In awarding travel scholarships to Turkey, the Roger Short Memorial Fund gives Univ students a wonderful opportunity to study and understand the home of one of the world’s historic civilisations and a pivotal modern state of the 21st century.

Turkey’s heritage is rich and complex. Its social and political structures are distinctive and complex. Successive civilisations – Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman – have each left their imprint in settlements (often wonderfully preserved), art, mosques and churches, and public buildings. Turkey is the interface of Europe and Asia, of Islam and Christianity, of traditionalism and modernity, and of the sacred and the secular. It has in its history sometimes struggled to reconcile disparate world views but it has also been remarkably successful in reconciling them, none more so than the present day.

Over the years Roger Short Memorial Fund travel scholarships have been awarded to Univ students from a wide range of disciplines: not only to classicists, archaeologists and historians ancient, medieval and modern, but also to Islamic theologians, political scientists studying state-military and state-religious relations, human rights lawyers, economists interested in Turkey’s remarkable economic renaissance, earth scientists analysing geological formations, linguists fascinated by the dialects and minority languages of Northern Turkey and international relations specialists exploring Turkey’s growth as a regional power and its complicated relations with the EU, Russia, Greece and the Levant.

Roger Short scholars are travellers not tourists – The Short Travellers. Outside Istanbul and a few popular classical sites, they explore the provincial and authentic Turkey of small towns and villages, where little English is spoken and hospitality is simple but generous. A degree of self-reliance and a spirit of adventure are essential.

One of the privileges of The Master is to select The Short Travellers. There are always many more applicants than it is possible to fund. This year’s scholars are as varied in background and purpose as in previous years, and count a lawyer, a Byzantinist, an International Relations specialist, a PPEist and a neuropharmacology graduate among the group. I wish them all well and look forward to reading of their travels later in the year.
Welcome to the sixth newsletter of the Roger Short Memorial Fund, and also to the five new Short Travellers who have been selected for travel to Turkey in 2013. They join the 45 existing members of this exceptional club, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to date to 50. This is an important milestone, occurring in the year which marks the tenth anniversary of the bomb attack on the British Consulate in Istanbul on 20 November, 2003, in which Roger Short was killed. Roger Short was a Classics scholar at Univ from 1963-1967 and was serving as British Consul-General at the time of the attack.

The Fund has been established in his name by Univ alumni, old friends and other well-wishers. The purpose is to finance travel scholarships which enable 4-6 Univ students each year to travel in the summer vacation for study purposes to Turkey and neighbouring countries.

The website for the Fund can be found in the Societies section of the Univ Old Members website at http://univalumni.org. This provides access to the previous newsletters, which document past Short Travellers and their areas of study. There are also links to a selection of their journals.

The Dinner: The eighth dinner (which is financed separately to the Fund) was held at Univ in May 2012, attended by 22 Short Travellers and 28 other guests. The award for best journal was made to Josh Clark (PPE, Balliol graduated 2012), who was serving as British Consul-General at the time of the attack.

The Fund has been established in his name by Univ alumni, old friends and other well-wishers. The purpose is to finance travel scholarships which enable 4-6 Univ students each year to travel in the summer vacation for study purposes to Turkey and neighbouring countries.

Tristen Naylor studies international relations and is a two-year term of the WCR. Turkey features significantly in his doctoral research on the G20 as the country will become the first non-OECD member to host the summit in 2015. While travelling he will interview Turkish officials responsible for the country’s G20 engagement. He will be accompanied by Julia Brouard, travelling from Istanbul to Antalya by way of Ankara and Goreme; then, westwards along the Mediterranean coast before returning to Istanbul via Bursa.

Julia Brouard is a DPhil student in Neuropharmacology. She has a particular interest in Turkey since reading Orhan Pamuk’s memory of Istanbul. It is keen to see how Istanbul has moved on from the modern era whilst retaining its Ottoman and Byzantine legacies. Accompanied by Tristen Naylor, Julia will then travel to Ankara and Goreme, where the trip coincides with the Klasik Keyfeller festival in which classical music is performed in the Cappadocia caves. The route then heads south and along the coast at Antalya, Olympos and Dalyan, finally returning to city life in Bursa.

Ruth Hatzesley is a final year student reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics. After studying the place of religion in different periods of European political thought, she was inspired to explore the tension between religion and the Turkish state, particularly through the actions and legacy of Ataturk. Accompanied by Sam Clark (PPE, Balliol graduated 2012), she will spend time in Istanbul and Ankara, Troy and other towns on the Eastern Black Sea coast. As well as attending with Professor Ali Carcoglu, visiting the Haci Bektas festival, they hope to arrive in同步 with representatives of various organisations to gain further insights into different perspectives on religion and secularism across Turkey.

James King is in the first year of an MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. Turkey contains a number of places of great importance to Byzantinists, not least Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). He will start his trip there, where landmarks of the late antique city such as the Hagia Sophia and the Theodosian Walls still stand, before moving eastwards to Cappadocia, an early Christian centre. James is particularly interested in visiting Kayseri, home of Andrew of Caesarea, whose 7th century Commentary on the Apocalypse is the subject of one of his extended essays. The trip will also include a visit to the Mediterranean coast to visit a number of Byzantine ruins, including the shrine of St. Thecla at Silifke.

Rebecca Elkin is a second year DPhil student in Socio-Legal Studies. Her research touches on judicial reform in Bosnia-Herzegovina and she hopes to meet with academics and journalists during her visit to explore both Ottoman influence on the Balkan region and Turkish relations with these states. She will enter Turkey by sea from Greece and follow the coast north from Antalya, ending her trip in Istanbul. Over the course of this journey Rebecca will visit Gallipoli, which holds particular symbolic importance for her as the site where a vision of New Zealand’s national identity was forged during the First World War.

Wahid Amin writes: In the summer months of 2012 I embarked on an adventure to scour the libraries and knowledge archives of Istanbul in order to carry out long-anticipated research relating to my DPhil studies at Oxford. My work studies a period known as the “post-Classical” era of Islamic civilization and my research examines the Islamic reception of the Persian philosopher, Ibn Sina, known to many Europeans by his Latin name, Avicenna. When the Ottomans seized Constantinople in the 15th century, Istanbul became one of the main centers of learning in the Islamic world, attracting scholars from Baghdad, Damascus, various Persian cities, and other localities known for their thriving academies. The Ottomans were great patrons of the philosophical sciences and through their support the foundations of the Islamic academy were laid in the Ottoman sultanate. As a result of their expansion and importance, the Ottomans also collected tens of thousands of Islamic manuscripts and endowed professional scribes to produce beautifully handwritten manuscripts.

The Sulemaniye library in Istanbul is a consequence of this patronage, housing in the region of just less than two hundred thousand manuscripts that preserve the heritage of Islamic civilization, including medieval works by Christian and Jewish thinkers.

The Roger Short Memorial Fund allowed me to spend three intensive weeks examining and collecting valuable manuscripts as well as putting me in touch with several important personnel who hold administrative roles in the Sulemaniye library which I am sure will hold me in good stead for future research. The grant also gave me the opportunity to travel to various academic and research institutes around Istanbul, where I was fortunate to meet Turkish scholars specialising in the late medieval period.

In the summer months of 2012 I embarked on an adventure to scour the libraries and knowledge archives of Istanbul in order to carry out long-anticipated research relating to my DPhil studies at Oxford. My work studies a period known as the “post-Classical” era of Islamic civilization and my research examines the Islamic reception of the Persian philosopher, Ibn Sina, known to many Europeans by his Latin name, Avicenna. When the Ottomans seized Constantinople in the 15th century, Istanbul became one of the main centers of learning in the Islamic world, attracting scholars from Baghdad, Damascus, various Persian cities, and other localities known for their thriving academies. The Ottomans were great patrons of the philosophical sciences and through their support the foundations of the Islamic academy were laid in the Ottoman sultanate. As a result of their expansion and importance, the Ottomans also collected tens of thousands of Islamic manuscripts and endowed professional scribes to produce beautifully handwritten manuscripts.

The Sulemaniye library in Istanbul is a consequence of this patronage, housing in the region of just less than two hundred thousand manuscripts that preserve the heritage of Islamic civilization, including medieval works by Christian and Jewish thinkers.

The Roger Short Memorial Fund allowed me to spend three intensive weeks examining and collecting valuable manuscripts as well as putting me in touch with several important personnel who hold administrative roles in the Sulemaniye library which I am sure will hold me in good stead for future research. The grant also gave me the opportunity to travel to various academic and research institutes around Istanbul, where I was fortunate to meet Turkish scholars specialising in the late medieval period.

