

Roger Short Memorial Fund Newsletter

An Introduction from Katherine Jacob (Short)

A total of 54 Short Travellers have now returned from Turkey, assisted by the generous donors supporting the Roger Short Memorial Fund. Although for those of us behind the scenes of the Fund this may feel like an increasingly familiar annual cycle, we must remember that for each student, this is a completely new adventure, and one which will hopefully inspire the beginning of a life-long interest in Turkey. Certainly, in 1968 when my father drove across the border in his Triumph Spitfire for the first time he may not have realized how deeply Turkey would plant roots in his life.

These days, when young British people are being covertly radicalized, and cultural misunderstanding seems to be growing, it is more important than ever that grants such as the RSMF support inter-cultural exchange. Turkey has always been a pivotal player in world relations, and this year (just like every year) seems to be a key one for Turkey's geo-political stance. As host to innumerable refugees escaping the war in Syria and countless migrants funneling through to Europe leaving poverty and conflict in Asia, it is crucial that the unique character of this country is well-understood, and even loved. It is my hope that every year's group of Short Travellers return to Oxford with a desire to speak up for Turkey and the Turkish people, and spread understanding in the UK.

My family and I are honoured by the generosity and dedication of my father's friends and Univ College, in supporting the RSMF. I know that for most undergraduates the chance to apply for some extra cash to travel to Turkey in the long vacation is a fantastic opportunity, and I wish that there had been a similar fund during my time at Christ Church. As an English student I would have found it hard to dream up a legitimate academic reason to go to Turkey. The best I can come up with is that Lord Byron swam the Hellespont in imitation of Leander. Would I have been awarded a Roger Short scholarship? Not if my father was on the panel; he would have preferred me to spend my vacation touring the classical sites, clutching Bean's Archaeological Guide to Lycian Turkey. Mind you, he had taken us round all of them by the time I started at Oxford. I remember buying a shawl from an elderly peasant woman at the remote site of Uzuncaburc, and my father commenting that it would go down very well at formal hall at Christ Church, at which the lady, presumably understanding neither the English nor the joke, burst into laughter.

Tekrar hosgeldiniz to those who have come back, and iyi yolculuklar to this year's travellers.



Short Travellers at the 2014 Dinner, left to right: Tristan Naylor, Ed Lewis, Theo Papaioannou, Robin Froggatt-Smith, Xiaowei Xu, James King, Odette Chalaby, Sam Bajpai, Abi Reeves, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Lucy Fisher, Alice Morton, Carys Roberts, Andrew Cammish, Lizzy German, Rob Natzler, Ruth Hattersley. Missing from the photo: Rebecca Ricketts (née Green), Jonathan Tilley.

News: The Roger Short Memorial Fund

Welcome to the eighth newsletter of the Roger Short Memorial Fund. The RSMF newsletter, and the travel awards in his name connect us to the ideals Roger Short held dear, a favourite motto of his: eruditio permeat limites (education transcends boundaries). It is a fitting memorial that the Short Travellers venture into Turkey and the surrounding region where they conduct research, form friendships, absorb the various cultures and return home with greater understanding.

Three students have been selected by the Master for travel grants in 2015, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 58. The newsletter also contains journal extracts from the four Short Travellers who traveled to Turkey in 2014. For the supporters of the Fund who have attended the annual dinners and established contacts with previous travellers, it is also very interesting to hear news items about their current activities. For those readers who are not familiar with the Fund, full details can be found under Travel Grants in the Living Here section of the Univ website at http://univ.ox.ac.uk .The site 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 tenth dinner, hosted by The Master, Sir Ivor Crewe, was held at Univ in May 2014. Once again the Alington Room

was filled to capacity: 60 guests, 20 of whom were Short Travellers. Sir Ivor remarked that he is gratified to see many familiar faces each year and that every guest helps to develop the deep sense of family, which pervades the occasion.

The dinner was a milestone event, bittersweet for the Short family, Victoria attended with her 3 adult children, Katherine, Lizzy and Thomas. In her post-dinner remarks she mentioned how delighted and proud they are to have this living memorial to a much loved husband and father, and she looks forward to the day when the adventures of the first 100 Short Travellers are celebrated.

The Master commented on the overall quality of the travel writing by the Short Travellers, their journals being much more than a daily record of places visited, but include, for example, reflections on aspects of Turkish life and the impact on the writer. Tristen Naylor was awarded the prize for best journal, which was a very personal account of his journey of exploration through Turkey.

