



ROGER SHORT MEMORIAL FUND

APRIL 2020

THE MASTER'S PERSPECTIVE



Sir Ivor Crewe

"It's a wonderful programme. I just hope it can be kept going". So my predecessor, Robin Butler, warned me before I stepped into his shoes. Twelve

years and over 80 travel awards later, I can confidently report that one of Univ's very special institutions is in robust health. This year marks a record number of applications (24) for the five established travel scholarships, and such is their quality that the College will create an additional two awards from its general funds.

The Roger Short programme was something of a gamble when it began. No other college offered anything similar to serve as a model. The College had no connection with Turkey – hardly any Turkish students and no tradition of Near Eastern or Islamic Studies – other than the unhappy fact that Roger Short, a 1963 Classics scholar, was British Consul General in Istanbul when he was killed in 2003 by a terrorist attack on the consulate. A handful of classicists and Byzantine scholars at Univ had a passing interest in Turkey's ancient sites and

pre-modern history. But would anybody else? Like Neville Chamberlain's Czechs, the Turks were "a people in a far-off country of which we know little".

A young Univ community of travel scholars to Turkey now knows much more, at least judging from their diaries. Turkey has proved an inexhaustible inspiration for the more curious, imaginative, and adventurous in the Univ community, drawn not just from the classicists and ancient historians but every discipline across the spectrum.

I have read all of their diaries and learned from them. Some are straightforward chronological accounts of places visited and meals eaten (I have vicariously sampled every Turkish delicacy on offer and drunk gallons of cay). The best are publishable travel writing of a high order, combining vivid descriptions of unique topographies and sites with social commentary, political analysis, and powerful personal emotions. Returning Short Travellers, having coped with mishap, adventure, the unexpected, and unfamiliar, have usually learned a lot about themselves as well as Turkey.

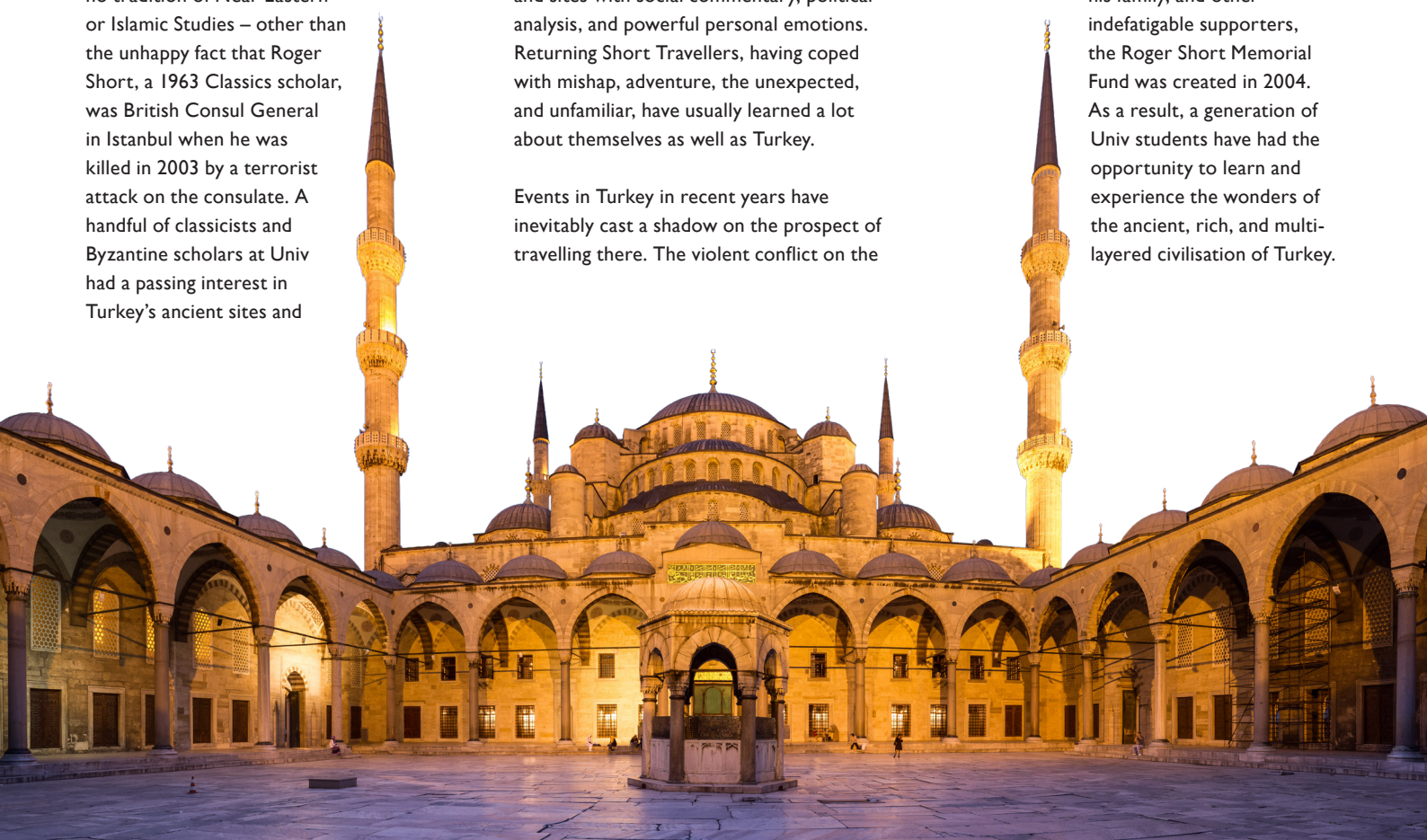
Events in Turkey in recent years have inevitably cast a shadow on the prospect of travelling there. The violent conflict on the

