

ROGER SHORT MEMORIAL FUND
APRIL 2025

TWENTY YEARS & ONE HUNDRED TRAVELLERS LATER...

The Roger Short Memorial Fund has been able to sponsor travel scholars over the past 20 years. Roger would have been both pleased and impressed by its success and the fact that it continues to flourish. We are living in an increasingly uncertain world with almost constant change in most countries. This can be seen in Turkey where the country has moved far from the secular state set up by Atatürk after the First World War. The elections last year demonstrated that there is significant appetite for reversion to the former model and it will be interesting to see how Turkey's future develops. The country is the natural meeting of West and East. It is positioned close to many of the countries in the Middle East with large numbers of refugees and migrants. Recent changes to the governance of Syria have created considerable uncertainty for people in the region.

It is over 61 years since Roger and I found ourselves sitting together at dinner in Hall, which was the start of a strong lifelong friendship. We found that we liked similar things and we spent many hours listening to music, of which Roger had a keen knowledge. Rock & Roll, in particular, was always played when we were together. David Sykes, along with Richard Morgan, is a co-founder of the RSMF, and was part of our circle of friends at Univ.

The Foreign Office was Roger's destiny. We had several wonderful family holidays together when Roger was posted to Ankara, Oslo, and Sofia as Ambassador, and then finally Istanbul, where he was Consul General. Roger was a natural linguist. His fluent Turkish was a real asset when we travelled around western Turkey in 1984, while basing ourselves with Roger and Victoria in Ankara. Our two families drove in convoy down through Cappadocia with its fascinating 'fairy castles' which had been

deserted years ago, but still showed brilliantly coloured wall paintings.

There were so many places to see. Roger's knowledge of the various sites we visited helped us appreciate the country's history and the influence of passing empires. Nevşehir with its underground city allowing citizens to retreat to safety in case of attack deserves a visit as do the natural wonders of Pamukkale and Cenet and Cehennem. We also spent time along the Mediterranean coast, where we enjoyed the friendly welcome of the people, the food, and the climate. One memory our children have is of hearing a flute being played by a young shepherd, dressed in a smock, with his flock on the side of a hill—a scene surely dating back to Biblical times.

We are currently at a time when several countries have adopted the policy that might is right, but much of the information circulated is open to question. There is no better way of experiencing the realities than by immersing oneself in the culture and history of a country, with the added bonus of making new friends along the way. Turkey is a beautiful country with a long history and its geographic position only adds to its global importance. It is through visits such as those of the Short Travellers that no doubt leave a great impression on both the visitor and the local population, creating memorable opportunities to strengthen understanding and connections.

Over the last 20 years this programme has sponsored close to 100 travelers who have covered almost every corner of Turkey and some of the surrounding countries. From what they have written in their diaries, the travel experience has left a lasting impression. Roger could not have asked for a more vivid and living memorial to his love of the country.

❖ John Daniell, OM 1963

Cover: The monumental gate (tetrapylon) at Aphrodisias. Rufus Jones.

SHORT TRAVELLERS 2025

❖ **Sebastian Collins**
BA Ancient and Modern History (2024)

❖ **Leah Fogarty**
MBiomedsci Neuroscience (2021)

❖ **Raphaelle Martinez**
Bachelor of Civil Law (2024)

❖ **Mia Muxlow**
BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (2022)

❖ **Xiangying Ye**
DPhil Earth Sciences (2024)

SHORT TRAVELLER JOURNAL SYNOPSSES



Saying goodbye to Salim and his wife, before he drove us to Xanthos. *Andrew Christian.*

ANDREW CHRISTIAN

I was fortunate to travel on this adventure with fellow Roger Short scholar Josephine Forsythe, in September of 2024. Our journey would take us around the Lycian peninsula on Türkiye's southern coast, before visiting the major cities and sites of Northern Cyprus, and finally exploring Istanbul for the remaining days of our trip. From each of these regions I gained a different perspective of Turkish history,

culture, and people's daily life, and such diversity enriched my experience greatly.

The Lycian peninsula was perhaps my favourite of these regions as it showcased an incredible range of Türkiye's natural landscape, inhabited by the most welcoming and friendly people we were to meet. Via a series of dolmuş (minibuses that act as public transport), we dotted between sites of antiquity, leading us on a winding, week-long journey along

Josie admiring the heights of Saklikent Gorge. *Andrew Christian.*



the coastline. The region has clearly seen a boom in tourism over the last decades, as the seafront of every town was bustling with restaurants, bars, and shops selling "real-fakes", mimicking western brands (including Sports Direct!) to make travellers feel more at home. Despite this, even a ten-minute drive inland would see the tourists melt away, as the landscape became more rural and rugged.

