

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER



August 2016

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

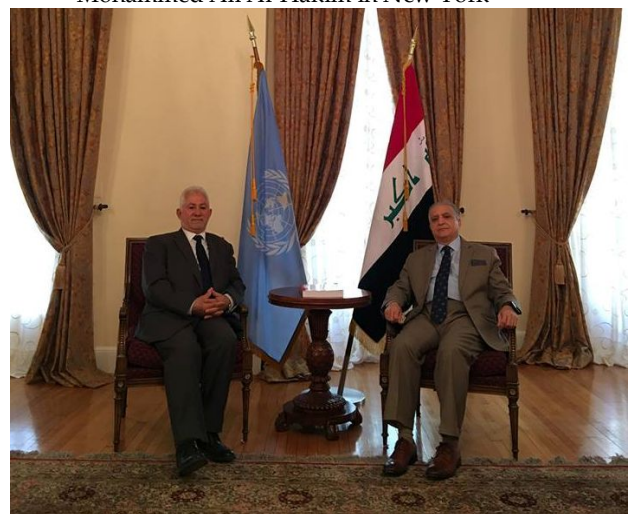
* Ihsan Muhsin from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre team, the director of the Al-Hakim Foundation, visited the United Nations (UN) in New York this month. While there Ihsan met Iraqi delegates to the UN. He briefed them on the work of AISC and its efforts to gather, review and represent the English language publications about Iraq/Mesopotamia. Copies of one of AISC's books "Bibliography of English language publications about Iraq" were given to the Iraqi UN representative, Dr Mohammed Ali Al-Hakim and to many US libraries, including the library of Columbia University.



Ihsan with the Iraqi UN representative, Dr Mohammed Ali Al-Hakim in New York



Ihsan Muhsin at the United Nations, New York



* Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Manager of the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre, attended three cultural events held for the Iraqi-British community at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), Salam House, during August.

* 3 August 2016: This event featured a talk by Dr Hamied Al-Hashimi, an Iraqi-Armenian academic and sociologist, about the life and culture of Iraqi Armenians.



Dr Hamied Al-Hashimi talks to guests about the Iraqi-Armenian culture and heritage, 3 August 2016

* 24 August 2016: This event featured a talk by Dr Hassan Saedy, an academic specialising in constitutional law, who gave a critical review for the current Iraqi constitution. The current constitution came into force on 15 October 2015 and it is still controversial as 2-3 provinces were against adopting it. This requires changes to make it more inclusive for all Iraqis.



Dr Hassan Saedy talks to guests about the current Iraqi constitution, 24 August 2016

* 31 August 2016: This event featured a talk by former Iraqi Minister of Agriculture & Reconciliation, Dr Akram Al-Hakim, about the prospects of political reconciliation in Iraq between its various political, social and ethnic groups.



Former Iraqi Minister Dr Akram Al-Hakim, at Salam House on 31 August 2016



مركز الدراسات الإنكليزية العراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

* On 9 August 2016, Nadeem and Ihsan from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre team attended a meeting with Mr Mohammed Saad Eldin, an MP from the Parliament of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Nadeem and Ihsan, along with other members of the Iraqi-British community, discussed the Iraqi political and intellectual scene in the UK.



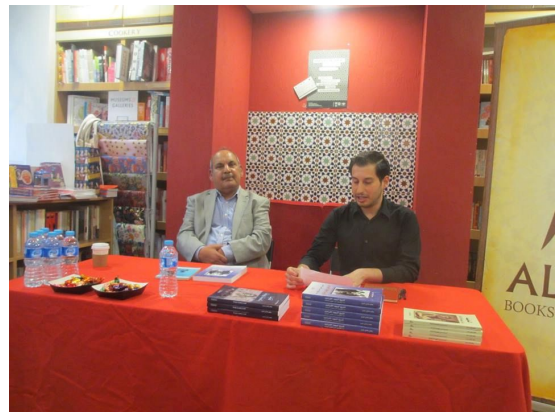
Nadeem and Ihsan with Mr Mohammed Saad Eldin,
9 August 2016

* On 12 August 2016, Nadeem and Ihsan attended a meeting with the former Iraqi deputy minister of Agriculture, Dr Subhi Al-Jumeily, from the Iraqi Communist Party. He briefed the audience about the current political turmoil in Iraq. This event was held by the Iraqi Forum at Ravenscourt Park church.



Dr Subhi Al-Jumeily speaks to the audience at
Ravenscourt Park church, 12 August 2016

* On 18 August 2016, Nadeem also attended a cultural event held at London's Alef Bookstore. This event featured a talk by Dr Jafar Hadi Hassan, an Iraqi academic specialising in Semitic, Hebrew and Jewish studies. He presented and signed his most recent book on this subject.



Dr Jafar Hadi Hassan at Alef Bookstore, London on
18 August 2016



FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENT AT AISC'S OFFICES

On 24 September 2016, the offices of AISC will host a cultural event featuring the music and traditions of Ur in ancient times.

This event will feature a performance and talk by Andy Lowings and Jennifer Sturdy, from the "Gold Lyre of Ur Project". We held a meeting with Andy and Jennifer to make the preparations for their September event.




 مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
 قيثارة اور الذهبية
 اصدااء التاريخ... و اصوات الموسيقى






امسية ثقافية وموسيقية يقدمها اندي لويينجز & جينيفر ستيردي من
 "مشروع احياء قيثارة اور الذهبية"
 رحلة في تاريخ ولغة وموسيقى سومر وبلاد الرافدين

Venue: AISC, 289 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON, NW2 6NX
 Date/Time: SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6PM




 ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE
 GOLD LYRE OF UR:
 ECHOES OF HISTORY SOUNDS OF MUSIC






Cultural event featuring a talk and performance by Andy Lowings
 and Jennifer Sturdy from the "Gold Lyre of Ur Project"; a journey
 through the history, language and music of Mesopotamia

Venue: AISC, 289 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON, NW2 6NX
 Date/Time: SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6PM

Meeting with Andy Lowings and Jennifer Sturdy from the "Gold Lyre of Ur Project" to prepare for their event on 24 September 2016. They also toured the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre and its library.

FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

"Sennacherib of Assyria" by Lord Byron, 1788-1824

The poem "The Destruction of Sennacherib" was written by the renowned English poet Lord Byron (1788-1824). It formed part of Lord Byron's 1815 publication, "Hebrew Melodies".

Lord Byron's poem relates to the Biblical account of King Sennacherib's adventures in Jerusalem in ancient Biblical and Mesopotamian times. Sennacherib was king of Assyria in the 7th century BC. The poem is based on a Biblical story, but has not been confirmed by any archaeological findings. However, Lord Byron's poem is both stirring and beautiful.



A portrait of Lord Byron

*The Assyrian came down like the wolf
on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in
purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was
like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on
deep Galilee.
Like the leaves of the forest when
Summer is green,
That host with their banners at
sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when
Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered
and strown.
For the Angel of Death spread his
wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as
he passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed
deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved,
and for ever grew still!
And there lay the steed with his
nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the
breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white
on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-
beating surf.
And there lay the rider distorted and
pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the
rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the
banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet
unblown.
And the widows of Ashur are loud in
their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple
of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile,
unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance
of the Lord.*

**"Baghdad Sketches:
Journeys through Iraq"
Published 1937 by Freya Stark**

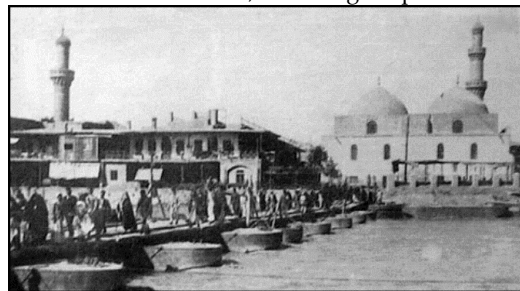
The above book was published in London in 1937 by Dame Freya Stark (1893-1993), and gives an account of her time in Iraq and Baghdad whilst it was under British mandate, and in the years following Iraq's full independence when British individuals and organisations still had a significant presence in the country.

Dame Freya Stark, a British diplomat and travel writer, first journeyed to Iraq in 1927. During her many years in Iraq, she witnessed the rise and fall of the British involvement in the country as well as Iraq's early years of independence. She chose to live outside the close-knit western expatriate scene and immersed herself in the way of life of ordinary Iraqis - living in the 'native' quarter of the city and spending time with its tribal sheikhs and leaders. Venturing out of Baghdad, she travelled to Mosul, Nineveh, Tikrit and Najaf. In the 1940s she returned again, this time travelling south to spend time in the Iraqi Marshes and north to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Dame Freya's book depicts both the political and social preoccupations of the day and the people and landscapes of Iraq. "Baghdad Sketches" has been described as being a portrait of the country as it once was.



Dame Freya Stark pictured on her travels in the Middle East, including Iraq



Old Baghdad, depicted in "Baghdad Sketches" (above and below)



مركز الدراسات الإنكليزية العراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

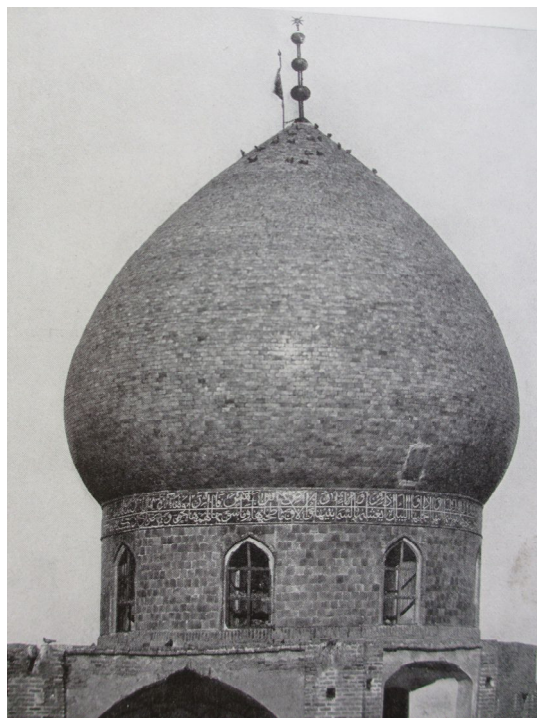
ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

"Mystic Nedjef", photos by Frederick Simpich (1914)

The above was the title of an article published by Frederick Simpich (1878-1950) in December 1914 in the National Geographic magazine, following his visit to the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, written as "Nedjef" and "Kerbala" by Simpich. Simpich was an American journalist, travel writer and later a diplomat, who edited the National Geographic magazine in the 1930s.

In 1914, Simpich and his wife Margaret (1884-1981) visited Iraq and spent some time in the country. As a result, they published two articles in the National Geographic's December 1914 magazine. One related mainly to Baghdad and was written by both of them, but Simpich ventured to Najaf and Karbala alone and as such wrote the article himself.

On his visit to Najaf and Karbala, Simpich took photos of the cities depicting their holy sites and of pilgrims travelling to both cities. We share with you below a selection of his photos of Najaf and Karbala in 1914.



A holy shrine in Karbala, 1914



Pilgrims travelling to Karbala and Najaf by steamer ship, 1914



The walls of Najaf, showing the city dominated by Imam Ali's shrine, 1914



Pilgrims travel to Najaf by horse caravan, 1914

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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