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The objectives of the British Institute at Ankara are to enable UK scholars across the humanities and social sciences to undertake world-class original research and fieldwork focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; to encourage and facilitate collaborative research with other UK institutions and with scholars and institutions in Turkey and the Black Sea littoral region; and to maintain a centre of research excellence in Ankara.

A small staff at the Institute's premises in Ankara conduct their own research, assist scholars and maintain the centre of research excellence. The centre houses a library of over 52,000 volumes, research collections of botanical, faunal, epigraphic and pottery material, together with collections of maps, photographs and fieldwork archives, and a laboratory and computer services. Access to these resources is available free of charge to members of the Institute. The Institute is able to offer to members, for a reasonable charge, the use of accommodation, surveying and photographic equipment, and a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The Institute encourages as wide a scope of high-quality research as can be supported with its financial, practical and administrative resources. The Institute supports a small number of thematically-focused research programmes, stimulated by current concerns of academic research in the UK as well as internationally; these are known as Strategic Research Initiatives. In 2011 the following initiatives were supported: Contemporary Turkey; Climate History of Anatolia and the Black Sea; Frontiers of the Ottoman World; and Settlement History of Anatolia. A diverse group of research projects, which were funded and/or facilitated by the Institute, operated within the Strategic Research Initiatives scheme during 2011; these include studies of the intellectual origins of the Turkish Republic, and Georgians and Turks on the frontiers of Islam in the Ottoman period, an assessment of climatic and cultural change in Cappadocia over a period of 5,000 years and the major multi-disciplinary research project at Çatalhöyük. In addition, the Institute is conducting a major British Academy-funded international research project in collaboration with the Association for South East Asian Studies UK investigating links between the Ottoman Empire, Turkey and Southeast Asia between the 16th and 20th centuries. The Institute also offers a range of grants to support undergraduate to post-doctoral research.

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Back copies of *Anatolian Studies* are available from
Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN | www.oxbowbooks.com

Cover photo: *ALEPPO 5 and ALEPPO 6* (photo K. Kohlmeyer)
See *'The inscriptions of the Aleppo temple'* by J.D. Hawkins

ANATOLIAN STUDIES

Journal of the British Institute at Ankara

Volume 61

2011

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Published annually by
THE BRITISH INSTITUTE AT ANKARA
10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

ISSN 0066-1546

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Anatolian Studies is a refereed journal

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With acknowledgements to The Society of Dilettanti

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ISSN 0066-1546

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Printed by Stephen Austin & Sons Ltd, Hertford

Published annually by

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE AT ANKARA

10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH