

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



January 2018

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Iraqis celebrate victory over Daesh in London

On 13 January, Ihsan M Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the Iraqi embassy in London.

This event was organised by the Iraqi community and the Iraqi Embassy in London, to celebrate Iraq's victory over Daesh.

The event was held after the official declaration from the Iraqi government that Iraq had cleared its territory of Daesh's presence.

In attendance was the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, and other diplomats from the embassy.

A book of victory congratulations was opened by the embassy for the friends of Iraq and other diplomatic missions, in addition to Iraqi community members and organisations.



Above: Nadeem Al-Abdalla pictured outside the Iraqi Embassy, London



Above: Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC with the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi

Iraqi Minister of Higher Education in London

On 21 January, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the University of London.

This event was held to mark the visit of Iraq's Minister of Higher Education to London.

Dr Abdul Razzaq Al-Issa, the Iraqi Minister of Higher Education, spoke about the work his ministry had completed over the last year. He informed the audience that Iraq now has at least 90 universities throughout its 18 provinces, both state and private, and that over 55,000 teaching staff are employed within these universities.

Also, after the former Ministry of Science & Technology was dissolved, the Ministry of Higher Education was allocated responsibility for completing the programme of ending and dissolving Iraq's former chemical facilities programme.

Dr Al-Issa confirmed to the audience that after many years of work, involving several Iraqi government ministries, his ministry have now completed their task to clear Iraq of all chemical facilities related to any military purpose.

This meeting was attended by many academics and Iraqi community representatives.

A few days after this meeting, Dr Al-Issa telephoned Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, to talk about the work of the centre and the importance of retaining records in Iraq of the British publications and documents which were produced about Iraq.



Above: Dr Tahseen Al-Shaikhly and Dr Wisam Al-Sheikhly at the University of London



Above: Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team with Dr Abdul Razzaq Al-Issa, pictured during his time as cultural attaché in London

Remembering the life of Islamic scholar and Iraqi opposition politician Sayed Mahdi Al-Hakim

On 18 January, Ihsan M Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at Al-Abrar House in London.

This event was held to mark 30 years since the death of the Iraqi political and religious scholar, Sayed Mahdi Al-Hakim.

Sayed Al-Hakim lived in exile and worked with the Iraqi opposition since the early 1970s, and lived in London since the early 1980s. He was a well-known Iraqi political opposition figure and organised many activities in this respect. His association with the Iraqi opposition cost him his life while he was visiting Sudan in 1988.

The event was attended by members of London's Iraqi community and the representatives of political, religious and community groups. They remembered Sayed Al-Hakim's contribution to Iraqi political life and as an Islamic scholar.

Speakers at the event included Dr Leith Kubba, a former Iraqi government spokesperson, and Dr Alaa Hussain who had been associated with Sayed Al-Hakim for many years during his time living in London.



Iraqi community event, London

On 13 January, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event for the UK's Iraqi community organised by the Khan Mirjan club.

This cultural event was held at The Opulence in Alperton, and featured an evening of traditional Iraqi Arabic music and culture.

Khan Mirjan is an organisation dedicated to preserving and presenting Iraqi and Arabic folklore and musical heritage, established in London in 2017.

The evening included Arabic cuisine and music, led by their maestro Mr Alaa Majid.

Traditional Iraqi and Arabic instruments were played by the singers and musicians.



Above and below: Khan Mirjan musical event



Iraqi cultural event, London

On 31 January, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended a cultural event at the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London.

This event featured a talk by the Iraqi academic Dr Luay Al-Khatteeb, who talked about what he termed "the manifesto", which he believes will address Iraq's governing difficulties. Dr Al-Khatteeb is the founder of the Iraqi Energy Institute.



Above: Luay Al-Khateeb and Sadeq Al-Taee at Salam House, London

FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

The Liberator of Mesopotamia ***(by Basil Joseph Mathews,*** ***published 1918)***

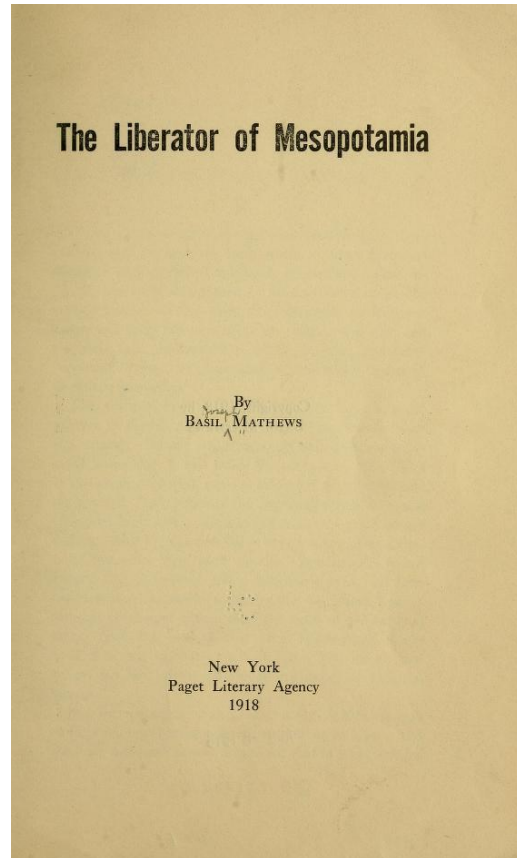
This article was written by the English writer Basil Joseph Mathews (1879-1951), and describes the aftermath of the British Army's entry into Baghdad on 11 March 1917.