Turkey-Syrian border, the resulting refugee crisis, and President Erdogan's remorseless crackdown on journalists, judges, and dissenting academics cannot be ignored.

Robert Natzler, a 2014 Short Traveller, wrote in the 2018 RSMF newsletter that the situation in Turkey so depressed him that there was nothing helpful he could say other than that to travel there was absolutely worth it. Natzler also said: "It is a terrible thing, to come to love countries other than your own", but Short Travellers to Turkey do, just as Roger Short did. It is also a wonderful thing: a number of Short Travellers have re-directed their research as a result and two have settled in Turkey, at least for the time being.

Historians and sociologists tell us that they "who only know one country know no country". Thanks to the inspiration and commitment of Roger's longtime friends,

his family, and other indefatigable supporters, the Roger Short Memorial Fund was created in 2004. As a result, a generation of Univ students have had the opportunity to learn and experience the wonders of the ancient, rich, and multi-layered civilisation of Turkey.



From the Master: It is a great sadness for me in my last year as Master that we are not able to hold our annual RSMF dinner and celebrate this wonderful programme. It is particularly poignant that this year a record number applied for a scholarship but it seems those fortunate enough to be awarded may not be able to travel to the region this summer. However, we shall gather again next year and as a community of Short Travellers grow from strength to strength.

LEAH CROWDER I am a first year DPhil student researching the criminalisation of humanitarian aid with the Border Criminologies research group in Oxford's Faculty of Law. I have worked on various ground responses to natural disasters and humanitarian crises in the US and Turkey. During my most recent trip to Turkey, I worked as a translator for Her Yerde Sanat Derneği (Art Anywhere Association) in Mardin, connecting at-risk children with state run social services and providing circus education. I will use the Roger Short Memorial Fund to meet with local responders and grassroots organisations in Turkey's borderlands. After meetings in Ankara, I will travel by car from Gaziantep to Mardin, engaging with local leaders along the way. I will also visit my research group's affiliate NGOs on the Greek island of Lesbos to monitor the humanitarian situation there.

LEONIE DEFONTEYNE I am a second year undergraduate studying Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. I am extremely grateful to receive a Roger Short Travel Scholarship, which enables me to travel to the Western part of Turkey and three East Greek islands together with my friend Lucie. We will start off in Istanbul, and then visit several classical sites in what was once called Asia Minor. For the last part of our trip, we are planning to go to the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, and Kos. As someone who is passionate about the material culture of Greece and Rome, this trip offers me an incredible opportunity to visit cities, such as Ephesus, that played a significant role in both the Greek world and the Roman Empire. I am also excited about deepening my understanding of monuments, such as the Sebasteion in Aphrodisias, about which I have already learned in my Finals options.

LUCIE DE GENTILE I am a second year undergraduate Classicist. I really appreciate the opportunity that the Roger Short Memorial Fund offers me. I am very excited to be able to experience Turkey and Greece, especially the interesting classical sites in both countries. I am particularly looking forward to going to Troy, after studying it at length for my paper on Homeric Archaeology. I am also impatient to see

Ephesus, after reading all about it. This trip will be very helpful in the studies I will soon do focusing on the Hellenistic period. I am also very much looking forward to going to the Greek islands of Lesbos (birthplace of Sappho's poetry), Samos, and Kos. Hopefully, this trip will be made even more memorable as I will be lucky enough to go with my friend, Leonie. Thank you, I am deeply grateful.

