). BIPS publishes its Annual Review in the Autumn of each year. This is the 2023 Annual Review (covering the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). It is sent to all the Institute's members in hard copy and is available to download from the BIPS website.

Governing Council and Office Holders at 31 March 2023

Professor Charles Melville (President)
Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis (Vice President)

Dr Lindsay Allen
Dr Roham Alvandi
Dr Arezou Azad
Mr John Drake (Co-opted)
Ms Narguess Farzad (Honorary Secretary)
Mr Hossein Hamedani (Honorary Treasurer)
Dr Richard McClary (Research Director, until March 2023)
Dr Shabnam Holliday (Research Director, from March 2023)
Professor Andrew J. Newman (Outreach and Development Director)
Professor Andrew Peacock (Editor, BIPS Persian Studies Series, until November 2022)
Dr Cameron Petrie (Co-editor, IRAN and BIPS Archaeological Monograph Series)
Dr Florian Schwartz (Co-opted)
Dr Sarah Stewart

Professor Ali Ansari (Honorary Vice President)
Professor Robert Hillenbrand (Honorary Vice President)
Professor Paul Luft (Honorary Vice President)

Staff

London

Ms Imogen Edwards (Executive Officer)
Ms Silvia Ferreri (Outreach and Digitisation Co-ordinator)

Tehran

Ms Sima Mohannak (Acting Manager)

British Institute of Persian Studies

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View of the Shah Nimatollah Wali shrine, Mahan. From the Bruce Wannell Archive.

Letter from the President, Professor Charles Melville



The year under review, to the end of March 2023, is a bit of a blur. This could be because of the advancing senility of the current president as he nears the end of his term in office, or it could be due to the non-stop pace of activities and developments that reduce down to a sort of Futurist, slightly out of focus moving scene of hurtling sports cars or pounding machinery. Whatever the cause, the effort to freeze this panorama into discrete episodes does lead to a few highlights and also lowlights coming into focus. Let's ignore the lowlights, into which we could also merge the 'business as usual' aspects of our task, the regular holding of meetings of Council, the Management Committee, the Research Committee and Outreach Committee, all of which have been faced with a

seemingly steady rise in business requiring attention and decisions and occupy much time and energy of our Trustees. It has been difficult to fulfil the aspiration that Trustees should not serve on more than one committee, but we are looking to increase the number of Trustees in the next round of elections at the AGM in November 2023 and get back to full strength.

One initiative to overcome 'meeting fatigue', especially on zoom, was to hold an Awayday for all members of Council; this took place in Oxford in February 2023 and was a pleasant chance to meet and discuss matters of immediate concern, as well as volunteer visions of where BIPS should be in five years' time – punctuated by an agreeable lunch. This underlined the value of meeting in person and bouncing ideas around, and I hope will be a regular practice in future.

Of the pressing concerns, one is to review and update our policies and strategic documentation to ensure that we remain in conformity with our legal obligations as a charity and in accordance with company law. This work continues and benefits from the cogent advice of John Drake, a co-opted member of Council, and the rich experience of our Honorary Treasurer, Hossein Hamedani.

The highlights reflect the exciting and productive directions in which BIPS's research funding is taking us. First, the inauguration of the 'Flagship' projects – substantial multi-year funding for research that fulfils our own objectives and priorities:

currently with a focus on the regions beyond Iran's current borders that contributed to the enrichment of Persian culture. Both successful applications meet these criteria admirably. Katie Campbell's project on the *Agricultural sustainability of the Otrar Oasis* in Kazakhstan, from the 8th to the 18th century, and Andrew Peacock's on *Persian manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the circulation of the Persianate literary heritage*, both engage with broad areas of study concerning Central Asia and India and will involve rich programmes of conferences and publications, which we hope will attract further funding. BIPS can thank Richard McClary for his energy and vision in pushing through these initiatives. We naturally remain ready to support smaller grant applications in the usual way.

Secondly, given the importance of pursuing BIPS's programme of digitising its archives along with the Academy's other Research Institutes (the BIRIs) and with a view to participating in shared website platforms, we have received a generous grant from the British Academy to establish a Fellowship named after David Stronach, to carry out research on David's archives and prioritise work on unpublished materials for digitisation and publication. We are lucky to have been able to appoint Dr Gareth Brereton to carry out this work, liaising with Dr Ali Mousavi at the Pourdavoud Center, UCLA, where the archive is stored currently. The Fellowship is hosted at York University with thanks to Richard McClary for facilitating this arrangement. This is envisaged as a long-term project that will require further substantial funding being raised beyond the initial two-year grant from the BA.

BIPS's stated aims to widen our networks to include research in Indian contexts continued with a conference in Kolkata on 1–2 March 2023, on the topic of the *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*. This was organised by Andrew Peacock on behalf of BIPS, which supported the attendance of speakers from Iran and the UK, together with Mahmood Alam of the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss further collaborations with the IIPS.

There are many other ongoing activities, such as the collaborative Parthian coin project led by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis for the British Museum and BIPS, and the subject of her AGM lecture in November 2022, as well as ideas for the future, of which BIPS can be proud. As reported in this Review, the Outreach programme is reaching large audiences and continues to investigate new possibilities under Andrew Newman's fertile chairmanship.

We believe that the direction in which we are heading has the approval of the

British Academy, with their encouragement to diversify and, to some extent, re-invent ourselves in the changing intellectual, financial and legal frameworks in which we operate, always putting the pursuit of research excellence at the heart of our efforts.

It is a matter of great regret to everyone at BIPS that direct dealings with Iran and opportunities for safe and productive travel there have been so hampered by the continuing deterioration of Anglo-Iranian relations during the year under review. Nevertheless, we maintain regular contact with Tehran, thanks to our Vice-President Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, and we were delighted to welcome Daneh Kordmahini in London shortly before Christmas; it was a pleasure to meet her and recognise that the Institute is indeed fortunate to be maintained in the safe hands of her and her mother, Sima Mohannak, for whose prudent guidance on our behalf we are extremely grateful.