The RSMF is honoured to welcome two distinguished ambassadors to the dinner this year. The Turkish Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Abdurrahman Bilgic, who will be accompanied by his first secretary; and His Excellency Omar Saif Ghobash, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Left to right: Balloons at sunset, Cappadocia (photo: Odette Chalaby); 2014 Short Travellers: Odette Chalaby, Sam Bajpai, Rob Natzler, Lizzy German, Abi Reeves (Photo: Lois Sykes).





News: Short Travellers 2015

David Astley is a fourth year reading Earth Sciences. His original desire to travel to Turkey came from contemporary cinema and literature, and a few brief introductions to the history of the country. These sources have provided the backbone of his itinerary. He plans to start his trip in Istanbul, which will hopefully coincide with the biennial, before moving down the western Aegean coast visiting sites such as Pergamon and Ephesus. He will then move inland towards Konya and Cappadocia, continuing east to Mt. Nemrut and Eastern Anatolia. Finally, he plans to spend some time in Ankara before flying home. By travelling over a wide area of the country he hopes to experience a great mixture of environments and varying histories of the region, from the ancient Hittites and Greeks to the changing face of contemporary Turkey.

Jeffrey Hawke is a second year DPhil studying Engineering Science. His doctoral research is on perception systems in robotics, particularly focussing on the application of driverless cars. He plans to circle from Istanbul through central Anatolia to the south-western coast, spending the time hiking and absorbing as much of Turkey's rich history and culture as possible. As a New Zealander, Jeff will also visit the Gallipoli peninsula, which played a significant role in the development of the New Zealand and Australian cultural identities in 1915.

Stuart Perret: is a third year PPE student, who has captained University College Boat Club. He has a conditional offer to study for an MPhil in Sociology and Demography at the University of Oxford next academic year - which he very much hopes to take up. However before this, and thanks to the generosity of the Roger Short Memorial Fund, he will be travelling to Turkey for the first time this summer, exploring Istanbul and visiting Gallipoli. Planning the trip provides a welcome distraction from revision and the motivation needed to get through finals!

Short Travellers 2014: Journal Extracts

Sam Bajpai writes: As a historian, the opportunity to visit Turkey last summer was one I shall always cherish. The nation's history reads like the history of mankind – from the Hittites to the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Selcuks and the Ottomans – so being able to visit the place which at least three major world civilizations thought important enough to battle for was amazing. I spent a little over two weeks there, sticking to western Turkey and cancelling my initial plans to journey to Dogubayazit (twelve or so miles from the border to Iran) due to issues with ISIS flaring up. Nevertheless, a combination of Istanbul, Ankara, Bursa, Edirne, Ephesus and Troy offered more than enough to make up for this change of plans.

I have a clichéd confession to make and so I shall say it outright: if I was forced to pick, two highlights of my trip were the Blue Mosque and Chora Museum, for their absolutely stunning interiors. What I found particularly interesting throughout my travels, however, was the connections between Turkey and other places. The Blue Mosque looks very similar architecturally to the Taj Mahal in India: they were built around the same time, but in very different kingdoms and contexts for usage. An obelisk from Karnak in Egypt, a Venetian doge buried in Hagia Sophia, a sarcophagus covered with etchings of Alexander the Great and sultans who had been to Budapest: east and west, legend and fact all co-exist beautifully in this country.

I am also deeply grateful to the people who allowed me to experience some of the ordinary Turkish hospitality, and rescued me from remaining caught up in my touristy travails of big monuments and sights. In Bursa, slightly (entirely) lost, a man stopped to ask me if I wanted directions, and ended up showing me around the mosques and mausoleums of the early Ottoman sultans. His company was in the process of restoring the tiles/ceilings/carpets of the monuments and he knew all their ins and outs, turning on fountains for me and showing me places otherwise closed to visitors. While in Izmir for two days, I frequented the same café by the seaside, and the two very friendly waiters insisted on bringing me free biscuits or sundaes in accompaniment to my meals. On my last night in Istanbul,

making my way back to where I was staying, I heard calls for a Bosphorus night cruise, and jumped on. The captain invited me into his cabin and for the hour-long journey chatted to me and showed me all the sights we were passing by. As we turned at the halfway point, he let me steer the entire way back. Despite the language barriers, it was the smallest of encounters like these that made my trip so memorable, and I look forward to one day returning to this wonderful country.

