

INDIRAN

The newsletter of the Ancient India & Iran Trust

Issue 17: Winter 2023



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Editor's letter

News from the Ancient India & Iran Trust

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of *Indiran*, which follows another lively year at the Trust. Many of our regular visitors will have noticed that we have made some significant improvements to the house: our disabled access ramp has been completely rebuilt and new floor-to-ceiling shelves, matching those in the India and Iran reading rooms, have been installed in the library office (p. 8). As always, though, in old buildings like ours, nothing is straightforward, and getting one job done always leads to the discovery of more that need doing. Installing the shelves thus first necessitated a complete upgrade of our electricity system!

With all this going on in the background, it has been encouraging to see the number of new library users continue to grow, as well as an expanding range of visitors at our events – our regular Friday lectures as well as special events like the Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology (p. 3), Open Cambridge and one-off events such as the British Institute of Persian Studies workshop on Indo-Persian and Persianate Manuscripts in Britain held at the Trust in November 2023 (p. 4). And, we always enjoy entertaining Friends and close associates of the Trust at occasions like the Bailey Tea Party and Garden Party, as well as celebrating special birthdays (p. 5).

In addition to congratulating two of our trustees, Nicholas Sims-Williams and Joe Cribb, on winning prestigious prizes (p. 7), we are also delighted to welcome four new honorary fellows (p. 6). Our honorary fellows are distinguished scholars who are in sympathy with the aims of the Trust and whose work relates to the fields we cover. We look forward to one of our new honorary fellows, Pierfrancesco Callieri, coming to give a talk at the Trust in March 2024, and hope that our other honorary fellows

will be able to visit the Trust some time in the near future.

As well as upgrades to the house, we have also taken a major technological step forward by working with non-profit Data Futures GmbH to install a robotic data library in our basement (pp. 9–10). As Data Futures Director Peter Cornwell explains, this connects us to a prominent research data preservation program and provides us with the perfect platform to make our archives and collections available online in a future-proof format, as they increasingly become digitised – for example, the Zoroastrian manuscripts that Jamie O'Connell, a Trust Bursary recipient, began to photograph this year (p. 11).

Our basement has in fact been the scene of much activity this year, with work resuming on cataloguing the Allchin Archive, as well as the sorting and reorganisation of materials by our wonderful volunteers (p. 8). After several unavoidable delays, the huge job of sorting through the numerous boxes of materials left to the Trust by the late Professor John Hinnells has also been started by Ruzbeh Hodiwala, with a rich archive and possible outputs beginning to take shape (pp. 12–13).

Our other archives, too, continue to be a source of interesting revelations, as reported by Diya Mehra, another Bursary recipient, who visited from India to view the Penelope Chetwode (Betjeman) photographic collection (p. 11). In addition, some impressive watercolours in the Allchin Archive by founding trustee Raymond Allchin of sherds from Afghanistan have also recently come to light. Some of these are presented here by our trustee Piers Baker (pp. 14–16).

As a follow-up to a lecture at the Trust in 2022, Yousef Moradi and Almut Hintze report on the Sasanian clay bullae excavated at the World Heritage site of Takht-e Soleyman

from 2002–2008 (p. 17). And finally, our Custodian, James Cormick, uncovers the story behind another beautiful object – 'Three Fish' – that has long since found a home at the Trust.

Munizha Ahmad-Cooke is the Administrator of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

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Events calendar 2022–23

Michaelmas Term 2022

14 October: T. Richard Blurton (British Museum; AIIT): India: a history in objects

4 November: Ursula Sims-Williams (British Library; AIIT): The many faces of Alexander the Great

25 November: Jeffrey P. Charest (independent scholar): Intercultural themes in the post-Hellenistic music cultures of Bactria, Gandhāra and Indo-Greek kingdoms

3 December: Eighth Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology

Lent Term 2023

27 January: Moazzam Khan Durrani (The Islamia University of Bahawalpur): Magnifying the monumental value of South Punjab, Pakistan: a case study of Bahawalpur state

17 February: Muhammad Waqar Mushtaq (The Islamia University of Bahawalpur): Mapping Archaeological Heritage in the Cholistan Desert, Pakistan: from screen to field and back again

24 February: Janet Pope & Peter Jackson (independent researchers; AIIT): The Protestant Mission to the Buryats, 1818–1840

17 March: Joe Cribb (Hebei Normal University; British Museum; AIIT): Money is power: a metaphorical and numismatic approach

Easter Term 2023

28 April: Paulina Niechciał (Jagiellonian University): Lived Zoroastrianism: women's religious practices in the American diaspora

5 May: Sarah Knight (independent scholar): The Pahlavi inscription on the 'Persian Cross' of Mylapore in South India, and its implications for the religious identity of the Syrian Christians of Kerala

26 May: Vivek Gupta (University of Cambridge): Intermedial effects around 1400: scribal knowledge and ornament between the Deccan and the Indian Ocean World

9 June: Sam Lasman (University of Cambridge): Snake men: *Azhdahā* in the Persian epic tradition

Allchin Symposium 2022

Christos Nikolaou

The Eighth Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology, held as a hybrid event at the Trust on 3 December 2022, brought together the work of early-career researchers from around the world and attracted 50 participants on Zoom and in person.

Abdul Adil Parsy opened by discussing the socio-economic shifts in the transition from Neolithic to Megalithic periods in Kashmir. Himanshu Shekar looked at the monumental architecture in Jharkhand, with a focus on the Austroasiatic communities resident there. Aditi Mann concluded the first session by discussing the mosaic of art remains in the site of Kurukshetra, a possible inspiration for the *Mahabharata*.

On the Early Historic period, Varada Khaladkar discussed western Deccan's role in the Mahajanapadas. Sneha Kapote also focused on Kashmir, this time the presence of Kidarite coins and what they tell us about the kingdom's extent and religious affairs. Ritvik Balvally looked at the Gulf trade with India in the Sasanian period, while Gaurav Kumar Pal and M.B. Rajani spoke on the drainage regimes in Jahanpanah Fort and their implications for urbanism.

Moving to the Classical and Medieval periods, Kaushik Gangopadhyay offered insights into ceramics and trade in the Bay of Bengal. Mayur Thakare then gave an equally intriguing talk on Portuguese colonial expansion in India. Christos Nikolaou provided a statistical and GIS-based analysis of hybridity strategies in Ai Khanoum, while Elisa Iori presented an overview of Barikot's material culture in the Kushano-Sasanian period.

Finally, Iqtedar Alam gave a fascinating talk on the canals of Delhi during the Mughal period, Shreya Gupta discussed coin collection in British colonial India and Afifa Khan presented the exciting work of the Mapping Archaeological Heritage in South Asia project.

In sum, the Symposium successfully covered an impressive range of understudied topics that illuminate the multiplicity of the past across South Asia.