It was on these excursions, such as our visit to Xanthos, a nearly 3000 year-old site perched on a hilltop in the foothills of the Taurus mountains, that we had some of the most meaningful encounters. Due to poorly timed departure from our hotel, we missed



Sunset over Fethiye from the Lycian tombs. *Andrew Christian.*

the hourly dolmuş towards Xanthos, but were kindly picked up by a Turkish family going in the same direction. Unfortunately, due to geographical and linguistic confusion, we were dropped off still 5 miles from our destination, and wandered warily to the closest village. As we sat, hoping for the arrival of a dolmuş, we were approached by an elderly local, who (by gesturing) invited us into his home and (with help from Google Translate) offered us a bed for the night as well as to drive us wherever we would want to go. We were overwhelmed by his unprompted kindness and graciously accepted his second offer. The day contrasted the busy and impersonal tourist areas, with the openness and kindness shown to us on many occasions when we diverged from the beaten track. This theme continued throughout our trip, as we found that the frequent conversations we had become used to in Lycia (on most days we were able to chat at least briefly to the owner of whichever hotel or restaurant we ate or slept in) became shorter and rarer in the bustle of Istanbul.

Though the travelling in itself was much more rewarding than we expected, the destinations were equally inspiring. In both Lycia and Northern Cyprus, historical sites were sporadically situated across the countryside. These ranged from Xanthos, Patara, Olympos and Salamis, which boasted Persian, Greek, Roman and Byzantine influence; to Kayaköy, a ghostly town abandoned in population exchange only a century ago. Our visit to Northern Cyprus also offered insight into the medieval Mediterranean, with colossal fortresses at Kyrenia and Famagusta and Ottoman bazaars in Nicosia. More recently the island of Cyprus has endured a turbulent history of Greco Turkish tension, climaxing in the conflict and



The friendly family of pancake makers, stopping their work to chat with us. *Josie Forsythe.*

partition of the island in 1974. In Nicosia we walked by the border wall, which is still armed by UN peacekeeping forces, however we saw that tourists from Southern Cyprus would frequently cross on day trips to the north. It appeared that tension had eased over the last few decades and that Northern Cyprus had seen steady economic growth in urban areas, likely funded by tourism and economic aid from Türkiye, with which the region clearly feels a strong affinity (Turkish flags flew on the most important buildings).

The old centre of Istanbul was built by expert craftsmen from across Europe and the Near East and funded by the greatest

empires of their time. As such, the magnificent mosques and Hagia Sofia emanated grandeur and splendour and truly left me awe inspired. The city was so densely crammed with antiquities, that many were simply bypassed, unnoticed by the swarms of tourists who bustled their way towards the traditional must-see's. Exploring further afield could have kept me happily occupied for weeks, however in the two days available we ventured only briefly beyond the old city centre. Beyond the formidable city walls, modern flats and offices extended as far as the eye could see, and from our flight we could see the modern metropolis extended much further.

A stroll through the ruined streets of Olympos. *Josie Forsythe.*



Throughout my travels in Türkiye and Northern Cyprus I feel I have come to understand so much more about the region, its history, and how it has been shaped into the place it is today. Yet Türkiye is a huge and diverse country of which I have explored only a fraction, and so I cannot wait to return one day to create more memories in this beautiful country. I would like to thank the generous benefactors and organisers of the Roger Short Memorial Fund for this incredible opportunity, which has broadened my perspectives and



Segments of huge Venetian bastions at Kyrenia castle, featuring the flags of Türkiye and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. *Andrew Christian.*

given me both the confidence and the desire to explore future travels.

JOSIE FORSYTHE

I journeyed across Turkey and Northern Cyprus with my fellow Roger Short scholar Andrew Christian in September 2024. Our

journey began by travelling along the Lycian coast from Fethiye to Antalya by dolmuş, flying to Northern Cyprus before ending in Istanbul, all of which provided a varied and exciting perspective on Turkish culture.

Having arrived late at Fethiye Central Bus Station, we decided to walk to the hotel, thinking it couldn't be too far. However, the 1.5 miles seemed much further with our heavy bags. On the bright side, it provided an education in Turkish pedestrian etiquette as we daringly followed locals across crossings, trusting in their experience. Exploring the late-night markets, I attempted my first successful purchase by speaking Turkish.

We used our 36 hours in Fethiye to explore as much as possible. We scrambled through the roaring Saklikent Gorge, admiring the stunning geological features before escaping a thunderstorm to head to Kayaköy. This abandoned town had an eerie tranquillity. As we scaled the crumbling paths between the houses, we noticed remnants of coloured paint that reminded us of the life that once filled these homes. The wiry bushes sprouting between pave stones, the scuttling of ants, and the occasional cat created a feeling that the forcibly abandoned town had been lost to time. The sunlit houses glared an empty white, and I imagined how the town would once have had children running between market stalls and women hanging their washing between windows.



Abandoned houses decorate the hillside at Kayaköy. Josie Forsythe.

prayer echoed across the harbour.

Our journey along the coast utilised a combination of dolmuş and otobüs, which allowed us to hop on or off at different towns along the way. Doing so, I had one of the best experiences with my Turkish. I successfully started chatting with one of the pancake sellers and using a garbled mix of my knowledge and Google Translate, we discovered they were a family of pancake makers and sellers who travelled to each local market from Gelemiş each day. They had been working for over 15 years and were happy to show us how they made the pancakes, with different family members trying to help us communicate.

