

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)
APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER



April 2018

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AISC TRANSLATION SEMINAR

On 15 April, a roundtable research seminar into the translation of publications from English to Arabic was held in AISC's offices. The seminar was held partially to examine and respond to a request from an Iraq-based research centre for AISC to recommend 10 English language books to be translated into Arabic as part of their translation project. In their request, they asked us in our capacity as a centre with expert knowledge on English language publications about Iraq, to recommend 10 books from different genres which have not previously been translated to Arabic, and which would be of particular importance to Iraqi and Arab readers.

The roundtable seminar included the literary and arts reviewer Adnan Hussein, writer and academic Sadeq Al-Taee, both of whom are experts in publications about Iraq, in addition to Ihsan M Al-Hakim, director of the Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation, and Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager. The discussions included information about digitised libraries and the main Arabic library databases. A list of books has been suggested by the roundtable participants for translation into Arabic.



AISC translation seminar (above and below)
Pictured are Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team, Adnan Hussein and Sadeq Al-Taee



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) events

On 7 April, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London.

This event was held to remember the life of Iraqi sociologist Faleh Abdul Jabbar, who passed away in March 2018 aged 72 during a live TV broadcast.

At this event, his colleagues in London and abroad paid tribute to him and his life's work. During his lifetime he wrote and published many books relating to social and political life in Iraq, including "The Shi'ite Movement in Iraq" and "Ayatollahs, Sufis and Ideologues: State, Religion and Social Movements in Iraq".



On 11 April, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), featuring a knowledge presentation by the Iraqi academic and writer Mohammed Al-Khaqani.

The event was held in remembrance of the life and times of the Iraqi Islamic scholar, Sayed Mohammed Baqr Al-Sadr, who was executed in April 1980. Most current Iraqi Islamic political parties view him as their inspiration.



Bodour Zeki Mohamed novel launch

On 14 April, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event and reception held in Fitzrovia, London.

At this event, Iraqi writer Bodour Zeki Mohamed launched her new book, an Arabic novel titled "Temptations of Illusion", published in Damascus, Syria. She has previously written and published many articles.

The event included a presentation of her novel and a review by Iraqi literary and arts critic Adnan Hussein, who presented the novelist and her writings and his approach to the novel's style, language and contents.

Extracts from the novel were read by the author and later, she signed copies of her book for guests at the event.

This novel is about the experiences of Iraqi and Arab families, particularly women, living in European countries. Her novel refers to many towns and cities in Europe as seen through the eyes of characters featured in her novel. She took us from Weimar to Wiesbaden, to The Hague, Paris and London through Arab eyes.

The novel circles the reader between cities and names and human relations, with its dialogues of love, compassion and humanity which are not usually found in other Arab novels.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Bodour Zeki Mohamed



Adnan Hussein and Bodour Zeki Mohamed



CULTURAL CONFERENCE: MOROCCO

8th Arab Folk Poetry Festival

Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) manager, was invited to attend a conference organised by Morocco's Provincial Association of El-Jadida Cultural Affairs and National Observatory for Youth & Development, and was held in the cities of El-Jadida and Azzemoure.

The festival's opening ceremony was held at Azzemoure Town Hall on 19 April 2018. At the opening ceremony, delegates were welcomed to the conference by Driss Mourabit, manager of the Arab Folk Poetry Festival, and poetry recitals were given by more than 10 poets.

On 20 April 2018, an intellectual symposium was held at the Doctoral Centre of Chouaib Doukkali University, El-Jadida. Presentations were given by four speakers. The event was moderated by Mohammed Aloat (Morocco). Later that day, the delegation attended poetry recitals at Azzemoure Town Hall.

On the third day, 21 April 2018, the delegates took a tour of El-Jadida's old town and Portuguese castle. A Moroccan film was also shown to delegates at El-Jadida's old theatre. Later that day, delegates also toured the nearby town of Azzemoure where poetry recitals were given by the banks of the River Oum Al-Rabea. The festival's closing ceremony was held that evening at the delegates' hotel in El-Jadida.





"World Literature: From Sumerian Tablets to the Digital Era"

On the second day of the festival, an intellectual symposium was held at the Doctoral Centre of Choib University, El-Jadida, on the subject of "poetry in the digital and social media age". This included presentations from four speakers, including Nadeem Al-Abdalla (Iraq/UK), Dr Khadija Shaker (Morocco) Fouzi Dogmi (Jordan) and Dr Mohammed Al-Oreibi (Lebanon). The moderator was Mohammed Aloat (Morocco).


