

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER



April 2016

What's Inside:

- AISC office sessions
- AISC outreach visits
- Cultural events at AISC
- From our library
- Anglo-Iraqi paintings
- Further information

AISC OFFICE SESSIONS

- On 20 April 2016, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) UK representative, His Excellency Karwan Jamal Tahir, visited AISC and received a tour of our offices and library facilities.

He spoke of the positive impact AISC's project has the potential to make in terms of building bridges between Iraqi Britons and the wider society and wished us well for the future development of our project.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan Muhsin with His Excellency Karwan Jamal Tahir, UK Representative of the KRG, when he visited AISC's offices and library on 20 April 2016



- On 22 April 2016, the Iraqi filmmaker Mr Jamal Al-Hassani visited our offices and library. He spoke of the positive impact he believed our centre can have on Iraqi-British citizens and how our work can further their positive integration into UK life.



Nadeem and Jamal Al-Hassani, 22 April 2016

AISC OUTREACH VISITS

- On 6 April, the AISC team attended a knowledge presentation given by Dr Fuad Kazem at Salam House.

Dr Kazem's event focused on the life of Sayed Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr, who passed away on 9 April 1980. Many current Islamic movements in Iraq claim that Sayed Al-Sadr inspired their political movements and beliefs.



Dr Fuad Kazem, presenting to the audience at Salam House on 6 April 2016

- On 9 April, the AISC team attended an event held at the Maida Vale Islamic Centre to commemorate the lives of Sayed Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr and Sayed Mohammed Bakr Al-Hakim.



Maida Vale Islamic Centre, 9 April 2016

- On 16 April 2016, the AISC team attended a cultural event held at the offices of the Al-Hakim Foundation commemorating the atrocities committed against Iraqi Kurd Faylis in 1980, when the Iraqi government expelled hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens, including Kurd Faylis, from Iraq as part of an ethnic cleansing programme. This event was organised by the Kurd Fayli Association.



Kurd Fayli event, held at the offices of the Al-Hakim Foundation on 16 April 2016

- On 27 April, the AISC team attended another cultural event held at Salam House.

This event featured a presentation by the Iraqi writer and journalist, Mr Sadiq Jazairi, who recently returned from Iraq. He spoke of the current political turmoil in Iraq which has resulted in several public demonstrations.



Sadiq Jazairi speaks to the audience, Salam House, 27 April 2016

- On 29 April, the AISC team also attended an event held at the Ravenscroft Park Church, Hammersmith, which was organised by the Iraqi Community Association.

This event featured a knowledge presentation by Iraqi sociologist Professor Sayyar Al-Jamil. He talked in particular about Mosul, Iraq's second city after Baghdad, its historic role and importance in Iraqi life and its impact on modern Iraqi life.



Professor Sayyar Al-Jamil presents to the audience at Ravenscroft Park Church, 29 April 2016 (above and below)



CULTURAL EVENTS

"BITTERSWEET BAGHDAD": A DOCUMENTARY FILM 30 APRIL 2016

On Saturday 30 April 2016, AISC hosted the 19-year-old film maker, Alia Hassan, who produced this documentary film which he describes as *"a new powerful film/documentary that attempts to understand the difference and similarity of people living in modern day Iraq and ourselves in the west. The film accounts many different people in their day-to-day activities."*

Hosting this event formed part of AISC's commitment to engaging with young Iraqi-British citizens and the second generation of Iraqi-Britons, encouraging them to develop their knowledge and to gain expertise in Iraqi issues and Anglo-Iraqi studies, via the mediums of education, films, documentaries and so on.



Ihsan and Dhiaa Muhsin at Alia Hassan's cultural event, AISC, 30 April 2016



Nadhem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi of AISC, with the young Iraqi film-maker Alia Hassan at the launch of his film, "Bittersweet Baghdad", at AISC's offices on 30 April 2016

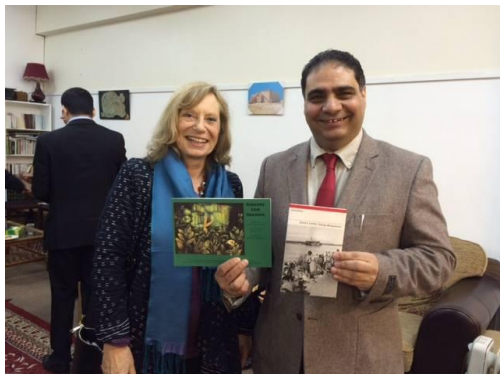
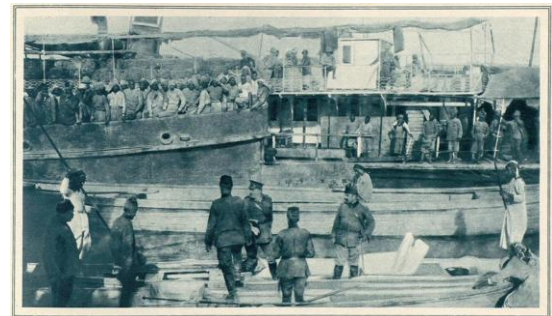


FORTHCOMING EVENTS

"FINDING MY FATHER IN MESOPOTAMIA": 21 MAY 2016

This event, "Finding my Father in Mesopotamia" will be held at AISC's London venue, featuring a talk by Jenny Lewis, poetry tutor from Oxford University, about her father's experiences in the Mesopotamia Campaign of 1914-18.