In addition to work that was related to my research, I also had time to explore the rich culture and history of Istanbul. In 2011 I had contributed to a conference dedicated to thought and ideas of the great Sufi master, Ibn ‘Arabi. There, I met a Turkish scholar who was still part of a living Sufi tradition and I had the great blessing of meeting up with her in Istanbul. I met with her at her institution in the eastern regions of Istanbul, and was taken around some of the marvelous Sufi shrines and sites situated around Istanbul which are hidden away in between the city’s busy streets, which one might otherwise pass by unnoticed. I was also initiated into the Sufi ritual dance, the whirling dervishes, in a private function held at one of the Shaykhs houses. There I experienced what the living tradition of Sufism means to contemporary Turks, and enjoyed the display of music, dancing, poetry recitation, and Turkish coffee delicately prepared with freshest coffee beans that had been picked only two weeks prior.

My cultural exploits continued through to my last week, when I enrolled on a three-day calligraphy course where I spent three hours each day practicing the art of fine writing in the Arabic and Persian script. I was taught how to carve my own calligraphy pen and was taken through the various scripts.

I am deeply grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for granting me this award, I can say that I would not have had the opportunity to travel to Turkey otherwise, nor would my research have benefitted from the dozens of manuscripts I was able to acquire while I was in Istanbul. Some of these are rare finds, and this has added to the quality of my research that I could not have achieved without them. I am also grateful to University College, and Sir Ivor Crewe, for selecting my application for the award.

Wahid Amin

Manuscript in the Sulemaniye library, Istanbul. (Photo: Wahid Amin.)
Istanbul (bottom).

Krista Sirola and Thomas Cole: Interior of the Topkapi Palace (top); the Blue Mosque.

was not an experience we wished to repeat, and our accidental
shown above, and the Blue Mosque.

to great effect.

Overall, I was struck by the beauty of many landmarks that used
mixture of Orthodox Christian and Muslim arts, reminding the
mosque, and now a museum. The interior of Hagia Sophia was a
calls to prayer. We visited Hagia Sophia, once a basilica, then a
with conservatively dressed locals, mosques, and consequently
from the streets and shops of Sultanahmet. What every place shared, however, was a seemingly
fervent Turkish nationalism. The Turkish flag and pictures of
Atatürk were common sights, hanging even on the sides of
skyscrapers. Leaving Istanbul to go onwards to the west coast
necessitated a 6 hour bus journey to Canakkale which was
surprisingly enjoyable: first through the outskirts of Istanbul,
filled with concrete apartment buildings surrounding the ruins
of the unconquerable stone walls of Byzantine Istanbul, and then
to the coast, with secluded beaches, old walls, and makeshift
shelters of fruit merchants on the roadside. In Canakkale, we
also visited a hamam. The local establishment followed traditions,
and thus we separated, me entering through a side entrance to
the rather basic women’s side. Visits to Troy and the Gallipoli
battlegrounds followed.

Our visit to the Grand Bazaar on the first day, though interesting,
was not an experience we wished to repeat, and our accidental
excursion into Selçuk’s central Bazaar was a time of great worry
to us both as we tried to find an exit. There were also other
aspects of Turkish culture that I found immensely interesting, such as signs of men washing their feet before entrance to a
mosque. Equally interesting, but perhaps from a personal point
of view on a more sombre note, I was surprised by how rare
it was to see a woman by herself in the streets and shops of
Sultanahmet. What every place shared, however, was a seemingly
fervent Turkish nationalism. The Turkish flag and pictures of
Atatürk were common sights, hanging even on the sides of
skyscrapers. Leaving Istanbul to go onwards to the west coast
necessitated a 6 hour bus journey to Canakkale which was
surprisingly enjoyable: first through the outskirts of Istanbul,
filled with concrete apartment buildings surrounding the ruins
of the unconquerable stone walls of Byzantine Istanbul, and then
to the coast, with secluded beaches, old walls, and makeshift
shelters of fruit merchants on the roadside. In Canakkale, we
also visited a hamam. The local establishment followed traditions,
and thus we separated, me entering through a side entrance to
the rather basic women’s side. Visits to Troy and the Gallipoli
battlegrounds followed.

From there, we travelled southwards to Izmir. Despite its
large size there was very little for tourists to see. We visited an
Ethnography Museum where we learnt more about local
customs such as camel wrestling, though sadly we completely
missed the sport’s season, which is in January. A trip to Ephesus
was one of the most astonishing parts of the journey, preceded
by a morning trip to the alleged house of Virgin Mary. Though I
have little attachment to the Catholic faith, I could not resist the
temptation of participating in the ritual of lighting candles for
saints. Ephesus itself provided insight into the ancient world that
I greatly appreciated, having had a casual interest on the period
for a long time.

