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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

Roger Short Memorial Fund Newsletter

Letter from Victoria Short

Last year was the tenth anniversary of the bomb at the British Consulate in Istanbul, which ended my husband Roger's life and thus gave birth to the Roger Short Memorial Fund travel scholarship programme.

It is perhaps a strange practice in our society these days to commemorate anniversaries of tragedies, especially the first and the tenth. There is, of course, no reason why anything should be any different after two years or indeed after eight years. So the tenth anniversary year becomes a period of reflection during which you go over - once again - what happened, and you wonder whether certain milestones have been reached or goals achieved in the time that has elapsed. It was bound to be a difficult year for me and my family, and of course others similarly affected.

There was a commemoration event in Istanbul on 20 November 2013. The Secretary of State, William Hague and the Permanent Under Secretary, Sir Simon Fraser both came from London. The day began with a short church service taken by Canon Ian Sherwood, Istanbul's British Chaplain in the chapel in the grounds of the consulate. It was followed by a tour of the memorial garden on the site of the old gatehouse, which was lost in the bomb. A wreath was laid at the site of the new plaque and Mr Hague then went outside the grounds to lay a wreath in memory of those in the wider community who lost their lives or were injured. He made a short speech to the Turkish press. Following this there was a service inside the consulate consisting of music, unveiling of a plaque and speeches by the Secretary of State, William Hague, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davetoglu. Relatives, friends and colleagues past and present also came to remember with us. Mr Hague and Mr Davetoglu's presence, at a time of several pressing international crises, brought comfort and a morale boost to us all.

For my part I was especially grateful to the ambassador, Sir David Reddaway, who helped me realise my vision for the memorial garden on the site of the gatehouse where the bomb hit. This had been my main tenth anniversary objective and it could not have come into being without the help and support of many people in the consulate.

I am very proud and pleased that this travel scholarship programme is such a success and I hope that, like the garden, it will continue to flourish and give pleasure for many years to come.



Short Travellers at the 2013 Dinner: Jonathan Tilley, Olivier Holmei, James King, Robin Froggatt-Smith, Wahid Amin, Theo Papaioannou, Edward Lewis, Ruth Hattersley, Thomas Cole, Michael Gibb, Tristen Naylor, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Julia Brouard, Krista Sirola, Oliver Dammone, Amy Ward, Julia Schollick, Carys Roberts, Andrew Cammish, Rebecca Green (Ricketts), Xiaowei Xu, Rebecca Elvin. Missing: Oliver Walker and Josh Barley. (Photo taken by Lois Sykes.)

News: The Roger Short Memorial Fund

Welcome to the seventh newsletter of the Roger Short Memorial Fund, and also to the five new Short Travellers who have been selected by the Master for travel to Turkey in 2014. They join the 50 existing members of this exceptional club, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to date to 55.

As mentioned in the introductory section by Victoria Short, last year marked the tenth anniversary of the bomb attack on the British Consulate in Istanbul on 20 November 2003, in which Roger Short was killed. Roger was a Classics scholar at Univ from 1963-1967 and was serving as British Consul-General at the time of the attack. The Fund has been established in his name by Univ alumni, old friends and other well-wishers. The purpose is to finance travel scholarships, which enable 4-6 Univ students each year to travel in the summer vacation for study purposes to Turkey and neighbouring countries.

The website for the Fund can be found under Travel Grants in the Living Here section of the Univ website at <http://univ.ox.ac.uk>. This 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 ninth dinner, hosted by The Master, Sir Ivor Crewe, was held at Univ in April 2013, attended by 24 Short Travellers and 36 other guests, including Lord and Lady Butler. This was a record attendance, filling the Alington Room to capacity. The award for best journal was made to Ed Lewis. He travelled between Istanbul, Thessaloniki and Sofia, pursuing his interests in the history of the Byzantine Empire, with direct relevance to his academic studies. The annual dinners are financed separately to the Fund.

Top to bottom: 2013 Short Travellers: James King, Ruth Hattersley, Tristen Naylor, Julia Brouard, Rebecca Elvin (photo taken by Lois Sykes); View to the Galata Tower, Beyoglu, Istanbul (Rebecca Elvin).