Glockwise from top right: The Blue Mosque, a mosaic from the Chora Church museum, at the helm of the ship (photos all by Sam Bajpai).





Short Travellers 2014: Journal Extracts

Lizzie German writes: As I am going to study a Masters in Sustainable Energy next year, I visited Turkey in order to learn about renewable energy there. With my map and pictures above giving you an idea of the huge number of places I visited and some of the fantastic sights I saw, I will try to focus here on what I learned about renewable energy in Turkey.

Turkey has ambitious renewable energy targets, hoping to achieve 30% of its energy from sustainable sources by 2023. I had some conversations with Dr Halil Hamut, who worked for the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, about the R&D and innovation activities going on in the energy sector.



The good intentions of the government were evident in actions such as the introduction of a guaranteed subsidy of 13.3\$(c)/kWh for all excess solar energy produced, that would be brought back from the producer and fed into the grid. This is similar to the amount paid in many western European countries, and has been effective in attracting foreign investors to Turkey. However, the complicated system of permissions and approvals that were required meant that since the introduction of the scheme in 2013 there had been NO plants of more than 1MW built!

While in Turkey I was lucky enough to spend a day with "Entegro", a solar energy company in Izmir. I owe a massive thanks to Ozgur Yagmuroglu for his help with arrangements and hospitality on the day. As well as learning a huge amount from our conversations, we visited two of Entegro's solar installations. The 50kW plant we visited first comprised approximately 200

panels all tilted at an angle to the sun, situated on the roof of a sheet-metal cutting factory.

Our second visit was to a much larger aluminium shaping factory. The 2000 panels on the roof of the factory gave approximately 500kW capacity, and yet they still had to purchase some power from the grid. When photovoltaic cells get hot their efficiency drops, and this effect can be so dramatic that in Turkey they can generate more in cooler months like May than in the height of summer. This point was illustrated for me as I walked around in the staggering heat on the roofs of the factories, and it was interesting to encounter an issue that would never be a problem in the UK!

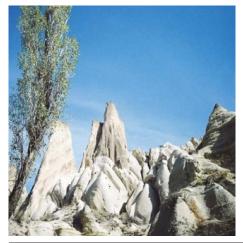


It was also striking how much use was being made of solar heating power, with the large tanks located on the roof of virtually every building.

To conclude, I owe huge thanks to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, for making such an incredible trip possible. I visited some fascinating historical sights, some unique natural landscapes, and learned a huge amount along the way, so thank you!

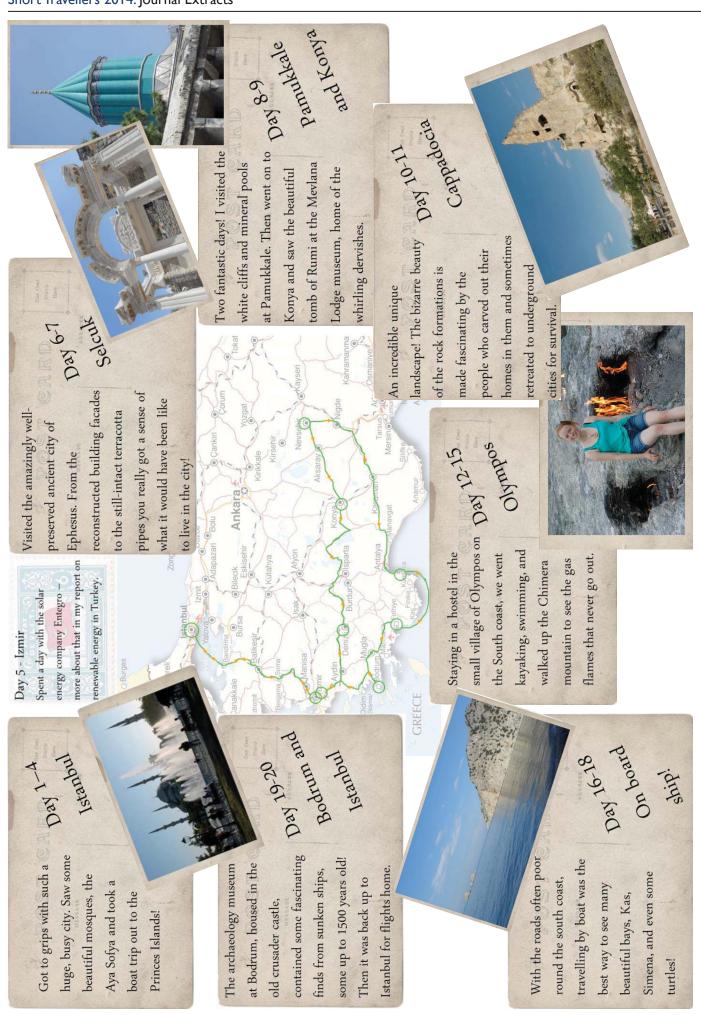
(Lizzie also created a map of her trip, which we liked so much we have included it in full on the opposite page.)

