**New Trustee & Honorary Fellows**

We are delighted to announce the recent appointment of a new Trustee, T. Richard Blurton, and two new Honorary Fellows, Professor Werner Sundermann and Ralph Pinder-Wilson.

Richard Blurton is Assistant Keeper in the Department of Asia at the British Museum, where he is responsible for the South Asia collections. He organised the Museum’s recent ‘Voices of Bengal’ season and his book, *Bengali Myths* (see back page), was published to coincide with this. We look forward to welcoming him officially on Friday 25th May when he will be lecturing at the Trust. The title of his talk is ‘On the History of Bengali Orally-Transmitted Narrative and the Visual Accompaniments’.

Another date for the diary is Friday 4th May, when our new Honorary Fellow, Professor Werner Sundermann, will be lecturing at the Trust on ‘Zoroastrian tales in Non-Zoroastrian Transmission and Transformation’. Prof. Sundermann is Honorary Professor of Iranian Studies at the Freie Universität, Berlin and a member of the Berlin Akademie der Wissenschaften. He is a distinguished scholar of Iranian languages and religions, particularly Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism. We look forward to seeing you at both these special events.

The second of our new Honorary Fellows, Ralph Pinder-Wilson, is an art historian, specialising in Islamic Art. He is also associated with the British Museum, where he was first Assistant then Deputy Keeper in the Department of Oriental Antiquities from 1949-76. He then became Director of the British Institute for Afghan Studies in Kabul.

**Mary Boyce Library**

Professor Mary Boyce, who died last year and was an Honorary Fellow of the Trust, very generously left her library to us. As a result of this bequest, our library now has an unparalleled collection of works on Zoroastranism, Iranian studies in general, comparative religion, and classical and Near Eastern archaeology, in addition to works of a more general historical and literary nature.

Our Assistant Librarian, Jose John, has listed all 2654 books, which are now being catalogued.

Included in the Boyce collection are a large number of offprints, which our longstanding volunteer, James Rankin, is currently adding to our offprint database. We also have Professor Boyce’s notebooks from the year she spent in Iran in 1963-64, and about 400 colour slides and 1000 black and white prints and negatives from the same period. The slides are currently being digitised and catalogued.

**The Year So Far...**

has been busy at the Trust. Our Friday lectures have continued to be well-attended and varied, ranging from ‘New Light on the Epistles of Mani’ and ‘DNA based histories of Indian Caste and Tribal Communities’ to ‘Female Sufism in Central Asian Music’ and ‘The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam: it’s publication and illustration in the West’. One particular highlight was the travel writer Jason Elliot’s beautifully illustrated talk on ‘The History and Art of Iran, with Pictures’.

Our Pakistan Visiting Fellowship Scheme got off to a successful start with the visit of our first Fellow, Muhammad Zahir. His presentations to the Trust, the Pakistan High Commission and Pakistan Society in London, the Pakistani business community in Bradford and the Universities of Bradford and Cambridge were all extremely well received. We hope to select our second Visiting Fellow soon.

We would like to welcome our new volunteers, Shashi Sen, Clemente Beghi, Bill Martin and Sandra Mason. It is a pleasure to see the Trust ‘family’ continuing to grow. Speaking of which, if you call the office and hear an odd yet determined babble in the background, that is our Administrator Munizha’s baby daughter Rubi, who was born last August. She likes to come into work with her Mum now and again to brush up on her Sanskrit.
WHAT HAVE OUR TRUSTEES BEEN UP TO?

There is never a idle moment for our Trustees and it is quite a job keeping track of their movements. But we have managed to gather here a few recent highlights from their busy lives.

In April 2007, three of our Trustees attended a workshop on ‘Current Research in Iranian Studies’, which was hosted by our Honorary Fellow, Professor Gherardo Gnoli, at his country home in Cagli, a small town in the Marche region of Italy. Dr Almut Hintze presented a paper on the Avestan concept of ‘The Cow That Came from the Moon’ and Ursula Sims-Williams described collections of Zoroastrian manuscripts in India. Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams talked about the newly-discovered Sogdian inscriptions on clay bricks from Kazakhstan, brought to light by the opportunity to examine the bricks for himself, but also participated in a press conference, was interviewed by all the Kazakh TV stations and was granted an audience with the mayor of Almaty, who is now funding further excavations.

Professor Gregory Possehl plans to retire on July 1, 2007 and will become Curator Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania Museum’s Asia Section, and Emeritus Professor of Anthropology. Greg arrived at Penn in the Fall of 1973, and has spent virtually his entire career there. He has done most of his archaeological research in India, especially in Gujarat and southern Rajasthan. Since field archaeology is his first love he has begun a new five year project at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bat in the Sultanate of Oman. Bat is a Bronze Age town, contemporary with the Indus civilization of the Subcontinent. Greg will give an illustrated lecture at the Trust on this first season at Bat on Friday 11 May.

In 2006 Professor Robin Coningham was appointed to the Chair in Early Mediaeval Archaeology at Durham University and will be taking over as Head of Durham’s Department of Archaeology this summer. Robin continues to direct the Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka) project with Dr Prashanta Gunawardhana of the University of Kelaniya. Strengthening the Trust’s Iranian links, Robin was elected Honorary Secretary of the British Institute of Persian Studies in 2006 and has just returned from an Easter field season in the Tehran Plain. Excavating the site of Tepe Pardis with Dr Hassan Fazeli (Director of the Iranian Centre of Archaeological Research), they have revealed the presence of a ceramic production centre dating to the fifth millennium BC.