After some relaxation on the Mediterranean it was time to return.
My last memories of Turkey are ones of its
culture and especially its food. I have become an avid fan of meze,
and must also thank Victoria Short here for introducing Thomas
and me to not only a great deal of information on Turkey but also
to Turkish cuisine when we met her in Istanbul. Although
Istanbul was rather less Byzantine than I had perhaps hoped, I
was nevertheless intrigued by evidence of the achievements of
the era that I am looking forward to learning more about in my
studies.

Thomas Cole writes: The journey of Krista and I attempted to
squeezel00km and 1400 years of history into two short weeks as we
ventured through Western Turkey.

One of the most remarkable features of architecture and history we
saw was the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul. What I found most impressive
was the majestic dome, which was built so many centuries ago with
none of the building resources we have today. The awe the Hagia Sofia
inspired in me would pale in comparison to the wonder the citizens of
Byzantium must have felt.

After attempted bargain hunting in the Grand Bazaar another notable
sight was Topkapi Palace. Stunning views of the Bosphorus reserved
for hundreds of years to only the select few of the Ottoman Empire.
The vivid greenery and exotic plants inside the gardens beautifully
juxtaposed the blue of the water, and the high vantage

point of the palace provides a view into Asia overlooking vast tracts of
land and civilization that was owned by one man - the Sultan.

Later that evening we had a different view of Istanbul, Istanbul at night.
The view from the rooftop restaurant where we ate had a 360 degree
view for miles across the city from the lights on the hillsides to the boats
navigating the Bosphorus, we could see it all.

We attempted to see the Blue Mosque in the morning but, due to
restricted entrance times for non-Muslims, we were denied entry. We
decided to go across to the other side of the Bosphorus, and do this to
we had to get a tram to Karakoy. After a few minutes of attempting
to work out the Turkish maps, we were off. The tram scaled the steep
hills through the Beyoğlu district and we could peer down the narrow
alleys with their cosmopolitan shops. The European district ended for
the more business-oriented district of Taksim at the top of the hill
where we departed.

A saving grace of the long trip to Canakkale, to see Gallipoli and Troy,
was the beautiful scenery of the Turkish countryside as we hugged onto
the Sea of Marmara and were able to stare across at Asia. Arising early
the next day we headed through the city to see the ruins of Troy. What
was unfortunate about Troy was that due to undeveloped architecture
techniques, Schliemann, the original excavator destroyed a large part of
the city trying to uncover it when he had his large trenches. What I learnt
about Troy was that it was not one city; it was many cities built up on top
of each other. Troy I would have been a minor settlement, whilst Troy V
would have been much closer to the Troy that Homer described. After
giving our best impressions of Hector and Andromache, we rejoined
another dolmus and drove back through the Turkish countryside.

The area of great historical importance to not only Turks, but
Antipodeans, is the Gallipoli Peninsula, due to the First World War. We
visited different cemeteries of the fallen soldiers, in a campaign that
claimed over 120,000 soldiers. ANZAC Cove was a tiny stretch of
beach on the peninsula, but due to British military blundering thousands
of troops landed there to start a campaign that would last for months.
We were unable to enter the trenches due to fear of collapse and
poisonous snakes, but this further reminding us of the hostile conditions
the soldiers would have faced. An area of natural beauty has been
tainted with the bloodshed of war, and nearly a hundred years after the
conflict the landscape remains scarred by the shelling.

The impressive aqueduct greeted our entry into Selçuk. After checking
in and having lunch in the hostel, joined by a variety of local cats, we
were to the Basilica of St John which was on top of one of the hills. It
has been claimed that St John wrote part of the Bible here after he fled
from the Romans, and this belief led Emperor Justinian to build a grand
church here to commemorate it.

The final stop of our tour of the area was to Ephesus, one of the
grandest Ancient Cities. It was incredibly well preserved and is still
currently being dug out of the hills. It seems to emerge out of the fields,
but it was once a port. The sea moved further out and the power of
Ephesus waned, leaving it merely as a shell of its former self by the
time the Ottomans arrived.

My two weeks in Turkey provided me with a fundamentally unique
experience which I could never have experienced without the
benevolence of a Roger Short Scholarship.