Richard McClary and Andrew Peacock stood down at the end of the year and I would like to acknowledge their work on BIPS's behalf while on Council and beyond. I am grateful to Dr Shabnam Holliday for taking on the chairmanship of the Research Committee. Imogen Edwards eased into her first year as Executive Officer in trying times, and we owe a great debt to Silvia Ferreri (Outreach and Digitisation Co-ordinator) and Hossein Hamedani for their dedicated response to the endless and often outrageous demands put on their time. Thanks to our Honorary Secretary Narguess Farzad and all Trustees for their continuing support and commitment.

I would like to end with the observation that there is a lot happening at BIPS, a lot that needs to happen, and a conducive environment for those with fire in their bellies for Persian and Iranian studies in the UK and a willingness to promote them at all levels of engagement, from schools' programmes to research at the highest academic level. There are many obstacles to success, of which inadequate funding is only one; we are open to all offers of support and commitment to help fulfil BIPS's ambitious but necessary aspirations to play the leading role in furthering the study of this magnificent but increasingly neglected civilisation.

Professor Charles Melville
August 2023



Research

Umbrella programmes

The Research programme at BIPS is managed by the Research Committee chaired by **Shabnam Holliday**, Associate Professor in International Relations, University of Plymouth. Dr Holliday replaced Dr Richard Piran McClary as Research Director in March 2023. BIPS thanks Dr McClary for his work as Research Director.

At the end of the financial year 2022-2023, the three Umbrella Programmes focussing on the study of the Ancient, Medieval and Modern Persianate world came to an end. BIPS is grateful to the Programme Directors, **Lloyd Llewellyn Jones**, Professor in Ancient History at the University of Cardiff, **Andrew Peacock**, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History at the University of St Andrews, and **Shabnam Holliday**, for their work over the years and for ensuring the success of the Programmes.

Objects of Empire: Imperial Elites and Material Cultures of Ancient Iran



will be credited. The creation of the costumes and the research undertaken will be

published in a British Museum press edited volume (forthcoming). A private viewing of the British Museum exhibition, led by its curator Dr James Fraser, for members of BIPS is planned in July 2023.

Finally, arising from the exhibition, and with an underspend contribution from the Outreach Committee, we have prepared four 10-minute videos on Persian and Greek objects from the exhibition aimed at A-level students and undergraduates. The BIPS logo is used. Links to these open-access videos will be placed on the BIPS website.

Thanks to all BIPS colleagues who have worked alongside me over the last five years I have spent on the Research Committee. I look forward to working alongside the Outreach team.

Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones

Persianisation and Persianate Cosmopolises in the Medieval World

The theme of the Medieval Research Programme is Persianisation and Persian Cosmopolises, examining the role of Persianate culture across Eurasia. In October 2022 the programme organised a major international conference at St Andrews on the theme of *Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World*, bringing together researchers from the UK, Iran, US and Europe to look at this important but neglected subject. Chronologically papers ranged from Sasanian engagement in the Gulf and Indian Ocean to Reza Shah's exile to Mauritius, and brought together studies from archaeology, literature, linguistics and history. Geographically papers ranged from studies of the controversy of the medieval Shirazi migration to East Africa to the Iranian role in the Islamisation of the Maldives, to the influence of Persian literature on the intellectual history of Southeast Asia. Other papers examined newly discovered Persian manuscripts bringing to light fresh evidence for Persian engagement in the Indian Ocean. The rich range of themes represented will form the basis for a publication that builds on the work presented at the conference.

Professor Andrew Peacock

Iran and the International in the Modern Period

The Iran and Sovereignty Project, the final part of the Modern Research Project, 'Iran and the International' was launched. This is a collaborative interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary project, led by Dr Shabnam Holliday, that brings together scholars from the UK, the EU, and the USA in the fields of Archaeology, Cultural Studies, Ancient, Medieval and Modern history, Politics, and International Relations.

It explores the complexity of sovereignty in Iran and highlights the importance of 'Area Studies' to address Eurocentrism in the humanities and social sciences. The first part of the project was an online workshop held on 10 and 11 January 2023. The second workshop will be held at the University of Plymouth on 6 and 7 July 2023.

Dr Shabnam Holliday

Research, Research Assistant and Travel Grants Programme

About the BIPS Grant Programme

BIPS supports UK-based post-doctoral researchers and UK-based students to carry out humanities and social science research into Iran and the Persianate world, and invites grant applications three times a year, usually in January, April, and October.

BIPS has traditionally supported a broad range of research projects and funded travel for research and conference attendance. This year we have added a new category of grants, the Research Assistant Grants, which have proven to be very popular and opened up a new avenue for funding research.

The Research Grants and Research Assistant Grants, generally up to a maximum of £5,000, can be awarded to applicants who have completed a PhD and hold a research-active position at a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI). HEIs are usually universities but may also be museums or similar organisations. Research Grants are given for a range of purposes, including fieldwork, archival research and the organisation of conferences, with academic publications as the primary

output.

The Research Assistant Grants are designed to allow academics to hire assistants to help develop a research project, allow for the research of an established academic to be supported, with an income to be provided to an early-career scholar or postgraduate student who will conduct the majority of the research.

To qualify for a Travel Grant, applicants must be currently enrolled as a student (undergraduate or postgraduate, including doctoral candidates) at a UK HEI. The awards are limited to £1,200 and are normally awarded to assist with the costs of travel to the Persianate world, in its widest sense, but we may make awards for travel to conferences or to other regions if a strong rationale is made in the application. All grant applications are assessed by the BIPS Research Committee, and their recommendations are then reviewed and ratified by BIPS Council.

At the time of taking their grant, successful applicants must be members of BIPS. Award holders must provide a financial report, for internal use, and a short narrative report that will be uploaded to the BIPS website.

For more information on our current grant rounds see the BIPS website.

In addition to the Research Grants, Research Assistant Grants and Travel Grants, BIPS also administers the Iran Society PhD Bursary of £5,000. This is for students entering their final year of a PhD programme at a UK university.

2022-2023 BIPS Grant Awards

During the financial year 2022-2023 BIPS has awarded a total of twenty-two grants, which have supported important research projects. These cover a broad chronological span and a variety of disciplines, and the Research Assistant Grants continue to prove very successful, with five awarded.

The third, and final, Iran Society Bursary was divided between Sean Strong (Cardiff

University) and Friederike Jürcke (University of Cambridge).

