

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

# ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

## FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



### REFLECTIONS ON LAUNCH OF ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

As covered in our January 2016 newsletter, the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) was launched in London with the presence of Dr Akram Al-Hakim, former Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi on 23 January 2016.

We have received several messages of support and good wishes from a number of academics and professionals, including Sir Terence Clark, former UK Ambassador to Iraq, Dr Jane Moon of Manchester University, Professor Eleanor Robson, Chair of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI), Dr John MacGinnis of Cambridge University, Daniel Lowe of the British Library, Jonathan Watkins, Director of the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, Edwin Shuker and Chris McLaren, publisher.

February 2016

#### What's Inside:

- AISC launch reflections
- AISC outreach visits
- Next cultural events
- From our library
- Anglo-Iraqi paintings
- Further information

Iraqi academics and professionals who conveyed their best wishes to AISC included Faleh Abdul-Jabar, Salwa Kazwini, Karim Alsabaa, Ansam Al-Jarah, Riahin Chalabi, and many others.



Guests attending the launch of AISC



Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, Iraqi Ambassador to the UK and Dr Akram Al-Hakim, former Iraqi minister of Agriculture, who gave speeches at the AISC launch

## AISC OUTREACH VISITS

As part of AISC's efforts to participate in Anglo-Iraqi community events and to embrace Iraqi culture within the wider UK society, and also to strengthen their links with academics and professionals, AISC has undertaken a number of outreach visits this month.

### AGM OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ (BISI)

On 24 February 2016, Ihsan Muhsin from AISC attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) in London. The AGM was followed by a lecture about the British archaeologist, Leonard Woolley, titled, "*Walking in Woolley's footsteps: Ur brought to life for the digital age*". Woolley spent more than 10 years in Iraq, excavating the great ancient city of Ur. This lecture was given by Dr Birger Ekornåsvåg Helgestad and Dr Jon Taylor.



AGM at the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI), 24 February 2016

\* On 4 February 2016, Ihsan Muhsin (Director, Al-Hakim Foundation) and Nadeem Al-Abdalla (AISC Project Manager) met with John Penrose MP, Minister for Constitutional Reform, in London. AISC participated in this event, hosted by Faiths Forum London/Democracy in Action, at which Mr Penrose was invited to meet with some community and organisation representatives and to talk to AISC about constitutional and legal issues surrounding the forthcoming elections and referendum.

During this meeting with Mr Penrose the concerns of communities were discussed, in addition to the upcoming elections and referendums in general. Since this meeting with Mr Penrose it has now been decided that a referendum in which UK voters will decide whether to remain in or exit the EU, is to be held on 23 June 2016.



Ihsan Muhsin, Director of the Al-Hakim Foundation and Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC Project Manager meeting John Penrose MP, 4 February 2016

مركز الدراسات الإنكليزية  
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



\* On 8 February 2016, Ihsan Muhsin and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC visited the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA) at their offices in central London. They attended at the kind invitation of Mr Neville Green, RSAA Treasurer, and during this visit they met Sir David John, RSAA Chairman and toured the RSAA library which contains thousands of rare books about Iraq.



Ihsan Muhsin and Nadeem Al-Abdalla, browsing the RSAA library's collection of rare books relating to Iraq



Ihsan Muhsin and Nadeem Al-Abdalla with Sir David John, RSAA Chairman, Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, RSAA Librarian and Mr Neville Green, RSAA Treasurer, 8 February 2016

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\* On 9 February 2016, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC gave a talk to young Iraqi-British students of politics at Buckingham Community Centre, Edgware. This group is known as the Iraq Work Group. Nadeem's talk was about "some aspects of Iraqi politics after 2003". The talk provided the Iraq Work Group with a new approach to the subject.



Buckingham Community Centre, Edgware, venue for Nadeem's talk on "some aspects of Iraqi politics after 2003"

Nadia is campaigning for an inquiry into war crimes committed against Yazidis, which amounts to genocide. AISC hopes that her bravery will not be in vain and that such an inquiry will result in justice for her and all Yazidi women who have suffered so much under ISIS.



Nadia Murad speaking at TUC House, London, about her experiences in Iraq under ISIS on 12 February 2016

\* On 12 February 2016 Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC attended the Trades Union Congress (TUC) House in London for an event featuring a speech by Nadia Murad, an Iraqi ISIS survivor who escaped their brutality and enslavement. Nadia addressed the attendees, consisting of Iraqi and British citizens, and gave an account of her tragic experiences. A day earlier, on 11 February 2016, she was received by the British Parliament and commended for her bravery in highlighting the issues facing her and the Iraqi community at this time, and to pass her message to the British political arena and the world.



## INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR PRESS & MEDIA MARRAKESH REGION, MOROCCO

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC participated in the above conference, held between 19-21 February 2016 and organised by the International Forum for Press & Media. This conference was titled, "Role of Media in Fighting Terrorism" and was held in the Marrakesh region at the city of Ben Gurier, Morocco. Ben Gurier is situated some 60 miles to the north of Marrakesh. This conference was attended by Ben Gurier's Mayor and the city's local authority representatives, together with 150 delegates from Morocco, Europe and the Arab world.