While the vast crumbling ruins of ancient forums and amphitheatres were awe-inspiring and highlighted the size of bustling empires, my favourite memory of the trip must be attempting to reach the ancient city of Xanthos. After asking the opinion of the hotel owner's son on how to get to Xanthos, he sent us a picture of the local bus timetable. While waiting, a family of 3 stopped their car laden with beach equipment and asked us where we were going before offering to take us as far as they could. However, after a miscommunication error, they dropped us off on a crossroad, 5 miles away. Confused and disorientated, we watched in disappointment as soon after, the only dolmuş for another hour drove past us. Dejected at this sudden change of events, we decided that as the sun was not too high in the sky, we should try and walk the rest of the way. However, the heat became too hot, so we decided to take our chances and catch the next dolmuş. It wasn't long before a small elderly man came out from his porch and, instead of chasing us off, placed down two plastic chairs for us to sit on. Even more surprising was when he invited us inside to enjoy breakfast and fresh tea with his wife before offering to take us the rest of the way. This act of kindness was not an isolated incident. Many times, we experienced how kind people were on our journey, as they stopped what they were doing and offered to help us—buying us tram tickets, dropping us off somewhere, or stopping their work to

chat. This experience truly highlighted the warmth and generosity of the Turkish people. Olympus, an ancient city further along the coast, was one of the best-preserved ruins I had seen. With entire houses still standing and the ability to walk anywhere you wanted through the town, one could feel and hear the echoes of the people who had once called this city home. A small hike away, you could witness the eternal fires of Chimaera, with tourists burning marshmallows in the flames. To know people through the centuries had also revered these flames was a strange but comforting feeling.

When leaving our hotel in north Nicosia in Northern Cyprus, we were taken aback by the wall that cut sharply through the streets in front of us. Having arrived from the North, we hadn't noticed the barricades blocking roads and turnings. Walking parallel to the wall we reached the checkpoint with stationed armed forces and foot traffic.

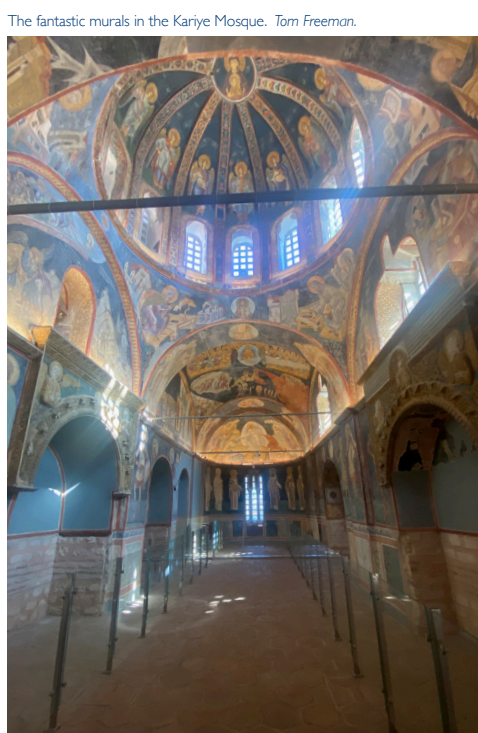
While travelling to Girne, also known as

A view of Girne from Bellapais Abbey (Northern Cyprus). Josie Forsythe.



The fantastically reconstructed Library of Celsus at Ephesus. Tom Freeman.

Returning to Fethiye, we hurried to reach the Lycian tombs by sunset. Still and hauntingly beautiful, they towered over Fethiye. The town was spread beneath us in a splash of colour, with minarets rising between houses as calls to



The fantastic murals in the Kariye Mosque. Tom Freeman.



I think Rufus petted every single cat that we came across. Tom Freeman.

Kyrenia, we passed through the Five Finger Mountains and noticed that military zones extended far into the countryside along the sides of the road. As a result, we were unable to hike a trail that one of our travel guides had described, as another tourist informed us that a military base was located halfway along the hike.

The imprints left on Northern Cyprus by different societies were evident both in Girne's coastal fortress and the old town of Famagusta, each leaving tokens of their time there—huge Venetian bastions, yellow British post-boxes, and ancient Roman towns. My favourite memento of human history was the 2000 year-old ship raised from the harbour floor, with the remnants of crockery pots the crew had used to eat their final meals, with bowls and spoons and a communal cooking pot.

Landing in Istanbul, I was in awe at the size of this sprawling metropolis. Arriving in the old town, as the evening call to prayers rang out, we headed to one of the restaurants I was most excited about, the old 1920's Köfteci

selling traditional köfte. The walls showcased century-old praise from food critics, and the meal was the perfect pick-me-up before heading back out to the Hippodrome.

Istanbul's old town was a maze of winding streets and serene mosques, but eager to explore more of the bustling metropolis away from the tourist hotspots, we decided to walk beyond the city walls for a different perspective. This adventure led us into a sudden thunderstorm where, darting between awnings for shelter, we continued past the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and the gate that famously marked the end of the siege of Constantinople before finally emerging outside the city walls.

Before saying goodbye to this wonderful country, we descended into the depths of the Basilica Cistern, and its stillness and quiet offered a moment of reflection on all we had seen and the people we had met. Reflecting on our journey, we have had the privilege of experiencing a great deal and meeting some

truly remarkable individuals. I found that the most meaningful interactions often occur over shared meals, a testament to the idea that food can transcend language barriers. I deeply appreciate my time in Turkey, where the local people exhibited a remarkable kindness, and I am very grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for granting me this opportunity, one I will always remember fondly.

TOM FREEMAN

I travelled in September 2024 with fellow Roger Short scholar, Rufus Jones. The pair of us study Ancient and Modern History with a strong emphasis on the Ancient. We remain immensely grateful for the opportunity to travel to Turkey to experience the ancient world firsthand. Our trip took place over the course of two weeks, and three core locations: Selçuk, the town closest to the ancient metropolis of Ephesus, the coastal town of Bodrum, and the incredible Istanbul. I would like to thank the Roger Short Memorial Fund for the opportunity of a lifetime, to go on such a trip that I suspect I shall never stop talking about to anybody who will listen. I will attempt to summarise this trip below.

Our trip began with a very late arrival into Izmir, a night in a rather dubious hotel, and an early train to Selçuk. There we were thrown headfirst into the ancient world, first stopping at the enormous and awe-inspiring Ephesus, and moving swiftly around the local sights of the Basilica of St. John, various museums, and the remains of one of the wonders of the ancient world, the Artemision (six more to go!). One particularly memorable excursion was our quest to find the remarkable ancient city of Aphrodisias, another fantastic archaeological site that was a mere four-hour journey from Selçuk. Our attempt to get there and back within the day saw us boarding several trains, getting lost in the market in Karaçasu, being chased down the road by a very kind man who (it turned out) was helping us find the correct dolmuş, and sharing one particularly kind gentleman's lunch in the back of one minibus.

We then took a coach south to Bodrum, a town that feels the polar opposite to quiet Selçuk—filled with drunk British tourists, extensive markets, and bizarrely decorated drinking spots of every variety. In such a place, we were pleased to still be able to get our fill of antiquity: the incredible museum of underwater archaeology located inside Bodrum castle and the remains of another wonder of the ancient world, the Mausoleum at Halikarnassos (five more to go!). We were also fortunate enough to get the ferry over to Kos, extending our travels over the

A rather small-looking Rufus in the fantastically large amphitheatre at Aphrodisias. Tom Freeman.





The incredible Basilica Cistern, Istanbul. *Andrew Christian.*

border into Greece, to visit the extensive archaeological parks there, a fantastically reconstructed Roman villa in which I suspect I bored Rufus to death with nerdy facts learned from GCSE Latin classes, and a tree under which Hippokrates supposedly taught his students. Another memorable excursion from Bodrum was our attempt to break away from the touristic centre by hopping on a dolmuş to the nearby town of Milas. Here, one highlight of our trip was our attempted visit to another archaeological park, the ancient Mausoleum of Hekatomnos, where as a result of our poorly pronounced Turkish we ended up in an entirely different museum altogether and learned instead about life in Milas under Ottoman rule.

Our final days in Turkey were spent in Istanbul, in a small but lovely hotel close to the beautiful Galata Tower. With three days left in the city, we filled our time with as many historical sites – surprise, surprise – as we possibly could. The magnificent Hagia Sofia was a particular highlight, a monument to the wonderfully chaotic reality of studying history: from a church built in the Eastern Roman Empire, evolving to being the centre of authority in the Byzantine empire, briefly becoming a Catholic church during the Fourth Crusade and finally becoming a mosque following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. I was particularly awestruck by the runic inscription on one of the parapets inside, etched by a Viking mercenary, Halfdan, who immortalised his name (essentially writing ‘Halfdan was here’) in one of the most remarkable acts of vandalism I think history has to offer. Other highlights of our time in Istanbul were the several architecturally magnificent mosques we were lucky enough to visit, the famed Blue Mosque and Fatih Mosque being particular favourites. The Kariye Mosque was another highlight for me, where I was once again struck by history-geek awe at the fantastically preserved early Byzantine mosaics throughout the former church.

The truly awe-inspiring thing about our trip, however, was just how welcoming the people were that we were lucky enough to meet, and it is their various moments of kindness and friendliness that stick out when I reflect on our trip. We were entertained in

one bar in Kuşadası by the hilarious Usman who worked in a local hotel and was kind enough to approach us and start chatting about how ridiculous his job could get. One lovely woman helped us navigate the complicated process of purchasing train tickets in another language, and while speaking to her on the journey (through the fantastically helpful Google Translate) she gave me advice on how to stay safe whilst travelling in Turkey and we chatted about her son who had just moved out for university. At one point in our journey to Aphrodisias, we attempted to get off the dolmuş at what we believed was our stop and were hastily stopped by every single one of our companions in this minibus, who kindly waved us off amid handshakes and smiles once we had eventually ended up at the right place. I mentioned above one man who shared his lunch with us on the same trip. He was also kind enough to point at every ruin and column along the journey with the announcement “tarih!”, which I later learned meant “history!”. Clearly Rufus and I had a certain look about us! In fact, many people seemed to mark us out as history buffs from a glance. Upon getting off a dolmuş in Karaçasu, a stranger who had not been on the bus appeared and explained where we needed to go next without us having to ask directions to the archaeological site. One ice cream vendor even called out to us “I also have old coins!”, apparently marking us out as the types who would be far more interested in replica ancient

One of the many reconstructed wreckages discovered in the depths of Bodrum. *Rufus Jones.*



A commanding view from Bodrum Castle of the skyline overlooking the Aegean. *Rufus Jones.*

currency than ice cream. He was correct of course.

Our time in Turkey therefore proved to be far, far more significant than merely an exploration of the ancient world. Through our lengthy rambles through the backstreets of Istanbul, our long journeys in stuffy minibuses full of strangers, and occasional stops for tea or, in Rufus’s case, to pet a cat (I think he petted every single cat we came across) we experienced a welcoming, beautiful, and diverse country that I’m sure we will be returning to as soon as we can. I am immensely thankful to the family and friends of Roger Short for making this trip possible. I was overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of everyone we met in this fantastic country and, to be honest, part of me wishes I’d never left.



Sea turtles near the ancient harbour of Andriake. *Tiancheng Wang.*

RUFUS JONES

After hearing from quite a few past Roger Short Travellers at the annual dinner, it became apparent to Tom and I that our trip could go any number of different ways. Each person swore that the part of Turkey they had been to was the most beautiful and that the mode of transport they had chosen was the most convenient. In hindsight, I know that everyone was right in a way—Turkey is a country that would likely take a lifetime to appreciate fully and properly. In light of that, I hope our two-week stint can be somewhat illustrative!

An immediate hitch in our travels was

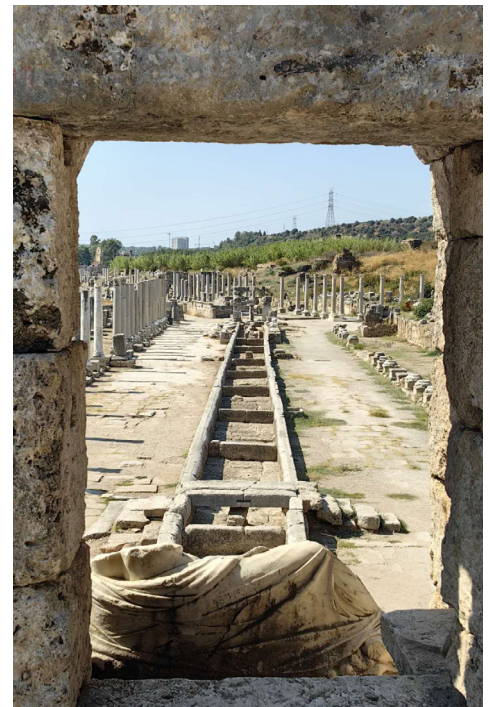
Moon rising over the Red Basilica, Pergamon. *Tiancheng Wang.*



the discovery that you need to be 22 to rent a car. All the websites were adamant it was 21 but the Turkish rental companies begged to differ. Although I was slightly relieved, since it meant my seniority no longer made me Tom's chauffeur for the whole trip. I was also intimidated by the prospect of navigating Turkish public transport. After doing a bit of research, we discovered it was much less costly and inconvenient than we feared. In fact, some of the best moments on our trip were adventurous days out navigated on solely trains and taxis (in Turkish, a taxi is a *dolmuş*).

Since it was only a 10 minute *dolmuş* away from our hotel, Ephesus was quickly ticked off the list. It was one of the most stunning ancient sites I have ever seen. The sheer scale of it as well as the large number of intricately reconstructed wonders there kept us absorbed for half a day. The intensity and immediacy of ancient drama was brought home to me when I saw the theatres, one capable of holding 24,000 people! The rarity and architectural grandeur of the Library of Celsus made it a personal highlight—the only ancient libraries bigger were Alexandria and Pergamum. The heat and busyness were something the photos had not prepared us for, but were nothing generous portions of sunblock and water couldn't overcome.

A journey that took us slightly further afield was a visit to Aphrodisias. A site much like Ephesus in its size and quality but nowhere near as busy since it's more of an effort to



Statue of the river god Kastrus overlooking the water channel that once brought life to Perge. *Tiancheng Wang.*

reach. Our tutor recommended the site on the assumption we were driving but we found a public transport-friendly route from a past traveller's blog. We reached Aphrodisias in no large part thanks to the help of a number of kind and obliging locals who, despite our lack of Turkish and their lack of English, were eager to help us get off at the right stops on our many *dolmuş* journeys and even arranged to pick us back up. The friendliness of a man I sat next to on one such journey particularly sticks in my mind; despite the considerable heat, he wore a woolly jumper and enthusiastically asked Tom and I all sorts of questions. After a conversation conducted solely in nods and smiles, he gave us some bread rolls from his satchel.

Since Tom is covering the Istanbul leg of our trip, I'll conclude with a bit about our few days in Bodrum. The best site was certainly The Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology—housed within the remains of the beautiful Bodrum Castle were treasures from a number of large-scale underwater excavations. The place was overflowing with relics from ancient shipwrecks and provided lots of information about the underwater sites in and around Bodrum. It also served as a tribute to the late George Bass, an American pioneer of nautical archaeology who led a number of the explorations whose contents fill the museum. We left both impressed by the site itself and unexpectedly informed about the history of nautical archaeology.

My travels in Turkey are some of my life's greatest memories so far. Part of what made it so enjoyable was the warmth, hospitality, and generosity of the people I met. The ancient sites were beautiful and greatly enriching but I think it's fitting that they occupy my mind as much as the people and the atmosphere do. I realise now that I will be the very person I was overwhelmed by at the annual dinner but, after seeing the place for myself, I completely understand their passion. It is why this scholarship exists and why I am immensely proud and thankful to have been a recipient.

TIANCHENG WANG

My trip to Türkiye in the summer of 2024 was one of the most thrilling and enriching experiences of my life. Over the course of a

ten-day road trip, my friend and I explored 22 ancient sites in Asia Minor, including 21 theatres, 6 stadiums, and more Hellenic temples and Roman baths than I could count.

Our adventure began at the mighty acropolis of Pergamon, once the hegemonic city of Asia Minor. On the same day, we marvelled at the full moon rising between the arches of the Egyptian Red Basilica. We next visited Sardis, the powerful capital of the Lydians, before reaching Smyrna, a city no longer haunted by the trauma of the massacre a hundred years ago.

In the ancient metropolises of Ephesus and Miletus, I sighed over the silting of their once thriving harbours, which had transformed prosperous bays into acres of farmland. The beautiful sanctuary of Didyma transported us back to a superstitious past, when the delirious priestess delivered the oracular words of Apollo.

In the marble city of Aphrodisias, I was captivated not only by the vast civic park and the exquisite Temple of Aphrodite but also by the Edict of Emperor Diocletian, inscribed in stone as a testament to the empire's economic policies. The massive city of Laodicea dazzled us with its broad streets and gleaming travertine structures, where the remarkable efforts of Turkish archaeologists, making rapid progress over the years, greatly impressed us.

We continued to Kaunos, a city boasting two mighty citadels, before journeying across mystical Lycia. There, we explored Tlos, the city of Bellerophon and Pegasus; Xanthos, the unyielding city whose people repeatedly chose death over slavery in the face of conquerors; Pinara, the "round-hill" city, once crowned with towering tombs that dominated its skyline; Patara, the political heart of Lycia and the birthplace of representative democracy; Myra, home of Saint Nicholas; and its harbour, Andriake, where the ground was still littered with shells once used for extracting precious purple dye.

We also set sail to the Kekova Islands, swimming in the azure sea in the company of carefree sea turtles. Our next stop was



Sanctuary of Apollo at Didyma. Tiancheng Wang

Phaselis, a strategically located ancient city with three harbours, before we climbed up to Termessos, the mountaintop "Eagle's Nest" that even Alexander the Great failed to conquer.

Finally, we arrived in the rich and fertile land of Pamphylia. In the beautiful harbour city of Side, we envisioned ourselves amid the bustling civic life of what was once a major Roman naval hub. The awe-inspiring theatre of Aspendos, one of the best preserved in the world, left us speechless. The last and my favourite ancient city was Perge, a mesmerising site of hundreds of columns. Here, water once cascaded from the lap of the river god beneath the acropolis, coursing through the city like veins in a living body.

We also spent six days in Istanbul, the

historic crossroads of the world, where we immersed ourselves in the rich cultural and modern-day life of Türkiye, savouring its diverse traditions, flavours, and vibrant cityscapes. Here, I felt incredibly fortunate to witness the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen over the Golden Horn.



Short Traveller attendees at the 2024 RSMF dinner.

Back row L-R: Olivia Strachen, Diana Avadanii, Abi Reeves, Tristen Naylor, Robin Froggatt-Smith, Joanna Palermo, Alexi Andriopolous, Jonathan Tilley, Joshua Pearson, Andrew Christian, Louis Grandjouan, Tiancheng Wang, Cameron Cullen, Rufus Jones, Hugh Moorhead, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Olivier Holmex.

Front row: Julia Johnson, Miles Hessian, Josie Illingworth-Law, Josephine Forsythe, Sameer Bhat, Tom Freeman, Odette Chalaby.

PAST SHORT TRAVELLER UPDATES

2006

ANDREW CAMMISH

Over the past year I've enjoyed my role at Osborne Clarke and have been helping to develop our business rates and corporate occupier offering along with some excellent colleagues.

At home, my children (Evelyn (8) and Edward (6)) have become increasingly interested in history and I look forward to taking them and Abby to Istanbul in the near future to experience some of the sights and sounds that I fell in love with back in 2006!



Rebecca Ricketts (Green) family vacation in Austria.

REBECCA RICKETTS (GREEN)

Over the past year we've been fortunate to enjoy lots of adventures as a family. It's also been great to see both of our boys growing up. A big milestone for us has been our youngest son starting school in September.

I'm enjoying my role at Clyde and Co., and I'm looking forward to travelling to more of our offices this year, and landing some key projects.

ANTHONY (KAJJI) SANTOSPIRITO

I went back to Istanbul this summer to swim in the Bosphorus cross continental race, 6.5km.

GABBY SAVAGE

Freelance writing is keeping me precariously busy with a column in The Field and regular articles for various drinks magazines. The combination sees me flip from analysis of the

Josh Barley and his uncle in the Kizlarağası Hanı.