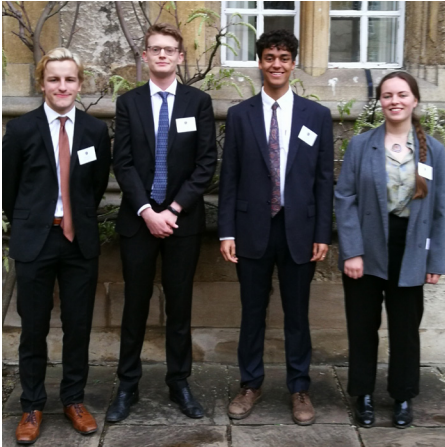
THOMAS GAVIN Having studied Classics at St Anne's College, Oxford, I joined Univ in 2019 to begin an MPhil in Greek and Roman History, focusing on the cultural identity of Greek cities in Roman Asia Minor (now modern Turkey) during the first few centuries AD. Turkey provides a unique opportunity for an ancient historian to bring together various strands of evidence to form a cohesive picture, being particularly strong in epigraphic sources, coinage, and archaeology. I am extremely grateful to the RSMF for this opportunity; the sense of scale and geography gained from touring an archaeological site is simply something that research in a library cannot provide. I intend to fly into Antalya at the beginning of September, work my way west and up the coast, focusing on a number of ancient sites including Termessos, Ephesus, Miletus, and Colophon. I will then spend my final few days in Istanbul. I believe that this trip will be of exceptional value to both my MPhil research and future academic work, and I am really excited to see what Turkey has to offer.

JOSEPHINE ILLINGWORTH-LAW I began studying Music at Univ in October 2019 and it has always been composition which excites me most. Last summer I wrote a short piece for three voices, piano, and cello, detailing through a musical narrative the physical journey of a young Syrian refugee as she traverses the Turkish coast to escape Aleppo. The piece used a traditional Syrian lullaby as inspiration, which I then juxtaposed with Turkish instrumental techniques. I wanted the music to embody the chimaera-like blending of cultures, both of which are ancient and intricate, created by refugee displacement. With the RSMF scholarship I will retrace the physical steps of said refugee along the south-west coast, bringing recording equipment to capture changes to the musical scene spurred by the refugee crisis. The Turkish musical

canon is at the crux of a transformation, so thank you for giving me the unique opportunity to see the change firsthand.

BARNEY PITE I would like to thank the RSMF for the opportunity to travel to Turkey. It is deeply appreciated. I am a third year Classics student, and I intend to travel to Turkey to explore some of the key classical sites on the western seaboard of the Aegean, particularly Ephesus, Sardis, Pergamon, and Bodrum. I am studying for a paper on the archeology of the Greeks and the Mediterranean; this paper includes consideration of patterns of settlement and colonisation in Asia Minor, and I intend to use this trip to investigate the different ways that the Greeks established cities and temples in modern day Turkey. I am also studying for a paper on the Achaemenid Empire, and I want to investigate artifacts and sites in Turkey from Persian rule. These artifacts are for the most part in Antalya and Sardis, but I believe some are also in Istanbul. I also have a secondary interest in the Christian Church and the history of Christianity: I intend to pursue this interest by visiting the Christian Churches in Cappadocia and Istanbul.

JULIAN WOOD I am a first year postgraduate student studying for an MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. I am extremely thankful to the RSMF for enabling me to undertake a nine day journey to Cappadocia in mid-September, as a significant complement to my academic interests. My travels are based in the region surrounding Göreme and involve the exploration of its unparalleled rock-cut Byzantine structures; including not only numerous churches, but also 'cities' of hidden refuge tunnels. My current research concerns the processes by which Byzantine audiences may have viewed artistic works as literally 'alive'; especially during episodes of iconoclastic behaviour. I am therefore excited to investigate the mysterious, regionally specific tendency towards aniconic artwork around Göreme, and likewise to consider any potential relationship between it and the notions of societal trauma that so often characterised the retreat of local populations to within their volcanic surroundings.



Short Travellers 2019 (left to right): Miles Hession, Piers Armitage, Josh Sayer, Francesca Sollohub (missing Elias Benabbas). Photo: Lois Sykes

PIERS ARMITAGE In February 2019, the RSMF generously accepted the travel proposal I wrote with my cousin Isobel: to follow by bicycle (rather than horse) the route of the sixteenth century Ottoman traveller Evliya Celebi and to study the differences and continuities across aspects of his route. Evliya first journeyed beyond Istanbul in the 1640s, through Turkey's Eastern Black Sea region, and we planned to ride primarily on small gravel roads east towards the Georgian border.