Nadeem's presentation gave a brief background to the technology of writing through the ages. He started this journey with the origins of early human writing on clay tablets in ancient Sumeria (Mesopotamia), with many examples. He then moved to writing on Egyptian papyrus scrolls, with examples. Nadeem then looked at the technology of writing on animal skins (vellums), including the Magna Carta and the Mappa Mundi, which is held in Hereford Cathedral in the UK. In the 15th century this gave way to the era of printing production using paper (the printing era). Later, in the 21st century the digital era commenced; this led to digital publishing online, both on specialist websites and individuals' social media sites.

Finally, Nadeem's presentation looked at the digital era (2000-present) and its impacts on creative writing, marketing, publishing and the changes that resulted to literary infrastructure, such as the creation of the "books on demand" concept and the concept of electronic books.





WORLD LITERATURE: FROM SUMERIAN TABLETS TO THE DIGITAL ERA



NADEEM AL-ABDALLA, BA, MA, MCIL
Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC), London, UK

FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

Stephen Longrigg's Iraq & Middle East books

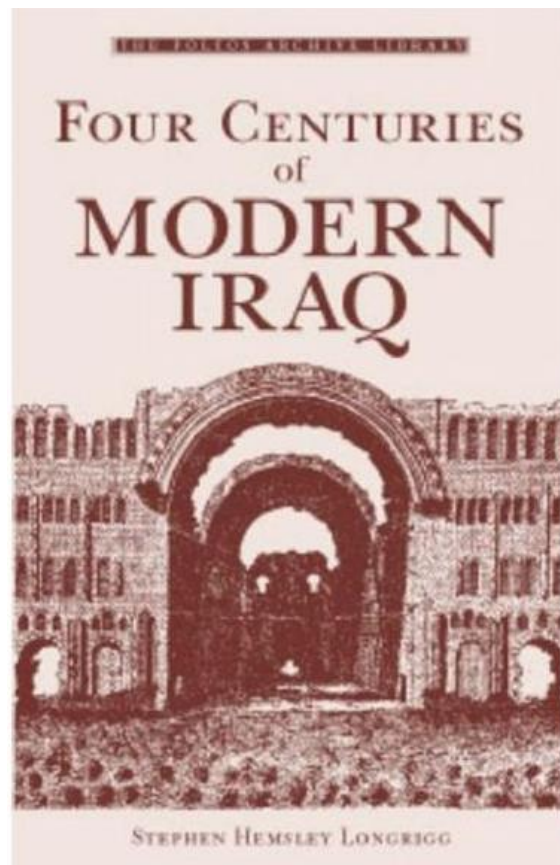
Stephen Hemsley Longrigg (1893-1979) was a British diplomat, oil explorer and a cultural expert on Iraq and the Middle East. During his lifetime, Longrigg published several books about Iraq and the Middle East. His longstanding connection with Iraq began in the First World War, when he was conscripted into the British Army after graduating from Oxford University aged 21.

Longrigg returned to England from Iraq in 1921 upon completing his military service. He returned to Oxford University where he obtained a Masters Degree (MA), following which he joined the British Administration in Iraq; he served as Inspector-General of Revenue between 1927 and 1931.

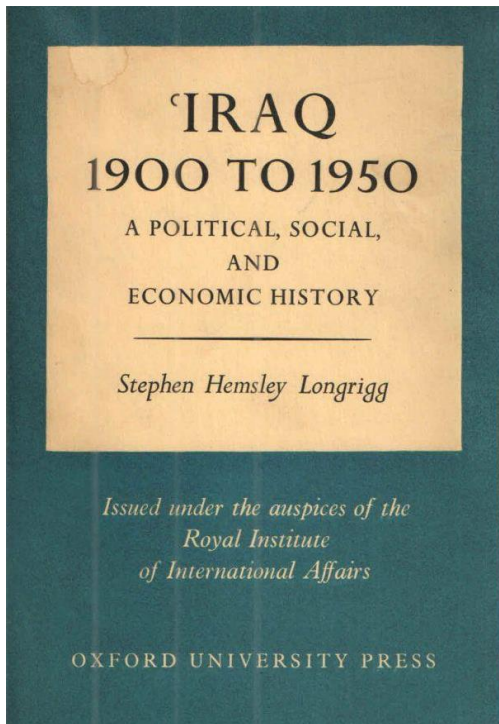
Later, Longrigg left the British Administration and joined the Iraqi Petroleum Company (IPC). He witnessed the building of Iraq's first oil pipelines to the Mediterranean between 1932-1934, although his time with the IPC was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War; Longrigg was again conscripted into the British Army, this time serving as a Brigadier in other Arab and African states (Egypt, Somalia and Eritrea). He returned to IPC after the war until he retired in 1951, and obtained the Lawrence of Arabia Medal in 1962. He wrote many books about Iraq, as pictured here.



