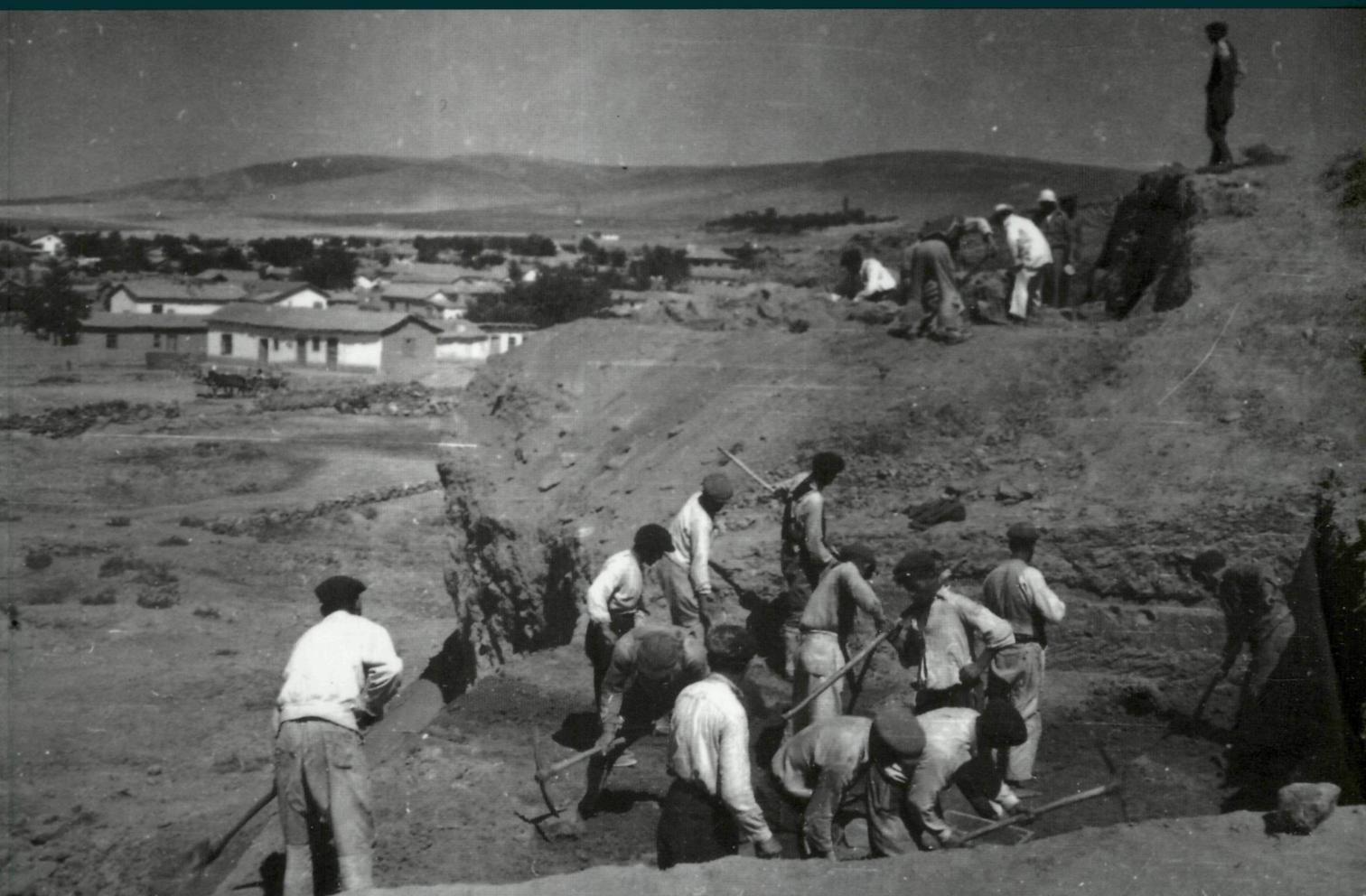


ANATOLIAN STUDIES

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2008



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BRITISH INSTITUTE AT ANKARA

The objectives of the British Institute at Ankara are to enable UK scholars across the humanities and social sciences to undertake world-class original research and fieldwork focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; to encourage and facilitate collaborative research with other UK institutions and with scholars and institutions in Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; and to maintain a centre of research excellence in Ankara focused on the archaeology, history and related subjects of Turkey.

