

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER



CULTURAL EVENT BY AISC MANAGER

100 Years of Modern Iraq: Questions of Kurdistan, Identity & Governance

On 27 June 2017, Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre manager, gave the above presentation as part of a public forum organised by the Centre for Kurdish Progress, named "Saddam's Brutality Against Iraqis and the Kurds in Particular."

There were two speakers at this public forum. Nadeem spoke about the issues affecting Iraq in the last 100 years, and the Kurdish issues which came within the context of the struggles and challenges faced by all sections of the Iraqi community within Iraq during the last century.

The other speaker was Mr Maher Soltan, an Iraqi Kurdish (Fayli) journalist and activist who spoke in more detail about the Kurdish issues in Iraq.

June 2017

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100 Years of Modern Iraq:
Questions of Kurdistan, Identity & Governance
A PRESENTATION BY
NADEEM AL-ABDALLA, BA, MA, MCIL
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE, LONDON

UNITE HOUSE, 128 THEOBALDS ROAD, HOLBORN, LONDON, UK, WC1X 8TN
27 JUNE 2017 AT 6.30PM

EVENT ORGANISED BY:
CENTRE FOR KURDISH PROGRESS



Nadeem with Raife AYTEK, Director of the Centre for Kurdish Progress

This public forum was facilitated by Ms Raife AYTEK, Director of the Centre for Kurdish Progress, and was held at Unite House, London.

On their website, the Centre for Kurdish Progress referred to Nadeem's presentation:

"Mr Al-Abdalla opened the event by setting the historical background to the contemporary issues in the Kurdistan region and beyond. He emphasised how Iraq has been repeating the same mistakes over the last century; discriminating against ethnic and religious groups such as Christians, Jews and Kurds who have all been part of Iraq's modern history. This includes the Faili Kurds or Lurds, who historically lived around the border between today's Iraq and Iran, and who have been subjected to systematic discrimination, torture and mass expulsions since the 1930s. This continued under Saddam Hussein's regime, whom Mr Al-Abdalla referred to as "the worst of his kind", with the targeting and destruction of many Kurdish villages, leaving 150,000 Failis disposed in Iraq and abandoned on the Iran-Iraq border."

On their website, they stated that: *"Both speakers concluded by expressing their hopes that Failis will see their rights reinstated eventually, however, they added that the tumultuous nature of the region and the clashing interests of the neighbouring countries will prove to be a challenge."*



AISC OUTREACH VISITS

Academic & Community Dialogue Sessions

Four Iraqi academic and community dialogue sessions were held in London during this year's Islamic month of Ramadan.

They were initiated by the Iraqi Consultative Association for Development & Progress (ICADP) and held at the Al-Khoae Foundation in London.

The aim of these sessions was to gather Iraqi academics and activists and to analyse different issues, and also to write research papers to be submitted to decision-makers and interested parties in Iraq.

Ihsan Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended two of these sessions. For one of these sessions, held on 4 June 2017, Nadeem submitted a research paper titled, "Anti-Corruption Strategy Suggestions". This paper was read in the session on 4 June, at which the main speaker was Dr Ali Allawi, former Iraqi minister of finance. This session was dedicated to the issue of financial corruption in Iraq.

The other session Ihsan and Nadeem attended was on 18 June 2017. This event focused on "citizenship and the state" and the main speaker was the Iraqi media personality Dr Abdul Hamied Al-Sayeh.

Many discussions, speeches and research papers were read in these sessions.



Dr Ali Allawi, former Iraqi minister of finance, talks to the audience on 4 June 2017



Dr Abdul Hamied Al-Sayeh talks to the audience about "state and citizenship", 18 June 2017



The Al-Khoae Foundation, venue for the four Iraqi community dialogue sessions held during the Islamic month of Ramadan

Iraqi community events marking the Islamic month of Ramadan

During the Islamic month of Ramadan, many Iraqi community events were held across London. Many of these events were attended by the AISC team.

On 23 June 2017, the Iraqi Embassy held their annual Iftar event for the Iraqi community. This was held at the Kensington Olympia Hotel in London.

The Iraqi minister of foreign affairs, Dr Ibrahim Al-Jaffari, attended this event as he was visiting London from Iraq at that time. He spoke to the audience about the challenges facing Iraq at this critical time, as Iraq is now entering the final phase to liberate Mosul from the terrorism of ISIS.

Also, the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, spoke to the audience. He conveyed his best wishes to the Iraqi community at the end of the month of Ramadan and for the forthcoming Eid Al-Fitr.

On 24 June 2017, another Iftar event was held at Dar Al-Islam in London. This was attended by Ihsan Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi from the AISC team and many Iraqi cultural and community activists.



Dr Ibrahim Al-Jaffari, Iraqi foreign minister, talks to the Iraqi community at the Iraqi Embassy Iftar event



Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, talking at the Iraqi Embassy's Iftar event



Ali Al-Mousawi, Ihsan Al-Hakim & Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team at Dar Al-Islam's Iraqi community Iftar event

Candle vigil for victims of London terrorism

On 5 June 2017, the AISC team attended a candle vigil for the victims of the London Bridge terror attack of 3 June 2017. The vigil was held at the Al-Khoae Foundation in London, and was attended by many Iraqi, Arab and Muslim community members.



Iraqi community representatives gather to pay tribute to the victims of terrorism, London

Iraqi Music at the British Museum

On 16 June 2017, an evening of traditional Iraqi music was held at the British Museum in London, among the great artefacts of ancient Mesopotamia and in the presence of hundreds of tourists visiting the museum.

The concert included music from southern and central Iraq and also from Iraqi Kurdistan. It was attended by officials from the Iraqi Embassy, from the London offices of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the British Museum's Middle East and Archaeomusicology departments.



An evening of Iraqi traditional music, British Museum, London

Cultural Event: Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation, London

On 28 July 2017, the AISC team attended this cultural event featuring the Iraqi sociologist Dr Faleh Abd Al-Jabbar, who is also the manager of the Beirut-based Strategic Studies Centre. He spoke about "*ISIS and their dream of an Islamic state (khilafa)*", talking about the last two centuries of the caliphate (khilafa) notion.



Dr Faleh Abd Al-Jabbar talks to the audience about the concept of the Islamic khilafa

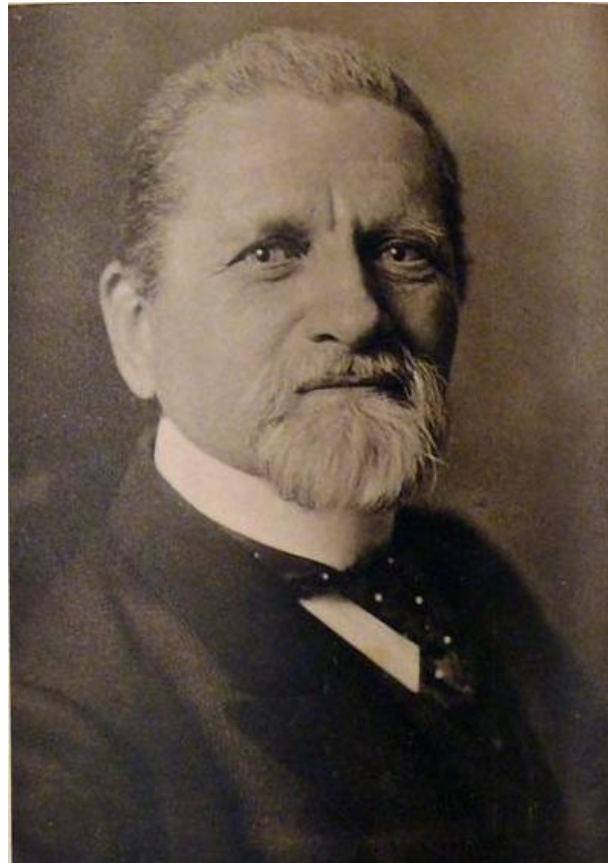
FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

***"The Excavations at Babylon"
By Robert Koldewey
(1855-1925), published 1914***

The above book, published in 1914 and translated from German to English, was written by the German archaeologist Robert Koldewey (1855-1925), and translated to English by Agnes Johns.

