

Annual Report of the Society for Libyan Studies 2014–2015

The address of the Society is:

c/o The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

The Society maintains a website at <http://www.societyforlibyanstudies.org>.

The General Secretary may be contacted by email at gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org or by 'phone at 020 3174 2412.

The Society is a Registered UK Charity, no. 259262, founded in 1969 with the object of promoting studies in regard to Libya. In this regard, it seeks through its activities:

- to support and undertake research relating to the history, antiquities, culture, languages, literature, art, institutions, customs and natural history of Libya;
- to organize and promote missions to Libya for these purposes;
- to cooperate with other organizations sharing the same fields of interest;
- to arrange for the publication of research in these fields;
- to hold lectures and meetings, to publish an annual journal (Libyan Studies) and other publications which will enhance and promote public knowledge of all aspects of Libyan culture and society.

The Society is governed in accordance with Rules first adopted in 1969 and subsequently modified in 1974, 1982 and 2010. The Society is recognized by the Charity Commission as an unincorporated association. The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years; the Chairman is elected for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years; the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer, the Head of Mission and the Editor of the Society's journal are elected annually and may be re-elected without limit; the remainder of the Council is composed of up to eight Ordinary Members who are elected annually and may be re-elected, subject to a maximum continuous period of service of four years. In proposing Ordinary Members for election, the Council seeks to secure as wide a range of skills within its fields of interest as possible. The Officers and Council, who constitute the trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the year. The Officers and Council on 31 March 2015 were as follows:

Officers

President:	SUSAN WALKER, MA PHD FSA
Vice Presidents:	SHIRLEY STRONG MBE TIM TAYLOR FSA
Chairman:	ROBERT MORKOT BA PHD FSA
Honorary Treasurer:	PHILIP KENRICK MA, DPHIL
Honorary Secretary:	MARTA MIRAZÓN LAHR BSC MPhil PHD
Head of Mission:	PAUL BENNETT BA HON.DLITT FSA MIFA
Editors, Libyan Studies:	The Chairman and the Publications Manager

Council: SIMON ARMITAGE BA PHD
PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON BA PHD
AHMED BUZAIAN BA, MA
CORISANDE FENWICK BA, MA, PHD
VICTORIA LEITCH, BA MPhil DPhil
PROFESSOR DAVID MATTINGLY BA PHD FBA FSA
PROFESSOR WEN-CHIN OUYANG BA, BED, MA, MPhil, PhD
MATTIA TOALDO MA PHD
WILL WOOTTON, BA DPhil

General Secretary: PAULINE GRAHAM
Honorary Librarian: DAWN WRIGHT BA DIPLLIB
Publications Manager: VICTORIA LEITCH, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Research Grants Committee

The Chairman
The Honorary Treasurer
The Honorary Secretary
The Head of Mission
PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON BA PHD
PROFESSOR KEVIN MACDONALD, BA, PHD, FSA (Committee Chairman)
SAUL KELLY, BA, PHD

Publications Committee

The Chairman
The Honorary Treasurer
The Honorary Secretary
The General Secretary
Editor of Libyan Studies
Publications Manager
PROFESSOR DAVID ATKINSON BA PHD
RUSSELL MCGUIRK BA, MA, FRGS

Research Grants Awarded

As in the previous year, the Society advertised a number of small and large grants on its website with closing dates at the end of August and November. The theme to which applications were required to contribute was 'Social and Cultural Interactions across North Africa'. The Committee considered eleven applications in September 2014 and recommended six to Council, which were approved in October. In February, six further applications were examined and of these, three were subsequently approved by Council. The grants approved during the year are listed below. (It should be noted that while one of the successful applicants, Prof. David Atkinson, was asked by Council to join the Committee in order to broaden the expertise of its members, his application had already been

submitted before then, and that he took no part in the discussion of his application, either in Committee or at Council.)