In the financial year 2022-2023 the following grants were awarded:

Type of Award	Awardee	UK HEI	Topic	Value
Research	Robert Gleave	University of Exeter	Conducting field research in India for the project <i>India-Iran-Iraq: Akhbārī and Uṣūlī Scholars in Persianate Context</i>	£2,095
Research	Eve MacDonald	Cardiff University	<i>Seeb Community History Project, Oman</i>	£5,000
Research	Eve MacDonald	Cardiff University	Conducting carbon dating on the project <i>Fulayj: A Sasanian Persian Fort in Oman</i>	£5,000
Research	Saeed Talajooy	University of St Andrews	<i>The Eastward Gaze: the Dialogue of Iranian Theatre Practitioners with Chinese, Japanese and Indian Dramatic Forms (1900-present)</i>	£1,200
Research	Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis & Rebecca Green	The British Museum	Line Drawings for the volume <i>Sylloge Nummorum Parthicorum Volume 4</i>	£1,500
Research Assistant	Ali Ansari	University of St Andrews	<i>History, Culture and ideology in Pahlavi Iran – the contribution of Shojaeddin Shafa</i>	£5,000
Research Assistant	Sussan Babaie	The Courtauld Institute of Art	Supporting an upcoming exhibition on Art of the Mongol World	£5,000
Research Assistant	Derek Kennet	Durham University	<i>Williamson Project</i>	£4,500

Research Assistant	Roger Matthews	University of Reading	<i>Analysis of animal bones from Iranian Epipalaeolithic-Neolithic sites on the Caspian shores</i>	£4,995
Research Assistant	Richard Pendry	University of Kent	<i>Study of Journalists In Afghanistan</i>	£4,885
Student Travel	Asma Abdi	Warwick University	<i>Intimacy in (times of) crisis; Queering economic sanctions through the lens of heterosexual life</i> (Paper presented at BRISMES Conference 2023)	£452
Student Travel	Mohammad Amir Hakimi Parsa	SOAS University of London	Visit to Istanbul archive as part of <i>The ideas of "Iran and Rum" among early modern diplomats (1600–1800)</i>	£1,200
Student Travel	Robert Allan	Oxford University	Attending a language school in Dushanbe	£100
Student Travel	Ana Garcia Espinosa	Cardiff University	<i>Royal women, armies and warfare in Hellenistic Iran: who had more power?</i> (Paper presented at the Classical Association Annual Conference 2023, University of Cambridge)	£537
Student Travel	Clare Parry	Cardiff University	<i>Communicating Power and Legitimacy? Dynastic Display in Ancient Persia and the Near East</i> (Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient History conference 2023, Valletta, Malta)	£650
Student Travel	Clare Parry	Cardiff University	<i>The Iconography of War and Violence in Persia and the Near East</i> (Paper presented at the Lyceum Classics Community Seminar series, UCL)	£182

Student Travel	Margaret Squires	The Courtauld Institute of Art	<i>Fragmented Histories: A Deccani Carpet in the Chehel Sotun</i> (Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Biennial Convention, Yerevan, Armenia)	£650
Student Travel	Sean Strong and Domiziana Rossi	Cardiff University	Registration costs of all speakers presenting papers under the strand <i>Roman and Sasanian Networks and Entanglements</i>	£1,200
Student Travel	Sean Strong	Cardiff University	<i>Emperor Maurice and his Eastern Generals: Military Careers and Networks along the Roman-Sasanian Frontier</i> (Paper presented at IMC 2023, Leeds)	£291
Student Travel	Raffay Yousef	Oxford University	Attending a language school in Dushanbe	£100
Student Travel	Khosrow Tousi	SOAS University of London	<i>On a Global Wavelength: The Emergence of Radio Psychology in Pahlavi Iran</i> (Paper presented at the 34th Deutscher Orientalistentag Conference, Berlin)	£424

Dr Shabnam Holliday
BIPS Research Director

BIPS Flagship Research Project

In 2022, BIPS launched its Flagship Research Project which aimed to fund innovative research projects related to the history, literature and culture of the Iranian world in its widest sense. Two projects were selected. These will run over three years, from April 2023 to March 2026.

Persian Manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persianate Literary Heritage. This project, led by Professor Andrew Peacock, University of St Andrews, explores British engagement with Persian manuscript culture through British collections of Persian manuscripts, and the British role in forming Indian collections. It contributes to a more nuanced public debate over questions such as the origins and restitution of colonial artefacts by highlighting the complex histories of these manuscripts even before they reached British hands.

Agricultural Sustainability of the Otrar Oasis. This project, led by Dr Katie Campbell (King's College, University of Cambridge), investigates the reasons for population decline in Otrar Oasis in southern Kazakhstan and its agricultural economy. It contributes to a better understanding of a somewhat overlooked part of the Persianate world and will transform our understanding of the agricultural economy at Otrar.



Aerial photograph of the Otrar Oasis archaeological site. ©Katie Campbell.

Collaboration between the Iran Society and BIPS

In the third and final year of our joint programme, the Iran Society is pleased to have provided funds to BIPS to award grants to two PhD students to assist them in their final write-up year, when their funds are drying up. The aim was to support students working on subjects that are of general interest.

£5000 was awarded, split between the following students:

Sean Strong (Cardiff University), *Generals and Rulers in Theophylact Simocatta's History: Ideals and Practices of Roman and Sasanian Leadership in a Time of Transition*.

Friederike Jürcke (Cambridge University), *Modelling movement across the Iranian Plateau in the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE*.

Sean Strong subsequently gave an excellently polished lecture on his subject to a joint Iran Society/BIPS audience. Those who received awards in previous years have all completed their theses.

The Iran Society is grateful to BIPS for adjudicating the awards and to Imogen Edwards for her efficient organisation of the applications and interviews with the short-listed candidates.

Antony Wynn
Chairman, The Iran Society
www.iransociety.org



Zal and Rudabah. *Shahnamah*, Mughal, early 17th century. Artist: Qasim. Add 5600, f. 42v. ©The British Library.

Excavating the Archives: David Stronach's fieldwork in Iran with BIPS

David Stronach OBE FSA (1931 - 2020) was a leading figure in the field of Iranian archaeology and founding Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies. He left behind an extensive archive of his pioneering excavations in Iran, which are currently being digitised at the Pourdavoud Centre at UCLA (a first report on these activities is in the BIPS Annual Review 2022, pp. 18-20). The digitised files are then sent to the UK to be reviewed and catalogued, with the eventual aim of making the digitised archive freely available online via a BIPS hosted website. The archive will also be used to generate new research and scholarly publications.

In March 2023 I travelled to the Pourdavoud Centre at UCLA, where I was kindly hosted by Dr Ali Mousavi, to begin sorting through the wealth of archival material currently held in his office. My task during the initial visit was to examine and organise the archival material in preparation for digitisation and cataloguing. From this initial review, it was evident that the archive contained extensive documentation relating to David Stronach's early excavations with BIPS at the archaeological sites of Pasargadae, Nush-i Jan, Shahr-i Qumis and Yarim Tepe.

Pasargadae, the grand capital of Cyrus the Great, was surveyed and excavated over three field seasons between 1961 and 1963, the results of which significantly advanced our understanding of this important Achaemenid centre. The excavations are well published, most notably in David's substantial final report of 1978, which remains the standard work on the site. The archival material for Pasargadae

includes 1,000 slides documenting the excavations that have now been digitised and catalogued in preparation for publication online.



Nush-i Jan is an important Median and Parthian period settlement located in the Malayer plain, which was excavated by David over five field seasons between 1967 and 1977. Related publications include three preliminary reports published in *Iran* and two monographs covering the architectural remains of the Median period as well as the small finds. Planned volumes on the ceramics, the later Parthian settlement, and a related survey of the Malayer plain remain unpublished. In terms of research and publication potential, the extensive archive for Nush-i Jan - which includes the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans and photographs - is of great importance and should be prioritised for digitisation. To date, over 500 negatives documenting the excavations and finds have been digitised alongside a number of field notebooks and registers.

Shahr-i Qumis is an extensive Parthian period site located in north-eastern Iran. David's work at the site, which was co-directed with Dr John Hansman, took place over four field seasons between 1967 and 1978. Related publications include preliminary reports published in *JRAS* and a more recent paper on the Parthian

The Tomb of Cyrus the Great at Pasargadae. From the David Stronach Archive.

pottery from Qumis published in *Iran*. In terms of research potential, a final report has yet to be published and only short reports exist for the final two field seasons. The Shar-i Qumis archive is similarly extensive and comprises the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans, photographs, and pottery statistics. A full appraisal of this archive can significantly enhance our understanding of this important Parthian site.

David's early work at Yarim Tepe, a mound located on the Gorgan plain, revealed an archaeological sequence spanning the Late Neolithic through to the Iron Age.

The mound was excavated over two seasons between 1960-62, the results of which remain largely unpublished. On reviewing the available archival material for Yarim Tepe, which again includes much of the original field notebooks, registers, drawings, plans, and photographs, it was decided that the material should be digitised in preparation for a final report on the excavations. To



achieve this, I travelled to UCLA for a second time in May to catalogue and collect the Yarim Tepe archive.

Currently, I am in the process of sorting, digitising, and transcribing the available material in preparation for publication. Despite the wealth of material to hand, this is proving to be quite the puzzle, involving the slow but rewarding processes of patching together descriptions, sketches, photographs, and notes – some of which are scribbled on the back of envelopes – to build up a picture of the excavations. Unfortunately, there appears to be some gaps in the documentation. As is often the case with archaeological excavations, the amount of detail recorded can vary considerably between trenches and their respective supervisors. Some field

Excavating the Columned Hall at Nush-i Jan. From the David Stronach Archive.

notebooks feature thorough descriptions of the excavations accompanied by drawings, plans and levels. Others contain very little in the way of useful information. Many of the excavation photographs do not have accompanying captions, the subjects of which must be identified by comparing images with plans, sketches, and field descriptions. The same is true of the pottery drawings, which require considerable work before we can start to produce a valuable ceramic sequence for the site. Nevertheless, much progress is being made and the preliminary results look very promising. It is hoped that the publication of this material can make a significant contribute to the field and will provide a fitting tribute to the pioneering work of David Stronach.

Dr Gareth Brereton
University of York/BIPS



Excavations at Shar-i Qumis. From the David Stronach Archive.

Outreach

2022-2023 Events

8 March 2023	Modern Iran: A global history "from below"	The Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture, co-organised by BIPS and IMeEIS, University of Durham. In person event at the Calman Learning Centre, Durham University; with Stephanie Cronin
1-2 March 2023	Conference: Persian Impact on History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia	[BIPS sponsored event] In person event at the Centre for the Arts and Library, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata
1 March 2023	Bringing Wales and Iran together through academia and beyond	[Event coorganised by BIPS and Wales Week/Iran] On-line (via Zoom) talk by John Price; chaired by Andrew Newman
22 February 2023	Agreeable News from Persia: What 18th and early 19th-century American newspaper readers knew about contemporary events in Iran	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Daniel T. Potts; chaired by Andrew Newman
18 January 2023	Making and Unmaking Community: Urban Life in Persianate Rajasthan	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Elizabeth Thelen; chaired by Andrew Newman
7 December 2022	Economic and Cultural Renaissance at Kartid Herat, 1251 to 1381	On-line (via Zoom) talk with Shivan Mahendrarajah; chaired by Andrew Newman
2-3 December 2022	Conference: Safavid Majmu's(s) and jung(s): History, Philology, and Arts of the Book	[BIPS sponsored event] In person event at the University of Oxford; convened by Mahroo Moosavi

28 November 2022	Rivalling Rome: Parthian coins and culture	AGM Lecture by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis Hybrid event: on-line (via Zoom) and in person at The British Academy
19 October 2022	Humayun Padshah and Iran: Safavid Present and Mythical Past	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Ebba Koch; chaired by Andrew Newman
21 September 2022	A Persianate Japanology? The Reach and Limits of Inter-Asian Exchange	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Nile Green; chaired by Andrew Newman
15 September to 10 October 2022	Afghanistan: From Buddhism to Islam (8th to 13th century)	[Organised by the Invisible East programme, Oxford, with technical support from BIPS] Series of five online talks by Llewelyn Morgan, Aezou Azad, Alka Patel, Majid M. Mahdi, Reza Huseini
7-8 September 2022	Conference: Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World	Conference of the BIPS Medieval Programme In person event at the University of St Andrews; convened by Andrew Peacock
20 July 2022	The Mobility of Persian Artefacts: The Sanguszko Carpet in Motion	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Yuka Kadoi; chaired by Andrew Newman
29 June 2022	Roi sur Trône: the Achaemenid Royal Audience in Late Qajar Media	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Lindsay Allen; chaired by Andrew Newman