Krista Sirola: Interior of the Topkapi Palace (top); the Blue Mosque.
Istanbul (bottom).
Other highlights were the Sarcophagus in the Hagia Sofia by the Hagia Sofia were mesmerised. Call to prayer. We used past Short Scholarship to travel to Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria in search of some of the most significant sites of the Byzantine Empire. I had applied to University of Durham for my Byzantine papers with Dr. Catherine Holmes, and the realisation that the college provided scholarships for travel to Turkey was an extremely pleasant surprise in my second year.

The first stop on my journey was Istanbul, an obvious choice as the former capital of the Byzantine Empire. From my base in the city of Deserts project, the country aimed to export energy from renewable sources to where the demand is high in Western Europe, and also providing its own as it is currently an importing country. We saw many household solar thermal energy systems in place, typical of hot countries, but it is of future interest for Turkey to transfer its light energy on the same large scale, as seen in places with large photovoltaic ventures in the South. The problem is always the economic viability of these projects, and the key to their success is the scientist's ability to produce more efficient cells. On our journey we saw the harsh reality of the sun's power on frizzled crops, and felt the intense heat on our backs, cycling in the heat of the late summer days. We think that Turkey were a unique and fantastic experience, both for those seeking to escape the searing heat. A definite highlight of my time in the city was enjoying dinner in the shadow of a Byzantine church. The city boasts an incredible array of museums and Byzantine churches though for those seeking to escape the searing heat. A definite highlight of my time in the city was enjoying dinner in the shadow of a Byzantine church.

We first decided to explore the unmissable Istanbul. Sultanahmet was the scientist's ability to produce more efficient cells. On our journey we saw the harsh reality of the sun's power on frizzled crops, and felt the intense heat on our backs, cycling in the heat of the late summer days. We think that Turkey were a unique and fantastic experience, both for those seeking to escape the searing heat. A definite highlight of my time in the city was enjoying dinner in the shadow of a Byzantine church. The city boasts an incredible array of museums and Byzantine churches though for those seeking to escape the searing heat. A definite highlight of my time in the city was enjoying dinner in the shadow of a Byzantine church.

We then flew to the Cappadocia region, and being from a scientific background we were first fascinated by how the rock chimneys were formed, before understanding their significance in human history.

Oliver had experienced living in Turkey before when he cycled from San Francisco to New York with his Univ friends back in 2009. During the journey he got to see a huge amount of the country with the wind in his hair. Julia had less experience: travelling to lectures by bike. However she replaced her ‘Downtown Classic’ commuter bike, rusty and dishevelled from years of neglect and mistreatment, with a brand new shiny white Raleigh road bike at the start of this year. Thus we decided that in the second half of our trip we would explore Turkey by pedalling its roads. On the way we visited Akhisar, Konya, Beyşehir and finally ended up in Eğirdir. We invite you to read our diary which details some of our cycling experiences.

Our three weeks in Turkey were a unique and fantastic experience, and could certainly not have happened without help from the Roger Short Memorial Fund. We would like to thank everyone involved and look forward to sharing our stories with you.

Julia Schollick
Oliver Dammone
Field of sunflowers in Cappadocia region.
**Donations.** To make a donation to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, please visit the website described above at http://univalumni.org, where a donation form can be downloaded. Please note the facility of donating via Gift Aid, with tax advantages for donor and recipient.

Alternatively, please contact:
Heather Ebner,
Director of Development
University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH
Phone: +(44) (0) 1865 276986

**Appreciation.** Sincere thanks go to all donors to the Fund. The Short Travellers are very appreciative of the unique opportunities made possible by the Roger Short Memorial Fund.

The organisers are indebted to Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008) for once again undertaking the task of producing this, his fifth, newsletter. His expertise and commitment are highly valued.

Our thanks also go to Marion Hawtree, the Master’s Secretary, for her support in administration of the Roger Short Memorial Fund and organisation of the annual dinner.

---

**Short Travellers Past: Academic Honours in 2012**

The University College Record listed three Short Travellers being awarded Firsts in the 2012 Schools results – Joshua Barley (2011), Samuel George (2010), Molly Scott (2010). In addition, DPhils are listed for Marcel Dietsch (2010), Peter Schadler (2005), Jesse Simon (2010) and Oliver Walker (2006). Congratulations to all!

---

(All from Julia Schollick.)

Clockwise from top left: Getting some freshly squeezed orange juice near the Grand Bazaar, Istanbul, Suleymaniye Camii, Blurry whirling dervish ceremony, Konya, Lake Egirdir.