Expenditure on the Cyrenaican Prehistory Project had been approved in the previous year, but was necessarily held over as a result of the political instability in Libya.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Title of project</i>	<i>Sum awarded</i>
D. Atkinson	'Colonial Science' and the production of a comprehensible territory in Italian Libya	£6,892 (+ £4,892 in 2015–16)
N. Barton with L. Belhouchet, N. Aouadi-Abdeljoaad	Early human dispersals and the Chotts Megalake in southern Tunisia	£3,500
C. Duckworth	Isotope analysis of glasses from Fazzan	£3,360
L. Gandolfo	The political and cultural identity of the Libyan community in Malta	£2,064
E. Gasparini	Archive researches on Roman housing in Cyrenaica	£500
A. Leone with H. Abdouli, R. Bockmann, M. Haddad	Recording, managing and preserving heritage: Islamic archaeology in Tripolitania	£7,290
C. Mondin	From Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea: exports of Upper Egypt fine wares in the late Roman/Early Byzantine period. A case of Kom al-Ahmer as a passage town	£3,000
N. Mugnai	Architectural decoration in Mauretania Tingitana (Morocco) and North Africa: a comparative, inter-regional study across the Roman and late-antique eras	£400
S. Yates with M. Gharssalla	Everyday cultures of Internet use in Arab societies	£5,965

Fieldwork and Post Excavation Research

Fieldwork in Libya itself proved to be impossible during the period under review, because of the continuation of armed conflict and of an absence of security in many parts of the country.

The post-excavation work of the Desert Migrations Project, directed by Professor David Mattingly, has continued within the framework of the Trans-Sahara project (funded by the European Research Council). The DMP excavations of Garamantian burials are being written up by Dr Maria Gatto. Two conferences were held in Leicester in April-May 2014, on the themes of 'Saharan Trade' and 'Migration, Identity and Burial' in the Saharan region. Monographs arising from these conferences have been proposed as the first two in a series on 'Trans-Saharans', offered to the Society/Cambridge University Press. Laboratory analyses of glass and metal artefacts recovered from previous phases of work in Fazzan have been conducted by Dr Aurélie Cuénod and Dr Chloe Duckworth. Dr Victoria Leitch organised a separate workshop on pottery (see below) as part of her work on ceramics. Remote sensing work and GIS modelling by Dr Martin Sterry has been extended to further oasis groups within the Sahara. With fieldwork and study visits to Fazzan impossible due to the current security situation, the project team has negotiated a permit to conduct exploratory survey and excavation in the comparable Saharan environment of the Wadi Draa oasis in southern Morocco in 2015. Since January 2015, the Leicester team has also been affiliated to an Oxford-led project mapping and monitoring at risk archaeology (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa), with Dr Louise Rayne appointed as a research associate specialising in mapping from satellite imagery.

The Cyrenaica Prehistory Project has made significant progress despite the necessity to abandon any plans for British participants to return to the Haua Fteah cave in order to complete the

intended fieldwork. It proved possible to bring to the UK three members of staff from the Libyan Department of Antiquities, who had participated in earlier seasons of the project, to undertake intensive training in Canterbury and Cambridge on the project's methodologies of excavation recording, sediment sampling, flotation of bulk sediment samples, and fine sorting of the washed residues. The timing of the training allowed these colleagues to participate in the international workshop held at Cambridge University in February to review the results of the fieldwork and laboratory studies funded in 2009-2015 by Professor Barker's Advanced Investigator Grant from the European Research Council. Dr Ahmed Emrage (University of Leicester) also participated in the training and workshop. Work continued on the analysis of materials collected in previous seasons, such as faunal samples (Cambridge University and Queens University Belfast), carbonized plant remains (Las Palmas University, Spain), phytoliths (Cambridge University), molluscs (Queens University Belfast) and sediment samples taken for OSL dating (Wollongong University, Australia) and palaeoclimate reconstruction (Cambridge University). As will be reported in next year's Annual Report, under Dr Emrage's supervision the Libyan Department of Antiquities team was able to return to the site in May and September and complete the programme of deep excavation at the site, work on the earliest occupation at the site that will be an extremely important contribution to the project.

Conferences and Workshops

Because of the unsatisfactory security situation, a planned visit to Tripoli by Dr Anna Leone in order to conduct a training workshop on GIS and field survey techniques was transposed to Sfax in Tunisia and was successfully carried out there. The course focused on Jaball Nafusa as a pilot case study. The Department of Antiquities had carried out systematic fieldwork on the territory, from which the data were transferred into a GIS (Geographical Information system) and analysed. The major focus of the work has been on the analysis of the late Byzantine/early Arab settlements. A paper on methodology, resulting from this course, is currently being finalised; a second paper focusing on the fieldwork is in preparation and will be submitted to *Libyan Studies* for publication.