In his capacity as an expert on Iraqi issues, Nadeem gave a speech to delegates on this subject. The conference was a good opportunity to hear speeches from other delegates, and to participate in workshops related to the subject of media and the challenges of terrorism, in addition to some visits to local towns and cultural events.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla represented AISC at this international forum in Morocco





## FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

**SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2016**

AISC's next cultural event is to talk about "Iraq in the English language publications from 1800-2000: Western Vision, Iraqi Review", and it will be held at the Iraqi Cultural Café in Camden Town, London on Sunday 27 March 2016. This event will feature a talk by Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC Project Manager and author of the book, "Bibliography of English Books About Iraq: A Selected Bibliography of Books Published in English about Iraq & Mesopotamia 1800 - 2000". At this event, Nadeem will review and analyse 5 rare articles to the audience, derived from the AISC collections of English language publications about Iraq.

الباحث الأكاديمي  
نديم العبدالله  
يكشف عن  
تقارير نادرة  
وأوراق هامة عن  
العراق  
في المطبوعات الغربية  
من عام 1800 - 2000  
أوراق غير مترجمة، ظلت بعيدة عن العراقيين  
يوم الأحد: 27 \ 03 \ 2016 وفي الساعة السادسة مساءً  
Clarence Hall  
Bradfield Court, Hawley Road  
Camden NW1 8RN  
Underground : Camden Town Station  
Overground : Camden Road Station  
Buses : 24 , 27 , 31 , 46 , 168 .

## LONDON MAYORAL ELECTION CANDIDATE TALK TO COMMUNITY: APRIL 2016

In April 2016, one of London's Mayoral candidates will be hosted by AISC/Al-Hakim Foundation at our Cricklewood office, and will give a talk to the local Iraqi community at this event about the forthcoming Mayoral election on 5 May 2016.

The date of this talk in April is to be confirmed, and to be published on our website at [www.angloiraqi.org](http://www.angloiraqi.org).

## ANGLO-IRAQI TALK WITH JENNY LEWIS: MAY 2016

This event, to be held at the AISC office, will feature a talk by Jenny Lewis, poetry tutor from Oxford University, about her experience of Anglo-Iraqi relations and her projects in this vein. Jenny's talk has been rescheduled from March to May 2016; the exact date is to be confirmed, and to be published on our website at [www.angloiraqi.org](http://www.angloiraqi.org).

**Jenny Lewis**, a poet and playwright, teaches poetry and verse drama at Oxford University and at Pegasus Theatre, Oxford.

المصطفى الثقافي العراقي في لندن  
51



مركز الدراسات الإنكليزية العراقية  
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

**FROM OUR LIBRARY  
THIS MONTH**  
***"The Construction of the Iraq  
Mediterranean Pipe-line"***  
***(Iraqi Petroleum Company, 1934)***

This is a very rare book, written and published in 1934 by the Iraqi Petroleum Company Ltd as a tribute to the men who built this pipeline. The book gives an account of this pipeline's construction between 1932-1934, from its oilfield in Kirkuk to the ports of the Mediterranean coast in Syria and Palestine.

Included in this book are tens of photographs, showing political figures in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and company directors and engineers who worked on the construction of this pipeline. There are also many photographs which show in detail the stages of construction involved.

This pipeline was one of the greatest construction projects in the world at that time. Using the technology of the early 1930s, this pipeline, stretching over 1,000 miles, was constructed within a reasonable timeframe (less than two years). Indeed, this pipeline led to Iraq's exporting of oil to international markets for the first time in 1934 following the completion of this construction project. This also led to Iraq becoming one of the major players in the international oil markets.



These photographs show the construction of the Iraqi-Mediterranean oil pipeline, from Kirkuk to Syria and Palestine

## ANGLO-IRAQI PAINTINGS

From the artist  
**Sydney William Carline**  
(1888-1929)

Sydney William Carline (1888-1929) was a British artist and teacher who joined the British Army during the First World War. After two years, he became a pilot in the British Army's Royal Flying Corps. Following the end of the war in 1918, Carline and his brother, Richard (1896-1980) were sent to the Middle East by Britain's Imperial War Museum as official war artists, to depict aerial combat in the region.

Carline published "Flying Over the Desert at Sunset, Mesopotamia" and "Flying Above Kirkuk" in 1919 as part of these aerial depictions.



Flying over the Desert at Sunset, Mesopotamia, 1919  
Painting by Sydney William Carline



Flying above Kurkuk, 1919  
Painting by Sydney William Carline

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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

[www.angloiraqi.org](http://www.angloiraqi.org)

Or contact us at:

Email: [info@angloiraqi.org](mailto:info@angloiraqi.org)

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