Christos Nikolaou is a PhD candidate at the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Special events

Indo-Persian and Persianate Manuscripts in Britain: Provenance and Collection

Ursula Sims-Williams

On Friday 3 November 2023, the Trust hosted an informal workshop 'Indo-Persian and Persianate Manuscripts in Britain: Provenance and Collection'. This was part of the British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS)' Flagship Research Project 'Persian Manuscripts between East and West: Britain, India and the Circulation of the Persianate Literary Heritage' directed by Andrew Peacock, University of St Andrews, Ursula Sims-Williams, British Library and Ancient India and Iran Trust, and Mahmood Alam, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

Collections of Persian manuscripts in Britain date back to the seventeenth century and include many unpublished and little-known works. These were originally copied for and collected by earlier owners in India, Iran and Central Asia, who can often be identified by ownership statements, seals and dedications. The workshop explored the rationale and motivation behind these collections, examining not only the role of colonial administrators as collectors and patrons, but the wider circulation of manuscripts as an indicator of intellectual activity.

In addition to the stimulating talks, participants could view a selection of the Trust's own collection of 70 Persian manuscripts, acquired by founding trustee Sir Harold Bailey during the 1930s (see this issue's cover image for an example).

Ursula Sims-Williams is Lead Curator of Iranian Collections, British Library and Honorary Librarian of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.



Workshop participants gathered on the front steps of the Trust

Programme

James White Collecting in the mid-17th century: The Thompson-Hyde network

Charles Melville From Oudh to Christ's: the tortuous peregrinations of the Hutton collection of Oriental manuscripts

Catherine Ansorge An *Arabian Nights* manuscript and its journey to Cambridge

Christopher Bahl and Jake Benson Colonel George Hamilton and his networks: collector, commissioner and connoisseur of Arabic and Persian manuscripts in 19th-century South Asia

Vivek Gupta Archives in the air: A Lucknow lady's songs and colonel's library reunited in Cambridge

Ursula Sims-Williams A 19th-century cleric in South India: the collection of Thomas Robinson, Archdeacon of Madras and Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic at Cambridge

Michael Willis Arabic manuscripts in the Bijapur Library: Otto Loth and beyond

Lucy Deacon John Baillie of Leys and the Edinburgh fragment of Rashid al-Din's *Jami' al-tawarikh*

Andrew Peacock The Dunimarle Collection

Firuz Melville The Cambridge Hilali and its decoration programme

Sheida Heydarishovir A closer look at the Delhi Collection

Yasmin Faghihi Investigating the origins of Islamicate manuscripts using computational methods

The workshop was financed by BIPS with the support of the *Sufi Manuscript Cultures* research project.

Special events

Other gatherings at the Trust

Our Bailey Tea Party in December 2022 coincided with heavy snowfall, which sadly prevented many Friends from attending. But we went ahead anyway and were delighted that a few of our Friends braved the weather to join us for a cosy gathering. Alternating with the Bailey Memorial Lecture, the Tea Party commemorates the birth of our founding trustee Sir Harold Bailey on 16 December 1899. He regularly held a birthday tea party and the Trust has continued this tradition since his death in 1996, as well as that of icing an obscure word, to be explained to the guests, on a fruit cake. On this occasion, our Chair, Nicholas Sims-Williams presented a personal name in a Bactrian inscription from Uruzgan, Afghanistan, which can be read *Bukufal-zad*, literally, 'son of Bucephalus', named after the horse of Alexander the Great, who was deified like his master.



Charlotte Pippard celebrating her 100th birthday at the Trust

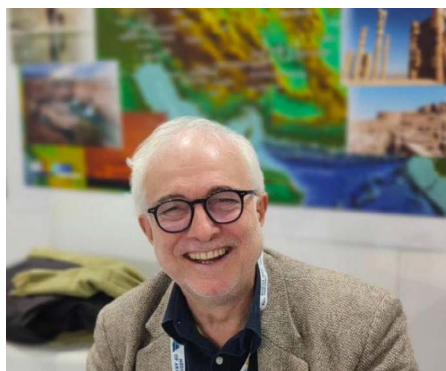
The weather complied more at our summer Garden Party, allowing us to socialise outside with Friends and close associates. We also participated again in the Cambridge Festival and Open Cambridge, both of which brought many new visitors to the Trust. For the Festival, our trustee Joe Cribb gave a lecture to a full house entitled 'Money is power: a metaphorical and numismatic approach'. He was also a guest on the Cambridge Festival podcast *Say That Again Slowly* (24 March 2023), available on podcast platforms. For Open Cambridge, we held a drop-in session: 'Hidden histories, unwrapping the Trust's collections', with exhibits from the Penelope Chetwode (Betjeman) and Harold Bailey archives – a busy two hours with plenty of visitors enjoying the exhibits and the garden. In May, we were also pleased to host our first information evening for postgraduate students and researchers at Cambridge University, to introduce them to the Trust and tell them more about our collections. And, at the start of 2023, we held

a small yet very special celebration for our longstanding volunteer, Charlotte Pippard's 100th birthday. Charlotte has been coming to the Trust every week since 2004 to repair our books and keep many fragile library materials from falling apart. As our Custodian, James Cormick, puts it in his blog post 'Longevity' on our website, as well as there being something in the air, there must be something peculiar to the Trust that contributes to the longevity of people closely associated with it: 'I am convinced that books, particularly old books, add to the environmental mix that prolongs a person's life. How else can we explain the fact that four people closely associated with Trust have approached, reached, or exceeded 100 years old?'

Honorary fellows

Trust welcomes four new honorary fellows

Since 2004, the Trust has been proud to have a number of distinguished scholars associated with it as honorary fellows. We are delighted to announce that four new names have recently been added to this list. They join our four existing honorary fellows: Anna Dallapiccola, Robert Hillenbrand, Maria Macuch and Prods Oktor Skjærvø.



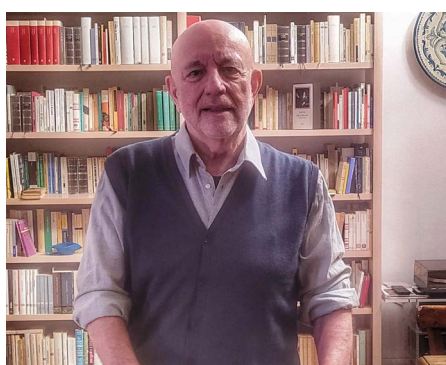
Pierfrancesco Callieri is Professor of Archaeology of Ancient Iran at the University of Bologna. His main interests are pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia, with an emphasis on the encounter between Hellenism and the cultures of the Iranian and Indian worlds. His fieldwork is mainly in the north-west of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent and in Fars, Iran. He is the Italian director of the Joint Iranian-Italian Archaeological Mission working in Fars.

Professor Callieri has authored 10 books and more than 200 papers, encyclopaedia entries and reviews (<https://www.unibo.it/sitoweb/pierfrancesco.callieri/pubblicazioni>). He received a Festschrift in 2022: L. Colliva, A. Filigenzi and L.M. Olivieri (eds), *Le forme della città. Iran, Gandhara e Asia Centrale. Scritti offerti a Pierfrancesco Callieri in occasione del suo 65° compleanno* (Serie Orientale Roma, n.s. 34), Roma, Scienze e lettere.