London Activities

This year the Society organised four lectures at the premises of the British Academy. These were as follows.

8th May 2014	Dr William Wootton, King's College London	<i>Conserving and Managing Mosaics in Libya</i>
2nd October 2014	Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG, former HM Ambassador to Egypt and Libya and Chairman of the Libyan British Business Council	<i>Libya - 1951/2 and sixty years after: some comparisons</i>
4th December 2014	Dr Lucy Farr and Dr Sasha Jones, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge	<i>Deep Prehistory in North Africa: Re-excavating the Haua Fteah Cave, Cyrenaica</i>
12th February 2015	Dr Barbara Spadaro, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Bristol	<i>Italians from Libya: Exploring Memories, Writing New Histories</i>

The Society wishes to thank the British Academy, the School of Oriental and African Studies (London) and the University of Leicester for the use of rooms and facilities.

Library

The committee set up in the previous year to review the Society's holdings in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies has made slow progress, mainly due to our dependence on the availability and goodwill of the School's own librarians.

Publications

The first volume of *Libyan Studies* to be published on behalf of the Society by Cambridge University Press appeared in 2014, under the editorship of Isabella Welsby Sjöström, and was the last to be produced under her guidance. Council is grateful for the dedication with which she has fulfilled this task for this and the preceding four volumes. The 2015 volume has been prepared jointly by the Chairman and the Publications Manager, prior to the assumption of editorial responsibilities by Dr Anna Leone.

The Society prepared one new Silphium Press print publication and three e-books. The print publication was *Operation Idris* by Richard Syge, an account of Britain's role in the creation of independent Libya in the 1940s and early 1950s. The e-books include the e-publication of *Operation Idris*, plus the e-publication of the very successful Silphium Press title *Light Car Patrols* by Russell McGuirk. In addition, Anthony Thwaite's publication *The Deserts of the Hesperides: an experience of Libya*, a record of the time he spent in Libya in the 1950s and 1960s (originally published in 1969 by Martin Secker & Warburg) was turned into an e-book and published online as a Silphium Press title. All these publications appeared in May 2015, though most of their costs came out of the 2014-15 financial year budget.

Through the good offices of the Head of Mission, Dr Paul Bennett, it was possible to obtain funding from the World Bank Group and the Multi Donor Trust Fund for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism (funded by the Governments of India and Italy) to publish an Arabic edition of the *Libya Archaeological Guide: Tripolitania* in 5,000 copies, printed in Tunis and delivered to Tripoli for free distribution to universities, schools and other institutions. The Society is grateful to its sponsors for the opportunity to bring to a successful conclusion this project (initially supported by Shell Libya) which is aimed at increasing cultural awareness of the antiquities of Libya amongst the local population; it is hoped that this will lead in due course to improved prospects for their curation and preservation.

Archive

The John Dore Scholar continued to work on the archive, purchasing some new materials to store and conserve the materials, such as a plan chest and archive boxes. The Scholar was mainly employed adding material to the catalogue, in particular the newly acquired materials (see below) and photographs from the Charles Daniels archive.

A significant addition to the archive has been the materials assembled in the early 1960s by Professor Martyn Webb (now of Perth, Western Australia) from an aerial survey at that time of the environs of Cyrene, showing extensive visible traces of field boundaries dating back to the Classical period. A large percentage of this evidence has disappeared in the intervening years, making this a particularly precious resource. The Society is grateful to Professor Webb for entrusting this to the Society, and to Professor David Kennedy who facilitated both the initial contact with Prof. Webb and the practicalities of shipping papers, drawings and photographs from Perth to Leicester.

The James Thorn archive also arrived in June 2014. It was not so much the Thorn archive, as Thorn's collection of archives, including Rowe, Dixon, Cassels, Jowlett, and Buttle. This archive is currently being catalogued at a basic level, and requires a dedicated researcher to unlock its potential.