Clockwise from top left: A solar hot water system in Olympos; 2,000 solar panels on the roof of an aluminium factor (photos by Lizzie German); Ephesus; the Chora Church in Istanbul; Pigeon Valley, Capadocia (photos by Odette Chalaby)









Short Travellers 2014 Journal Extracts

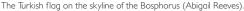
Abigail Reeves writes: Istanbul, through my eyes, is a city of contrast. With Byzantine architecture and Roman underground systems meeting giant telecom towers and narrow streets littered with present day political flyers. I met Rob in the hostel the morning after the evening I arrived in the city, and we spent a few hours getting our bearings by strolling down Mesrutiyet Caddesi. The road itself gave insight into the city; a wide expanse bustling with hoards of people, with narrow side streets fracturing off at both sides. It was down these side streets where we discovered an eclectic mix of sports bars, curiosity shops and traditional Turkish eateries.

On the third day we took the ferry to the Asian side of the city. The 20-minute journey was punctuated with many interesting sights, including the Haydarpasa Railway Station. The station itself was gifted to the Sultan Abdülhamid II by his German ally Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1906, the German influence is evident from the Germanic, neoclassical design. Sailing past it, you could imagine trains from Baghdad pulling in, to trade exotic Middle Eastern goods. The Asian side of the city was very interesting, and I enjoyed wandering through the streets. One thing that stood out was the degree to which different areas were politicized, and how this was so openly demonstrated through graffiti, flyers and banners strung across the roads.

The following day we decided to pack with the remainder of sights we had not yet visited. Due to the wet weather, we began the day by exploring the Istanbul Modern. The interior had a chronological layout, and showed very strongly how alive and rich the Turkish art scene remains to be. I particularly enjoyed the layout of the museum, and how you could easily see the different trends in the Art scene, and how this matched up to the development of Turkey as a state and it's place internationally.

This was shown most strongly through the influence of French impressionism on Turkish art. The afternoon was spent visiting Hagia Sofia, which is a remarkable architectural feat. The interior, with it's preservation of both Christian and Islamic influences, together with the way the light dances across the inside of the domes was truly spectacular.

We then visited Basilica Cistern, which was my favourite part of the visit. We luckily stumbled across the obscure entrance thanks to a helpful recommendation from a fellow traveller. After tripping down a narrow staircase, we were confronted with a large underground network of pillars, and suspended walkways over a few feet of water. It was particularly interesting to learn that it was built in the reign of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I, who I studied for Roman law. The diversity of the city, and its many influences from different regions particularly stood out when visiting this subterranean system. My time in Turkey provided me with a fundamentally unique experience, which I could never have experienced without the benevolence of a Roger Short Scholarship.





Odette Chalaby writes: We arrived this morning in Izmir and, after an hour wait, have boarded a long train through the beautiful blistering Anatolian countryside. There are no seats, and the heat clings to my back and face. Yet the small window out onto white houses, olive trees, statuesque hills, and brown burning fields is pulling me into the world outside the carriage. I am perching on a step by the door, mesmerised. Every new house, every new worker in the field, every new crop I see is fuelling my imagination about this land that I cannot wait to touch....

We reached Ephesus. How beautiful are bold, white, marble ruins in the sun! You are allowed to throw yourself into the city – to clamber on the marble stairs, to wander through people's houses, to enter the temple, and to ascend to the top of the overwhelming arena. For the first time I feel I can comprehend the idea of the Greeks, who I usually interact with only on paper, as living, breathing human beings.