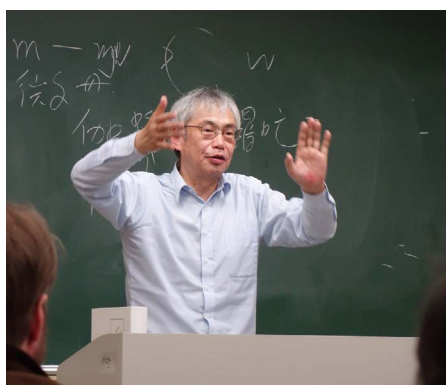
Frantz Grenet is Professor of the History and Cultures of pre-Islamic Central Asia at the Collège de France, Paris. He is Director of the French-Uzbek Archaeological Mission in Sogdiana, working mainly in Samarkand, and was recently President of the scientific committee of the exhibition *Splendeurs des Oasis d'Ouzbékistan* (Louvre, Nov 2022–Mar 2023).

Professor Grenet's main publications are *Les pratiques funéraires dans l'Asie centrale sédentaire de la conquête grecque à l'islamisation*, 1984; *A History of Zoroastrianism, III: Zoroastrianism Under Macedonian and Roman Rule*, 1991 (with M. Boyce); *La geste d'Ardashir fils de Pâbak*, 2003; *The Golden Journey to Samarkand* [selected articles translated into Chinese], 2017; *The Sogdian 'Ancient Letters' and other Early Sogdian Inscriptions and Documents* (with N. Sims-Williams), 2023. He has edited/co-edited 7 collective volumes and published about 240 articles (in French, English, Russian, Persian, Chinese and Japanese).



Giovanni Verardi was a professor at the Università L'Orientale, Naples, where he taught Archaeology and Art History of Central Asia and Archaeology and Art History of India. He retired in 2007. He has participated in many excavations and was Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Nepal from 1988 to 1997 and of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2004. He also co-directed the Chinese-Italian excavation of the Fengxiansi at Longmen, Luoyang, China from 1997 to 2002.

Professor Verardi has a particular interest in Indian iconography and has travelled extensively in India and Pakistan since 1970. His numerous publications include, most recently, *The Gods and the Heretics: Crisis and Ruin of Indian Buddhism*, 2018 (a revised edition of *Hardships and Downfall of Buddhism in India*, 2011).



Yutaka Yoshida is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, having retired in 2020. He is also Guest Professor at the Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Teikyo University. His main interest is Sogdian and other Iranian languages once spoken along the Silk Road. He participated in an expedition surveying archaeological sites and inscriptions in Mongolia in 1997 and, more recently, in the Japanese-Kyrgyz joint excavation of Ak Beshim.

Professor Yoshida is a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. He received the World Book Award of Iran in February 2014 for his book on Sogdian art and language, and a Festschrift in 2015: *Papers in Honour of Professors Yutaka Yoshida and Masaharu Arakawa on the Occasion of their 60th Birthday: Studies on the Inner Asian Languages*. His recent publications include the monograph *Three Manichaean Sogdian Letters Unearthed in Bāzāklīk, Turfan*, 2019.

Two trustees honoured



Nicholas Sims-Williams (right) with Carlo Cereti, Chair of the Ehsan Yarshater Book Award committee



Joe Cribb at the Derek Allen Prize award ceremony

Two of our trustees have been awarded prestigious prizes in the last year. Nicholas Sims-Williams, our Chair, was the 2022 recipient of the Ehsan Yarshater Book Award for *The Book of Zambasta: Metre and Stress in Old Khotanese* (Beiträge Zur Iranistik Band 49), Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 2022. Named after the eminent scholar of Iranian studies Ehsan Yarshater (1920–2018), founder of the *Encyclopædia Iranica*, the purpose of this award is to advance scholarship and promote excellence in pre-Islamic Iranian studies. The Ehsan Yarshater Book Award is awarded by the Societas Iranologica Europaea on behalf of the Persian Heritage Foundation. *The Book of Zambasta* is available to consult in the Trust's library, shelf mark AIIT.a.2518.

Joe Cribb received the 2023 British Academy Derek Allen Prize for his outstanding contribution to the discipline of numismatics, in particular for his expertise and wide range in Asian numismatics, from the Far East via South and Southeast Asia to the Greek and later coinages of Bactria. His focus on the coinage of the Kushans and their successors, the Kushano-Sasanians and Kidarites, has led to a greatly improved understanding of the history of Afghanistan and adjacent regions in the early centuries CE. The Prize is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding work by a scholar in musicology, numismatics, and Celtic studies, in rotation.

Books about Afghanistan

Nicholas Barrington

Our trustee Nicholas Barrington has now completed his eight papers on the history of Afghanistan and connected areas in the nineteenth century as seen through his books on the period. Besides these being available on the Trust's website (parts 1 and 2 in issues 14 and 15 of *Indiran*, respectively, and subsequent parts on the Trust's blog), he plans to collect them into a well-spaced printed non-book that will be easily readable, probably called 'Barrington's Afghan Octet'. This will shortly be made available to institutions and individuals who may be interested.

News from the library

The latest on library activities, visitors, donations and work on the collections

Joanna Salisbury

December 2022 proved to be an unusually busy time at the Trust, with the fitting of new bookcases in the library office. These were partly paid for with a generous donation from our trustee Nicholas Barrington. The upheaval was worth it – the new bookcases have provided improved storage and access to many more books, including our collections of *Festschriften* and titles from the series ‘Publications de L’Institut Français D’Indologie’ and ‘Publications de L’École Française D’Extrême-Orient’ (1951–85). They have also allowed for a much needed reorganisation and consolidation of overflow collections housed in that room.

There has been a welcome increase in regular readers this year, with many Cambridge-based students booking weekly spaces in the reading rooms to make use of our collections for their Master’s and PhD research. In addition, our bursaries have enabled short-stay researchers to make use of our specialist collections of Zoroastrian manuscripts, the Islamic art archive of Ralph Pinder-Wilson and the recently donated John Hinnells Archive and papers.

For two weeks in July and September 2023, Ruzbeh Hodiwala (doctoral researcher, Zoroastrian Studies, SOAS) undertook an initial survey of the Hinnells Archive. A Herculean task made possible thanks to his knowledge of the subject matter and meticulous attention to detail. Work will continue on this archive with the expertise of Ruzbeh and Professor Jesse Palsetia (University of Guelph), a specialist in the Parsis of India. More about the archive and Ruzbeh’s work on it is on pages 11–13.



One wall of the new shelves in the library office

With the digitising of our honorary fellow Anna Dallapiccola’s archive of over 10,000 photographic images last year, work has also been completed, by Anna, on compiling the data for the digitised works. Once a final edit has been completed on this data, the entire photographic archive will be made available online.

Our volunteers’ work continues with Charlotte Pippard undertaking much needed rebinding and repairs to books in all our collections. Janet Pope and Peter Jackson help accession new books, including donations and acquisitions. They recently finished sorting, listing and boxing photographs and slides in the Charles Bawden collection and the preliminary filing and listing of his correspondence. A former reader, Ally Westcott, has also been volunteering at the Trust. Having completed her Master’s degree at Cambridge, she has undertaken a much needed reorganisation and update of our journals collection. As ever, we extend many thanks to Charlotte, Janet, Peter and Ally for the time and expertise they give the Trust every week.

The donation of books, reports and surveys from the collection of the late Beatrice de Cardi have now

been catalogued and are available to search on Cambridge University Library’s platform iDiscover. The collection of almost 100 titles is mostly related to the archaeology of the Persian Gulf and Baluchistan.

In late January, the library received a generous gift from the working collection of the late Christel Kessler, Islamic architecture scholar and long-time supporter of the Trust, who sadly passed away in November 2022. The collection includes books, journals and offprints, predominantly on Islamic and dome architecture of Egypt and the Near East. All titles have been accessioned and are being added to the library catalogue.