Celebi's travelogues - 'one of the most widely cited sources in Ottoman History' - offer a unique insight into life, language, food, culture, and built environment in 17th century Turkey; especially Ottoman Enlightenment cosmopolitanism. We hoped to use his writing as a framework for understanding Turkey's unique pathway to modernity, while considering how our experiences differed



Above Isobel above the snow line below Pusur Dagı pass, between Uzungöl and İkizdere, Piers Armitage
Cover top Cautiously descending the Bayburt D915 between Bayburt and Uzungöl - one of the world's most dangerous roads, Piers Armitage
Cover bottom The Blue Mosque

in both perspective and temporal context. Hugely inspired by Landry et al's work establishing the Evliya Celebi Way (a hiking, cycling, and horseriding route) in South Anatolia, we also aimed to scout a similar route, and provide useful information to the global 'bikepacking' community who might like to explore the region with the same experiential proximity, on roads less travelled.

Three days smooth riding took us from Samsun to Erbaa, but here disaster struck, as a major mechanical breakdown forced me to take my bike to the only road bike mechanic in the Black Sea region - back in Samsun. There I learnt I would have to wait three days for a replacement part to

infrastructure towns did or did not have; a reflection of his own piety and the social context of his time. To us, when history manifested Turkish public spaces, it often seemed to begin with Modern Turkey and the founding of the Republic: its flag omnipresent and Atatürk something of an icon. Still, beautiful ancient mosques remain and the folk tales and myths retold by Evliya are still retold, pointing to a continuity of folk tales' importance in the spatial imagery. The most constant theme was unfailing kindness and humour of everyone we encountered - we thoroughly recommend seeing the region. Patara and Xanthos along the Mediterranean; up to Aphrodisias and Hierapolis; then to the Aegean to see Ephesus before heading



Language wars in Montenegro, Francesca Sollohub

make onward cycling viable. Though this window gave us time to explore Trabzon, it forced us to cut a significant section of our route, and during the hours of coach shuttling along the coast I caught the cold that dogged both of us during the trip's latter half. Our 1,790 km route ultimately became an improvised 1,130 km, but this allowed us several interesting hitchhiking experiences!

Our route crisscrossed Eastern Turkey, and took us through various lesser visited and often charming cities and towns, with little in common besides Evliya's interest in them. Bayburt was young and buzzing, while Kars exhibited unique Turkish-Russian architecture. The landscape proved equally fascinating; each day encompassed an improbable variety of rich high plains, alpine peaks, desert lowlands, and urban conurbation, as well as the microclimates to which these places give rise.

The main conclusion we have drawn from travelling with Evliya is that a country's collective memory is carefully selective, and influences the way history is spatialized. Evliya breezed over Christian places (most notably Ani) in his accounts, focusing instead on meticulously recording the pious

to Istanbul. My time in Turkey gave me experiences and encounters that have changed me profoundly. For this I am entirely grateful to everyone involved with the RSMF. Thank you to Victoria Short and her family, the benefactors of the Fund, the Master, and Louise Watson.

ELIAS BENABBAS Thanks to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, who made this entire trip possible in allowing me to visit the countries of Turkey and Greece. I had never been to either and was excited to follow in the footsteps of other accomplished Roger Short Travellers, and in those of one of my favourite travel documentarians, Sir Michael Palin. Although I did not get the same brutal kneading he underwent at the hands of his moustached masseur during his trip to the hammam, my journey was nonetheless met with a number of stretching experiences that made for some memorable and maturing moments. This was certainly to be expected as my itinerary had, in part, intended to join some of the NGOs working with vulnerable groups displaced by war in the wider geographical region. This objective would ultimately dictate my route as I traversed the cities most impacted



The busy and bustling corridors of the Grand Bazaar, Istanbul, *Elias Benabbas*

by the humanitarian crisis. Outside of this endeavour I took the opportunity to discover Turkey, by immersing myself in its culture (which ultimately meant consuming copious amounts of delicious food) and capturing its scenic sites and landscapes through my, since then, much improved photography skills.

Istanbul, my first stop, was a wonderful experience of continent hopping. Like a ball in a game of ping-pong I would move back and forth numerous times across the Bosphorus to explore the city. By ferry, metro, tram, and every other mode of transport, I discovered the beautiful monuments, mosques, and mausoleums preserving the legacy of the historic Ottoman Empire.

Eventually I would head down south and follow the winding roads, making my way to Lesbos, the Greek island across the Mytilini Strait. Known as a 'hot-spot', the island has become an intersection between Turkey and Europe where countless migrants cross to claim

asylum. The island has been made famous worldwide in recent years from photos of over-crowded inflatable dinghies landing on its shores. Fuelled by a black market trade of people smuggling, the island population has swelled, with Moria refugee camp, a processing facility with a capacity of 3,000, now holding well over 13,000 asylum seekers. My time on the island was a humbling one to say the least and made for a moving experience.