Robert Koldewey was a German archaeologist who worked at the sites of several ancient places in Germany, Italy, Greece and Turkey. However, he is best known for the 20 years he spent working in Mesopotamia (Iraq). His first excavations in the country took place at Lagash, southern Mesopotamia. Koldewey's grand project to excavate the ancient city ruins of Babylon started in 1899 and continued until 1914. An average of 200 locals worked daily at the excavation sites for 15 years.

At that time, Mesopotamia (Iraq) was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which was allied with Germany. These excavations of Babylon took place within the context of Germany's Eastern Empire dream, which included Turkey, Syria and Mesopotamia (Iraq). The Germans' Berlin-Baghdad railway project, which aimed to connect Berlin directly to Baghdad via Istanbul, was being planned and partly constructed at that time. Most Germans working in Mesopotamia (Iraq), including Koldewey, started to leave the area in 1914 as the British Army had landed at Basra, as part of the war between Britain and Germany.



Robert Koldewey (1855-1925)



Above: mosaics recovered from ancient Babylon



FIG. 24.—The two eastern towers of the Ishtar Gate.



FIG. 129.—The excavation of Esagila.

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den, and others Babylonia above defeated Egypt. But a concrete past is throughout this period never represented otherwise than in reliefs, and, on the other hand, it is foreign to Babylonian art to take as a basis the representation of an abstract idea.

Close to the lion but deeper down was found a fine large stela of white limestone, which the "governor of the lands of Sukhi and of the lands of Maër" caused to be



FIG. 101.—The basalt lion in the Principal Citadel.

made in his honour (Fig. 102). His name was Shamash-resh-ussur, and his lands lay in the neighbourhood of the Khabur, on the Euphrates. He caused himself to be represented in the midst of the gods worshipped by him, and the name of each figure is inscribed close to it. In his left hand he holds the club with the rounded stone head, the same that is in use here to-day and called "Hattre." When the club has the same shaped head in asphalt instead of stone it is called "Mugwar." His right hand, which is clenched in votive fashion, is raised to the statue of Adad the weather god, who stands before him,

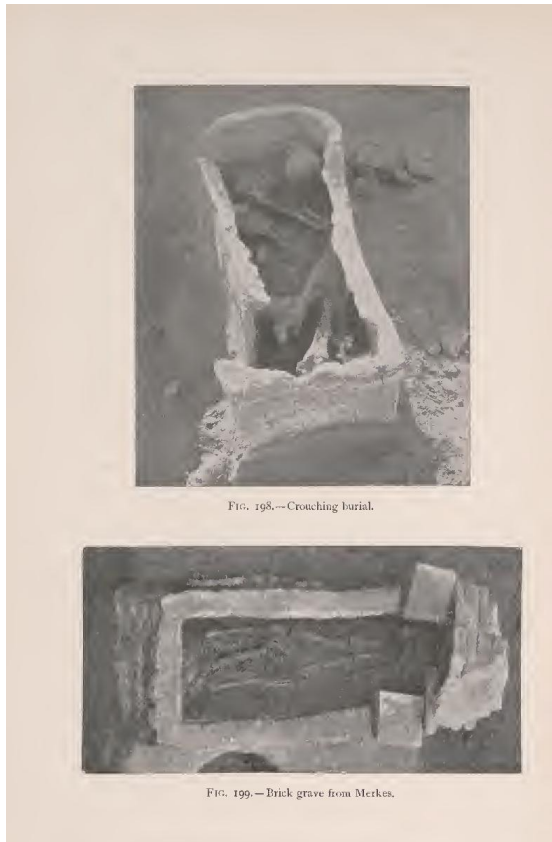


FIG. 198.—Crouching burial.

FIG. 199.—Brick grave from Merkes.

Koldewey's excavations at Babylon

Pages from his original book, published 1914

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about the AISC project, our activities and services, please visit our website at:

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