

## RECAM

In an era marked by financial concern caused by devaluation and inflation, the RECAM project provided a low-cost project that would nevertheless make a real and lasting contribution to scholarship on topics concerning Anatolia in the Roman period. The project was initially proposed to the Ministry of Culture in 1974 under the name *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua* (MAMA) Revision, and was proposed with the purpose of revising or updating the collections published in those volumes. It was approved in 1975, and by 1976 the name of the project had been changed to Regional Epigraphic Catalogues of Asia Minor (RECAM).

The aim of the project was to produce epigraphic catalogues for the areas around the museums of Ankara, Seyitgazi, Kütahya, Uşak, Denizli, Burdur, Isparta, Akşehir, Yalvaç, and Konya, in addition to a few other smaller depots. The catalogues would be published in both Turkish and English, and would detail the epigraphical material found in the region. Card catalogues (in Turkish) would also be produced with a list of epigraphical material held in each museum. Published inscriptions, unpublished inscriptions from archives in the UK and in other locations, and unpublished inscriptions from museums around Turkey would supply the material for the RECAM volumes. The project was met with enthusiasm, especially by museum directors who recognised the value this project would bring.

Stephen Mitchell was the first to undertake work on the project in July 1975, when he spent four days in the Kütahya Archaeological Museum recording over 100 Greek inscriptions, primarily funerary or votive. In this same year, David French also catalogued material in the Karaman and Akşehir museums.

In 1976 the work was continued as Mitchell and some team members spent time in the Kütahya Archaeological Museum, where they took squeezes and recorded inscriptions (bringing the total to 180). Subsequently, Mitchell recorded inscriptions at the site of Cyzicus, as well as at the museums of Istanbul and Erdek, and looked at two inscriptions at a village near the site of Cyzicus. David French catalogued material during September and October. At Aksaray Museum 20 inscriptions were squeezed and photographed, and an inventory card was prepared in Turkish. In Ereğli, he documented 26 inscriptions, the majority of which were Christian gravestones. Work was undertaken for three days in Akşehir Museum then Kastamonu Museum, where 44 inscriptions were documented, including a few stones that had not been published. Work was rounded off at the museum in Sinop, where 71 inscriptions were recorded with the help of David Williams.

In 1977, work on indices for Sinop and Kastamonu was completed, while material from Ladik was catalogued. The fiches for the material from Ankara Province were also prepared. At Yalvaç, 118 inscriptions from the museum and 29 from around the town were documented with photos and squeezes. In Afyon 261 texts were recorded, including some very significant ones such as the Charter of Orcistus and 3 blocks of *Monumentum Apolloniense*. Burdur provided material for more than 150 inscriptions, many of them religious or funerary. In July and September, some 3 weeks were spent at the Konya Archaeological Museum copying over 400 inscriptions. All inscriptions stored at depots in Denizli were successfully recorded.

In 1978 work continued at Konya, where Alan Hall recorded most of the remaining inscriptions (over 200). Hall also worked at the Institute on RECAM material collected in 1977. Mary Beard spent five weeks at the Institute in August and September, where she compiled a bibliography of inscriptions from Western Pontus. Additionally, she created squeezes and photographs of inscriptions at Amasya and Samsun, and undertook the creation of catalogues for both these collections. David

French was involved in recording material at Seyitgazi Museum, and in completing the work begun by Harper the previous year at Burdur. He also directed the completion of fiches (in Turkish) for the museums at Sinop, Kastamonu, Aksaray, Ereğli, Karaman, and Akşehir.

By 1981, the recording of museum inscriptions was wrapping up. Alan Hall and H. C. van Bremen completed work at Konya and Burdur museums in the spring.

In 1982, work was done by David French, as he recorded epigraphical material in Sinop Museum as well as from nearby areas, including a number of new inscriptions which were brought to the museum. A volume with Greek and Latin inscriptions of North Galatia, prepared by Stephen Mitchell, David French, and Jean Greenhalgh in 1981, was published.

After the first years of intensive work in regional museums, the project has evolved on a more piecemeal basis, as opportunities have arisen to support BIAA researchers engaged on epigraphic work in central Turkey, notably G. H. R. Horsley and R. Kearsley in Burdur Museum mostly during the 1990s, Bradley Maclean in Konya Museum (who completed work begun by Alan Hall in the 1990s), by David French in the margins of his Roman Roads and Milestones project in many parts of Asia Minor, by Nicholas Milner (also dealing with material collected in the Cibyratis and eastern Pisidia by Alan Hall), and by Stephen Mitchell in Ankara between 2004 and 2012.