

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



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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Abu Tbeirah: Italian archaeological mission in southern Iraq

On 14 February, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended a cultural event held at the British Academy in London. This event was organised and hosted by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI), which was founded in 1932.

It featured a lecture on the excavations at the Abu Tbeirah site in southern Iraq by Professor Franco D'Agostino from Rome University.

Professor D'Agostino specialises in the subjects of Assyriology and ancient Sumerian documentation. He has worked on the excavations at Abu Tbeirah, in southern Iraq, as part of the Iraqi-Italian Archaeological Mission. In this lecture, he talked about the excavation team's findings at Abu Tbeirah and what this told us about daily life in ancient Sumeria. Professor D'Agostino also talked about the team's findings at other excavation sites throughout Iraq over the last seven years.



Professor Franco D'Agostino at the British Academy, London



Excavations at Abu Tbeirah, southern Iraq

London International Forum of Sports Science & Technology

On 15 and 16 February, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an international forum held at Westminster College, London.

This forum was titled "Sports Science & Technology in the Digital Age", and focused on developments in the sports science and technology field.

The forum was chaired by Professor Dr Wisam Al-Sheikhly, an Iraqi academic and expert in the field of sports science.

Attendees at the forum included delegations from 15 countries in Europe, Asia and the Arab world.

The speakers at this forum discussed developments in sports science technology and how this can be managed in the "digital age" from both a teaching and human resources management perspective. Its impact on sports institutions was also highlighted as part of this forum, both in their speeches to the forum and in the workshops they facilitated.

Speakers and workshop facilitators included Dr Salvia Prozi and Dr Paola Giqliotti from Perugia University, Italy, Dr Bernhard Crassler from Magdeburg University, Germany, Dr David Powderley and Dr Nathir Al-Khatib from Cambridge University, England, Dr Azza Al-Wasimi from Egypt and Dr Abdullah Eid Al-Ghasab from Kuwait.

On the final day of the forum, a special guest from Palestine, Major General Jibril Al-Rajoub, head of the Palestinian sports sector, arrived at the forum and gave a speech on "Sport in Palestine under sanction circumstances".



Remembering the Great War in the Middle East

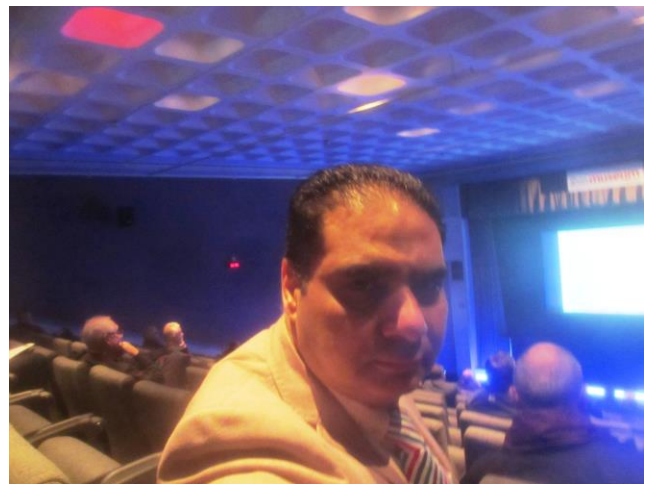
On 16 February, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum in London.

This event featured a lecture titled "The Air War over Palestine & Syria, 1918", and included photographs showing the British Royal Air Force (RAF) over the skies of the Middle East during the Great War (World War I). At that time, the British military campaign against the Ottoman Empire focused on three main fronts; Gallipoli (Turkey front), Palestine front and the Mesopotamia (Iraq) front.

The event was held to mark 100 years since the creation of the RAF, and the end of the Great War. During the Great War the British military forces sustained their second highest number of casualties in the Middle East, after Europe.

This lecture talked about the stages of Palestine's air war, and how the aerial support given by the British RAF allowed General Marshall Allenby to enter Jerusalem in November 1917. It would not have been possible for the British forces to defeat the ruling Ottoman Empire in Palestine without the RAF's aerial support. Turkey's ally at the time, Germany, sent its air force to the region. However, the German air force support was deployed in the later stages and did not allow Turkey to change the course of events.

The years of the Great War saw the expansion of what was formerly known as the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) from 1,500 in 1914 to over 200,000 in 1918. This huge expansion of Britain's air force took place just 15 years after travel by aeroplane began in 1903.



The Air War over the Middle Eastern fronts. Photos taken at the RAF Museum event in London.

Capitalism without Capital: The future of the global economy

On 13 February, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at Chatham House, London.

Chatham House is home to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and deals with global issues. It is one of the oldest global affairs institutions in the world, having been founded in 1919 in London.

This event, titled "Capitalism without Capital", looked at the rise of the "intangible economy" in the early 21st century. They point to the way in which large companies are now investing in "intangible assets" such as design, branding, software, research and development, in contrast with "tangible assets" such as machinery, buildings and computers.

As a result, many countries no longer produce products en masse. Instead their main industries are focused on providing technology, pharmaceutical services, retail and leisure. This has led to fundamental economic changes during the last 10 years.

A panel of three speakers addressed the audience. This included the authors of "Capitalism without Capital", Professor Jonathan Haskel from Imperial College London and Mr Stian Westlake, Nesta's research director. Mr Matthew Oxenford of Chatham House chaired the lecture.