News: Short Travellers 2014

Odette Chalaby is a second year student reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and specialising in international politics. She hopes to gain an understanding of the historical and cultural background that Turkey's contemporary politics is a product of, and to prepare for the Middle East Politics paper she will take in Michaelmas. She plans to explore different elements of Turkey's rich history, starting with Istanbul and its beautiful mosques, visiting the classical Ephesus, and travelling down the West and Mediterranean coast until she reaches the sunken Byzantine city at Kekova Island. She hopes to gain an understanding of the Turkish people today, their views on Turkey's global place, and their hopes for the future of the Middle East.

Abi Reeves and Rob Natzler write: we have planned a route that will take us from rural Cappadocia west into the cultural heartland of Istanbul. Authors have long written of the 'two Turkeys', one urban and secular, the other agricultural and religious. As Turkey-lovers and political enthusiasts (Rob studies PPE and Abi

will have just finished as JCR President) we would dearly like to experience this divide in person. It is particularly relevant given the recent riots in Istanbul and the increasingly shaky status of Turkey as an almost-EU state. Politics similarly make travelling in Georgia and Armenia particularly fascinating at the moment.

Sam Bajpai writes: I am a second-year undergraduate student reading History, and am particularly interested in art, architectural and visual history. I am incredibly excited to visit Turkey, whose history almost reads like the history of mankind – from the Hittites to the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans. My proposed plan is to start my travels in Istanbul, and then spend the next week and a half exploring south-western Turkey (including Cesme, Ephesus, Aphrodisias and Konya). The most extravagant bit of my itinerary involves flying out to Dogubayazit, to see the Ishak Pasha Palace – it is meant to be a splendid example of fused Anatolian, Iranian and North Mesopotamian architectural tradition, and the influence

of post-classical Western architectural styles is discernible as well. During June and July there is a major festival celebrating Kurdish heritage on in Dogubayazit, which I hope to experience. I will then fly home from Istanbul, stopping over at Ankara on the way.

Lizzie German is a final year Chemist who is doing a Masters course in Sustainable Energy next year. She is interested to learn more about sustainable energy in Turkey, and to visit some of the many historically important sites. She will start in Istanbul, meeting with one of the organisers of the International Conference on Clean Energy that is being held there in June, though unfortunately travelling too late in the year to attend. Visiting the Cappadocia rock formations and Mount Neumrut will be a chance to discover Turkey's unique environment and natural beauty. Returning along the South West coast she will visit solar energy projects run by the company Entegro in Izmir and possibly the Concentrated Solar Power tower at Mersin.

James King writes: My journey began in the streets of the Sultanahmet in Istanbul. Istanbul is, of course, rich in its ancient heritage, which was what, as a student of Late Antiquity, had brought me there, but it is cosmopolitan as well as Constantinopolitan. Visiting Hagia Sophia, which I had read and heard so much about, gave me a better perception of its scale and majesty that photographs alone can't communicate. Scaling the Theodosian Walls was also one of the highpoints of my whole trip. However, I also enjoyed the bustle of Istanbul and its sights and sounds – and the pleasure of a mackerel sandwich at Eminönü! I would like to thank Victoria Short for her hospitality, and particularly for her very sound advice that I travel in the hours of daylight so as to see the often awe-inspiring Turkish landscape.

After four days in Istanbul, I moved on to Cappadocia. An overnight stop in Ankara allowed me the pleasure of my first Turkish doner kebab and ayran, but also a thought-provoking visit to Ataturk's mausoleum, a pilgrimage which led me to ponder, not for the last time, on Ataturk's complicated legacy. After Turkey's two biggest cities, the quiet and incredible natural beauty of Cappadocia was a welcome counterpoint. I was in the region because of its great Byzantine heritage, and so I spent most of my days hopping into buses and seeking out far-flung monasteries. But I also took time for walking around the alien post-volcanic landscape, reading, and reflecting – not unlike a Byzantine hermit, in fact!

After five nights, and after an unforgettable journey down the Goksu valley at dusk, I arrived at Silifke on the Mediterranean Coast. Silifke is the successor town to the Roman settlement of Seleucia, and it proved to be an excellent base for 5th and 6th century sites. One of the reasons I had come was to visit the now-forgotten shrine of Saint Thecla, once one of the busiest pilgrimage sites in the Mediterranean world. But I also had the

pleasure of playing amateur archaeologist by making my way down into the 5th century cistern in Silifke itself, still impressive despite being a rubbish tip for the town's 21st century inhabitants. However, I was also able to taste a little of the pleasures of provincial Turkish life: chats with a retired engineer trying to improve his English, gentle promenades around the town at dusk, and then, to conclude, marvellous sweet, sticky künefe and perhaps a glass of the ever-present Efes.