In July 2014 Dr Victoria Leitch organised a pottery workshop using materials from the archive. Professor Michel Bonifay, Claudio Capelli and Dr Anna Leone were invited and examined in detail the pottery from Fazzan, the Libyan Valleys and Ghirza. Samples were selected for thin-section analysis. The outcome of the workshop was to demonstrate that much of the material has never been studied, or needs updating from the old publications. The plan is to develop a number of research proposals to exploit the potential of these archives. In addition, Loic Mazou, a PhD student from Aix-en-Provence, looked at the Riley archive to add comparative material to his thesis, which looks at trade and production of ceramics in Cyrenaica.

The Society Website

The address of the Society's website is <http://www.societyforlibyanstudies.org>. The Society has faced unwelcome (but perhaps not uncommon) difficulties with the management of its website, but is gradually feeling its way to a more satisfactory situation in which we have both greater control over content and greater flexibility in modifying it. Council sees the provision of digital content to members as an important future benefit of membership of the Society. A redesigned website to enable us to achieve this was commissioned in February and is due to be completed shortly. The new site will embody a smarter 'look and feel' meaning it will have improved utilities (e.g. it will be easier for visitors to perform key activities such as applying for membership and purchasing publications) and it will be simpler to navigate, with information and content easier to find. It will also provide a means of offering a variety of 'privileged' content to members.

Membership

On 1 January 2015, the Society had 195 individual members of which 40 were living overseas. As explained last year, the concept of institutional membership has come to an end. Cambridge University Press has reported that the first volume of *Libyan Studies* published under its auspices attracted 73 'traditional' subscriptions (print with online access) from previous institutional members, 16 previous institutions which transferred to consortia deals (online access only) and 2,321 new subscribers through consortia deals. It will be evident that this last category (mostly in Asia) pays only a very small sum to include *Libyan Studies* amongst the journals to which it has access, and that in terms of interest in the Society and its journal this is difficult to interpret. In terms of financial return, the over-all picture is not greatly different from previous years, but this is an issue which we shall watch with interest.

At the Annual General Meeting in December 2014, Mr. Salem el-Maiar, Dr Josephine Quinn and Professor Charlotte Roueché retired as Ordinary Members of Council, having each served for four years, and Dr Ahmed Buzaian, Professor Wen-chin Ouyang and Dr Corisande Fenwick were elected to succeed them. Dr Nick Drake did not offer himself for re-election as Honorary Secretary, having served in this position for six years; he is succeeded by Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr. Mrs Isabella Welsby Sjöström retired from the position of Editor; as mentioned above, the latest volume of the journal has been edited by Dr Leitch and Dr Morkot, but Dr Anna Leone, elected as Editor in December, has now taken responsibility for volume 47 (2016).

Members of the Society will be saddened to learn that Mr. Tim Taylor, Honorary Treasurer of the Society from 1969 until 2008 and an honorary Vice-President since 1998, died on 2 July 2015. A

tribute to his important contribution to the Society's affairs by Professor Claudio Vita-Finzi was published in *Libyan Studies* 39 (2008) 27 f.

Finance for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

The Hon. Treasurer's statement of account follows.

Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr
Honorary Secretary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2015

2014		2015
£		£
INCOME		
74,304	British Academy grant ¹	76,536.00
8,025	Subscriptions	6,125.30
8,360	Book sales ²	9,024.96
464	Journal sales ³	36.50
477	Bank interest ⁴	1,248.49
20,015	Donations	70.00
111,645	Total income	93,041.25
EXPENDITURE		
Grants:		
2,300	Conferences	500.00
7,500	Cyrenaican Prehistory Project (U. of Cambridge)	15,045.38
—	C. Fenwick: Bulla Regia Cemetery Project	5,000.00
—	S. Yates: Internet use in Arab societies	5,965.00
—	A. Leone: Islamic archaeology in Tripolitania	7,290.00
2,886	Grants under £5,000	10,420.00
12,686	Total grants	44,220.38
Publications:		
3,918	<i>Libyan Studies</i> [44] 45 ⁵	449.00
19,206	<i>Archaeology of Fazzan 4</i>	417.72
3,500.00	<i>Frontiers of the Roman Empire: the African Frontiers</i>	—
—	<i>Euesperides excavations</i>	2,706.94
15.64	<i>Ajdabiya</i>	1,000.00
Silphium titles:		
243	<i>Tripolitania</i> guidebook, Arabic edition	780.00
4,606	<i>Light Car Patrols 1916–19</i>	3,549.39
—	<i>Operation Idris</i>	1,084.71
3,500	Other	9.96
31,488	Total publications	9,997.72
16,377	Services of General Secretary	10,200.00
5,475	Honorarium, Editor of <i>Libyan Studies</i> ⁶	4,621.00
5,779	Honorarium, Publications Manager ⁷	6,944.50
1,307	Travel (UK)	1,914.71
—	Travel (overseas)	—
2,236	Meeting expenses, including entertaining	1,899.33
598	Archive (U. of Leicester) ⁸	5,825.91
250	Book storage	402.22
895	Book despatch	74.83
232	Royalties paid on book sales ⁹	941.39
1,300	Office expenses	997.07
395	Publicity ¹⁰	2,477.40
283	Bank charges	244.05
1,463	Sundries	282.30
80,764	Total expenditure	91,042.81

