



AIIT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANCIENT INDIA & IRAN TRUST

(REG. CHARITY NO. 276295)

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2006



We hope you enjoy this edition of *AIIT News*. It has been some time since our last newsletter, so there is plenty to report.

The Trust and its activities continue to grow thanks to the efforts of our Trustees, staff and volunteers, as well as the support of old and new Friends, donors and associates. At the 2005 Charity Awards, we were nominated in the Arts, Culture and Heritage category. Daniel Phelan, organiser of the Awards, commented: 'the Ancient India and Iran Trust has ... demonstrated that they are among the best managed charities in the UK'.

To help maintain standards, we have appointed a new Administrator, Munizha Ahmad-Cooke, who joined us in June 2005. By now, you may have met or been in contact with Munizha, who is in the office Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm. She can be contacted on 01223 356841 or by email on info@indiran.org. Having announced Munizha's arrival, however, we have also to inform you of her temporary departure from 21st July 2006 until 22nd January 2007, when she will be on maternity leave. We wish her the best with the birth of her first child. Somebody will be present in the office while she is away.

Those of you who have visited the Trust recently will have noticed some further improvements to our premises. The rather worn carpet in the entrance hall and Iran Room has now been replaced with wood flooring, a fence has been erected at the front of the house to reduce traffic noise and deter people from throwing litter (or themselves!) into our front garden and we have extended the car park to more than double its former size. We plan to install disabled access early next year.

We have been fortunate to have a rich and varied series of lectures in

the last year. As well as scholars, our speakers have included a journalist, tour operator and NGO representative and topics have ranged from 'Women and Music on the Great Silk Road' to 'Legends of Alexander the Great, East and West', 'Recent Fieldwork at the Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan' and 'Archaeological Tourism with Special Reference to the Ancient Roman Trails in South India'. Some of our Trustees have also enlightened us with their specialist knowledge. Dr Almut Hintze gave a talk on 'Zoroastrianism and the Parsis', Professor Greg Possehl spoke about his 'Magan Boat Project' and more recently, Sir Nicholas Barrington took us on a fascinating journey through 'Nuristan & Afghanistan: 45 years ago and now'.

This talk was part of a programme of events on Afghanistan, central to which was the British Library Travelling Exhibition, 'Afghanistan: Crossroads of Asia', held at the Trust during May and June this year. Also contributing to this programme was François de Blois (SOAS), who spoke on 'Bactrian Chronology and Sasanian Chronology: new evidence



from ancient Afghanistan'. The exhibition also opened alongside some very special events on 4th-5th May. There was standing room only for the lecture given by our Honorary Fellow, Professor Gérard Fussman (Collège de France, Paris), who spoke on 'Buddhism on the North Bank of the Oxus River: new data from recent excavations'. This



Prof. Gérard Fussman at the Trust

was the first lecture to be given by an Honorary Fellow of the Trust and we look forward to welcoming our other Honorary Fellows, Professor Gherardo Gnoli (Rome) and Professor Prods Oktor Skjærvø (Harvard) to lecture here in the future. Professor Fussman's lecture was followed the next day by an Open Morning, which included short presentations about different aspects of the Trust's work. This was also very well attended, stimulating a lot of new interest in the Trust. Our special events were rounded off by a beautifully illustrated talk by the Travel writer Isobel Shaw, 'On the Edge of Earthquake: the remote and fascinating valleys of Northern Pakistan'. Sponsored by the Trust, this was held at Churchill College, and raised £280 for the victims of last year's earthquake in the region.

Finally, a good time was had by all at two more permanent fixtures in the Trust's calendar: the Harold Bailey Birthday Tea Party in December and our Annual Summer Garden Party. This was yet another sun-kissed affair and we were delighted to see many familiar faces as well as welcome newcomers at what continues to be a highlight of the year.

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OBITUARIES



**PROFESSOR
MARY BOYCE
1920-2006**

Professor Mary Boyce, who died on 4th April 2006 aged 85, was one of the AIIT's first Honorary Fellows. She was a leading authority on Zoroastrianism, the pre-Islamic religion of Iran. Born in India, she was educated in England at Wimbledon High School and Cheltenham Ladies College. At Newnham College, Cambridge, she read English for Part I and switched to Archaeology and Anthropology for Part II of the Tripos, graduating with a double first in 1943. In 1944 she was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Archaeology at Royal Holloway College, London, but in 1946 began a doctorate on *The Manichaean Hymn-cycles in Parthian*. SOAS appointed her Lecturer in Iranian Studies in 1947, Reader in 1958 and Professor in 1963.

Shortly after her appointment as Professor, Mary Boyce travelled overland to Iran and spent a year with Zoroastrian families in Kerman, Yazd and, especially, the village of Sharifabad. She was the first western scholar to experience Zoroastrian religious life as an 'insider', and this proved formative for her interpretation of the religion and its history. In 1972 she received the Burton Memorial Medal from the Royal Asiatic Society for her fieldwork in Iran, presenting its results in her Ratanbai Katrak Lectures, delivered in Oxford in 1975 and published as *A Persian Stronghold of Zoroastrianism*. She was also awarded the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal by the Royal Society of Asian Affairs in 1985. In 2004 she was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, of which she had been a

Friend since its inception. She has left her working library to the Trust, greatly enhancing its holdings on Zoroastrianism.