The return to Istanbul and then home was, then, a painful one, though sitting on the banks of the Bosphorous, greeting the dawn with a cup of çay (one of many over the course of the trip!), was an unforgettable experience. But I did feel very grateful for my wonderful adventures. I arrived in Turkey wanting to achieve two things from my trip: to learn more about my area of study, and to explore a new country and a new culture. Thanks to the generosity of the Roger Short Scholarship, I was able to do both of these things.



Top to bottom: The monastery church at Alahan, not far from Mut, which is 40km from Silifke; Cappadocia, near Goreme. (Both taken by James King.)



Rebecca Elvin writes: I arrived at dusk. With lights reflecting on the Bosphorus, Istanbul's famous cityscape of minarets and mosques caught my breath. My first priority was to meet with a local human rights lawyer. Later, I was able to speak with journalists, academics, human rights activists, and protestors. These informative conversations offered insight into the challenges faced by 'dissidents' in Turkey and ranged across aspects of history, society and politics.



Alongside these engaging discussions, I enjoyed visiting the Blue mosque, the cavernous vaults of Basilica Cistern, the inspiring Hagia Sofia, the Çemberlitas hammam, Galata Tower, Topkapi Palace and the gilded cage of the Courtyard of the Eunuchs and the Harem buildings, the bustling Grand Bazaar and the vibrant Spice Bazaar. I walked along the land walls in Fatih and visited the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora. I witnessed layer upon layer of history and culture deposited over time.

Beyoglu stood in contrast to the more historic sites. We wandered past the shops and restaurants of Istiklal Avenue to Istanbul Modern gallery, constructed of glass and steel, which seemed to reach into the future.



All seemed peaceful at Taksim Square, when only weeks before there had been chaos. A large portrait of Prime Minister Erdogan watched over the area, accompanied by the scarlet and white of the Turkish flag.

In Istanbul, I also met with Victoria Short. She was a gracious and generous host, full of fascinating stories about life in Turkey.

I then took a ferry to Büyükada island and cycled alongside the picturesque Ottoman-era mansions covered in bright bougainvillea, past horses and carts and up to the Ayia Yorgi church. I returned to the mainland to make my way to Canakkale. Many New Zealanders served during WWI and the date of the Gallipoli landing remains a day of remembrance. It was moving to visit sites I had only heard about and to see the rows of headstones overlooking the turquoise sea.

Travelling south through Troy and Pergamon, I arrived in Kusadasi and the splendid ancient city of Ephesus, before continuing to Bodrum, where white houses spilled down the hillside to the sea. I then ventured to Hierapolis and Pamukkale, the UNESCO world heritage site known for hot springs and travertine terraces.

I journeyed on to Cappadocia in central Anatolia, where 'fairy chimney' rock formations seemed completely other-worldly, particularly when viewed from a hot-air balloon at sunrise. The remarkable Göreme Open Air Museum housed churches and chapels carved from rock, many containing frescoes dating from the ninth century. I admired the view over Pigeon Valley, explored Uçhisar castle and the carved rock complex of the 8th century Selime monastery, hiked along the Ihlara Valley and visited Derinkuyu Underground City, stretching eight stories into the earth, where up to two thousand Christians lived hidden at one time to avoid persecution.

I am grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for the opportunity to visit this remarkable country. I am richer for the experience and already look forward to returning.



Tristen Naylor writes: It's cold, it's wet, it's February; and England seems to be sinking. Anatolia's sun is all too far away now. I began my travel journal with an observation of Julien Green's, that the lap of a model is not the ideal place from which to paint her portrait. Nevertheless, I tried as best as I could to capture every aspect of Turkey's beauty. Now with some distance I can perhaps sketch the picture differently, however briefly.

I hiked in Cappadocia and was left breathless by each new vista. I'd find shade every now and then in a long-abandoned cave church- it's apses empty, its tombs the same, but its ambience full. What I wouldn't give to be back in that heat with tired feet (my feet, now rested, have become restless). I ate my bodyweight in lokum and kebab. I was soaped and scrubbed thoroughly in a hamam. I swam in perfectly blue waters. What I wouldn't give to be back. I explored ruins, lounged on divans, and listened to music. What I wouldn't give.