After Ephesus, I then fell in love with Istanbul: from the neverending layers of history in Sultanahmet, to the striking art in Istanbul Modern, to Turkish brunch in Cihangir, to the smell of spices, to the pink light every evening, and to the sounds of the muezzin. If ever one moment could capture the feeling of being at the very crossing point of the Orient and the Occident it is surely sailing n the Bosphorus from its European to its Asian shore. It was a perfect day: blue sky; warm sun; cool water breeze. The domed skyline sung. We caught a commuter ferry

on which I found myself in conversation with a man that made this half hour long journey every day. He could not see why I had chosen to spend my time as a visitor in such a boring manner: "There's nothing for a tourist on the Asian side". But this trip was not about what I might find in Kadikoy or Moda – it was about physically experiencing this continental divide, and coming closer to an understanding of Turkey's layered identity....

Cappadocia took me to another world. Working out how to piece it together as part of the same country as Istanbul makes it all the more fascinating. I cannot convey the mystical beauty of these valleys, with layers of multi-coloured rock, fairy chimneys everywhere, canyons, and of course the humanly constructed caves, the beautiful early Christian churches, and pigeon nests dug into the soft rock.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Roger Short Memorial Fund as well as the College for this wonderful opportunity. My experiences in Turkey have developed my understanding of one of the world's most important countries, and in particular of its unique position between East and West. I have come to fundamentally reconsider many of my opinions about the relationship between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, and have learnt incomparably more than I ever could from books alone. This was a most memorable trip, and I hope members of the college continue to benefit from this unique opportunity for many years to come.

Rebecca Ricketts (née Green) (ST 2006): I'm still working at BT, but I'm now heading up a service performance team within the global service management organisation. A large part of my team are based in Budapest, so I have been spending a lot of time in Hungary over the last 8 months. Outside of work I am still (just about!) finding time for my two horses. I'm also still trying to travel as much as possible. I've recently been to Iceland with my husband, and we have just booked a trip to New Zealand.

Gabby Savage (ST 2006): I'm still editor of The Drinks Business magazine, which last year took me to Australia, among other places, for a first-hand look at the exciting wine developments taking place there. In August I married Nick Stone and we're now living down in Dorset where he manages an estate.

Geri Della Rocca de Candal (ST 2007): I am now ERC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Bodleian Library and Lincoln College, member of the 15c BOOKTRADE project and specialising in early printing and Greek editions. Following the true vocation of a ShortTraveller, between December and January 2015, I took three weeks off to speed through Ethiopia, India and Morocco. The flight plan: London, Frankfurt, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Aksum, Lalibela, Gondar, Addis Ababa, Mumbai, Goa, Mumbai, Addis Ababa, Jeddah, Frankfurt, London, Fez (Tangiers), London. Incidentally, and completely by chance, at a UN lunch in Addis Ababa I found myself sitting next to an old Univ acquaintance, William Davis, currently posted there.

Alice Morton (ST 2009): I am still working as an IT consultant for a firm called North Highland. It's always exciting - lots of change and travel - most recently visiting chocolate biscuit factories in Northern Europe! I am living in Hoxton with a fellow ex-Univite. Unfortunately I have not had the opportunity to go to Turkey in the last year, but a recent trip to Beirut provided me with equally fabulous food, lots of classical sites, and a interesting East meets West culture.

Carys Roberts (ST 2009): Since the last RSMF dinner I've received a Masters in Social Policy Research from LSE and worked as a researcher to Matthew Taylor at the Royal Society of Arts. I'm now navigating the world of policy and politics, as a researcher at think tank IPPR.

Marcel Dietsch (ST 2010): I finished my

DPhil in 2011 and left Oxford to work in Geneva for Edesia Asset Management, a commodity-focused hedge fund. In early 2013 I transferred to the London office, where I work as a Portfolio Manager trading industrial metal derivatives. Travelling remains one of my favourite activities and I have managed to return to Turkey twice in the past few years.

Sam George (ST 2010): Since the last update, I travelled the Trans-Siberian train line, through Russia, Mongolia, China and onwards into Japan. After this trip, I made a foray into the world of dry bulk shipping and distressed assets, and am now working in management consulting with Bain & Company in London, but have been based in Copenhagen for the past couple of months. In mid-April I will travel to Iran with a friend from Univ. We plan to begin in Tehran and commence a road trip encompassing, variously, skiing in Dizin, a town called Ramsar on the Caspian Sea coast, a polo match in Tehran, then an odyssey south to Isfahan, Kashan, Yazd and Shiraz. The Asia-Scotland Institute has asked me to present a report of my trip, which I'll be sure to share with the Roger Short community.

Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco (ST2011): Ifinished an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS with a Distinction in September 2014. In October 2014 I started a PhD in History at St John's College, Cambridge. I am looking at the presence of religious minorities in medieval Spain and Portugal. The PhD is funded by the Woolf Institute of the University of Cambridge. At the Woolf, we study the relations between lews, Muslims and Christians, both in the contemporary world and throughout history, as well as in every academic discipline. On a less academic note, I am planning to return to Turkey as part of my plan to backpack from Ankara to Isfahan this coming summer.

Josh Barley (ST 2011): I am now studying for a Masters in Modern Greek Literature at King's College, London.

Sarah Dicker (ST 2011): I'm on the Civil Service Fast Stream, currently working in the Strategy unit of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. I joined the Fast Stream after completing my masters in the history of the near and Middle East at SOAS - clearly inspired by my time in Turkey!

Beth McDonald (ST 2011): I am currently studying for an MA in Law at Bristol

University and will graduate this summer. I have secured a training contract with the law firm CMS Cameron McKenna and will be staying in Bristol to study for my LPC next year and then begin work in their Bristol office in August 2016. I am also delighted to say that I have recently become engaged and so I am in the process of planning a wedding!

Tristen Naylor (ST 2013): I accepted a visiting fellowship at Sciences Po, Paris. There, I've spent the summer ostensibly working on journal articles while mostly enjoying wine and cheese. I have now returned to Oxford to assume a research fellowship at the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Ruth Hattersley (ST 2013): I'm currently cycling from Burma to Singapore and will be returning to the UK to start a new job with a consulting firm in London.

Odette Chalaby (ST 2014): I am currently working hard for my Politics and Philosophy Finals. As for next year I am applying for internships and volunteer opportunities at lots of international NGOs, and hope that this will allow me to travel again. My wonderful trip to Turkey has firmly convinced me that potential for discovering the world will be a key factor in all my future career choices!

Sam Bajpai (ST 2014): When not daydreaming about my time in Turkey last summer or looking through the 1000+pictures I clicked, I bide my time writing my undergraduate thesis on the Mongols. With the prospect of finals looming over me I'm also applying to a couple of Masters programmes in global history for next year. I hope that the opportunity to travel will be a key component of my future career.

Robert Natzler (ST 2014): Since graduating last year, I have been leading an economic research team in Ghana developing and then field-testing microcapital, a refined version of microfinance better suited to slum businesses with unpredictable incomes. The project has been supported by economists at Oxford, Sherbrooke and the World Bank, as well as by London firms Clifford Chance and Cocoon Wealth, and Ghanaian energy NGO The African Solar Cooperative. Following the completion of the work this year, he is due to start work in September as an investment analyst for Edinburgh based long-only fund Baillie Gifford, and is looking forward to moving to cooler climes.

Short Travellers: Honours in 2014

The University College Record listed the following academic honours: Lizzie German (ST 2014) awarded a 1st in Chemistry, Krista Sirola (ST 2012) 1st History; Rob Natzler (ST 2014) Scholar PPE, Odette Chalaby (ST 2014) Exhibitioner PPE. Congratulations to all!

Roger Short Memorial Fund Travel Journal. The journal prize is awarded at the dinner each year. A bound copy of each journal is kept in Univ library. Previous winners are: Theo Papaioannou (2005), Andrew Cammish & Rebecca Green (2006), Ethan Kay (2007), Robin Froggatt-Smith & Olivier Holmey (2008), Carys Roberts (2009), Jesse Simon (2010), Josh Barley (2011), Edward Lewis (2012), Tristen Naylor (2013).



Donations. To make a donation to the Fund, please visit the website described above at http://univalumni.org, where a donation form can be downloaded. Please note the facility for donating via Gift Aid, with tax advantages for donor and recipient.

Alternatively, please contact: William Roth, Director of Development, University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH, Phone: +(44) (0) 1865 276986, Email: william.roth@univ.ox.ac.uk

Appreciation. Many thanks again to all donors to the Fund. The Short Travellers are very appreciative of the unique opportunities made possible by the Roger Short Memorial Fund travel awards.

The organisers are particularly grateful to Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008) for taking on the task of producing this, his sixth, newsletter. The organisers also thank Marion Hawtree, the Master's PA, for all her support in administration of the Fund and organisation of the annual dinner.



Top to bottom: Ephesus; Istanbul at dusk (photos by Odette Chalaby)