Due to a back problem, Mary Boyce took early retirement as Chair of Iranian Studies at SOAS in 1982, but was productive until her death. She often wrote lying on her back at her home in Highgate. She would invite visitors round in the early afternoon for tea and the ensuing discussions went on for many hours, sometimes until midnight.

She was a warm-hearted lady, but austere and a stern critic. Known for her trenchant views, she expressed them with a frankness that could be demoralizing. She was, however, equally critical of herself. She was an excellent and prompt writer of letters and to the end took a keen interest in all things Zoroastrian. The demands of scholarship and family life were, to her, incompatible and she consequently remained unmarried, preferring the fidelity of academia, as she put it, to which she was totally committed throughout her life.

Dr Almut Hintze



**WILLIAM F.
SPENGLER
1923-2005**

William F. Spengler served his country as a Foreign

Service Officer in Thailand, Norway, Pakistan and Afghanistan. During World War II he was a code breaker in the US Army and joined the Department of State in 1950. He retired as Consul General in Lahore, Pakistan in 1976. Bill was a member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Singing in America for 59 years and organized a quartet in almost every place he lived. In Kabul in the 1960s he developed an interest in the ancient coins from the region and

became one of the foremost authorities on the peoples who had influenced this area through the centuries. This interest in numismatics and history influenced the rest of his life. He published many articles, contributed to and edited numerous catalogues on world coins, and co-authored two books on the Turkomans.

He was a valued and generous supporter of the Ancient India & Iran Trust, which he visited on a number of occasions, sometimes lecturing on numismatics, and where his advice and friendship will be sadly missed.

After retiring to Colorado Springs in the United States he was active in Sister Cities, the American Numismatic Society, the World Affairs Council and formed the local Committee for International Visitors. He also held membership in many international societies.

He is survived by his sister Susan, brother David, his wife of 55 years Phillis, three children, Sarah, Bill and John, and four grandchildren, May, Alex, Grant and Bennett. He will be missed by his family and his many friends and colleagues around the world.

*Professor Gregory Possehl &
Dr Bridget Allchin*



**DAISY
1996-2005**

My beautiful Daisy died

last year just before Christmas. I got her from Wood Green at Heydon when she was little more than a puppy and received nothing but joy and excitement from her for the next ten years. The other members of the Trust loved her too, and when she was finally brought down by a vicious insulinoma we laid her to rest in the rose garden. Tilly and Bruno were also at the graveside to say goodbye to their sister and friend.

James Cormick

AIIT SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH & EVENTS

PAKISTAN VISITING FELLOWSHIP



We are very pleased to announce that Mr Muhammad Zahir, Lecturer in Archaeology at Government College Peshawar has been awarded

the first of our Pakistan Visiting Fellowships, which he will be taking up in October 2006.

Following the success of our annual Indian Visiting Fellowship programme, we decided to introduce a similar scheme for scholars from Pakistan, working in the fields of Archaeology, Art History, Ancient Languages or Conservation. The Fellowship is being run in collaboration with Bradford University and with financial support from members of the Pakistani business community in England. Fellows receive a grant of £4500 towards the costs of a 3-4 month visit.

Mr Zahir will be conducting research on 'Modelling the Settlement Data of NWFP, Pakistan, in Order to Understand Issues of Cultural Continuity at a Site Level'. He will be based at the Trust and will visit the Archaeology departments at Bradford and Leicester Universities. He will lecture at each of these on Pakistan Archaeology as well as to the Pakistani business community in Bradford. He will be speaking on 'The Archaeology of Chitral with Special Reference to New Excavations and Explorations' at the Trust on 24th November at 5pm.

For their generous donations to this scheme, we wish to thank:

Sir Anwar Pervez
Mr Mohammed Akram
Mr Manzoor Bahadur
Mr Mohammad Sabir
Mr Nadeem Shah

INDIAN VISITING FELLOWSHIP APPEAL

From 1985 to 2003, the Trust ran a successful programme of annual Visiting Fellowships for scholars from India, with assistance from the Charles Wallace India Trust and other sources. We are now looking to re-establish this scheme with support from new donors.

It is estimated that the scheme will cost £5000 a year, to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for 3-4 months. Applications will be invited from scholars working in the broad fields of Archaeology, Art History, Ancient Languages or Conservation. The successful candidate will be based in Cambridge. As well as having full access to the Trust's unique library they will be introduced to other libraries and institutions relevant to their research. In the past, Visiting Fellows and their institutions in India have benefited a great deal from this period of intensive study and research in the UK, which normally led to the completion of books and articles.