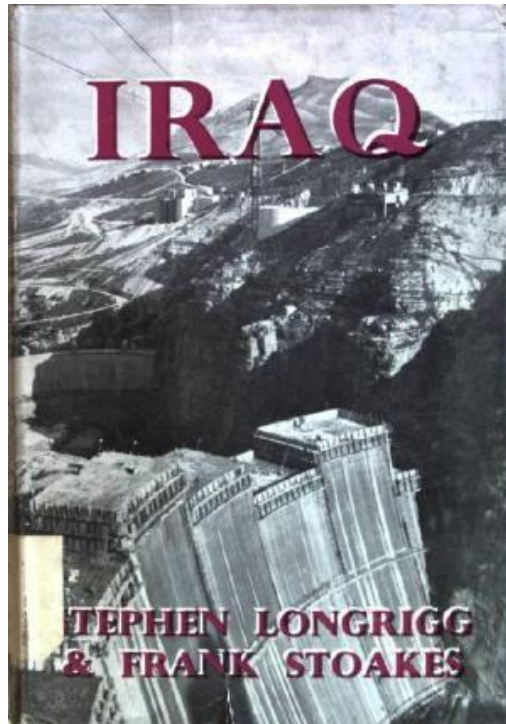
Stephen Longrigg (1893-1979) pictured in 1956



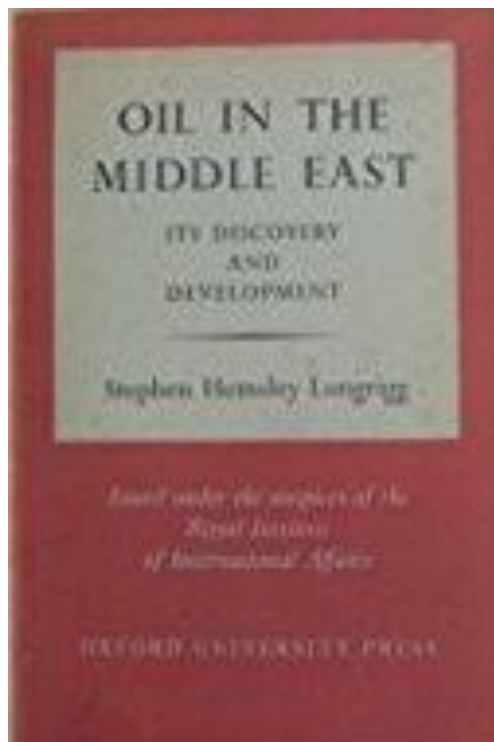
"Four Centuries of Modern Iraq", published 1925



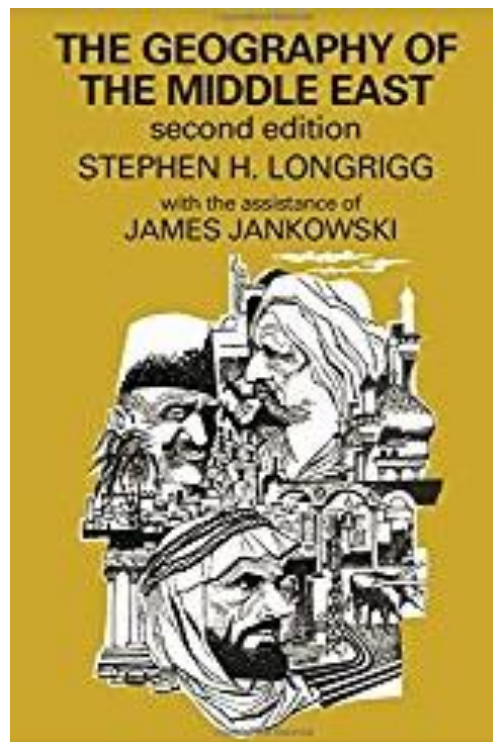
"Iraq 1900-1950" published 1953



"Iraq" published 1958, with Frank Stoakes



"Oil in the Middle East" published 1954



"The Middle East" (first edition published 1963)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”



London
United Kingdom