18 June 2022	William Dalrymple in Conversation	[Event coorganised by BIPS, University of York, Jaipur Literature Festival] 1st Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture In person event at the University of York; with William Dalrymple
25 May 2022	Persianate Aspects of the Malay-Indonesian World: Rare Manuscripts	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Majid Daneshgar; chaired by Andrew Newman
27 April 2022	The City of Isfahan as Actor: Urban Knowledge and Household Anthologies	On-line (via Zoom) talk by Kathryn Babayan; chaired by Andrew Newman
6 April 2022	Unequal Treaties and the Question of Sovereignty in Qajar and early Pahlavi Iran	The Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture, co-organised by BIPS and IMeEIS, University of Durham. On-line (via Zoom) lecture; with Ali Gheissari

The enhancement of BIPS' online presence continued to be of particular importance over this period. Ms Silvia Ferreri spearheaded this process. BIPS now has a growing social media footprint across the most important platforms, as the accompanying data shows.

The monthly BIPS' webinar series continued apace over this past year. We held 11 events on topics ranging from Isfahani households in the Safavid period, manuscripts of the Malaysian-Indonesian world, Persianate culture in the Indian Ocean, urban life in Persianate Rajasthan, and the economic and cultural renaissance of Kartid Herat.

In addition, BIPS continued its collaboration with Durham University with which it organises the Annual Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture. In April 2022 the Lambton Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Ali Gheissari on the topic *Unequal*

Treaties and the Question of Sovereignty in Qajar and early Pahlavi Iran. In March 2023, the lecture was *Modern Iran: A global history "from below"* delivered by Dr Stephanie Cronin.

In June 2022, *William Dalrymple in Conversation* was the Inaugural Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture, held at York in partnership with University of York and the Jaipur Literature Festival.

During this year, BIPS (co-) sponsored three conferences in St Andrews, Oxford, and Kolkata. BIPS also collaborated with the Invisible East programme at the University of Oxford to organise a series of five lectures which were live-streamed on the BIPS' Zoom platform. A full list of all BIPS' events over the period can be found on the [BIPS website](#).

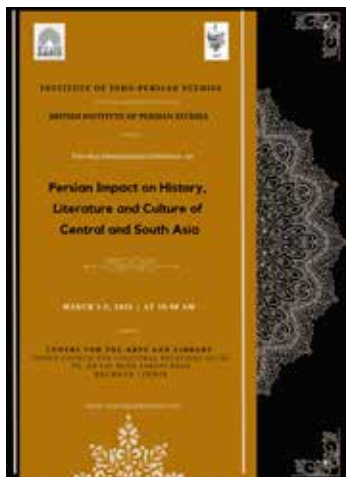


The weekly student newsletter, started in March of 2022, also with the assistance of Ms Silvia Ferreri, continued to be circulated over the past year. The newsletter contains news of events, publications, job postings and other academic announcements. Past newsletters can be found in the [Newsletter Archive page](#) on the BIPS website.

BIPS is supporting Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones' production of a series of videos in conjunction with the *Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece* exhibit at the British Museum from May 2023.

Professor Andrew Newman
BIPS Outreach and Development Director

Conference *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*. Kolkata, March 2023

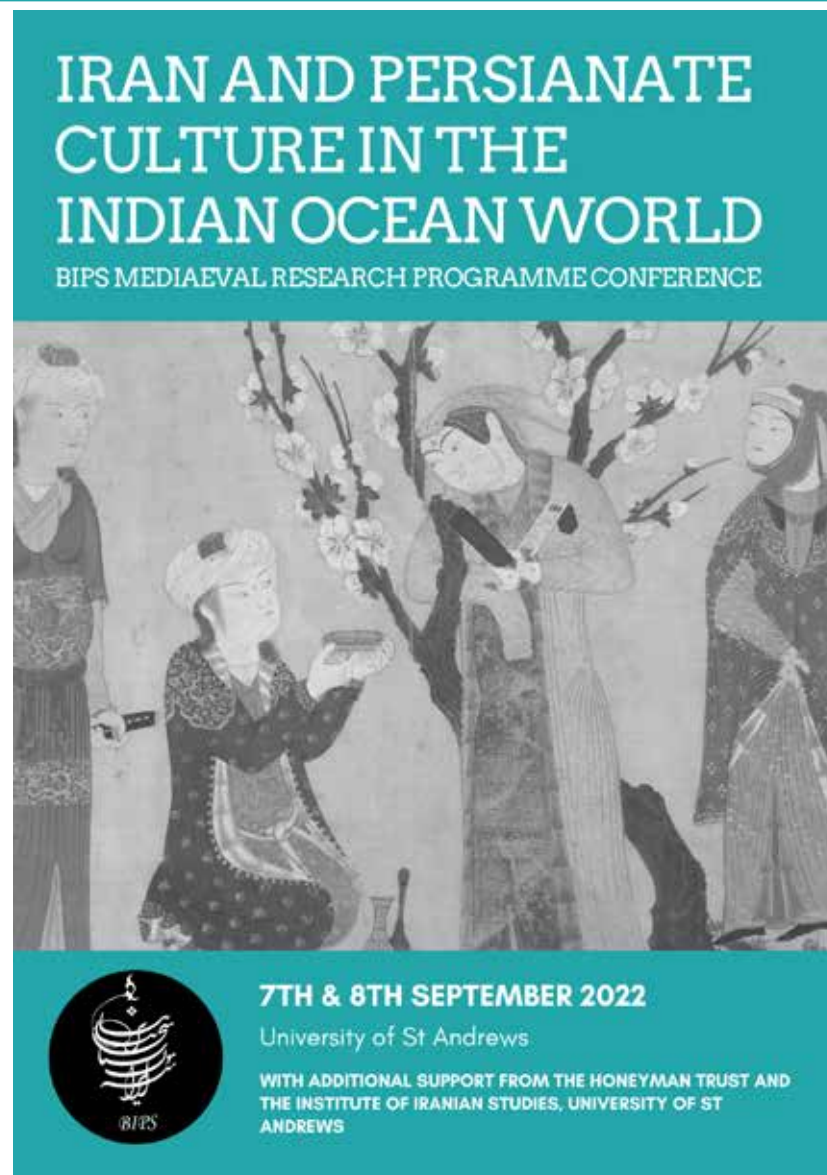


BIPS co-organised a conference on the *Persian Impact on the History, Literature and Culture of Central and South Asia*, which was held in Kolkata, India on 1-2 March 2023 in conjunction with the Institute for Indo-Persian Studies.