A small staff at the Institute's premises in Ankara conduct their own research, assist scholars and maintain the centre of research excellence. The centre houses a library of over 50,000 volumes, research collections of botanical, faunal, epigraphic and pottery material, together with collections of maps, photographs and fieldwork archives, and a laboratory and computer services. Access to these resources is available free of charge to members of the Institute.

The Institute is able to offer to members, for a reasonable charge, the use of accommodation, surveying and photographic equipment, and vehicles.

The Institute encourages as wide a scope of high-quality research as can be supported with its financial, practical and administrative resources. The Institute supports a small number of thematically focused research programmes, stimulated by current concerns of academic research in the UK as well as internationally; these are known as Strategic Research Initiatives. In 2008 the following initiatives were supported: Climate History of Anatolia and the Black Sea; Frontiers of the Ottoman World; and Settlement History of Anatolia. A diverse group of research projects, which were funded and/or facilitated by the Institute, operated within the Strategic Research Initiatives scheme during 2008; these include a study of climate, vegetation and landscape change in northern Turkey directed by Warren Eastwood of the University of Birmingham, the historical-archaeological investigation of Akkerman fortress, Ukraine, directed by Caroline Finkel, Svitlana Bilyayeva and Victor Ostapchuk and the major multi-disciplinary research project at Çatalhöyük directed by Ian Hodder via University College London. The Institute also offers a range of grants, scholarships and fellowships to support undergraduate to post-doctoral research.

Subscription to the Institute costs £35 per annum (£17.50 for students and those who are unwaged). Members are entitled to copies of the Institute's annual journal, *Anatolian Studies*, and of its annual publication on current research, *Anatolian Archaeology*, a discount on other Institute publications, notification of conferences and lectures, and access to the centre of research excellence, accommodation and other services in Ankara.

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Cover photo: excavations at Polatlı 1949, directed by Seton Lloyd (from the archives of the British Institute at Ankara)
See 'The British Institute at Ankara: 60 years young' by Lutgarde Vandepuit

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**In honour of
Professor A.A.M. Bryer
Academic Editor of *Anatolian Studies* 2001–2008**

This edition of *Anatolian Studies* is dedicated to Anthony Bryer, who retired as Academic Editor of the journal in 2008 after overseeing the production of this and seven previous annual volumes.

The Editorial Board and the staff of the British Institute at Ankara wish to thank him for sharing his extensive knowledge of Turkey and the Black Sea region, his sage advice and his remarkable good humour.

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Sir Peter Laurence KCMG MC (1923–2007)

Sir Peter Laurence, who has died aged 84, was British ambassador to Turkey from 1980 to 1983. Hugely intelligent, reliable, likeable and courageous, he learned Turkish before his appointment – a symbol of his willingness and ability to continue to learn.

Laurence was born in Worcestershire, the eldest of five children of the Venerable George Laurence, archdeacon of Lahore, and his wife Alice. When he was 11, his mother died in a car accident in which he himself was also injured. Thereafter much of his upbringing was in the hands of an aunt. He was educated at Radley College, Oxfordshire, before winning an open scholarship in classics at Christ Church, Oxford. However, it was 1941 and instead of Oxford he went straight into the 60th Rifles, in which he served for five years, winning an MC for leading his platoon with great bravery in the Italian campaign and rising to major at the age of 23.

Taking up his Oxford place in 1946, he seemed poised for high academic honours. However, assured by his tutor of his certain prospect of a first, the Foreign Office pressed for him to join in 1948, so that he never took his degree (his non-graduate status remaining a source of family amusement ever after). In the same year, he married his Oxford contemporary Elizabeth Way, by whom he was to have three children.

His first foreign posting was to Athens and thereafter Trieste. Back in London, his spell in the Levant department included the Suez debacle. He and the other horrified members of the department were narrowly prevented from following Anthony Nutting, then minister of state in the Foreign Office, in mass resignation, but as a gesture of disgust Laurence threw his Anthony Eden hat into the dustbin and never wore a hat again.