In Taksim I learned just how appropriately named tear gas is, and in the south I learned just how desperate Turkey's tourism industry has become since the protests began over Erdogan's apparently growing authoritarianism. In Ankara I witnessed the daily, ritualistic deification of Mustafa Kemal who, after retiring his general's sword, 'dictated democracy' to his people (to use his own words). Meanwhile, the news nightly ratcheted up the tally of refugees flooding across the Turkish-Syrian border; millions left with nothing by the brutality of dictatorship and war. It was quite a time to have a front-row seat.

I saw where my father grew up as a young boy and where my grandfather worked as a young man. Best yet, I got to see those places with my grandfather. I got to hear his memories first-hand and we made new ones travelling together. I heard about how he'd 'incentivise' custom agents to release needed materials for a hospital that he was building and how he'd hunt boars with flea-riddled tribal chiefs. We spent our evenings together munching on pistachios, sharing stories, and being grateful for the time together.

I've tried turning up the radiator in my office, ordering a lamb kebab from Ahmed, and imagining that the swamp that Christ Church meadow has become is the Sea of Marmara. Despite my efforts I have yet to fool myself. The longing to be back in Turkey is perfectly known to everyone who's been lucky enough to spend time there- be it among the bustle of Istanbul, atop the ruins of Termessos, or under the stars of Olympos. I have the greatest thanks to the supporters of the Roger Short Memorial Fund who made it possible for me to go, so that I can miss it now and daily dream of going back.

Clockwise from bottom left: Ataturk's Mausoleum, Ankara; Taksim, Istanbul; Amphitheatre, Termessos; Bosphorus, Istanbul. (Photos by Tristen Naylor.)



Ruth Hattersley writes: Last summer, I travelled across Turkey with my boyfriend Sam Clarke, on a trip inspired by the idea of tension between the individual and the Turkish state. We travelled from Istanbul, to Ankara and along the Eastern Black Sea coast to Trabzon, visiting places connected to dramatic social and political transition. This included important historic sites that were converted from Christianity to Islam to Ataturk's secularism, as well as sites relevant to recent political unrest and a conference on diversity in communities. I learnt a huge amount and I'm incredibly grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for enabling me to end my time at Univ on such a high note.

Starting in Istanbul, I'd been keen to investigate historic power struggles, but this became particularly striking arriving just weeks after violent protests had shaken the city. Hearing people describe their hatred for Prime Minister Erdogan and the way he imposed change gave me a different perspective on visits to sites such as the Aga Sofia and Basilica, which had been reinvented to suit authorities through history.

Exploring Taksim with an old school friend was particularly special. We sat and watched the sun set over the Bosphorus and I found it hard to imagine the same streets playing host to the violence and anger he described. Although this seemed far removed from the bustling atmosphere on the Iskadal Kadesi, we noticed side-streets packed with police armoured vehicles.

After travelling to Ankara, we witnessed protesters demonstrating both for and against Erdogan, but we also got much greater insight into Ataturk's influence. I was shocked to hear our host there dismiss Ataturk and compare him to Hitler, but I began to understand after visiting the mausoleum Anitkabir... It's unbelievably grandiose; a huge stone and marble memorial tomb complete with soldiers on guard, a personal museum and a walkway lined with lions. The crumbling citadel in Ankara's old-town was a real contrast, and my favourite place in the city; you can find your way to the watch tower and see the whole city sprawling out for miles.