Dubai wine market to raising awareness of endangered Nepalese pheasant species via the global renaissance of amphora vinification and UK rural politics. Surely it's only a matter of time before Turkey gets a look in. I have also become Head of Development for theatre works!, a charity focused on improving theatre access for disadvantaged children in the UK and US. I've only forgotten to pick up the children from school once so far this year!

2007

JONATHAN TILLEY

I have continued to perform with my physical comedy troupe, The Latebloomers, and this year we had great success with an extensive tour of France. In August, I premiered my first show as a solo performer at the Edinburgh Fringe, and in September I relocated from London to Marseille, where I am now living with my partner Caitlin.

2008

MICHAEL GIBB

I am the Coordinator of the UN Security Council's Panel of Experts on South Sudan, and have just returned from Juba. I have taken up painting and exhibited some landscapes at an exhibition in Vauxhall, London, earlier this year.

2010

JESSE SIMON

I am on faculty at a private Art and Design university in Berlin, where I manage the letterpress studio and lectures in Typography among other equally fascinating subjects. My most recent publication, the 'Berlin Type Map', was released in 2024 by Blue Crow Media.

When not at the opera, I can be found photographing old shop signs, designing fonts, and writing.

2011

JOSH BARLEY

I am still living in Greece, spending half the year in Athens and half the year in the mountains of Epirus. My work is split between writing and translating, and guiding tours. Over the last year I have led small groups in Athens, Crete, and northern Greece. If you know anyone who might be interested, do get in touch! Last December I finally managed to get to Turkey, for the first time in a few years. I visited my uncle in Izmir and spent a few days in Istanbul, where I had the pleasure of bumping into Victoria Short not once, but twice!

RODRIGO GARCIA-VELASCO

My partner, Danae, and I welcomed Alexandros, our son, on 25 January, and will be splitting our time between Athens and Madrid until September. The past year had many memorable moments, including our wedding at the Bodleian on 4 May and a celebratory party



Summit of Mount Ben Lomond outside Queenstown, NZ. Hugh Moorhead.

with friends in Madrid on 1 June. I continue my work at the Department of History at UCL, where I have recently designed and taught a course on the persecution of deviants and outcasts in medieval Europe.



At the Sixty Dome Mosque of Bagerhat, Bangladesh. Hugh Moorhead

JOANNA PALERMO

It's been an eventful year. I took on the position of COO with Swedish peer-to-peer rental company Hygglo as part of its UK expansion. I continue to provide legal and HR advice to the thriving dark kitchen companies Jacuna and Encore. Since the last RSMF dinner I've had a year of travel, visiting 10 countries in Europe and North America for work and pleasure. I'm pleased to announce the birth of my daughter and first child Gemma Ilona Palermo Pólos with my fiancé and fellow Oxonian Áron Pólos (Balliol 2010).

2013

REBECCA PACKER (ELVIN)

I'm continuing to enjoy life in Wellington, New Zealand, with my husband Matt. We were both recently ordained as Anglican priests and serve together in our local parish. Last year I left my role as a legal advisor to the NZ government and took up a new role as CE of a Catholic charity, providing meals, housing and support to those in need in our community.



Tristen Naylor and his wife, Angie, at their wedding in Canada.

RUTH HATTERSLEY

I am still enjoying life in Cape Town with my husband and working remotely for the Against Malaria Foundation. Last year I did my first 100km mountain ultra race in the Drakensberg and also delivered my first talk at the Global Fund in Geneva.

TRISTEN NAYLOR

It's been a big year! My partner, Angie, and I got married in Canada; I launched a new company in the UK, The Oxbridge Diplomatic Academy, the 'Top Gun' of diplomatic training institutions; and we're moving to Hong Kong in the summer!

2015

DAVID ASTLEY

Last year, I decided to quit working for climate NGOs and think tanks after many years of dissatisfaction with the cycles of compromise, delay, and compromise. I am now retraining as a secondary school geography teacher in the Slough area, which, so far, has been what I had hoped. I am enjoying the sense of purpose and impact each day brings. Teenagers are very funny and fascinating to be around. In other news, we spent two weeks in Munich and Berlin in the summer and another in Vienna over the New Year. Much to recommend from each, though vegetarian German cuisine is not one I'll be rushing back to soon. Finally, in two senses, I'm in the long and dull process of changing my surname to Arhesty, which is the mashup that Kiran and I came to when we got married in 2023. So maybe this will be the last outing for Astley in the magazine.

2016

JOHN-HENRY CHARLES

I'm getting married to fellow Roger Short scholar **Johanna Schiele** on 21 June 2025 in Ladenburg. We already did the legal paperwork bit in 2024 in Frankfurt and celebrated getting everything past the German bureaucracy by cycling from Brussels to Bilbao.

Johanna Schiele and John-Henry Charles, Mont Saint-Michel.



LOUIS GRANDJOUAN

I write this waiting for a thunderstorm to pass in Bangkok, where I am currently travelling with two other Short Travellers (**Hugh Moorhead**, who accompanied me through Turkey and beyond in 2015, and **Abi Reeves**). I am still a barrister in London, but over the past year I have enjoyed taking advantage of the freedom of the job to travel more and work from elsewhere between hearings—from Oslo, or Montpellier, or Berlin. With that in mind I am looking forward to a return trip to Tbilisi!