Three years in the commercial section in the Prague embassy gave him a first taste of life behind the Iron Curtain, restricted but far from devoid of interest. Egypt's reopening of diplomatic relations with Britain in 1960, and its need for practical help, saw Laurence removed, at short notice, to the commercial section in Cairo. After two years there he returned to London for six years. There followed an appointment requiring much political discernment, that of political adviser in



Berlin (1967–69) at the height of the cold war. There, in the rank of counsellor, Laurence worked closely with successive C-in-Cs Berlin, Sir John Nelson and James Bowes-Lyon, in the still four-power administration of the city, including the guarding of the remaining prisoner in Spandau jail, Rudolf Hess.

A year's virtual sabbatical as a visiting fellow of All Souls, which enabled Laurence to write a useful but rather dense study of Ostpolitik, led to four years in Paris in charge of the commercial department, a post which enabled a good range of contact with French life beyond the diplomatic enclave. His penultimate appointment was of a quite different sort, as chief inspector of embassies, entailing much travel. Four years of this brought him to the verge of his own embassy, but timings ensured a fallow year in which he set himself to learn Turkish. Six months spent incognito in Bursa furnished

him with a creditable command of the language. This was to stand him in good stead during his three years as ambassador in Ankara, more particularly since within a few months of his arrival a coup brought the Turkish generals to power. Mercifully they picked as foreign minister one who proved congenial to Laurence.

In retirement Laurence scorned lucrative directorships in favour of unpaid responsibilities with the Woodard schools and Exeter cathedral, continuing among other things to take an interest in the affairs of St George's church, Paris. His chairmanship of Grenville College, Bideford, helped that school's special provision for dyslexic pupils, whilst trusteeship of the cathedral's music foundation reflected his lifelong love of music. He read and walked (often alone, especially in Norway) and was a conscientious member of the Church of England. He carried his good looks and energetic mind into old age. He is survived by Elizabeth and two sons. A daughter predeceased him.

Obituary by Richard Eyre

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William Saunders, who worked with Sir Peter on British Institute at Ankara matters, has added the following:-

Peter Laurence was, like his immediate predecessor, Bernard Burrows, and both his successors, a former ambassador to Turkey who continued his association with that country by taking on the duties of Chairman of the British Institute at Ankara, a post he fulfilled with great distinction from 1984 until 1994. It was a time of change and new initiatives. His Chairmanship saw the conclusion in 1990 of the lengthy rescue excavation at Tille (undertaken on account of the imminent flooding of

the Euphrates valley by the proposed Atatürk dam); by the end of his tenure the Institute had successfully become involved in the reopening of the world-famous excavation at Çatalhöyük, the excavation at Kilise Tepe, rescue work at Zeugma and the commencement of work at the Byzantine site of Amorium, at Kerkenes Dağ and at Sinop, as well as a host of other projects across Turkey. These included several surveys (at Amasra, Balbura, Adıyaman, Satala and Pisidia), maintaining the tradition for such work in the Institute. He also oversaw a number of organisational changes from which the Institute continues to benefit. Some of these were in collaboration with the Director, David French, such as the arrangements at our Ankara headquarters, Tahrir Caddesi 24; and the beginning of the computerisation of the Institute in Ankara.

Other initiatives came from London, including the development of the Turkish Scholars scheme, which is now an important part of the Institute's remit, as well as the appointment of an anthropologist as an Assistant Director, marking an extension of the traditional scope of the Institute's work, which has continued to evolve to this day. He also oversaw the establishment of the Research Committee (initially under the Chairmanship of Lord Butterworth), a key development in the Institute's reorganisation. The end of his Chairmanship coincided with other retirements: David French, our long-standing Director, Matthew Farrer, the Honorary Treasurer, and Fiona Ligonnet, our London Secretary. Peter managed these transitions with his customary kindness, efficiency and good humour that we will long remember.

Peter Harold Laurence, diplomat
Born 18 February 1923
Died 26 November 2007

Professor Geoffrey Lewis CMG (1920–2008)

Professor Geoffrey Lewis, emeritus Professor of Turkish at Oxford University, died on 12 February 2008 at the age of 86. His passing robs Turkish studies of a scholar whose long career linked 19th and 20th century Oxford Oriental studies with the more diverse Turkish studies of today. Witty and amusing both as speaker and writer, but also shrewd, benign and paternal, Geoffrey Lewis was the acknowledged presiding father-figure in British Turkish studies, and also a trusted and wise mentor to both sides in British-Turkish relations, even in his final years, making his last lecture tour visit to Turkey less than a year before his death.

