



RSMF

The Roger Short Memorial Fund

Newsletter 1

May 2008

The Fund

Roger Short was a Classics scholar at Univ from 1963 – 1967. He then joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where he had a distinguished career. His first posting was to Ankara. He spoke fluent Turkish and developed a lasting love of the country, its people and culture. His service as a diplomat was cruelly cut short on 20 November 2003 when he, and several colleagues, were killed in a bomb attack on the British Consulate in Istanbul.

Roger was a devoted family man, a true friend, a patriot, a scholar, and a highly professional diplomat. He had an exceptional generosity of spirit and infectious sense of fun, with a thirst for knowledge and a great love of life. The awful tragedy spawned the idea for this living memorial – some good *had* to come from his death.

The Fund has been established initially to finance a travel scholarship programme to enable Univ students to travel in the summer vacation for study purposes to Turkey and neighbouring countries, with the main focus being on Turkey.

Tribute to Lord Butler

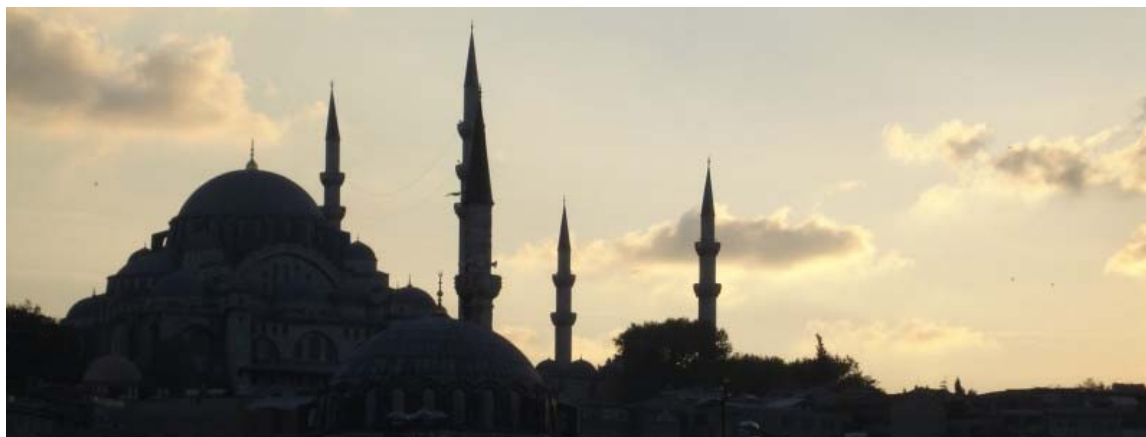
This first issue of the RSMF newsletter is dedicated to Lord Butler. From the original seed of an idea, Robin Butler has been full of enthusiasm and support for the development of this living memorial to our friend, Roger Short. Without Robin's interest and commitment we would not have the successful outcome we see today.

Robin will be greatly missed by all of us who have come to know him as a teacher, leader and friend. His relaxed personality, sense of humour and empathy; not to mention his incredible packing skills experienced by those of us who travelled with him to Istanbul; has brightened each occasion. He will be remembered with great affection.

It is our sincere hope that Robin and Jill will join us for the RSMF dinners in future years, there will always be places of honour for them. As we bid Robin farewell we look forward to working with Sir Ivor Crewe; together we hope to continue raising the profile of the Fund and expanding its influence.

Special thanks...

Judy Longworth and her tireless team in the Development Office are vital to the ongoing success of the RSMF. Their endless patience, commitment, attention to detail and enthusiasm is much appreciated.



‘Now moving into its fourth annual cycle, the Roger Short Memorial Fund has become an established part of College life. It is a great asset to Univ and Oxford and a fitting memorial to Roger.

I am confident that it now rests on a solid foundation upon which the annual travel scholarships and, in due course, other programmes, will continue into the future.’

Lord Butler of Brockwell

2005 – 2008
22 Short Travellers

Since 2005, 22 Univ students have been selected as Roger Short Memorial Fund (RSMF) scholars, to travel to Turkey and neighbouring countries to foster knowledge and understanding of different cultures and peoples. Each RSMF scholar was selected on the basis of submission of a specific set of objectives, and most have written and filed in the College Library a journal of their experiences. All of them have visited Istanbul and most have been met and entertained by Victoria Short. To date four winners of an annual prize for the best journal have been selected by Robin Butler and honoured at the annual dinner. Their journals are available for review at the College by prior arrangement with the Development Office, or on-line at www.univ.ox.ac.uk/alumni/.



When the Fund was created, sufficient donations were obtained to fund at least four students travelling each year. The funds are managed by the University College bursar, as a ring-fenced component of the overall College Development Fund. As a result of good financial returns to the fund since inception, the average over the first three years was slightly in excess of four per year and six travellers have been selected for 2008.

The mission of the Roger Short Memorial Fund was to be a lasting memorial to the tragic death of a good friend of the founders, of University College, and of the peoples of England, Turkey, and the broader region. The initial goal to support the travel of a handful of students to the region, for learning and for fun, has been successful. Barring unforeseeable problems in the economy, the Fund will be

able to support this activity indefinitely. In due course, a growing club of Short Travellers will exist and the broader mission of the Fund will increasingly be achieved: that is to foster understanding and knowledge between the peoples of these regions, for the betterment of mankind.

An additional reciprocal feature was tentatively explored in 2006, namely to enable some Turkish students to study at the Oxford Business School (Said). It has not yet been possible to attract the level of funding to support such a programme. With the passage of time and with the growing fraternity of Short Travellers, it is likely that this, or other expanded goals for the Fund, will emerge with the financial support to make them a reality.

The governance of the Fund resides with a small Advisory Board, including the original founders, Victoria Short, and representatives of the Turkish community. This board works closely with the Master and the College administration to ensure the effective operation of the Fund and its longer term mission.

RSMF Dinners

It has become a tradition that there is an annual RSMF dinner at Univ, to honour the past and introduce the present Short Travellers. Up to now these dinners have been sponsored by Amphion Innovations plc.

For the first dinner, held in May 2005, we were privileged to be allowed the use of Hall, a rare exception to the rule that Hall is reserved for the Fellows and students during term-time. Guests were drawn from all aspects of Roger's life, including longstanding friends from Malvern and Univ, colleagues from the FCO (Dame Veronica Sutherland and Sir David Logan), and distinguished guests (Sir Michael Jay, now Lord Jay, and the Turkish Ambassador).



Luke Rustad presenting his 2005 London Marathon cheque to The Master

At the end of dinner Luke Rustad, son of Paul Rustad who was a close friend of Roger at Malvern College, donated £1000 to the RSMF, which he had raised by running the London Marathon. It was a great effort and much appreciated.

Subsequent dinners have been held in the more informal setting of the Alington Room, following cocktails in the Master's Lodgings. Each of the new Short Travellers speak briefly about their travel plans, which cover a rich variety of subjects. Interacting with the students is always a fun and rewarding experience. Following the dinners, most of the guests repair to the College bar. In some cases, partying until the early hours.



Victoria Short at the RSMF Launch Dinner, University College, Oxford, April 2005

It is interesting to see the links being renewed between people who have only come to know each other through these RSMF dinners. As Robin Butler has remarked, the dinners are beginning to feel like family gatherings. Roger was deeply committed to his friends and family and he also loved a good party; there couldn't be a better memorial.

The Short Travellers Club



As the population of students who benefit from traveling to Turkey through the RSMF continues to grow each year, it is the intention to create a Short Travellers Club to encourage interchange between the Travellers, who can share their experiences for the benefit of others.

In the course of time, we plan to develop a handbook for new Travellers, with lists of possible contacts, do's and don't's regarding travel in Turkey, etc. It would also be interesting to organise occasional lectures at Univ from invited guest speakers, who could talk about aspects of Turkish culture, history, and politics.

Any additional suggestions for developing a "Club" atmosphere would be very welcome, as well as help in organising such activities.

Short Travellers

2005

David Graham

Research into the environmental, social and human rights standards applied to the construction of the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline.

Edwin Nissen

Earth Sciences student, studying the geological characteristics of the earthquake areas of Turkey.

Theo Papaioannou*

Studying ancient pottery from the main production centres of the Aegean coast of Turkey.

Peter Schadler

Research into Christian-Muslim relations in South East Turkey.

2006

Andrew Cammish*

History student, studying Europe from 900 – 1122, with the Crusades as a special subject.

Rebecca Green*

History student, with the same interests and traveling with Andy Cammish.

Douglas Gilman

International Relations student, studying the pressure in Turkey for human rights reform, and the implications of this for businesses.

Skye McAlpine

Classics student, studying the cultural relationships between Greece and Turkey by visiting archeological sites.

Kajji Santospirito

Mathematics student, sharing interests and travel with Skye McAlpine.

Anna Oldmeadow

Comparative Government student, studying different state responses to terrorism.

Gabriel Savage

Classics student, visiting archeological sites on the coast and in the hinterland of Turkey.

Oliver Walker

Economics student, working on a project for the British Council, promoting Turkey's accession to the European Union.



'It was a fantastic experience immersing myself in the history and culture of the country...'

Robert Phipps

2007

Geri Della Rocca de Candal

History student, traveling with Ethan Kay. Also visiting Roman ruins and frontiers with Syria, Iran and Armenia.

Ethan Kay *

Politics student, conducting interviews with journalists on human rights issues, with reference to Turkey's membership of the EU.

Robert Phipps

History student, studies relating to the Byzantine Empire

Jonathan Tilley

Oriental Studies student, studying ancient sites



‘Some say that you travel to discover the world, and that you return home to discover yourself. ...the interaction of these two discoveries is constant during real travel, and actually you discover yourself while discovering the world.’ Geri Della Rocca de Candal

2008

Rob Ballingall

Political Theory student, writing a paper on the “Civic Republican Character of Turkish Nationalism”.

Robin Froggatt-Smith

History student, studying “The Near East and the Age of Justinian and Mohammed”.

Michael Gibb

Philosophy student, studying the Abkhaz refugees who have taken shelter in Turkey.

Olivier Holmey

Egyptology and Ancient Near East student, planning to participate in an archeological excavation at the site of a Hittite city.

Robin Meyer

Classics student, taking part on the same international excavation as Olivier Holmey.

Nariman Skakov

Cinematography student, studying Orhan Pamuk’s treatment of the topography of Istanbul, compared to that of Dostoevsky in St Petersburg.

*denotes RSMF journal prizewinner

And finally.....a big thank-you to all donors

This is a belated thank-you to all donors for their contributions to the Fund. We can take some pride and satisfaction in having established a successful and enduring tribute to the memory of Roger Short, thanks to the generosity of all the donors.

Donations

Donations may be made to:

RSMF

The Development Office

University College, Oxford OX1 4BH

For further enquiries please call:

Judy Longworth, Director of Development: 01865 276682

‘I am very grateful to have experienced this intellectual and personal journey and want to extend my warmest thanks to Mrs. Victoria Short, Lord Butler and friends of the Roger Short Memorial Fund.’ Ethan Kay

Photos: Robert Phipps, Ethan Kay, Oliver Walker, Anna Oldmeadow, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Development Office Dan, Charlie Morgan