I finalised my trip by visiting the third most populous city, Izmir, getting lost in the Kemeraltı Çarşısı (a historic market district) as I made my way through its labyrinth of side streets. I also made use of my proximity to the ancient city of Ephesus and took the train to make a day trip of the occasion. All in all, I returned to Istanbul on my penultimate day ready to jet back home, having had such a wonderful time. Although I could not stay in Turkey any longer, I made sure to bring a little bit of it back with me by stocking my bag full of lokum (Turkish delights), boxes of Turkish teabags, and nuts of all assortments.

MILES HESSION I rush down the street with a surge of energy lifting each of my steps. I had just finished my final interview in Turkey and, as with every one of my interviews and meetings on this trip, I was completely blown away and invigorated by the bravery and hard work of the activist that I spoke to. Terrorist threats, police raids, large counter-protest movements, and condemnations were just a few of the things discussed, each challenge eventually overcome: the forward march of progress.

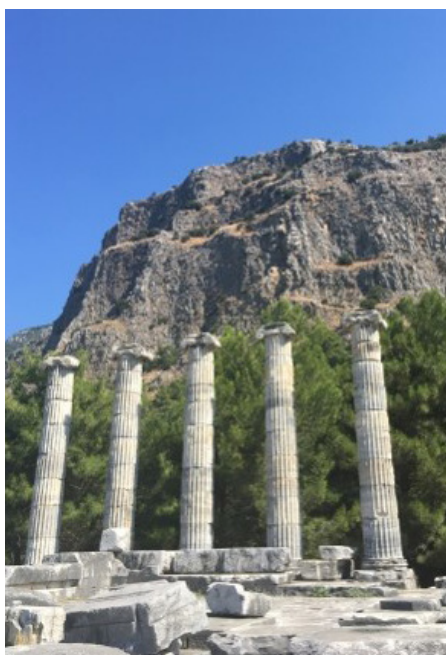
During the half of a month I travelled I met with LGBTQ+ activists in Istanbul, Ankara, Beirut, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem to see how advocacy groups and LGBTQ+ organisations grapple with activism in light of repressive governments and public backlash. The organisations varied quite a bit, with some

like Pembe Hyat or Beirut Pride being more focused on social events that create solidarity amongst the community, and others like KAOS GL+ and AFE have an emphasis on research and providing crucial health and safety resources to those in need. The antagonists also varied, with Turkish and Lebanese organisations receiving backlash from the government and religious leaders, versus organisations I met within Israel that were dealing with intolerance in the Orthodox community. Despite the variance, though, the movements in each of the countries were remarkably united in their quest for equality, consistently banding together against opposition despite some internal disagreements.

Beyond just learning about how these advocacy networks emerge, I also got to see countries that I had never imagined I would see. I saw the ancient walls of Istanbul and Jerusalem, with their beauty coming from their antiquity. I saw newer construction and the sprawling cities of Beirut and Ankara, cities with historical roots but with much of their identity and look from a recent past. I dove head first from the beaches of Tel Aviv into the Mediterranean, and came to the surface with the realisation that it was my first time in salt water.

The places that I saw were so wildly different and beautiful from the world I had grown up in and from one another. Consistent throughout, though, was the generosity and warmth of those I met. Despite danger, despite threats, I was welcomed graciously by every activist I met. They put their trust in me, and that generosity and gesture certainly will not be forgotten.

The biggest gift I gained from this trip is a newfound passion for activism with regards to human rights in these regions. Witnessing firsthand the sacrifices being made every



The temple of Athena Polias in Priene, *Josh Sayer*



Memorial to LGBTQ+ victims of the Holocaust, *Miles Hession*



The sacred walkway between the acropolis and the Askleion in Pergamum, Josh Sayer

day encouraged some introspection on what I could do. I felt a sense of fulfillment even when just meeting and holding interviews, and writing a piece on what I saw, so I hope to do more of that in the future. I will be forever grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for leading me on this discovery and for all the adventures that came with it.

JOSH SAYER First of all, I would like to thank everyone who made this amazing trip possible, from Victoria and all the benefactors, to College, and those who gave tips and pointers for my trip. I spent 19 days travelling down the western and southern coastline of Turkey, starting from Istanbul all the way to Antalya, as well as nipping across to Rhodes for a few days too.

