

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF NOMINATIONS FOR
THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2012**

Dr Mark Altaweel

Mark Altaweel has been conducting research on Mesopotamian archaeology for the last twelve years. In 2001, he excavated with a German team at Ashur. In 2003, he was part of a National Geographic team that surveyed looting and damage to archaeological sites in Iraq. Dr. Mark Altaweel graduated with a PhD in Mesopotamian archaeology in 2004 from the University of Chicago. Since then, he has conducted a variety of research on the archaeology of Iraq. This includes working closely with a number of Iraqi colleagues to publish excavations and archaeological surveys, both new and older works, from Iraq. Sites that have been published or soon to be published since 2004 include Tell al-Wilaya, Abu Shijar (within Aqar Quf), Abu Sheeja (a new site now determined to be ancient Bashime), Eshnunna, and several others. In addition to that research, Dr. Altaweel has focused on understanding social and environmental change in both southern and northern Mesopotamia. This includes topics such as salinisation, agricultural productivity, and transportation. His research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed and international journals and in 2008 published a book on ancient road systems and agricultural systems around Neo-Assyrian Ashur and Nineveh. His new work includes collaborating with the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich and conducting paleoecological research in the Shahrizor region of Suleymaniyah Province in Iraq. Dr Altaweel is currently a Lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology, UCL Institute of Archaeology, London.

Mr Edward Chaplin, CMG, OBE

Edward Chaplin spent part of his childhood in Baghdad in the 1950s, which led to a lifelong interest in the Middle East. He studied Arabic and Persian at Cambridge (including a year spent teaching in Bahrain) and after graduating in 1973 joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His thirty seven year career focused mainly on the Middle East, with senior appointments including Ambassador to Jordan (2000-02), Director for the Middle East and North Africa (2002-04) and Ambassador to Iraq (2004-05) where he was responsible for re-establishing a British diplomatic presence after a 13 year break and helping the new Iraqi government prepare for Parliamentary elections and the drafting of a new constitution. He retired from the FCO after his last posting, as Ambassador to Italy (2006-11), and having enjoyed a brief stint as Vice President of BSAI while Ambassador in Baghdad is now seeking election to help further the aims of BISI.

Dr Paul Collins

Paul Collins is Assistant Keeper for Ancient Near East at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. He has worked as a curator in the Middle East Department of the British Museum and the Ancient Near Eastern Art Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Dr. Collins has been a member of Council since 2008 and is currently Chair of the BISI Development Committee and a member of the Fieldwork and Research Committee. Dr Collins is also a member of the organising committee of the Gertrude Bell conference, which will take place in September 2013 at the British Academy.

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Dr Harriet Martin

Harriet Martin received her BA from Bryn Mawr College and her PhD from the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago and also has a PGCE and MEd ICT in the Primary Curriculum. She was a Visiting lecturer at the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge and Leicester 1976-2002 and an adult education lecturer for the Universities of London, Leicester and Birmingham 1972 onwards. Her current research interests are: The glyptic of Abu Salabikh (book in progress), and the glyptic recovered in the Tell Brak Survey. She has written numerous articles on the third millennium in Mesopotamia and co-authored some of the *Abu Salabikh Excavations* (ASE) fieldwork reports. She is a member of both the BISI's Development and Publication Committee and is on the Journal *Iraq's* Editorial Board.

Dr Augusta McMahon

Augusta McMahon is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and has been Field Director of the Tell Brak project in northeast Syria since 2006. Her previous fieldwork has been at the nearby site of Chagar Bazar in Syria (1999-2003, supported and published by BISI), as well as Nippur and Nineveh in Iraq (1987-1990), and other sites in Turkey, Egypt and Yemen. Her research interests include early urbanism, material culture and past human adaptations to climate change. She was previously on the BSAI/BISI Council from 2000-2007 and has been a member of the Publications Committee from 2000-2007 and from 2011 to present (co-opted).

Dr Glen Rangwala

Glen Rangwala's main research interests are in the contemporary politics of the Middle East, particularly the Levant and the northern Gulf. He is in the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge and is a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He is the co-author (with Eric Herring) of *Iraq in Fragments: The Occupation and its Legacy* (London and Ithaca: Hurst and Cornell University Press, 2006). He has served on the BISI's Fieldwork & Research Committee and on the Visiting Iraqi Scholars Committee. He is also a member of the organising committee of the Gertrude Bell conference, which will take place in September 2013 at the British Academy.

Dr Magnus Widell

Magus Widell studied Assyriology, Classics, and Egyptology at Uppsala University in Sweden from 1991 to 1998. After he received his MA degree in Assyriology in 1998, he continued his doctoral studies at the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations in Changchun, China, where he received his doctoral degree in Assyriology in 2001.

Since 2007, he has been working as a Lecturer in Assyriology in the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool. In addition to research, his current position involves teaching classes in Akkadian, Sumerian and Mesopotamian history, the supervision of MPhil and PhD dissertations, and various administrative roles within the Department and the University.

His professional interests include the languages, history and the archaeology of Mesopotamia, and he is particularly interested in socio-economic, cultural, environmental and agricultural issues of southern Iraq. He is currently involved in epigraphic and archaeological work in western and northeastern Syria (Tell Qarqur and Tell Hamoukar) as well as southern Iraq (ancient Girsu).