This highly successful conference saw a range of papers stretching from pre-Islamic to modern times delivered by representatives of BIPS, Indian and Iranian scholars, which highlighted to depth and breadth of Persian influences in South Asia.

A number of papers dealt in particular with Indo-Persian manuscripts, which represent a research priority for BIPS. In the future, BIPS hopes to expand its collaboration with the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies to shed further light on this crucial aspect of the broader Persianate world.

Professor Andrew Peacock
Conference organiser on behalf of BIPS



Poster of the conference *Iran and Persianate Culture in the Indian Ocean World* held at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, on 7-8 September 2022.

Publications

BIPS has continued to be busy with publications with four new volumes to appear in the Persian Studies Series and the Archaeological Monograph Series.

Each year, a new volume of its journal IRAN is published (in two issues, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn). BIPS members receive a hard copy by post as a benefit of membership. An online version is available to members through BIPS's website.

IRAN LX.I and LX.II (2022)

In 2022-23, IRAN was edited by Professor Cameron Petrie and Professor Charles Melville, both Trustees of BIPS. The journal is peer reviewed, and has an international editorial board. It also receives assistance from BIPS Trustees and Honorary Vice Presidents in reviewing submitted articles. For 60 years IRAN has maintained an international reputation for publishing significant academic articles on all aspects of Persianate study (except for modern politics), and in addition to the two issues of the journal that are published in hard copy each year, articles are also available online, and an increasing number are being published Open Access and are thus available to the general public.

Submissions are made online and the guidelines are available on the BIPS's website.

LX.I

Marta Ameri, <i>Who Holds the Keys? Identifying Female Administrators at Shahr-i Sokhta</i>	p.1-38
Soheila Hadipour Moradi & Bitā Sodaei, <i>Two Bronze Coins of Alexander Balas Recently Discovered in Luristan (Iran)</i>	p.39-45
Bertille Lyonnet, <i>New Insights into Sogdiana during the Classical Period (from the end of the 4th c. BCE to the 3rd c. CE)</i>	p.46-64
Ruben S. Nikoghosyan, <i>Where Did the Battle Between Wištāsp and Arjāsp Take Place?</i>	p.65-72
Andrea Squitieri, <i>The Sasanian Cemetery of Gird-i Bazar in the Peshdar Plain (Iraqi Kurdistan)</i>	p.73-90

Atri Hatef Naiemi, <i>The Ilkhanid City of Sultaniyya: Some Remarks on the Citadel and the Outer City</i>	p.91-120
Soli Shahvar, <i>'Abbas Mirza's Invitation to Europeans to Settle in Nineteenth-Century Iranian Azerbaijan: Reasons, Causes and Motives</i>	p.121-134
Ladislav Charouz, <i>Naser al-Din Shah's 1873 Visit to the World's Fair in Vienna</i>	p.135-147

LX.II

Sören Stark, Fiona J. Kidd, Jamal K. Mirzaakhmedov, Shujing Wang, Robert N. Spengler III, Siroj J. Mirzaakhmedov, Zachary Silvia, Silvia Pozzi, Husniddin Rakhmonov, Megan Sligar & Munira Sultanova, <i>The Uzbek-American Expedition in Bukhara. Preliminary Report on the Third Season (2017)</i>	p.149-199
V.A. Gaibov & A.B. Nikitin, <i>Göbekly-Depe in Margiana</i>	p.200-208
Arthur Stefanski, <i>Dynamics in Ceramic Production: Petrographic Analysis of Ceramics from Godin Tepe III:6 and III:5</i>	p.209-224
Hassan Karimian, Fatemeh Karimi & Simin Karimian, <i>Impact of Religious Commandments on Residential Architecture of Zoroastrians, Case Study: Dasturān District in Yazd City</i>	p.225-239
Roberta Tomber, Michela Spataro & Seth Priestman, <i>Early Islamic Torpedo Jars from Siraf: Scientific Analyses of the Clay Fabric and Source of Indian Ocean Transport Containers</i>	p.240-263
Massoumeh (Nahid) Assemi, <i>Shahnameh-ye Davari; An Ode to a Dying Art?</i>	p. 264-293

Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World Series

BIPS are delighted to announce that we are entering a new publishing collaboration with Bloomsbury/IB Tauris for the publication of this series.

We have two books currently under production with our new partners. One, by Nahid Assemi, is entitled *Piety and Politics in Qajar Iran: The Takkiyya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah* and is a study of an important Qajar architectural monument. The other book is edited by Saeed Talajooy and comprises a collection of essays on the Iranian playwright and cinematographer Bahram Beyzaei, entitled *Bahram Beyzaie's Drama and Cinema: Origins, Forms and Functions*.