2014		2015
£		£
80,764	Total expenditure (from preceding page)	91,042.81
-7,500	<i>Subtract</i> transfer from Reserves (grants awarded in previous year)	-24,100.00
24,100	<i>Add</i> transfer to Reserves (grants awarded but not yet spent)	12,316.07
14,281	Surplus for the year carried to the General Fund	13,782.37
<u>111,645</u>		<u>93,041.25</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2015

2014	ASSETS	2015
£		£
65,450.66	Virgin Money Account	95,188.90
-2,869.07	NatWest Current Account	-2,691.21
37,657.64	NatWest Reserve Account	9,828.37
166.07	PayPal Account	77.68
<u>100,405.30</u>	TOTAL IN CASH	<u>102,403.74</u>
	<i>Represented by:</i>	
	GENERAL FUND	
24,324.18	Balance at 1 April 2014	38,605.30
14,281.12	<i>Plus</i> surplus for year	13,782.37
38,605.30		<u>52,387.67</u>
	RESERVE FUNDS	
37,700.00	Publications	37,700.00
24,100.00	Grants allocated but not yet spent	12,316.07
100,405.30		<u>102,403.74</u>
	Stock of publications for sale, valued at cost ¹¹	<u>20,602.81</u>
	TOTAL ASSETS	123,006.55
	LIABILITIES	
24,100.00	Grants allocated but not yet spent	12,316.07
76,305.30	Balance of assets	110,690.48

Book collection

The holdings of the Society housed in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, on 1 June 2015 amounted to 592 titles (including Arabic titles, but with journal runs represented as single items) plus 116 pamphlets. The comparative figures on 1 July 2014 were 586 titles and 116 pamphlets.

The Society did not have an active acquisition policy for its book collection during the year under review; it received volumes by gift and by exchange, and works sent for review were generally also added to the collection.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The regular British Academy grant has risen this year by 3 per cent in line with the agreed five-year plan (of which this is the final year).
2. Major contributions to book sales this year came from *Libya Archaeological Guide: Cyrenaica, Archaeology of Fazzan 4* and *Light Car Patrols 1916–1919*.
3. Income from journal sales through Cambridge University Press (£799) was not received until after the year-end.
4. Bank interest continued to increase due to the transfer of reserve funds to Virgin Money part-way through the previous year.
5. Now that *Libyan Studies* is printed and published on our behalf by Cambridge University Press, the costs element shown here represents copies purchased from CUP for distribution to members.
6. The reduced payment to the Editor of *Libyan Studies* reflects the new arrangement with Cambridge University Press.
7. Payments to the Publications Manager reflect an increased workload, already put in place before the end of the previous year.
8. The Society has spent an increased amount on the cataloguing and curation of the archive. This will be further increased in the next year in order to enhance its accessibility and utility to researchers.
9. Royalties were paid to the authors of *Libya Archaeological Guides: Cyrenaica* and *Light Car Patrols 1916–19*.
10. The increased expenditure on publicity relates mainly to revisions and enhancements of the Society's website, which are planned to incur further costs in the next year.
11. Since the transfer of our book stocks to Oxbow, it has been possible for the first time to generate an up-to-date valuation of the stock held by our distributor.

Philip Kenrick, *Honorary Treasurer*
(treasurer@societyforlibyanstudies.org)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES (UK Registered Charity no. 259262)

I report on the accompanying accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a

comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Christopher Allen, Honorary Independent Examiner
43, Robsart Place, Cumnor, Oxford. OX2 9QT
20 June 2015