Having recently set up a similar programme for Visiting Fellows from Pakistan, with financial support from Pakistani businessmen in England, we hope that the Indian Visiting Fellowship scheme will be up and running again before long. If you would be willing to make a financial contribution, as an individual or institution, please contact the Trust's Administrator (info@indiran.org; +44 (0)1223 356841).

STUDY BURSARIES

The Trust offers small grants to scholars wishing to come to Cambridge and use its library. Successful applicants receive up to £500 towards their travel and accommodation costs.

Applications for Study Bursaries should be in writing and accompa-

nied by a CV, briefly outlining the nature and purpose of the research you wish to carry out and any foreseeable outcomes of this work, the proposed length of your stay and an estimate of your costs. Contact details for two referees should also be provided. Please send your application, or address any further queries to the Administrator (info@indiran.org; +44 (0)1223 356841).

Recent Bursary Recipients

Dr Maria Szuppe (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)
Dr Ellen Raven (Leiden University)
Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften)

OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS

Proceedings of the conference 'South Asia at the Crossroads' held at the Trust in 2004, edited by Dr Michael D. Petraglia and Dr Bridget Allchin, will be published by the end of the year by Springer (Netherlands) as *The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia: Inter-disciplinary Studies in Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistics and Genetics*.

The Manichaean Dictionary Project (based at the Trust from 1999-2005) has so far resulted in the following volumes of the *Dictionary of Manichaean Texts*, published by Brepols, Turnhout: Samuel Lieu (ed.), *Vol. I: Texts from the Roman Empire (Texts in Syriac, Greek, Coptic and Latin)*, 1999; Francois de Blois et al., *Vol. II: Texts from Iraq and Iran (Texts in Syriac, Arabic, Persian and Zoroastrian Middle Persian)*, 2006; Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst, *Vol. III,1: Texts from Central Asia and China (Texts in Middle Persian and Parthian)*. Forthcoming are the Dictionaries of

Manichaean Texts in Chinese (Gunner Mikkelsen), Sogdian (D. Durkin-Meisterernst) Old Turkic (Larry Clarke) and Tocharian (Georges-Jean Pinault).

A symposium on the canonical writings of Mani, organised by Professor Sam Lieu and Enrico Morano under the aegis of the Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum for members of the International Association of Manichaean Studies will be held at the Trust on 9-12 January 2007. Also in the near future, the Trust will be supporting a workshop on Middle Ganges, organised by Dr Mike Petraglia and the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies.

Finally, the Trust has provided a much appreciated setting for meetings held by Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum, the South Asian Archives Library Group and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, UK. If you are interested in holding a meeting here, please contact the Administrator (info@indiran.org; +44 (0)1223 356841).

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Trust's library continues to expand, having acquired close to 300 new titles in the last year. It has also recently been bequeathed the working library of Professor Mary Boyce. We continue to raise funds from the sale of duplicates, a list of which can be found on our website (www.indiran.org).

Mrs Jose John took up the post of Assistant Librarian in May 2005 and is available Monday-Friday, 10 am-3pm to answer enquiries and assist users. She can be contacted on +44 (0)1223 702095, or by email on library@indiran.org.

Jose has also been busy databasing material, including the Emmerick Offprints, as have our longstanding volunteers, James and Grace Rankin. James has now completed work on the Allchin Slide

Collection, having databased 11,218 slides. Lady Charlotte Pippard has also continued to donate valuable time and skills towards restoring books. Finally, Mrs Marti Wilson has almost completed the digitisation of the Howard Wilson Sri Lankan Photographic Archive, which we hope to soon make accessible.

AIIT FRIDAY LECTURES

Michaelmas Term, 2006
5pm, 23 Brooklands Avenue,
Cambridge

13 October: Dr Kirsteen Kim
(University of Birmingham)

'Gurus or Revolutionaries?
Christian Self-Understanding in
Relation to Hinduism in Post-
Colonial India'

27 October: Professor Ihsan Ali
(Vice-Chancellor, Hazara
University, NWFP, Pakistan)

'The Development of the Indus
Valley Civilization in the Gomal
Plains, NWFP, Pakistan'
(To Be Confirmed)

3 November: Dr Razia Sultanova
(SOAS)

'Female Sufism in Central Asian
Music: from court to folk
traditions'

10 November: Dr Stephen
Fennelle (University of
Cambridge)

'As Rohini follows Chandra:
Oriental Jones to Charles Wilkins'

24 November: Mr Muhammad
Zahir (AIIT Pakistan Visiting
Fellow, Government College,
Peshawar)

'The Archaeology of Chitral with
Special Reference to New
Excavations and Explorations'

All Welcome
Light Refreshments Served

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The Trust depends on its own resources, receiving no public money. Please help us by becoming a Friend of the AIIT for an Annual (£30) or Life (£400) subscription. For further details, see our website (www.indiran.org) or contact the Trust's Administrator (info@indiran.org; +44 (0)1223 356841).

THANK YOU

**To all who have donated money
or become Friends of the Trust
over the last two years:**

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