Lewis was born in London in June 1920. His father, Ashley Lewis, was a businessman. A little mysteriously, he gave his son a second ‘Lewis’ as a middle name. When Lewis was aged only eight, he had a childhood friend, Raphaela Seideman, whom he went on to marry at the age of 21 while still an Oxford undergraduate.

Educated at University College School London, Lewis opted, as most bright British schoolboys then did, to study classics, going at the age of 18 to St John’s College Oxford, to study ‘Greats’, the magisterial four-year course of Latin, Greek, ancient history and philosophy. Classics in good British schools and universities was then an academic field overstocked with talent and it was perhaps this which caused Lewis to take seriously a remark from his college tutor that he should study the Turkish language as a hobby. It was early 1939. Turkey, he afterwards recalled, was in people’s thoughts because of the recent death of Atatürk. But in Oxford the language was more or less totally neglected.

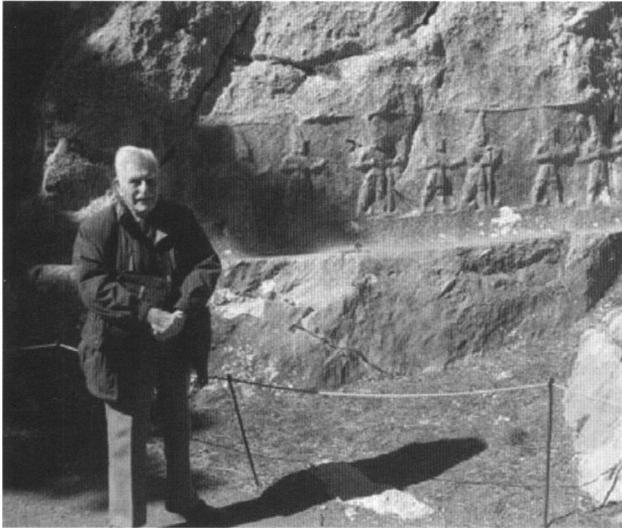
After his classical studies, Lewis joined the Royal Air Force and became a wartime radar specialist against German rocketry. During a spell as a serviceman in Egypt, he met and became friendly with an ‘elderly Turkish gentleman’ who introduced him to spoken Turkish. Back in civilian life after the war, Lewis and his wife returned to Oxford. Sir Hamilton Gibb, then Laudian Professor at Oxford and perhaps the last and certainly the most formidable of the old-style Orientalists, had insisted that before studying Turkish, Lewis must first take a degree in Arabic and Persian. But Gibb’s stern discipline worked well for Lewis. He

accomplished this with flying colours in 1947, gaining a coveted first class degree – the first person to do this in the subject since Anthony Eden, the future British prime minister, nearly a quarter of a century earlier. Academic awards then left Lewis free to master Turkish, a language which he always approached in a spirit of full awareness of its past Ottoman glories.

In 1950 he became the university’s first lecturer in Turkish and later Islamic studies, becoming the university’s first (and so far only) Professor of Turkish in 1986 shortly before his retirement. His adult Oxford career was passed at St Antony’s College, though he also had a close connection with Robert College/Boğaziçi University, acting for a time as director of the Bicultural Humanities Program there. His teaching methods blended learning and wit, but were firmly grounded in the ways he had learned the classical languages.

Lewis’s writing and academic work lay in two separate directions. One was the technical study of early Arabic alchemy, philosophy and medicine. The other, naturally, was Turkish. He aimed both at technical and popular audiences and his first book was *Teach Yourself Turkish* (1953). It was followed in 1955 by *Modern Turkey*, a masterly introduction to the country. Many other works followed, but his supreme achievement is acknowledged to be his *Turkish Grammar* which first appeared from the Oxford University Press in 1967 and has held its own against newcomers ever since. One reason for this perhaps is that Lewis had a keen eye when reading Turkish. Every grammatical point is illustrated with at least one quotation showing its use in the hands of a skilled Turkish writer.

The same close and affectionate regard for Turkish usage and style can be detected in Lewis’s translations, intended to make a wide variety of Turkish authors accessible to international readers. His work began to appear in 1957 with a fascinating annotated translation of excerpts from the 17th century Turkish intellectual Katip Çelibi’s *The Balance of Truth*. A Penguin Classics edition of *The Book of Dede Korkut* followed in 1974, making the great Oğuz classic available to a wide audience in the West for the first time. Lewis’s footnotes to this work characteristically detect unfamiliar points –



Geoffrey Lewis at Boğazköy in 2007 (photo courtesy of David Barchard)

for instance, the possible link between Tepegöz or ‘Goggle-eye’ and Polyphemus, the one-eyed giant of *The Odyssey*.

Lewis’s great admiration for Atatürk and his reforms is reflected in an abridged translation of Falih Rıfki Atay’s *Çankaya*, which appeared in English in 1981 under the title of *The Atatürk I Knew*. In 1988, a selection of the short stories of Haldun Taner was published under the title *Thickhead*. The same year he produced a translation of Sadun Tanju’s *Life of Hacı Ömer Sabancı*. There was another biographical translation in 1992 with *Just a Diplomat*, the autobiography of Zeki Kuneralp. One of Lewis’s most impressive translations came in 2004, when a number of short stories by Sait Faik appeared in *Sleeping in the Forest*, a volume edited by Talât Sait Halman. These showed that he had risen brilliantly to the challenge of doing justice in English to Sait Faik’s unique prose.

Lewis, usually with his wife Raphaela not far away, was also active on a variety of British national committees and academic bodies including the British Academy, the British Institute [of Archaeology] at Ankara and the Turkish-British Mixed Cultural Commission. His comments were invariably delivered while sucking thoughtfully at a pipe but were notable for their blend of shrewdness and humour. He was the senior figure in every Anglo-Turkish gathering, academic or social, and he and Raphaela spent regular periods in Turkey for most years in the five decades after 1950.

During the 1960s he received the unusual accolade of spending a spell working for the Turkish Prime Minister’s Office. His contributions to furthering understanding of Turkey were recognised by the Foreign

Ministry’s Exceptional Service Plaque in 1991 and the *Liyakat Nişanı* (Turkish Order of Merit) in 1998, the only Englishman of his generation to be thus honoured.

He himself was unassuming. ‘I am from Oxford, the last refuge of salaried dilettantes. My subjects are many: Neoplatonism, alchemy, radar, cats’, he told a correspondent near the end of his life. His hobbies and interests included bookbinding, old cars and opera (he was among other things a Monteverdi fan). While a student, he attended, with admiration, the lectures of J.R.R. Tolkien, then a lecturer in Anglo-Saxon.

Neither he nor Raphaela relaxed in retirement, though after the death of their daughter Lally in 1976, not long after the birth of her second child, they joined their son-in-law, Mark Friedland, tutor in law at St John’s College, helping bring up their two small grandchildren, a task they carried out triumphantly.

In 1999, Lewis published his last book, *The Turkish Language Reform: a Catastrophic Success*, a witty discourse on recent changes in Turkish. Though a linguistic purist by temperament, and thus generally opposed to many changes in the language, he paid tribute to some positive aspects. (During his last visit to Ankara in 2006 he grimaced on learning that ‘bye bye’ has become a common Turkish farewell.)

Two years earlier, in 2004, he had unexpectedly suffered the loss of Raphaela and the final four years of his life were spent without her – though despite advancing age, he continued to be active in Anglo-Turkish and Oxford circles and in writing letters, alas often unpublished, to the British media defending Turkey against its detractors. His love of addressing audiences continued to the end. His last visit to Ankara saw him delighting British Council student audiences by telling them a string of jokes like a stand-up comedian.

During Lewis’s six-decade career, Turkey grew and became a modern industrial mass society. Geoffrey Lewis always kept up with the unfolding story of Turkey’s national development and was a good judge of events. Though the media perhaps paid little attention, his views on Turkey were listened to in British government circles. His career, beginning at the end of the age of classical Orientalism and extending into area studies of the 21st century, was a unique one and it would be no exaggeration to say that he played a major part in building up today’s friendship between Britain and Turkey.

Obituary by David Barchard

Professor Geoffrey Lewis, academic
Born 19 June 1920
Died 12 February 2008