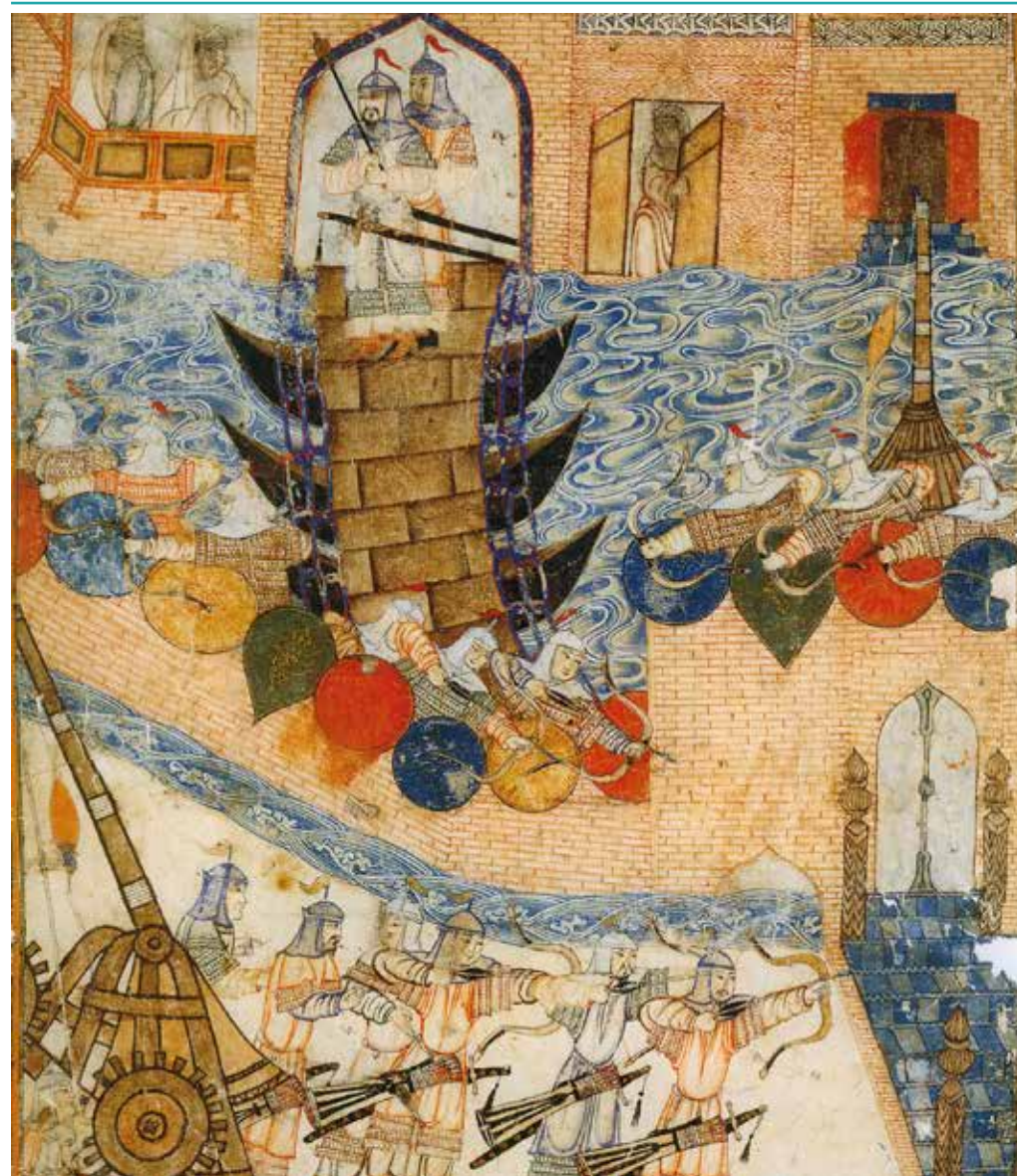
Both books will appear in early 2024, and we look forward to a productive publishing partnership with Bloomsbury.

Archaeological Monograph Series

The Archaeological Monograph Series was established in 2009 as a joint publishing venture between BIPS and Oxbow Books to create a venue for the publication of archaeological research, particularly the results of large-scale surveys and excavations. The series is edited by Professor Cameron Petrie.

The series' seventh volume edited by Eberhard Sauer, Jebrael Nokandeh and Hamid Omrani Rekavandi entitled *Ancient Arms Race: Antiquity's Largest Fortresses and Sasanian Military Networks of Northern Iran: A joint fieldwork project by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handcraft and Tourism Organisation and the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham (2014-2016)* was published in 2022.

The eighth volume, by Seth M. N. Priestman and Derek Kennet entitled *Sasanian and Islamic Settlement and Ceramics in Southern Iran (4th to 17th Century AD): The Williamson Collection Project* is due to be published in 2023, and presents the results of fieldwork, research and analysis that has been supported by BIPS since the 1970s. It is available for pre-order from Oxbow Books.



Page 35. The Siege of Baghdad: details of illustration of Rashid-al-Din's *Jami' al-tawarikh*. Tabriz(?), 14th century. ©Staatsbibliothek Berlin.

Financial Report

The year 2022-23 was marked by several developments intended to raise the profile and public awareness of BIPS's research programmes and contributions to the study of Iran and the Persianate world in the UK and internationally. The first of these is the inauguration of the 'Flagship' projects – substantial multi-year funding for research that fulfils our own objectives and priorities: currently with a focus on the regions beyond Iran's current borders that contributed to the enrichment of Persian culture. The two projects awarded are on 'The Agricultural sustainability of the Otrar oasis in Kazakhstan, from the 8th to the 18th century', and 'Persian manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the circulation of the Persianate literary heritage'. Both engage with broad areas of study concerning Central Asia and India and will involve rich programmes of conferences and publications, indicative also of BIPS's aim to widen our scholarly networks and support research partnerships in these regions.

The second development is the initiation of a major digitisation project, in collaboration with other Schools and Institutes of the British Academy, with an initial focus on the archives of our first director, David Stronach, whose excavation records and supporting materials are currently held in UCLA and being researched by our newly-appointed Stronach Research Fellow, based at York University. Both these initiatives will dominate our work and research expenditure in the coming years.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total Restated £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies					
Donations	-	171	250	421	28,054
Grants from Government and other public bodies	2	-	196,750	196,750	135,937
Other grants		-	6,000	6,000	3,650
Charitable activities					
Subscriptions		9,353	-	9,353	10,315
Publication sales		3,683	-	3,683	4,274
Hostel income		4,200	-	4,200	-
Investments					
Bank interest		748	-	748	9
Income from investments		2,902	-	2,902	1,363
TOTAL INCOME		21,057	203,000	224,057	183,602