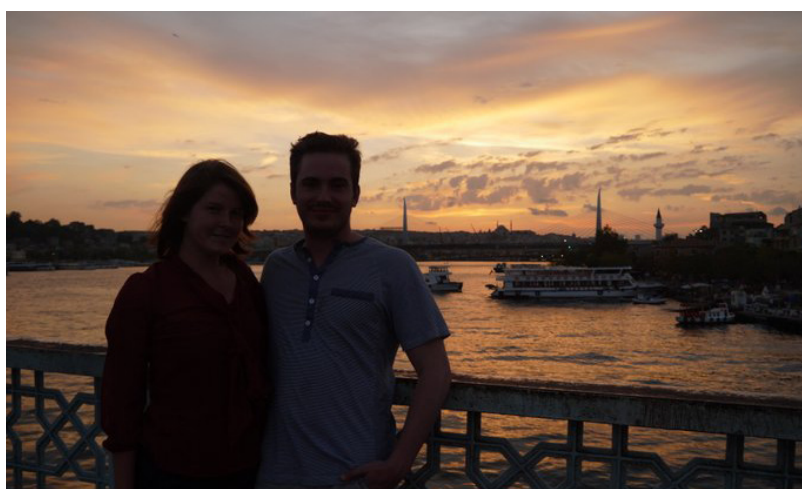
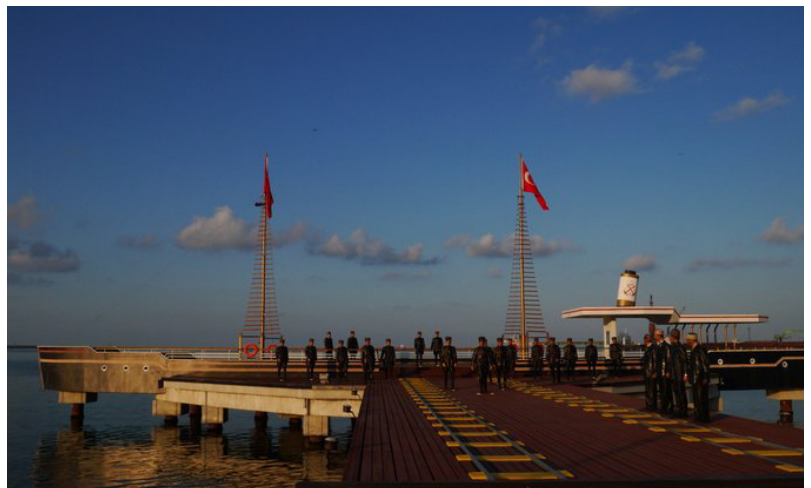
We'd been warned off Trabzon as 'a bit of a hole' but we were pleasantly surprised by the Black Sea city. Interestingly, the town's Aga Sofia had been converted back to a mosque since I researched the trip, which I only realised by almost stumbling into the prayer room! The beautiful Sumela Monastery was another real highlight – an incredible building built into the cliffs, which had been converted to a museum under Ataturk.

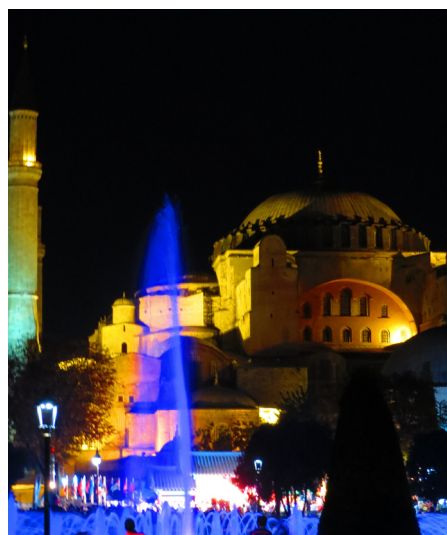
On our way back to Istanbul, we enjoyed real Turkish hospitality in the strange lake-side resort of Uzungol, we saw electioneering and giant hazelnuts in the sleepy seaside town of Persembe and we visited the bizarre fake ship that commemorates the landing of Ataturk and his supporters in Samsun.

When I first planned my trip, I imagined I'd find out the most about Turkey's politics by meeting academics and reading journals, but in fact I learnt much more from conversations with people we met along the way. I started to understand something of the emotions involved in Turkish politics – a mix of fear, hope and loathing and a real sense of connection to the country's history.

Thanks again to the Roger Short Memorial Fund. I can't imagine a better end to my time at Univ and I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity.

Top to bottom: Site of Ataturk's landing, Samsun; Anit Kabir (Ataturk's Mausoleum), Ankara; Sam Clarke and Ruth Hattersley on the Galata Bridge, Istanbul.
(All photos by Ruth Hattersley.)





Left to right: View from a hot air balloon, Cappadocia (Rebecca Elvin); Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (Tristen Naylor); Ottoman era mansion on Büyükdada, Princes' Islands (Rebecca Elvin).

Rebecca Ricketts (née Green) (ST 2006): I married Andrew Ricketts on a beautiful sunny day in June last year, and we enjoyed a fantastic honeymoon to Tanzania. I'm still enjoying working at BT, and I am currently part of a global transformation project. Outside of work, I am also still finding time to ride my horses, and planning lots of holidays, including a trip to Sri Lanka in April.

Gabby Savage (ST 2006): I'm still working for The Drinks Business magazine, currently as managing editor. This involves plenty of travel, including my first ever trip to Australia this Spring, as well as meeting representatives from across the international wine and spirits trade who regularly visit London. From exploring new wine regions in Chile to analysing the shifting shape of the Chinese wine market, I'm thoroughly enjoying being part of such a dynamic - and very convivial - industry.

