KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
2nd November 2023

Anglo-Turkish Society
Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London

DAVID BARCHARD MEMORIAL DAY

From Byzantium to modern Turkey

COUNCIL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, KING's BUILDING, K2.29, STRAND CAMPUS

Draft programme

1.30pm Tea and Coffee.

2.00pm Welcome: David Shankland, Chair, Anglo-Turkish Society

Professor Gonda Van Steen (KCL), Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature.

H. E. Mr Koray Ertaş, Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St James.

Brief Memories of David

Professor Michael Hibbert: How it all began
Sinan Kuneralp
İlhan Nebioğlu
Leo Gough

2.45pm-3.30pm

SESSION ONE

Studies at Oxford: from Byzantium to modern Turkey

Chair: Professor Gonda Van Steen (KCL)

Professor Ken Dark (KCL) Monuments and Cities of Byzantium

3.30pm-4.00pm Tea and Coffee

4.00pm-4.45pm

SESSION TWO

The Nineteenth Century and Anglo-Ottoman Relations

Chair: Philip Mansel

Speaker: Professor John Darwin (Nuffield College Oxford): Ottoman Lives

4.45pm-5.45pm

SESSION THREE

Turkey: The Republic and the EU

Chair: Sir Kieran Prendergast

Speaker: Sir Dominick Chilcott

5.45pm-6.00pm. Closing discussion: Chair David Shankland

6.00pm: Close

David Barchard (1947-2020)

From Byzantium to modern Turkey

It is with sadness that we celebrate the work of David Barchard, sadness because it is difficult to believe that such a brilliant man should have been so cruelly and suddenly taken away from us by something so usually insignificant as a slip on a muddy slope, alas however he fell against a stone and died soon after in hospital from the consequent blow to the head. Yet, at the same time it is right that we pause to consider how a young student of Classics at Oxford with a specialisation in Byzantine Studies should eventually become the most influential commentator on modern Turkey in Britain. His advice was sought after by many, here and overseas, and his bulletins, circulated by e-mail to an increasingly large and diverse list of recipients were eagerly awaited. Carefully and clearly written, scrupulously checked, along with the rest of his writings over some forty years, they will form without any doubt a marvellous resource for those interested in events in Turkey over the last few years.

Yet, if these late bulletins showed once more his outstanding talents as a journalist and commentator, they reveal only part of the man. What many of us will remember over and above his published and unpublished work, is his extraordinary gift for conversation, whether over the phone or face to face at dinner or tea in the Reform Club, his preferred London base, or again in the Washington Restaurant (now closed) in the Ankara castle. From such conversations his mastery of details combined with an understanding of the wider strategic picture would quickly become apparent, and there is hardly a subject upon which he could not converse in masterly fashion.

However wide-ranging such conversations, however, one would always return to the Turkish Republic, in all its aspects, but particularly links with Europe and foreign policy. Devoted to wishing closer co-operation, at any juncture he would explain what needed to be done clearly, succinctly and convincingly. Nearly always he was shown to be right, and it is for this reason that he became so closely consulted by so many. Indeed, toward the end of his life, such was the mutual empathy that he felt for both countries that he became a dual citizen, taking out Turkish nationality whilst retaining his British citizenship.

David never held a permanent academic position, and though the great part of his doctorate on early intellectuals in the Turkish Republic was complete, he failed to submit it. Perhaps hesitant when it came to completing major works – there is also an unfinished historical novel set in Byzantium - we are nevertheless left with very many newspaper columns in the *Guardian* and the *Financial Times* amongst others, the fruits of his first career in journalism, a biography Asil Nadir, the founder of Polly Peck, a series of excellent pamphlets and articles on Turkey and the EU, an unpublished monograph on Cappadocia (this held back so as not to encourage over-tourism), a

series of wonderful articles in *Cornocopia*, and a number of essays in the scholarly literature on nineteenth-century Turkey. To this we must add what is known as grey literature, the often-unpublished reports, reviews, seminar papers and speeches that he produced throughout his working life. This is, in spite of the lack of a great book, which he sometimes himself bemoaned, a formidable oeuvre.

I hope today that we can, even in the most sketchy of fashion, understand how a young classicist at Oxford, trained in Byzantium, eventually became a leading contemporary commentator on modern Turkey as well as an expert historian on the nineteenth century. To this end, our scholarly discussion is divided into three main parts: the first is on David's interest in Byzantium, which he continued throughout his life and indeed resulted in becoming the rediscoverer of the site of Sykeon, an account of which he published in *Anatolian Studies* (Barchard 2003). He also spent many years living in Cappadocia, where he became an expert in the Byzantine Churches and, amongst his literary remains is a large number (as yet not counted) of slides of these sites which will be an excellent scholarly resource in years to come. This solid grounding stood him in great stead, all the more so as it enabled him to discuss knowledgeably a large part of the historical geography of Asia Minor. Professor Dark in our programme here will be reminding us once more of this rich cultural past.