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Grants and scholarships	3(a)/(c)	7,137	110,870	118,007	83,413
Workshops and lectures	3(a)	-	600	600	-
Book publication costs	3(a)	-	5,000	5,000	159
Office costs		3,259	30,256	33,515	24,834
Financial costs	3(b)	1,195	-	1,195	(999)
Journal expenses	3(a)	-	3,998	3,998	4,226
Outreach	3(d)	-	37,170	37,170	40,165
Conferences	3(a)	-	4,693	4,693	700
Establishment and maintenance		-	19,647	19,647	6,720
Other					
Computer support		-	-	-	500
Examination and accountancy	3(e)	2,700	-	2,700	3,640
Management		3,695	1,500	5,195	1,824
Legal expenses		5,766	-	5,766	3,077
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		23,752	213,734	237,486	168,259
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS		(2,695)	(10,734)	(13,429)	15,343
TRANSFERS		(6)	6	-	-
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS – UNREALISED		(2,036)	-	(2,036)	1,821
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		(4,737)	(10,728)	(15,465)	17,164

TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	248,759	59,196	307,955	290,791
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	244,022	48,468	292,490	307,955

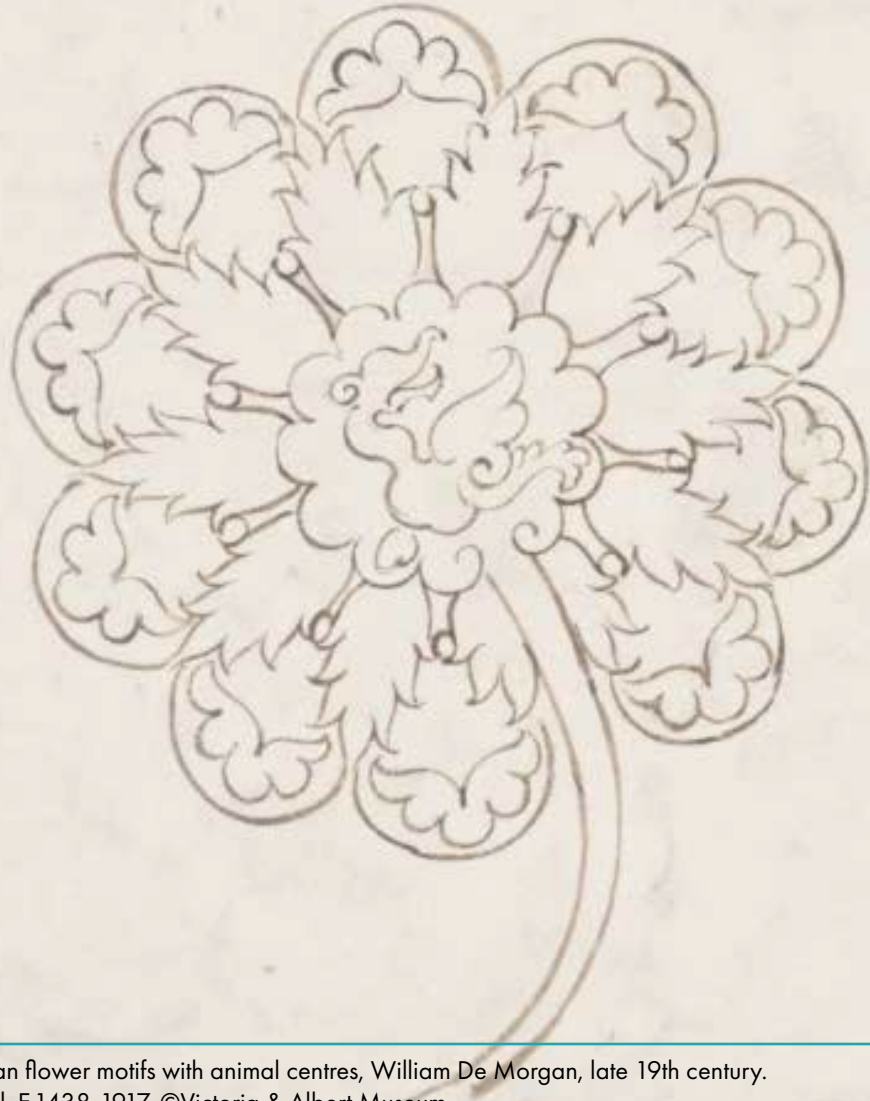
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PERSIAN STUDIES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets:					
Leasehold Property	4	-	-	-	-
Other Tangible Assets	4	47,533	47,533	47,533	47,533
		<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>	<u>47,533</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	33,026	1,585	33,026	1,585
Investments	7	44,883	46,920	44,883	46,920
Cash in hand and at bank		221,718	266,874	221,718	266,874
		<u>299,627</u>	<u>315,379</u>	<u>299,627</u>	<u>315,379</u>
CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)					
Creditors	6	<u>54,670</u>	<u>54,957</u>	<u>54,670</u>	<u>54,957</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>244,957</u>	<u>260,422</u>	<u>244,957</u>	<u>260,422</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>292,490</u>	<u>307,955</u>	<u>292,490</u>	<u>307,955</u>
FINANCED BY:					
Unrestricted Funds:					
	12(a)(b)				
General Fund		213,231	217,968	213,231	217,968
Designated Funds		30,791	30,791	30,791	30,791
Restricted Funds:					
	12(a)(c)				
Conference Fund		1,265	1,265	1,265	1,265
Bahari Foundation Fund		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Advanced Language Training Fund		13,260	13,260	13,260	13,260
Basic Grant		-	10,378	-	10,378
Business Development Grant		-	-	-	-

Bruce Wannell's Fund	25,693	26,043
Digitisation Fund	6,250	6,250
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>292,490</u>	<u>307,955</u>



Persian flower motifs with animal centres, William De Morgan, late 19th century.
Detail. E.1438-1917. ©Victoria & Albert Museum.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of BIPS is open to all, and we welcome new members. BIPS organises an extensive programme of talks, conferences and workshops throughout the year in the UK and overseas. It publishes its journal *IRAN* twice a year and occasional books in its Persian Studies Series or Archaeological Monograph Series. Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.

Membership runs from January to December, but new members can apply any time of the year. We offer four types of membership: Student (£20 a year); Corresponding (£30 a year - for non-UK members); Full (£40 a year) and Fellow (£50 a year for academics). Membership renewals or applications can be made via our website: www.bips.ac.uk/join-us/

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