As the annual Classicist travelling on this scholarship, I was particularly excited to visit some of the amazing Hellenistic and Roman city sites that are littered across this coastline. I had studied and written several essays on specific sites in Turkey, such as Priene and Pergamum, so it was really exciting to be able to visit these places and have them brought to life. The scale of Pergamum's theatre took my breath away, as did the uphill walk! I also had the opportunity to visit sites that I wasn't familiar with beforehand, such as Aphrodisias and Termessos, both sites that I could not recommend more highly. The former is currently being dug by an Oxford-led team and the amount of art and the array of buildings is staggering; the latter is a town located on the top of a mountain, so inaccessible that Alexander the Great could not invade it, but also home to a stunning cliff edge theatre!

In addition to my academic interest in these sites, the reason I particularly enjoy visiting ruins is because they are a challenge. Travelling around Turkey, I spent a lot of time thinking about 'power' and what we can learn from ruins, especially in the context of Erdogan's

dictatorship and reading about all that was unravelling in British and American politics. In short, for me, ruins are a reminder of the temporality and fragility of power, how all things rise and fall, even the centres that had the greatest prosperity the world had ever seen. They are a warning, but they are one that can be easily forgotten. Apart from Ephesus and Lindos, my sister and I were part of only a handful of visitors who were at each of these sites. As the sites had once been abandoned, it is a worry that it is happening again, as I heard story after story about how Turkey's tourism industry has crashed. I fear that the lessons ruins teach may be left behind with these sites, though we are at a time where it feels like we really need them.

FRANCESCA SOLLOHUB Fresh from finishing my Masters, I began summer 2019 in Istanbul and finished it 1,800 km north in the Czech Republic. It was an incredible couple of months, particularly given that I didn't have much of a plan when I arrived in Istanbul, other than a list of places I wanted to see on my journey north and the fact that I definitely needed to be in Prague on the 26th of July. Like so many other Short Travellers before me, I fell in love with Istanbul during my week there. I then spent a week in Bulgaria, a few days on the coast of Montenegro via Belgrade, and finally an all-too-short stay in Sarajevo.

My aim for the trip was to understand more about the southern edge of Europe – as a Slavacist I was already interested in the influence of Byzantium on Russia and other Eastern Orthodox cultures but I didn't know that much about the city itself. Walking around Istanbul, it was easy to see why it has fascinated centuries of travellers. Even in the quietest side streets you'll find something ancient, beautiful, or curious (even if it is just one of the ubiquitous cats). Aside from the obvious wonders of the city – there is a reason why everyone says you should see

Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace – my favourite moments belong to the Bosphorus, taking the ferry over to Kadıköy and Fener or watching the varied success of the locals fishing on the quayside.

After reluctantly leaving Istanbul, I continued to Plovdiv and then Sofia. While it can't match Istanbul in size or excitement (at least these days) Plovdiv has a similarly colourful past, including, but not limited to, the Thracians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs, and Turks. While there I visited the Bachkovo monastery and Asenovgrad fortress in the blue Rhodope mountains, both built in a distinct Byzantine style of red bricks and cupolas. As well as Byzantium, it was interesting to see traces of the Ottoman Empire throughout the Balkans; notably in the Stamboul Gate of the Belgrade fortress and its monuments to Sokollu Mehmed Pasha, a Serb who rose high in the Ottoman state, and Damad Ali Pasha, an Iznik born Grand Vizier buried in the Upper Town. Similarly, Herceg Novi on the Montenegrin coast (where I spent a few blissful days swimming in the preternaturally blue sea) has several remnants of its Ottoman rulers including the Kanli Kula fortress.

My final stop was Sarajevo, via an unexpectedly beautiful road through the valleys of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarajevo itself is an intriguing city which embraces its identity as the point where east and west meet, which felt like a fitting end to my journey. I am immensely grateful to Univ and the Roger Short Memorial Fund for allowing me to make this trip, and to Victoria Short for her hospitality and advice in Istanbul. It is not often you have the opportunity to travel like this, and I hope future Short Travellers get as much out of the experience as I did.



Iznik tiling inside Topkapi Palace, Francesca Sollohub



Cycling the last few kilometers in the evening light to our hotel, Dilaver Yayla Tesisleri, on the plain above Sumela Monastery, *Piers Armitage*

2006

REBECCA GREEN (RICKETTS)

We have had a busy year with a new baby, a new house, and my husband started a new job! William is getting used to being a big brother to Alexander. I have also had the opportunity to travel with my job at Standard Chartered, and I'm looking forward to more travel once I return from maternity leave.

GABBY SAVAGE In May we welcomed another addition to the family, Bea(trice) Stone. When not chasing her and her big sister I've squeezed in various jobs, from writing an article on foraging for *The Field* magazine to teaching a regular wine course and helping with the recent launch of a non-alcoholic cocktail range, Highball Cocktails.