Anna Oldmeadow (ST 2006): I continue to bounce around the foreign-policy decision-making apparatus in Australia, moving closer to Turkey all the time. After a busy period working on Indonesia, I'm now on the Pakistan and Central Asia desk at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I'm sure an Ankara posting isn't too far off!

Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008): I am working in government and not-for-profit financing, slowly becoming an expert in social housing, higher education, local government and various types of infrastructure funding.

Lucy Fisher (ST 2009): I won the inaugural Anthony Howard Award for young journalists last October. I have since joined

the lobby in Westminster, reporting on politics for The Times and The Observer. Last May I published my first book, a biography of Emily Wilding Davison to mark the centenary anniversary of the suffragette's death. I have since made a number of radio, broadcast and literary festival appearances, speaking about feminism and suffragette history.

Kate Purcell (ST 2009): I completed my PhD in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge in 2013 and I am currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.

Alice Morton (ST 2009): I'm still in consulting but recently moved to an American firm called North Highland. I am (unexpectedly) enjoying tech projects, ecommerce and web platforms.

Beth McDonald (ST 2011): I finished my four year Classics degree at Univ this year and graduated in July. I am now a postgraduate student at Bristol University, studying for an MA in Law and am enjoying living nearby in the beautiful city of Bath.

Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco (ST 2011): Having followed up my interest in the Middle East, I am currently studying an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS. I will also start a PhD in History at Cambridge this coming September, focusing on the relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims in medieval Spain.

Josh Barley (ST 2011): I am still in Athens, scraping a living as a translator of modern Greek literature, trying to feed an appetite for new musical instruments, and using my advantageous geographical position to

hop over to Turkey whenever possible.

Edward Lewis (ST 2012): I graduated last summer with a BA in Modern History, completing two papers exclusively on Byzantine history. I am now working in headhunting in London. I am hoping to go back to Turkey this summer.

Julia Schollick (ST 2012): Mid way through the third year of my DPhil in physical chemistry, work towards it is at its most intense, but also most satisfying as the project starts to deliver results. In the next year I am looking forward to travelling to conferences in order to present my work, and I plan to visit a friend and ex-Univite who is studying the impacts of climate change in Iceland. There, I hope to make use of the geothermal energy resources by swimming in a hot river.

Oli Dammone (ST 2012): After a brief stint in academia, working in the Maths department in Oxford. I am now about to start work as a 'Technical Consultant' at BAE Systems. Haven't managed to go back to Turkey, however another Univite has just suggested running the Istanbul marathon, so hopefully that will change....

Tom Cole (ST 2012): I graduated from University College in the Summer of 2013. Once again, I would like to thank the Fund for its generosity, as the research I did in Turkey was able to drag my degree to a 2.1 and help me find employment. I am now working as a Management Consultant for EY in London and have just finished assisting the BBC with their strategy review for the 2020s. I am soon to go on my first skiing holiday, and may not return to England out of shame if I am as bad on snow as expected.

Short Travellers: Honours in 2013

The University College Record listed the following academic honours: Molly Scott (ST 2010) was awarded a University prize (the Hicks-Webb Medley Prize) for a paper in PPE Finals; Ed Lewis (ST 2012) was awarded a Frederick H. Bradley Prize for his thesis in History Finals; and Elizabeth McDonald (ST 2011) was awarded the Sourvinou-Inwood Prize for her Archaeology paper in Greats. Elizabeth German (ST 2014), Thomas Cole (ST 2012) and Robert Natzler (ST 2014) were elected College Scholars; and Odette Chalaby (ST 2014) and Ruth Hattersley (ST 2013) were elected College Exhibitioners. In addition, DPhils are listed for Oliver Dammone (ST 2012), Michael Gibb (ST 2008), Ethan Kay (ST 2007). Last but not least, Lucy Fisher (ST 2009) won the Anthony Howard Award for young journalists. 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)

* (ST 2008) indicates: Short Traveller, and the year of the award

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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 thank Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008) very much for his ongoing commitment to the newsletter.

The organisers also thank Marion Hawtree, the Master's PA, for her constant support in administration of the Fund and organisation of the annual dinner.



Left to right: The Turkish flag in Trabzon; Aga Sofia, Trabzon (both taken by Ruth Hattersley).