Professor Jonathan Haskel, Mr Stian Westlake and Mr Matthew Oxenford at Chatham House



Nadeem Al-Abdalla at Chatham House, London



Iraqi cultural event, London

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

This event featured the Iraqi poet and journalist Mr Awad Nasser and celebrated the release of his new poetry collection, "House of the Snail".

Mr Nasser completed his studies in Baghdad in the 1970s. He published poetry works since the early 1970s, and left Iraq in 1979, going to live in exile.

Whilst living in Beirut and Damascus during the 1980s, Mr Nasser worked as a journalist. He came to the UK in the 1990s and settled in London, where he continued his activities in the fields of poetry and journalism. His poetic writings touch on the issues of human existence, love, homeland and belonging, amongst others.

Mr Nasser was introduced to the audience by Mr Sadeq Al-Taee of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (Salam House).



Awad Nasser and Sadeq Al-Taee at Salam House, London



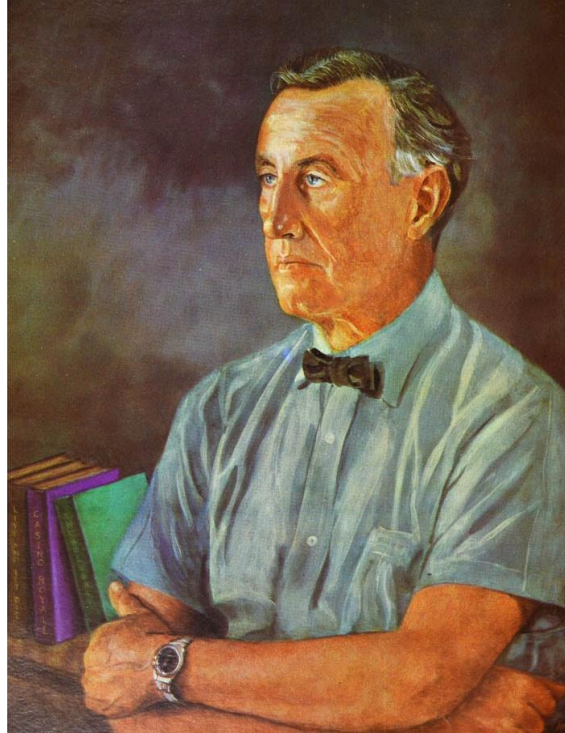
ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

Images of Iraq from the late 19th Century By Tristram Ellis

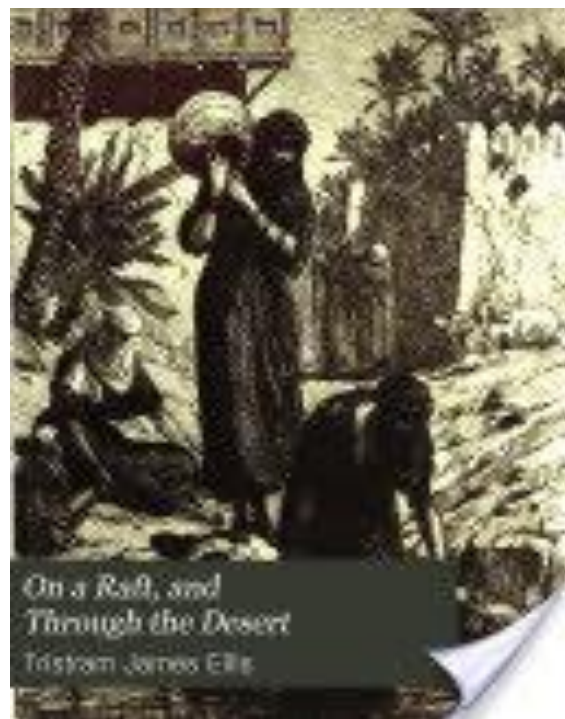
This article introduces images of Mesopotamia (Iraq) which were published in the late 19th century by the English artist Tristram Ellis (1844-1922).

Ellis is well known for his paintings of Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. He was also a qualified rail engineer who worked on London's earliest underground lines, the Circle and District lines which opened in the 1860s. However, Ellis turned to art as a full-time career in the 1870s. In the late 1870s, Ellis decided to travel and draw paintings illustrating his experiences. He firstly travelled to Cyprus for six months, and after returning to London and selling over 50 paintings of the region, he decided to embark on a trip to the Middle East.

In October 1879, Ellis boarded a steamship to Alexandria in Egypt. From Egypt he travelled by boat to the Syrian coast, then overland to Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey and through the river Tigris to Mosul and Baghdad in Mesopotamia (Iraq). After travelling in Mesopotamia and producing several paintings of the region, Ellis then left Baghdad for Palmyra and Damascus in Syria; he ended his journey in Beirut, Lebanon. Ellis published a book in two volumes detailing his sketches during this trip: "On a Raft and Through the Desert", which was published in 1881.



Tristram Ellis (1844-1922)



"On a Raft & Through the Desert": this book contains Ellis's paintings of Mesopotamia (Iraq)



Baghdad viewed from the river. Painting by Tristram Ellis, published 1881



A view of Nineveh (its excavation site). Painting by Tristram Ellis, published 1881

FURTHER INFORMATION

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“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”