2007

GERI DELLA ROCCA DE CANDAL

After 13 years in Oxford and 13 Short dinners, I have finally moved back to Milan where I work as a consultant for Banca Intesa Sanpaolo. I continue my efforts to plot unconventional travel plans whenever the opportunity arises. I am also determined to carry on attending the Short dinners regardless of my whereabouts.



A whole new world, Hagia Sofia, *Elias Benabbas*

2008

MICHAEL GIBB I have continued to work as the Coordinator and Natural Resource Expert on the UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, but I am currently enjoying a period of paternity leave with Freyja, who arrived in April 2019.

2010

SAM GEORGE For the past year I have been on an intensive Mandarin Chinese programme at National Taiwan University in Taipei. It has been a fascinating experience as I have increasingly been able to engage with Chinese language media, thereby accessing a broader range of perspectives on events in the Sinosphere - from the protests in Hong Kong (where I have also spent some time) to the recent and much analysed military parade celebrating China's 70th Anniversary. Just a couple of weeks ago I won the All Taiwan Foreign Students' Mandarin Speech Competition. I have an offer to continue my study of Chinese and Chinese foreign affairs at Stanford in September and in the meantime am looking forward to a (New Zealand) summer at home with my family.

2011

JOSH BARLEY I am still living in Athens. I recently published 'A Greek Ballad' - translations of the contemporary Greek poet Michalis Ganas, with Yale University Press, as well as two novels with Aiora Press. One of these, 'Serenity' by Ilias Venezis, is an account of refugees from Asia Minor being settled in Greece in 1923. Aside from translation, I take cycling groups around Epirus with 'The Slow Cyclist'.

JOANNA PALERMO I currently live in London, working as head of operations for a London-based tech startup called Fat Llama. In the coming spring I will take over the position

of COO for the company as we move through our next funding phase. I still maintain some links to the archaeological field. In January 2020 a Discovery Channel documentary called 'Mythical Beasts Unearthed: Lost World of The Cyclops' aired, in which I discuss the links between the Cyclops myth and blacksmithing that date back to Early Iron Age Greece.

2016

JOHN-HENRY CHARLES I spent most of 2019 skiing and climbing in cold places and in the mountains (a highlight being part of a Univ team which was able to conduct entirely off-grid, solar-powered DNA sequencing of microbial communities on an ice-cap). Today, I am based in London, on the founding team of a company called Capterio. Capterio is a project developer focused on building/ financing solutions to monetise wasted gas (e.g. at flares) in the oil and gas sector with material interests in North Africa, the Middle East, and North America. I still cycle with fellow Roger Short Traveller Johanna Schiele, most recently cycling from Germany to Bergen, Norway.

MATTHEW KINLOCH I am currently a fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library (Harvard University) in Washington DC. I am working on a monograph about female and non-elite characters in Byzantine historiographical narratives.

HUGH MOORHEAD I am due to qualify as a Chartered Accountant in October 2020 and have passed all my exams with regard to this. Until then I have to work out what to do with the next stage of my working life! Unfortunately 2019 did not provide me with an opportunity to visit Turkey or the surrounding region - hopefully this will change in 2020.



Wares of the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Miles Hession

JOHANNA SCHIELE After working in energy and climate in Berlin for the past two years, I moved to Boston in September to start a Masters in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Using the break between job and university, John-Henry Charles and I have kept true to our cycling enthusiasm. In a similar vein to our Roger Short trip to Turkey, we cycled from northern Germany through Denmark and Norway this summer. The warm weather and watermelons on the roadside were greatly missed!

ARTHUR WOLSTENHOLME Last year I got married to Nadine, who was a physics student at Teddy Hall while I was at Univ. We are living in East London while she teaches physics at a secondary school and I work for a small trading firm.

2017

ALEXI ANDRIOPOULOS I moved to Manchester this year. In addition to taking up a chaplaincy role amongst students, I am part of a church which helps Middle Eastern asylum seekers resettle as we seek to share what we see as the hope of Jesus with them. Many of them travelled through Turkey on their journeys to the UK. It has been humbling and amazing to hear their experiences in the region and I am grateful to the RMSF for helping build bridges to get to know many new friends.

RIVKA HYLAND I am still living in Istanbul, the greatest city on earth. Many thanks to everyone at RSMF for sending me here on a visit two years ago. Hope you are all well!

2018

DIANA AVADANII This year has been particularly busy for me as I head towards the second half of my DPhil studies. This means that the travelling I undertook was for both pleasure and academic development. I had

the opportunity this year to travel to the US twice. Once for a conference in Santa Fe, where I discovered amazing galleries of local artists and a very comprehensive museum on Native American art. I also went to the Mojave Desert to visit the Virgin Galactic spaceport, and to LA where I toured a good mixture of science and modern art museums. In August, I travelled to Salzburg, Austria, to take part in a science and art summer school, where I integrated my passion for drawing, music, and natural sciences and data. Irrespective of the nature of my travel I made sure to have my sketch book with me!