Dr Michael Petraglia has received a number of recent awards for prehistoric research in India, including a Larger Research award from the British Academy and a grant from the Leverhulme Trust. These are both for research on the impact of the 74,000 year old Toba volcanic super-eruption on human populations in South Asia. A major UKIERI grant has also been recently announced for examining the initial occupation of the subcontinent by modern humans through archaeological, morphological and genetic studies. Mike and his colleagues at the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, Dr. Marta M. Lahr, Dr. Nicole Boivin, and Dr. Toomas Kivisild, are part of the UK team for this project.

Dr Bridget Allechin and Mike Petraglia’s book, *The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia*, has now been published (see back page). This is the outcome of the ‘Crossroads of Asia’ conference held at the Trust in 2004 and includes concluding remarks by Gregory Possehl. Drs Bridge and Raymond Allechin are currently working on their memoirs.

Finally, Sir Nicholas Barrington has recently given a number of talks on Afghanistan past and present, most notably to a full house at the Royal Society of Asian Affairs on 21 February 2007.
AIIT FRIDAY
LECTURES

Easter Term, 2007
5pm, 23 Brooklands Avenue
Cambridge

27 April: Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams (SOAS)
‘The Sasanians in the East: a Bactrian archive from Afghanistan’

4 May: Professor Werner Sundermann (Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin);
Honorary Fellow of the AIIT
‘Zoroastrian Tales in Non-Zoroastrian Transmission and Transformation’

11 May: Professor Gregory Possehl (University of Pennsylvania)
‘Magan and Meluhha: new insights from Bat in the Sultanate of Oman’

25 May: T. Richard Blurton (British Museum)
‘On the History of Bengali Orally-Transmitted Narrative and the Visual Accompaniments’

1 June: Dr Cameron Petrie (University of Cambridge)
‘Perspectives on the 4th Millenium BC in South West Iran’

8 June: Dr Nandini Sinha Kapur (University of Delhi)
‘Historiography of State in Pre-Mughal India and State Formation in Mewar (7th-15th Centuries AD)’

ALL WELCOME
ADMISSION FREE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED

THANK YOU
To everyone who has recently made a donation or become a Friend of the Trust

Dr Bridget Allchin
Dr Raymond Allchin
Mr Robert Balyuzi
Sir Nicholas Barrington
Dr Eugenio Biagini
Prof. A.D.H. Bivar
Mr T. Richard Blurton
B.H.M.W. Bohingamuwa
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Dr S. Suresh
Dr Rakesh Tewari
Dr Elizabeth Tucker
Mr Michael Watson
Prof. Y. Yoshida

and Dr Nandini Sinha Kapur (University of Delhi). We would like to thank Professor Sam Lieu and
John Sheldon for their generous donations, in memory of Mary Boyce, to be used as bursaries for scholars working in the field of
Iranian Studies.

TREASURES OF
THE TRUST

MONDAY 11TH JUNE, 5PM
A special event for Friends of the Ancient India & Iran Trust,

As more people become Friends of the Trust, either through an annual subscription of £30 or a life subscription of £400, we hope to hold more special events exclusively for them. The first of these, ‘Treasures of the Trust’, is a chance for Friends to learn more about some of our more precious and unique possessions, including books and manuscripts which are not normally on display. Friends will be able to take a close look at these items, and our Trustees will speak briefly about some of their favourites.

As the Trust receives no public money but depends entirely on its own resources, becoming a Friend is one of the most helpful ways in which people can support our work and development. Friends are always welcome to visit the Trust and contribute ideas and advice.

Thank you to everyone who has recently made a donation or become a Friend of the Trust

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Dr Raymond Allchin
Mr Robert Balyuzi
Sir Nicholas Barrington
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Prof. Mauro Maggi
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Dr Raymond P. Mercier
Mrs Mary Painter
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If you would like to become a Friend, please contact our Administrator on 01223 3568451 or info@indiran.org for an application form.
Recent Publications of Interest by Trustees, Friends and Associates of the Trust

The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia: Inter-disciplinary Studies in Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistics and Genetics.
Proceedings of the conference ‘South Asia at the Crossroads’ held at the Trust in 2004. Archaeologists, biological anthropologists, geneticists and linguists provide a comprehensive account of the history and evolution of human populations residing in the subcontinent.

A Passage to Nuristan: Exploring the Mysterious Afghan Hinterland
This book starts with a hitherto unpublished account of an adventurous journey by young diplomats into an unknown world in 1960 and includes anthropological and historical information about the unique Nuristani people, together with an account of subsequent political developments in Afghanistan.

Bengali Myths
This series of narratives from the rich tradition of Bengali story-telling draws from the substantial Bengal collections of the British Museum, which range from the courtly to the popular, and date from the 9th century to the present day. It features works from undivided Bengal and demonstrates the connections between history and myth.

Etymological Dictionary of the Iranian Verb
This work aims to bridge the apparent gap in knowledge that exists between Indo-Europeans and scholars of Iranian languages with regard to each other’s fields. It provides a critical survey of all verbs attested in Proto-Iranian based on its descendants, accompanied by a critical analysis of their morphology and provenance.

The Art of Omar Khayyam: Illustrating FitzGerald’s Rubaiyat
With some 300 colour illustrations and covering the work of over 100 artists, this book tells the extraordinary story of the popularity of Edward Fitzgerald’s Rubaiyat and surveys how different illustrators have approached the task of interpreting the themes and topics of one of the most universally known of all poems.

Gunner B. Mikkelsen (Turnhout: Brepols, 2007) €80 (Hbk)
The fourth volume to be published as a result of the Manichaean Dictionary Project, based at the Trust from 1999-2005. It covers all extant Manichaean texts in Chinese from the Tang period and excerpts on Manichaism and the Manichaean church from Chinese sources.