Jenny is a poet and playwright who teaches poetry and verse drama at Oxford University and at Pegasus Theatre, Oxford. She is the author of "Taking Mesopotamia", a collection of poems relating to daily life in Mesopotamia during the early 20th century.



Jenny Lewis with Nadeem Al-Abdalla, at AISC's launch on 23 January 2016. Below is a photo of her father, TC Lewis, in Mesopotamia aged 18.



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مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية

جيني لويس
العثور على ابي في بلاد الرافدين

امسية ثقافية تتحدث فيها الاستاذة في جامعة اوكسفورد الشاعرة جيني لويس عن والدها الراحل
اتهام تواجهه ضمن الحملة البريطانية في ارض الرافدين (العراق) بين عامي 1914-1918

العنوان والزمان ادناه

Venue: AISC, 289 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON, NW2 6NX
Date /Time: SATURDAY 21 MAY 2016 AT 6PM

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JENNY LEWIS:
"FINDING MY FATHER IN MESOPOTAMIA"

Cultural event featuring a talk by Jenny Lewis, a poet and lecturer at Oxford University, about her father's experiences in the British Army's Mesopotamia Campaign of 1914-1918

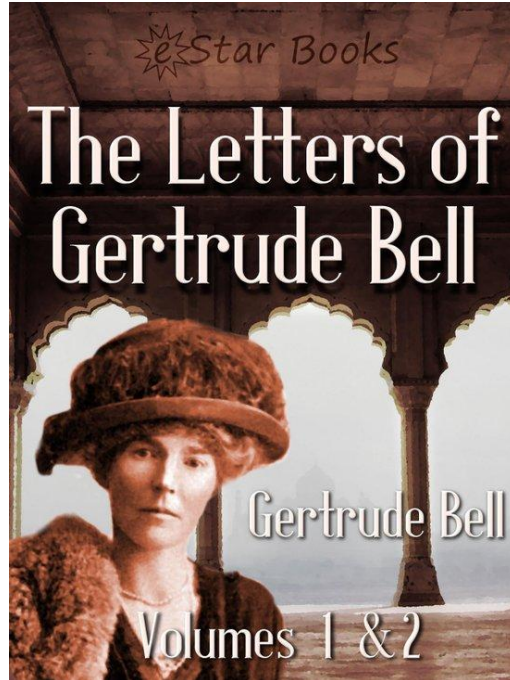
Venue: AISC, 289 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON, NW2 6NX
Date /Time: SATURDAY 21 MAY 2016 AT 6PM

**FROM OUR LIBRARY
THIS MONTH**
"The Letters of Gertrude Bell"
(published 1927)

This book contains letters written by Gertrude Bell (1868-1926) during her time in Iraq, detailing her experiences in the country as she worked with the British government as Iraq became a new political entity after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire in 1919. The book was published a year after her death in 1926, by her stepmother, Dame Florence Bell.

Gertrude Bell, a British archaeologist and political officer, played a major role in the birth of Iraq as a new political entity; she first travelled to the region in 1909, following her tour of other parts of Arabia to include Syria and Palestine. During the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign from 1914-1918, she was deployed to the region. After the British army entered Baghdad in 1917, she became a key figure in their administration and this led to her later involvement with the birth of Iraq as a new kingdom under British mandate in 1920.

It was also Gertrude Bell who founded the Iraqi museum, based in Baghdad, due to her love of archaeology. She also served on the management committee of Iraq's National Library, also based in Baghdad, from 1921-1924. She passed away in Baghdad in 1926, where she is also buried.



"The Letters of Gertrude Bell", containing Ms Bell's letters detailing her experiences as Iraq was born as a new nation-state in 1920. Below, she is seen with the archaeological findings in Mesopotamia and with King Faisal, the first King of Iraq



A PICNIC WITH KING FAISAL

ANGLO-IRAQI PAINTINGS

**From the artist
Wyndham Lewis
(1882-1957)**

Percy Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957) was a British painter, who served as an artillery officer and war artist in the First World War. After the war, he continued to publish paintings but had also moved into the field of writing.

To this end, he published a book titled "The Caliph's Design" in 1919, about historic Baghdad. Some years later, in 1927, he produced a painting of "Baghdad". This painting belongs to the school of modern art and shows his concept of Baghdad, albeit slightly differently from earlier paintings of Baghdad.

One observation of Lewis's painting of "Baghdad", taken from the time of publication in the 1920s, states that: 'here the idols, architectures and gardens make up a structure clearly designed for humans, a city which is the Bagdad of The Caliph's Design'. The imagery, such as the spiral staircase, seems to be a development from Lewis's abstract drawings of Baghdad published in 1926.



"Bagdad", published in 1927 by Wyndham Lewis (pictured below in 1917).



FURTHER INFORMATION

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

www.angloiraqi.org

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Company No: 8323352**