HUGH MOORHEAD

This past winter I committed possibly the ultimate millennial cliché and quit my job to go travelling. After realising that I did not want to pursue a career in public equities in the longer term, I decided to indulge myself in a winter journeying through South/South-East Asia and Oceania, before then tackling a career change upon my return.

It's been brilliant! A few highlights would be: spotting orangutans and traipsing through extraordinary cave systems in Borneo; campervanning around New Zealand's jaw-



Louis Grandjouan, Hugh Moorhead, and Abi Reeves together in Bangkok, Thailand.

dropping South Island; encountering first hand the effects of civil war in Myanmar; hiking the gorgeous valleys of Meghalaya and Nagaland in North-East India and staying with the warm and hospitable tribespeople there.

At risk of once again regressing into cliché, I hope the experience has stimulated positive personal development. Development not only in self-knowledge and values, but also in how I think about travel and the world around me. Ideally it will have been more enriching than five months behind a Bloomberg terminal. I also feel I am better able to appreciate these travels than the ones of my early 20s, including my RSMF adventure, and how fortunate I am to have

this time away. This may be due to having accrued some 'real-world' professional experience.

I am looking forward to Short Travellers **Abigail Reeves** and **Louis Grandjouan** joining me for the Thailand leg of my travels this coming weekend. Hopefully we will all survive its manifold delights in one piece and see you at the dinner in April.



Joanna Palermo with her son and partner.

2017

ALEXI ANDROIPOULOS

After I finished a second bout of study in Oxford this summer, the three of us moved to Manchester as I pastor a church here. With a number of Turks, Kurds, Azeris and Persians

in our church family, it is amazing how often experiences from my RSMF trip provide great cultural bridges for sharing laughs, struggles, and the hope of Christ.

CAMERON CULLEN

I'm currently living in London and working away in the corporate investigations and risk sector. Regrettably, I have not made it back to Turkey or its neighbouring countries recently but as a fond watcher of the region I have enjoyed working on some Turkish projects. Whilst talking with local contacts I invariably end up reminiscing about my trip there in 2017 and telling anyone from Istanbul that I really enjoyed travelling around the Pontic Alps and Trabzon still draws an interesting reaction. I've also enjoyed catching up with a few of the other Short Travellers in Manchester and London over the past year.

I am due to move to Hong Kong in the summer with my partner so if any other 'Shorties' (Esteemed Roger Short Memorial Travel scholars) are based out there or have recommendations it would be lovely to chat with you.

I look forward to reading everyone's updates and hope you're all faring well!

2018

DIANA AVANDANII

My 2024 has been filled with lots of scientific progress. I ended up being a visiting researcher

at Columbia University for one month, spoke at international conferences in batteries, and submitted the results of my research for peer review. Happy to report the papers I submitted in 2024 have been accepted. I undertook this research at KIT in Germany, where I am still currently based.

2019

PIERS ARMITAGE

I am training to be a corporate lawyer after a short and unfruitful Civil Service career. More interestingly, in 2023 I continued cycle touring with my RSMF travel partner and cousin, Isobel, visiting Kyrgyzstan and

Kazakhstan as I'd always dreamed of doing. It did not disappoint. I'm returning to Turkey's neighbourhood this year, cycle touring in Georgia and visiting Armenia—I can't wait!

2022

LEONIE DEFONTEYNE

I am currently in the second year of my DPhil in Classical Archaeology at the University of Oxford (no longer at Univ, but at Lincoln College instead). My thesis focuses on the representation of women on non-Attic black-figure vases. I was granted a Fondation Wiener-Anspach Doctoral Fellowship to conduct part of my research at the Université

Libre de Bruxelles from January until September 2025, and I am very much enjoying my time in Belgium so far!

2023

JOSHUA PEARSON

I am remaining in Oxford for another four years, for a DPhil in Engineering Biology, although sadly not at Univ. (Fellow 2023 Short Traveller) **Julia Johnson** and I are hoping to return to the Caucasus this summer, although this time across the border in Georgia.



Swimming across the Bosphorus. Anthony (Kajji) Santospirito.

INFORMATION

TRAVEL JOURNAL PRIZE

The prize for the best journal is awarded at the dinner each year by Richard and Anna Morgan, life-long friends of Roger and founding contributors to the Fund.

HONORS

The University College Record listed the following academic honors:

- ❖ **Olivia Strachan** (ST 2023) awarded a First in Earth Sciences
- ❖ **Andrew Christian** (ST 2024) elected Scholar in Chemistry
- ❖ **Julia Johnson** (ST 2023) elected Scholar in Earth Sciences
- ❖ **Lucie de Gentile** (ST 2020) awarded first prize in the Library's annual Poetry Competition

DONATIONS

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

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We are grateful to all the Short Travellers and supporters who wrote in and sent photos. We could not produce the newsletter without your contributions. We very much look forward to reuniting with those able to attend the dinner in April.

The Short Travellers are appreciative of the Fund donors. Such support provides the very special and unique opportunities made possible by the RSMF travel awards.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Layout and design by Charlie Morgan. Visit her website at: www.charliemorgandesign.com.