Following a preliminary survey of the Allchin Archive in 2019 by Danika Parikh, an archaeologist and now Lecturer in Material Culture at the University of Sussex, work is continuing on a detailed inventory and catalogue of the remaining material. The original survey was funded by a grant from the British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS). The next phase is being carried out by Iqtedar Alam, a doctoral student in Archaeology at Cambridge.

Due to recent donations to the library, more titles have been added to our duplicates book list. These sales both help researchers to affordably obtain specialist and out-of-print books and provide valuable income for the Trust to direct towards keeping our collections up to date. The duplicates list can be viewed on our website: <https://www.indiran.org/about/duplicates/>

Joanna Salisbury is Assistant Librarian at the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

To enquire about the library or make a booking to use items in our collections, please email library@indiran.org, or call 01223 702095.

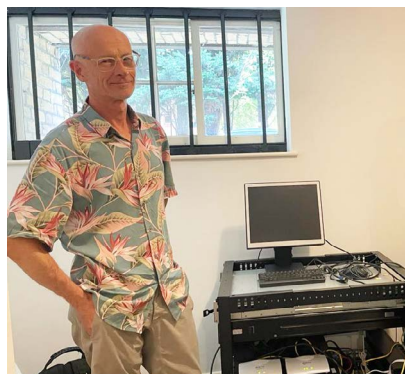
AIIT joins program to preserve digital research data

Peter Cornwell

During the Summer of 2023 the Ancient India and Iran Trust joined the hasdai research data preservation program of the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) and Data Futures GmbH (DF).

AIIT's hasdai membership establishes new research data infrastructure at the Trust – including hosting of online repositories for its own digital collections and those of collaborating UK organisations, including the Royal Asiatic Society and SOAS. In particular, this creates a future-proof foundation for adoption of the latest research methodologies by the Trust's own collections and, significantly, provides secure storage for the high volumes of new data being generated in digital preservation projects. Early outcomes using the new installation have just been released and public access to these projects is described below.

As well as establishing state-of-the-art online services, AIIT's digital materials are now being protected and preserved offline by hasdai partners, including ENS-Lyon and the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics in Geneva. In reciprocation, a robotic data library at the Trust now holds replicated copies of other hasdai partner organisations' digital assets. This means that the risks of loss of investment in research data are significantly reduced. Disasters such as fire or flooding, or internet attack at one partner location don't threaten the integrity of copies at other sites, and the impact of escalating costs or company failure implicit in proprietary storage alternatives are eliminated. The hasdai infrastructure's robotic



Data Futures Director Peter Cornwell and the robotic data library installed at the Trust

libraries automatically copy digital archives to new media long before it reaches its end of life – providing cost-neutral Institutional Guarantee for the Trust's digital assets.

Although CERN's principal mission is to provide largescale experimental infrastructure for the high energy physics community (HEP), it has also been a major contributor to IT infrastructures now employed internationally across scientific domains, as well as commercially. The original World Wide Web infrastructure was developed at CERN, and the first website served its HEP researcher community with up-to-the-minute reports of new developments, months or even years before they were reported in printed literature. Members of the Data Futures board have collaborated with CERN since the 1980s, leading to development of Open Source research data management software – InvenioRDM – for use in the life sciences and social sciences and humanities as well as in HEP. The hasdai program, which is governed by an Memorandum of Understanding between CERN's Council and Data Futures, builds on this investment – which also now supports the European Commission's OpenAIRE program, including the Zenodo global catch-all repository for research data, as well as major Japanese and US organisations

including Caltech, Japan's National Institute of Informatics (NII) and Northwestern University.

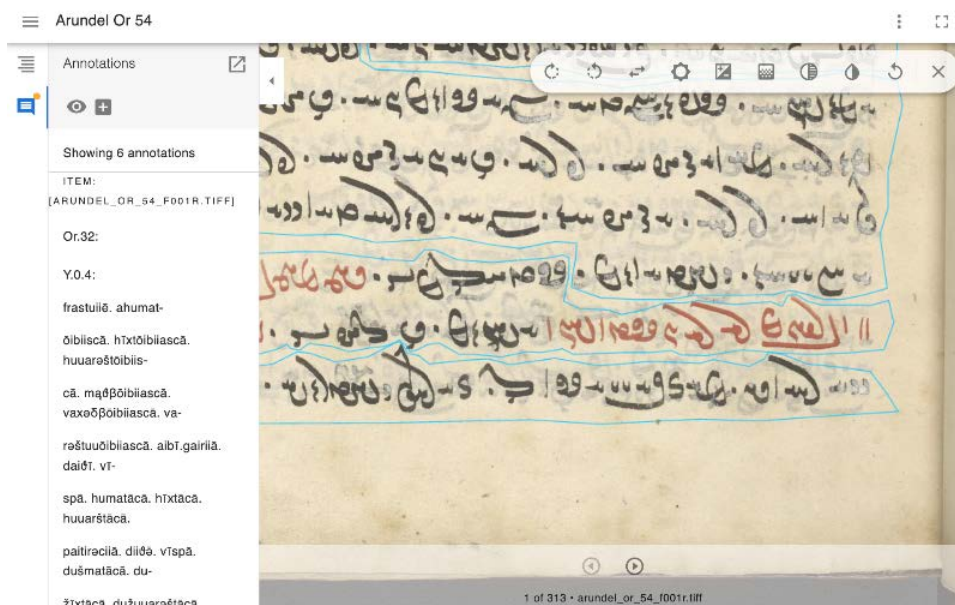
Two repositories are already accessible online at AIIT; both outcomes of The Multimedia Yasna (MUYA) project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) between 2016 and 2023, as part of an Advanced Investigator Grant to Professor Almut Hintze, an AIIT trustee: 1. <https://muya.soas.hasdai.org/> is a new digital resource for Zoroastrian studies, which supports the display and development of manuscript annotations – as well as offering IIIF services for the research community which are not available elsewhere. 2. The Edward William West notebooks, in the collection of the Royal Asiatic Society – which were digitised under the MUYA project, are now available at <https://west.soas.hasdai.org/>.

While development of records in the [muya.soas.hasdai](https://muya.soas.hasdai.org/records/evr61-yhz25) repository is a long-term activity continuing the ERC project, research using WADM annotation (a W3C FAIR standard) on the Arundel Or-54 manuscript from the British Library, can be reached at <https://muya.soas.hasdai.org/records/evr61-yhz25>. Or-54 is an early 17th-century Iranian copy of the Yasna ritual, the *Yasna sādah*, with ritual instructions in Pahlavi, and this work integrates transliteration work previously carried out using XML tools and connects it interactively with the stanzas of the manuscript. Use the 'full screen' control at the top right of the image preview window to enlarge the IIIF viewer, and click on annotations in the display in the left margin, or on the page, to highlight the contents. The Index and Annotations buttons (with the yellow dot) at the top left of the Preview window switch between page selection and annotation views. Below the preview window, via tabs under 'Additional details' the

News from the Library

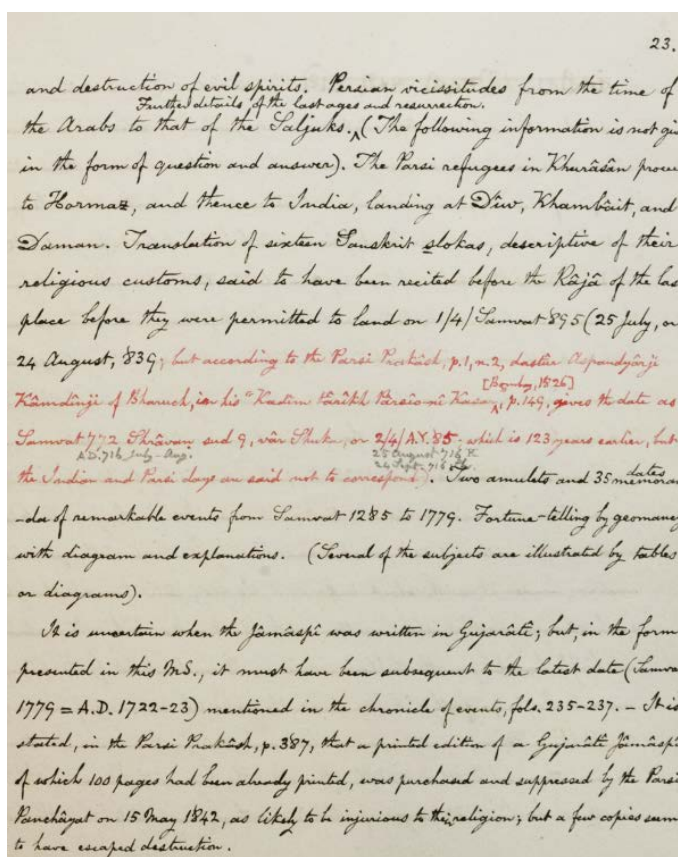
provenance of the manuscript, using the catalogue metadata of the British Library, is available: for example showing the custodial history of the manuscript – it was presented to the Royal Society in 1667 and acquired by the British Library in 1831.

In the field of Iranian Studies Edward William West (1824–1905) is well known for his contributions to our knowledge of Zoroastrian literature in Middle Persian (Pahlavi). These activities include his still-valuable survey of Pahlavi literature in the *Grundriss der Iranischen Philologie* (West 1896–1904), his translation of the Pahlavi Texts in five volumes in the series *The Sacred Books of the East* (West 1880–1897), and his work on the *Arda Wiraf Nāmag* in collaboration with Martin Haug (Haug and West 1872). What is less known, however, is that West also described, copied and collated Zoroastrian manuscripts – many of which are no longer accessible. This part of West's – to-date unpublished – work has been available for consultation in the library of the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) in London, via his copious field notebooks. These have now been digitised under the MUYA ERC grant, and the west.soas.hasdai repository now provides access to the complete West Notebooks for scholars internationally for the first time, as part of a collaboration between the MUYA team and members of the Royal Asiatic Society. See, for example, this page (right) showing West's remarkable attention to detail and the immense value to scholars of this new resource.



Above: Detail from the Arundel Or-54 manuscript with annotations in the [muya.soas.hasdai repository, https://muya.soas.hasdai.org/records/evr61-yhz25](https://muya.soas.hasdai.org/records/evr61-yhz25).

Right: A page from the Edward William West notebooks in the west.soas.hasdai repository, <https://west.soas.hasdai.org/>



Peter Cornwell is a director of non-profit Data Futures GmbH, a research fellow at the Institute for Asian Studies, ENS-Lyon and professor at the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture, University of Westminster.

Trust Bursaries

Digitising the Trust's Zoroastrian manuscripts

Jamie O'Connell

I spent five days in January 2023 cataloguing and photographing a collection of Zoroastrian manuscripts held at the Ancient India and Iran Trust. Assisted by Professor Almut Hintze and SOAS PhD candidate Ruzbeh Hodiwala, I catalogued and photographed approximately 25 of 40 items in the collection, which consists of manuscripts and printed books written in Avestan, Pahlavi, New Persian and Gujarati, copied between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. This invaluable collection comprises works of various genres, including liturgical and exegetical texts, contracts and bilingual dictionaries, and includes a number of important and rare manuscripts and texts. I hope to return to the Trust to finish photographing the remaining books and manuscripts

and to create a detailed catalogue of the items in the collection. Digitised copies of the manuscripts will eventually form part of an online database accessible to scholars worldwide.

Working at the AIIT has always been, and continues to be, a great pleasure. It was wonderful to revisit manuscripts that I had previously examined while studying Zoroastrianism with Professor Hintze as an MA student at SOAS several years ago. My visit was made possible through the generous support of an AIIT Bursary and a travel grant from the Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton University, where I am a PhD student. I am especially grateful to Jo Salisbury, Munizha Ahmad-Cooke and James Cormick for their assistance and hospitality.

Jamie O'Connell is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.



Ruzbeh Hodiwala (left) and Jamie O'Connell (right) photographing Zoroastrian manuscripts at the Trust

Researching Kullu through the Penelope Chetwode (Betjeman) Archive

Diya Mehra

I was pleased to visit the Ancient India and Iran Trust in the autumn of 2023, to consult the photographic archive of Penelope Chetwode, primarily as related to the Kullu valley in the northern Indian Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh. As recorded in her book, *Kulu: The End of the Habitable World* (1972), Chetwode lived and travelled extensively in the area and her archive contains hundreds of slides and photographs of her time there in different decades, with a particular focus on temples, temple architecture, sculpture and religious iconography, and ritual practice

which formed a critical nub of her own writings on Kullu.

My interest in the collection comes from being a part of the ANR-France sponsored project on 'Subaltern Urbanisation in Touristic Southern and East Asian Mountains' (URBALTOUR). This looks at tourism and urbanisation in hill stations created during the colonial period in India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. My chosen field-site for this project is Manali and its rural hinterland in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, which were established as tourist sites in the colonial period. The archive provides an important vantage point from which to consider changes in the Kullu landscape particularly in relation to travel and tourism, given that Chetwode toured this area from the 1930s until her death in 1986. As she was also involved in organising and leading

tours in later life, it also provides insights into shifting tourist routes and resources, landscapes, logics and infrastructure, as unfolding from the late colonial period (via the slides of Henry Shuttleworth), and Chetwode's own documentation from the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

As well as invaluable photographic inputs for my own research, I have come away with renewed interest in the temple architecture of the Kullu valley, wonderfully documented in this archive, and which deserves wider circulation, especially in India. I am grateful to the AIIT for the opportunity learn from the Chetwode collection in its myriad aspects, and to Jo, Munizha and James for their hospitality.

Diya Mehra is Assistant Professor of Sociology at South Asian University, New Delhi.

Surveying the John Hinnells Archive

Ruzbeh Hodiwala

Following the death of Professor John Hinnells in 2018, the Ancient India and Iran Trust received a large cache of material covering his five-decade-long career at various universities in England. This includes books, magazines, newsletters, photographs, correspondence, posters, floppy disks, CDs, and other material from across the globe which Professor Hinnells used in his research, primarily on contemporary Zoroastrian communities in India and the diaspora.

In July 2023, I received an AIIT Bursary to organise the material and prepare a rough inventory stored in the Trust's basement in around 22 big cardboard boxes. This work was carried out in two stages. In July, Professor Jesse Palsetia from the University of Guelph and I identified and categorised some of the papers, with the particular intention of locating a manuscript by John Hinnells and K.M. JamaspAsa on 'The Parsis in the Bombay Presidency'. Professor Hinnells had invited Professor Palsetia to complete and publish this unfinished work. I undertook the second phase of the process alone in September. Some of the highlights of the collection are presented here in more detail.

1. Parsi Prakash

We located handwritten English translations of the original nine-volume Gujarati *Parsi Prakash* together with a typed version. This is a monumental work of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with rare copies extant in Gujarati and no English translation. The handwriting was identified by Professor Almut Hintze as that of the late Vada Dasturji Dr Kaikhusroo Minocher JamaspAsa, the High Priest of Zarthoshti Anjuman Atash Behram

in Mumbai and a renowned scholar who worked with researchers and scholars of Zoroastrian studies worldwide. The typed papers are attributed to John Hinnells. The English version of the *Parsi Prakash* is the result of an arduous translation process and bears witness to the close relationship between John Hinnells and the Dasturji JamaspAsa. The close relationships Professor Hinnells developed with Zoroastrians worldwide are also reflected in the dedication in his book *Zoroastrians in Britain* to Vada Dasturji Dr Kaikhusroo Minocher JamaspAsa and to Dasturji Dr Sohrabji Hormusji Kutar, High Priest of the Zoroastrians of UK and Europe.

2. Newsletters

One highlight has been archiving the collection of newsletters of various Zoroastrian organisations. Most of the 550+ copies are in English, but there is also a handful of bilingual (English–Gujarati) newsletters. The newsletters were separated and classified regionally, ready to be catalogued. They provide insights into the pre-digital media of the Zoroastrian community and the formative stages of diaspora communities in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The newsletters include, among many others: *The Parsee Voice of New Zealand*; *Manashni* – the newsletter of the Australia Zoroastrian Association of New South Wales; *Bulletin of the Center for Zoroastrian Research* (Bloomington); *Zoroastrian News* – the newsletter of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc.; *USHAO-IRM* – the newsletter of the Informal Religious Meetings Forum of Karachi; and the *Zoroastrian Society of Ontario Newsletter*. In future these newsletters may be digitised and made publicly available via a Hinnells repository on the Trust's new server in collaboration with Data Futures (see pp. 9–10).

3. Photographs

A box of photographic slides, prints and negatives from across the world, primarily from Professor Hinnells' visits to various countries with Zoroastrian settlements, was another major component of the material. While most of the slides were labelled, I could identify many that weren't, though some beyond my knowledge remain unlabelled. The overarching categories include American Zoroastrians, British Zoroastrians, Hong Kong Zoroastrians, Karachi Zoroastrians, Zoroastrian Lahore, Persepolis/Nashq-e Rustom, Isfahan, Achaemenids, Pre-Achaemenids, Bombay Parsis, Gujarat, Parsi rites and worship, Mithraism, Africa, Vancouver, Australia, Malay, the ruins of the Tower of Silence in Aden and the Parsi Cemetery in Macau. These too could eventually be digitised and would provide rich material for an illustrated coffee-table book on the global Zoroastrian community.

4. Other highlights

A vital discovery was thousands of pages on the Parsis of Zanzibar, Uganda and Mombasa. The majority of these papers, which are photocopies of typed and handwritten material in Gujarati, are meeting minutes and other records of local Parsi associations, with some dating back to the 1920s and 40s.

Other noteworthy materials include two worn-out issues of *The Bombay Chronicle*, an English-language newspaper founded by Sir Pherozshah M. Mehta in 1913. The first is a Special Congress Number Issue from October 1934 that features a seated image of Mahatma Gandhi with the title 'India's Beloved Leader' and the caption, 'The supreme question that agitates the mind of every Indian today is whether Gandhi will or will not retire from the active leadership of the Congress'. The second is a Congress



Above: Special issues of The Bombay Chronicle from October 1934 and December 1935.
Below: The Parsi War Memorial Album of 1920

Golden Jubilee Special Number Sunday Edition dated 29 December 1935 with a collage of headshots of various Indian freedom fighters. Both are currently being conserved by the Trust's volunteer conservationist, Charlotte Pippard. A depleted copy of the *Parsi War Memorial Album* of 1920 presented by the proprietors of the *Kaiser-i-Hind* was also found.

5. Current state of the material and future work

By the end of my visit, I had managed to move the slides and photographs into 12 archival boxes,

ready to be transferred to more suitable storage boxes at a later stage; the newsletters to 11 box files; and other material to another 11 box files, all of which have been added to the inventory. Additionally, the material was sorted, organised and moved to 34 box files based on the geographical regions and themes of Hinnells' research areas. The remaining material will be sorted and organised later, and a final inventory prepared to ascertain the archive as a whole and how it can be conserved and made available to researchers.



As we go through the collection, we are likely to find more interesting material that could help scholarly studies in the future. However, what most piques my interest are the intriguing ethnographic trails that Professor Hinnells has left behind in this treasure trove. From the hermeneutical standpoint of insider-outsider discourse in ethnographic research, it would not be an exaggeration to say that John Hinnells stands out as an outsider who was embraced by the community and became one of the most beloved and respected scholars of Zoroastrianism among Zoroastrians across continents. For him to be given piles of documents, minutes of meetings, and other material that is otherwise difficult or impossible for non-community members to access, he must have won the trust of the stakeholders he was researching.

The only occasion I had the opportunity to briefly interact with Professor Hinnells was at an event held at the Trust in 2017 to launch a Festschrift in his honour. He asked me to get in touch with him to discuss my research on the new-Zoroastrians, but sadly, the meeting never took place. I feel humbled now to be working on this legacy project and would like to thank the AIIT for this opportunity. I would also like to thank Professor Almut Hintze for introducing me to Hinnells' material; Jo Salisbury and Munizha Ahmad-Cooke for putting up with my many requests; James Cormick for the lively banter, eleven o'clock morning coffee and walking up and down the stairs to open the front door at odd hours of the day; last but not least, thank you to the AIIT trustees for hosting and providing access to the collection.

Ruzbeh Vistasp Hodiwala is a PhD candidate in Zoroastrian Studies at SOAS University of London.

Raymond Allchin's watercolours of sherds from Afghanistan

Piers Baker

As described in their book *From the Oxus to Mysore*, in 1951, Bridget and Raymond Allchin, founding trustees of the Trust, spent two months in Afghanistan in the late summer/early autumn of that year. Leaving Bridget in Kabul, Raymond set off with his then supervisor at SOAS, Professor K. de B. Codrington, to explore archaeological sites of the Hindu Kush and northern Afghanistan, and particularly the fortress of Shahr-i Zohak, a short distance to the east of Bamiyan. They returned with plans, photographs and sherds, the latter then stored at SOAS. At some stage, Raymond produced a series of fine watercolours (at actual size) of glazed and painted sherds, which came to light recently while trustee Cameron Petrie was sorting through material from the Allchin Archive at the Trust. Black and white illustrations of some of this pottery, from Shahr-i Zohak and the nearby fortress of Sarkoshak, were published in Piers Baker and Raymond Allchin, *Shahr-i Zohak and the History of the Bamiyan Valley*, Ancient India and Iran Trust Series No. 1, in 1991; colour slides taken of the sherds in the 1980s show how accurate Allchin's watercolours are. Some of the ten sheets are illustrated here.

Piers Baker is an independent scholar and a trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

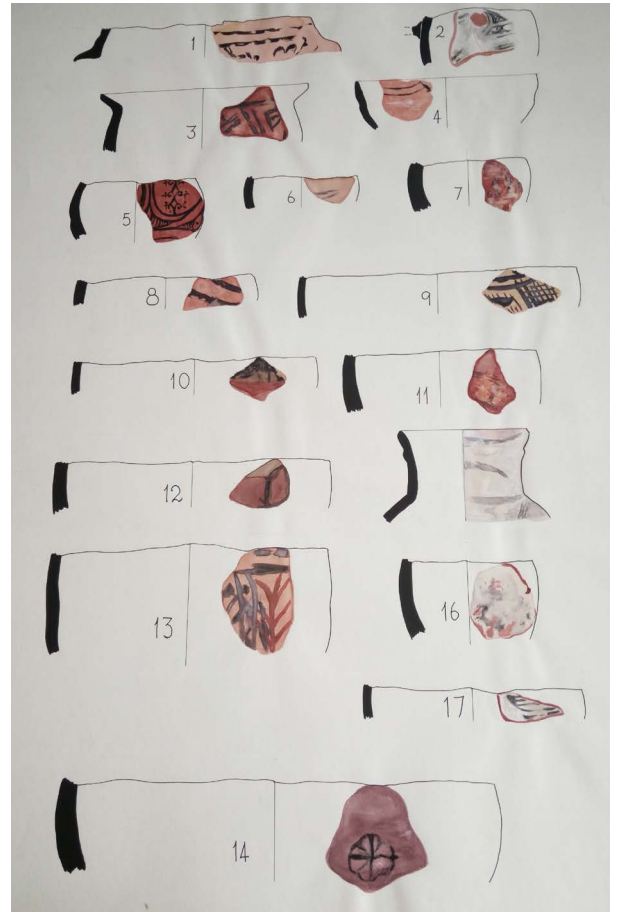


*Glazed and painted sherds
from Shahr-i Zohak, 6th–12th
centuries*

From our archives



Glazed sherds from Balkh, Bala Hissar

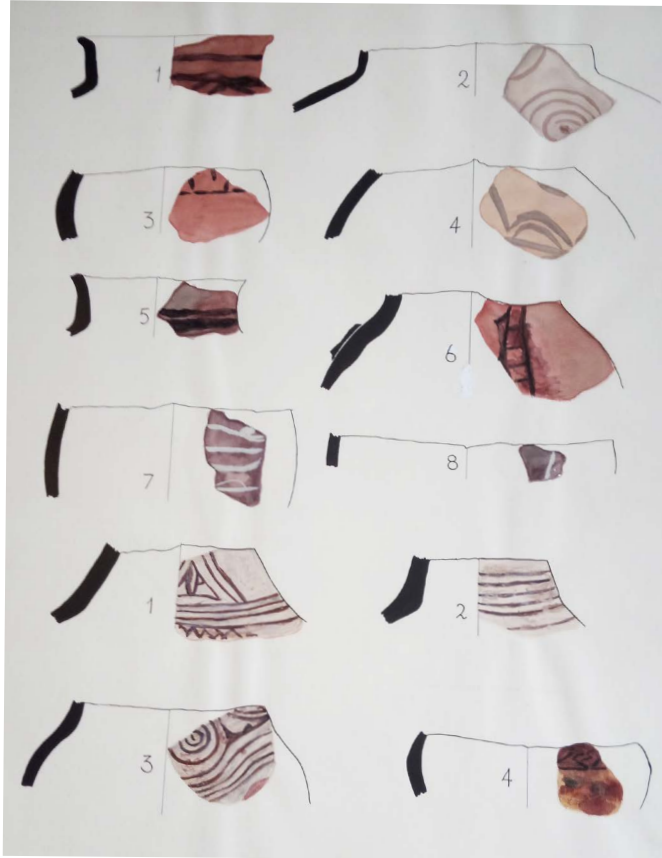


Sarkoshak – painted wares, (?) early Islamic



*Sarkoshak – early Islamic/
Ghurid glazed wares*

From our archives



Painted sherds from Shahr-i Ghulghula, Bamiyan (above) and other Hindu Kush sites



Islamic glazed sherds from Qulm (ancient Tashkurgan)



Photographs of Shahr-i Zohak sherds for comparison

Sasanian clay bullae from Takht-e Solaymān

Yousef Moradi and
Almut Hintze

The World Heritage site of Takht-e Solaymān in Western Azerbaijan Province of Iran was home of the fire temple of Ādur Gušnasp, which was one of the three most sacred Zoroastrian fire temples in Sasanian times (224–651 CE), and among them probably the largest. According to Zoroastrian texts, the sanctuary of Ādur Gušnasp was devoted to the ‘warriors and military chieftains’ (*arteshbaran ud spahbedan*).

In 2002–2008, Yousef Moradi in collaboration with the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR) and the Takht-e Solaymān World Heritage Base excavated the site and recovered 824 bullae with almost 2,000 seal impressions from the temple archive (Room Z), from the adjacent peristyle courtyard and from the area of the Ilkhanid structures. The bullae are now kept in the Urmia Museum in Western Azerbaijan. We are currently preparing the publication of these bullae, some of which Yousef Moradi spoke about in a lecture he gave at the Ancient India and Iran Trust in March 2022.

The bullae bear the imprints of one or more seals that were impressed into the soft clay as a proof of identity and authenticity. They were provided with a cord and affixed to a range of different types of documents, including contracts, taxation and rental documents, wills and testaments, to commodities, containers of merchandise, and packages, so as to guarantee the authenticity of the documents, and to both identify and guarantee the provenance of the goods.



Bulla with the seal impression of the Sasanian King of Kings Pērōz (r. 459–484)

These bullae contain names of places, persons, titles of officials, government offices, religious positions and administrative units, and constitute a fundamental expansion of material evidence which is bound to enhance our understanding of the economic and administrative systems of Sasanian Iran with regard to different social strata of Sasanian society. This collection is also of great value from the art historical point of view due to its rich and varied iconography. The images on the obverse of the bullae include human (divinities, king of kings, spiritual persons, dignitaries and mythical persons), humanoids, mythical beings, animals, birds, naturalistic motifs, geometric designs, devices, monograms, cultic elements and celestial symbols.

One of the bullae features the Sasanian King of Kings Pērōz (r. 459–484) on horseback in the act of holding a beribboned diadem symbolizing Xʿarənah, the divine fortune or royal glory. The presence of this bulla in the archive of the fire temple can be interpreted as evidence for the intimate ties

between religion and state, as well as the concept of royal gift-giving within the context of Zoroastrian pilgrimage. The bulla was attached to a document, or a commodity sent by Pērōz’s court to the fire temple after the victories of 459 CE over his brother, Hormozd III, or Vache II the king of Caucasian Albania who rebelled against Pērōz.

Several bullae belonged to religious minority authorities (Jews and Christians) who were either members of the administrative system of the fire temple of Ādur Gušnasp or participated in economic practices of the temple and the Zoroastrian religious institutions in Sasanian Iran. This new sigillographic evidence from the fire temple of Ādur Gušnasp suggests that although there are some reports on periodic hostility of Zoroastrian priests toward the minority faiths from the 3rd century CE until the end of the Sasanian Empire in the 7th century, the priests or even the kings did not always have antagonistic views towards non-Zoroastrians. In fact, the religious minorities readily and successfully acculturated themselves within the relatively pluralistic and generally less intolerant Sasanian Empire of Iran, and participated in the social, cultural, political, and religious institutions of the ruling powers despite differences in religious beliefs, traditions and practices.

Yousef Moradi is a Marie Curie Research Fellow at SOAS University of London.

Almut Hintze is Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism, SOAS University of London, and Honorary Treasurer of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

From the house

Three Fish

James Cormick

A splendid large wooden sculpture of three fish swirling against each other in an imaginary pool has for a long time stood silently on top of a chest of drawers in one of my rooms upstairs at 23 Brooklands Avenue. It is 15 1/2 inches tall and 10 inches wide and carved out of a very heavy honey-coloured hardwood. I had always known it to be one of the van Lohuizen possessions we inherited and assumed it to be from South East Asia, the area whose art history Joan van Lohuizen, one of our founding trustees, was expert in. But I did not know precisely where until recently, when I decided to give it a thorough clean and examination. I noticed for the first time four words carved into the base: INJ SILUR NJUHKUNING BL. The creator of this beautiful object was speaking to me at last.

I typed the inscription into my search

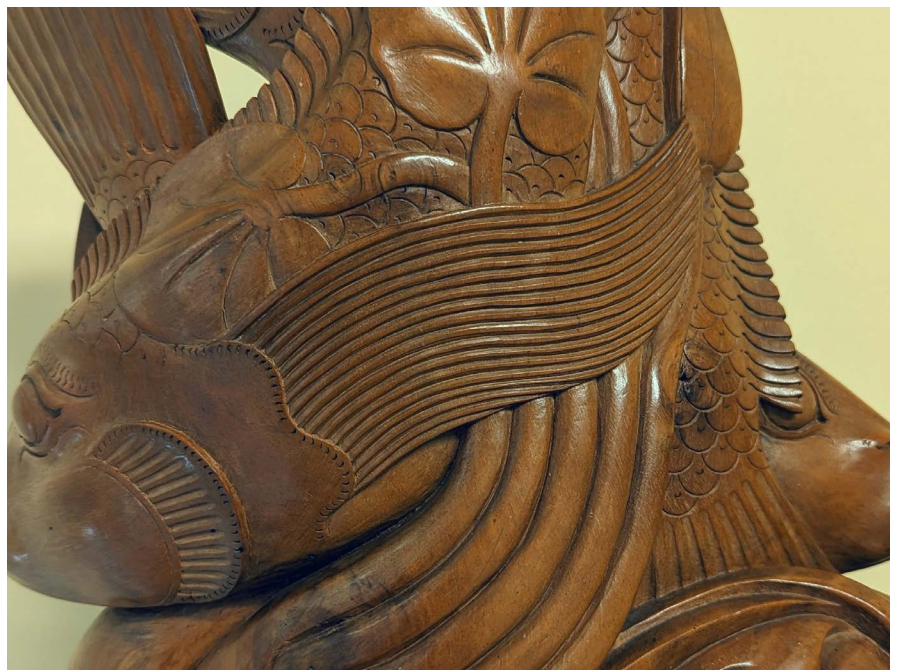


The fish sculpture by Inj Silur; below: detail from the back



engine, which immediately came up with the website Art-From-Bali.com where it was revealed that Silur was the name of the artist, 1912 the year of his birth, and Njuh Kuning the place he lived in in Bali. The website includes a portrait of him by Rudolf Bonnet, a well-known Dutch artist who lived in Bali for a long time.

Apparently, Silur belonged to the co-operative of artists called Pita Maha ('Great Spirit') founded in 1936 by Bonnet and his German friend Walter Spies, another long-term resident. The purpose of the co-operative was 'to select the artists whose works were found to be



From the house

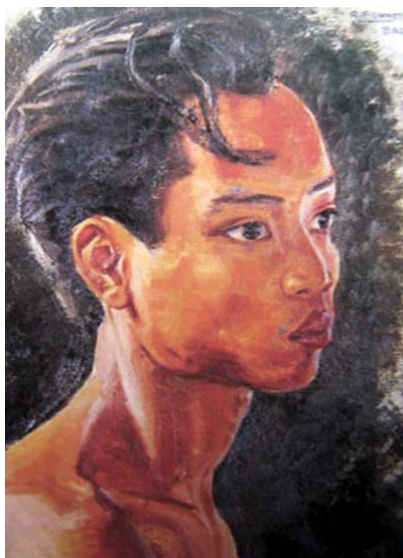
good enough to be sold in a number of galleries and to be included in exhibitions elsewhere in the Indies, the Netherlands and the United States', according to the Wikipedia article on Bonnet.

Bonnet and Spies appear to have been extremely interesting people. They were very good artists themselves and foundational in the history of art in 1930s' Bali when it was under Dutch colonial rule. They both also unfortunately came to sticky ends, Spies's stickier than Bonnet's, as described below.

After the invasion of Bali by the Japanese in 1942 Bonnet was sent to a Japanese internment camp in Sulawesi and remained there for the rest of World War II. He returned to Bali in 1947 but was expelled in 1958, apparently for refusing to complete a portrait of President Sukarno, and did not return again until 1972. He died in Holland in 1978 after a long illness.

Spies, being German, was interned as an enemy alien by the Dutch authorities at the start of the war. And in 1942, together with 477 other Germans, was deported by ship to Ceylon, presumably to another (British) internment camp. But while on board disaster struck. According to the Wikipedia article on Spies: 'On 19 January 1942 a Japanese bomb hit the ship. Because the crew were ordered not to evacuate the Germans, most of the prisoners on the ship, including Spies, drowned.' One certainly hopes this is not true, that such an order was not given. It would be an act of utter wickedness to punish non-combatants, and very likely non-supporters of the Nazis, in such a manner.

So the Balinese carving on my chest of drawers as well as pleasing to the eye also speaks volumes: of the patronage of art in Bali in the 1930s and the quality of the artists; of Dutch colonial rule and the Japanese conquest in World War II; of the



Portrait of Inj Silur by Rudolf Bonnet, 1956, https://www.art-from-bali.com/details_artist.aspx?kunstenaar-id=66

aftermath of the war and Indonesian independence. But I do not know when the van Louhuizens bought it or where. Whether it was on a trip to Bali or in the Dutch art market. In either case, however, it is a clear indication of Joan van Lohuizen's artistic taste and interests. She was a discerning collector and respected teacher of South and South East Asian art at the University of Amsterdam for many years until her untimely death in 1983.

James Cormick is the Custodian of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

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Indiran is the newsletter of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

The Trust is an independent educational charity, established in 1978 to encourage the study of the early civilisations and languages of the Indian subcontinent, Iran and Central Asia.

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Front Cover image: Illuminated heading to book 6 of *Masnavi-yi ma'navi* by Jalal al-Din Rumi, copied in Herat and dated 1 Zu'l-Qa'dah 1020/5 Jan 1612 (Pers.2.20)

Back cover image: Douglas Robar
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