THEODORE HILL I am still at Univ, and hoping to hand in my doctoral thesis (on the depiction of rulers in Greek tragedy) during Hilary term.

2019

PIERS ARMITAGE Having enjoyed a long period of doing very little since the end of my Turkish travels, I am now looking forward to starting a job in project management in the Home Office. Perhaps 'looking forward to' is an overstatement, but it's only a first step. Now I have something to add to the conversation, I am very much looking forward to the Short dinner in the Spring. Having nearly completed her own period of doing very little, my travelling partner Isobel has more exciting plans. Isobel has received her Australian visa and is now planning her move there to seek work in national parks.



Ready to pounce in Fener, Francesca Sollohob

MILES HESSION I am currently working on a more focused piece specifically outlining some key findings from my interviews and research, looking at the effects of backlash on fostering cooperation amongst activists. I have also recently been elected the JCR Charities representative and I hope to hold fundraisers and collect donations for some of the organisations that I have met with. I am looking forward to seeing how I can give back to these organisations.



Front row of the Blue Mosque, Elias Benabbas



Short Travellers at the RSMF Dinner 2019 (left to right): Odette Chalaby, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, David Astley, Josh Barley, Florence Barker, Josh Sayer, Diana Avadanii, Francesca Sollohub, Theodore Hill, Miles Hession, Oliver Walker (peeping over), Andrew Cammish, Julia Schollick, Oliver Dammone, Tuuli Ahlholm, Olivier Holmey, Joanna Palermo, Jonathan Tilley. Attendees missing from the photo: Piers Armitage and Abi Reeves. Photo: Lois Sykes

LINKS TO FULL JOURNALS

Piers Armitage: www.univ.ox.ac.uk/news/retracing-evliya-celebis-travels/
Elias Benabbas: Available in the College library.

Miles Hession: www.univ.ox.ac.uk/news/istanbul-to-ankara/

Josh Sayer: www.univ.ox.ac.uk/news/19-days-in-turkey-greece/

Francesca Sollohub: www.univ.ox.ac.uk/news/istanbul-to-sarajevo/

HONOURS

The University College Record listed the following academic honours:

Piers Armitage (2019): awarded a First in History

Florence Barker (2018): awarded a First in Oriental Studies

Elias Benabbas (2019): awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, Mathematics

Carys Roberts (2009): featured in the Autumn 2019 issue of The Martlet in an article on "Bright Futures: Univ Alumnae Making Their Mark". She was recently appointed as the new Executive Director of The Institute for Public Policy Research.

Diana Avadanii (2019): appointed Junior Dean of Univ.

DONATIONS

Donations to the Roger Short Memorial Fund may be made by contacting:

Gordon Cox
Director of Development
University College Oxford
OXI 4BH

Phone: +44 (0) 1865 276986
Email: gordon.cox@univ.ox.ac.uk

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Charlie Morgan ● www.charliemorgandesign.com ●

TRAVEL JOURNAL PRIZE

The Journal Prize is awarded at the dinner each year by Richard and Anna Morgan. The 2019 Prize is awarded to Piers Armitage.

Previous winners are as follows:

- 2018 Diana Avadanii
- 2017 Tuuli Ahlholm and Rivka Hyland
- 2016 Johanna Schiele
- 2015 David Astley
- 2014 Robert Natzler
- 2013 Tristen Naylor
- 2012 Edward Lewis
- 2011 Josh Barley
- 2010 Jesse Simon
- 2009 Carys Roberts
- 2008 Robin Froggatt-Smith and Olivier Holmey
- 2007 Ethan Kay
- 2006 Andrew Cammish and Rebecca Green
- 2005 Theo Papaioannou

APPRECIATION

As we wish Sir Ivor Crewe farewell, Roger's family and friends thank him for his steadfast support, enthusiasm, and 12 years of commitment to the RSMF. He and Jill will be greatly missed, but we hope they will return to any and all future dinners. We welcome the incoming Master, Baroness Amos, and look forward to working with her.

After editing the RSMF newsletter for 12 years Robin Froggatt-Smith is retiring. We thank him for the years he went above and beyond with his outstanding contribution to the programme. It has been a real pleasure working with him and forming a lasting friendship.

We could not successfully plan the dinners each year without the impressive organisation and attention of Louise Watson (The Master's Executive PA). Thank you, Louise, for all you do.

Many thanks again to all donors to the Fund. The Short Travellers are appreciative of the very special and unique opportunities made possible by the RSMF travel awards.