We then turn to Anglo-Ottoman relations, and his work *Ottoman Lives*, which he had almost finished at the time of his death. These show a lively and attractive style, and chronologically come toward the last part of his career, when he decided to combine scholarship with independent consulting. Centring around his interest in the fall of Ottoman Crete, he immersed himself in the debates of the late nineteenth century and in characteristically fine style produced a whole series of sketches of great figures on both the Ottoman, and the British side. These will be discussed for us today by Professor Darwin, and we hope very much that they will be published soon by Cornucopia book publications.

The final part of our day looks at modern Turkey, and the subject that was dearest to him of all, the foundation of the Republic and Turkey's rapprochement with the West. We are deeply grateful to our distinguished speakers: to H.E. Ambassador Koray Ertaş, to Sir Dominick Chilcott, and to Sir Kieran Prendergast who will help us in our consideration of this matter.

We open the day more simply, with a series of short reminiscences. What is very difficult to do in an event such as this is to do justice to his interactions and encounters with the literally dozens of friends that he had in Turkey, in Britain, in continental Europe and North America that led to his own vastly rich social life, but to whose lives in turn he contributed immeasurably. From many, we could mention the Sunalp family, whose son Murad he came to know at Oxford, and who later became as a brother to him; his warm and affectionate relationship with Zeki Kuneralp, the late Turkish Ambassador in London and the late Sir Bernard Burrows, British Ambassador to Turkey, and many more in the foreign service of both nations. To these we may add those made as a Trustee of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, at the Financial Times, in his time teaching in Turkish universities, and also in the Church, where his strong Catholic faith, kept private, helped to sustain him. David once mentioned to me that it was not enough to see a problem, but one had to do one's best to help see it put right. Indeed, this is what he tried to do.

May he rest in peace.

David Shankland

Chair, Anglo-Turkish Society.

David Barchard: Select brief bibliography

1983 *Turkey: opening to the world economy*, Geneva Business International S.A.

1985 *Turkey and the West; fault-lines in a troubled alliance*, Chatham House papers 27, London: [Published for] the Royal Institute of International Affairs by Routledge & Kegan Paul.

1985 'Turkey; researched and written by David Barchard in Ankara and Jim Bodgener in London', Meed special report, London: Middle East Economic Digest Ltd.

1992 *Asil Nadir and the rise and fall of Polly Peck* London: Victor Gollancz.

1993 'Turkey: problems and prospects' Ditchley conference report ; no. D93/7, Ditchley conference report ; no. D93/7. 'An essay on a Ditchley Foundations conference held at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, England on the weekend of 7-9 May 1993'.

1998 *Turkey and the European Union*, London: Centre for European Reform.

2000 *Building a Partnership: Turkey and the European Union*, Istanbul: TESEV.

2003 'Modernity, Muslims, and British Archaeologists; Michael Gough at the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara and his predecessors', in *Archaeology, Anthropology and Heritage in the Balkans and Anatolia: the life and works of FW Hasluck, 1878-1920*.

2003 'Sykeon rediscovered? A site at Kiliseler near Beypazarı', *Anatolian Studies*, 53, 175-179

2006 'Velì Pasha and consul Ongley: an Anglo-Ottoman diplomatic relationship that got too close', Istanbul: Isis Press in *A Bridge between Cultures: studies on Ottoman and Republican Turkey in memory of Ali İhsan Bağış*, 70-122.

2017 *A Dark Path to Freedom: Ruzi Nazar, from the Red Army to the CIA* / Enver Altayli ; translated by David Barchard, London : C. Hurst & Co.

Forthcoming. *Ottoman Lives*, Istanbul: Cornucopia.

Please note, this represents only a small proportion of Barchard's vast output: to this, one would need to add his writings for newspapers and journals, particularly the *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, and *Cornucopia*, as well as for associational journals, such as BATAS, various seminar papers, and circulated reports. He also wrote a number of important obituaries for the *Guardian*.

THE DAVID BARCHARD MEMORIAL FUND The David Barchard Memorial Fund was set up after his death, in order to provide small grants in perpetuity for work that enhances Anglo-Turkish relations. The fund is administered by the Anglo-Turkish Society, and invested in the CCLA Ethical Investment Fund. All donations are welcome, of whatever size. If you would like to make a contribution please feel free to discuss with the Chairman, David Shankland (david.shankland@therai.org.uk). Alternatively, the bank details are as below:

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