The article is dedicated to the life of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude (1864-1917), who led the British Army into Baghdad in March 1917. It discusses the changes and improvements to Mesopotamia's infrastructure which Maude followed through. As the article's title makes clear, Mathews saw Maude as "the liberator of Mesopotamia" from the ruling Ottoman Empire.

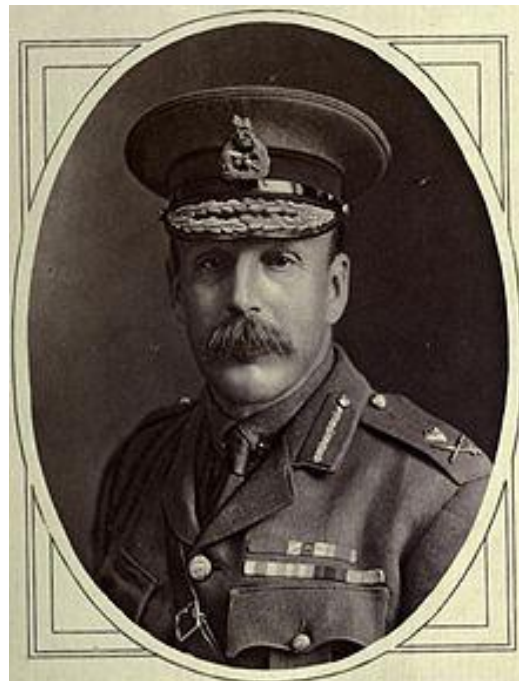
However, the word "liberator" is controversial and can be viewed by others as "occupier", depending on the political standpoint of individuals. At that time, Mesopotamia was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The British Army took control of Mesopotamia, thus "liberating" the country from the Turkish. After the end of the war, this led to the birth of Iraq as a new political entity in 1920.

Mathews was a devout Christian who saw the world in terms of "liberators", and this is shown in his writings about Maude's time in Iraq in 1917. Maude died in Baghdad from cholera in November 1917, which prompted Mathews to write and publish this article.

He is also the author of other articles and books about ecumenical and missionary roles, including "East & West: Conflict or Co-Operation?" which he published in 1936.



"The Liberator of Mesopotamia" written by Basil Joseph Mathews (1879-1951)



Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude (1864-1917) who led the British Army into Baghdad in 1917

ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

Images of Iraq from the early 20th Century By Charles William Cain

These are images of Mesopotamia (Iraq) published in the early 20th century by the English artist Charles William Cain (1893-1962).

Cain is well known for his paintings of Oriental countries. These include Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Persia (Iran) in the Middle East, and India and Burma (Myanmar) in southern Asia.

Cain lived and worked in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was the illustrator of the *Johannesburg Star* newspaper until the outbreak of World War I when he was conscripted into the British Army, and sent to serve in the British Army's Indian, Burmese, Persian and Mesopotamian fronts between 1914 and 1919.

When the war ended, upon being discharged from his military service Cain returned to London.

In London, he published over 70 paintings depicting life in Mesopotamia (Iraq), Persia (Iran), India and Burma (Myanmar) in the 1920s and 1930s. All of these paintings were published in London by Greatorex Ltd.

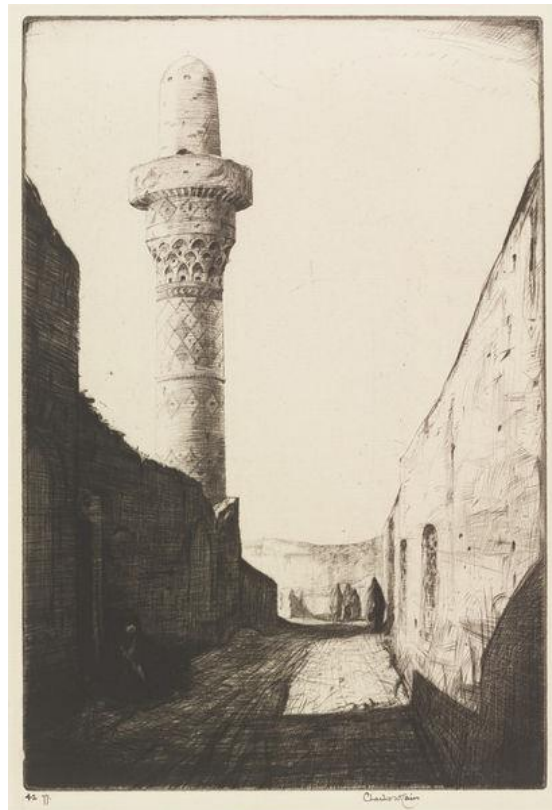
Many of Cain's paintings can today be found in the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Some of these paintings have recently been exhibited and sold at art exhibitions and fairs.



Charles William Cain (1893-1962)



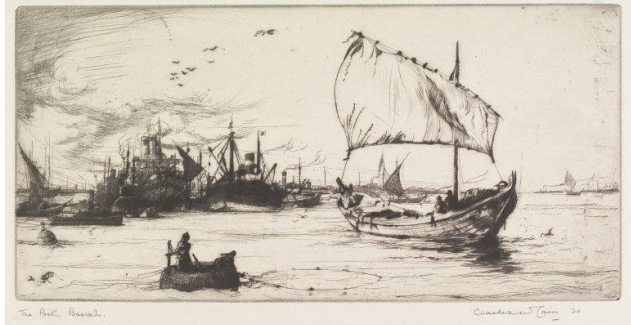
On the River Tigris, Baghdad, Iraq



The Minaret, Basra, Iraq



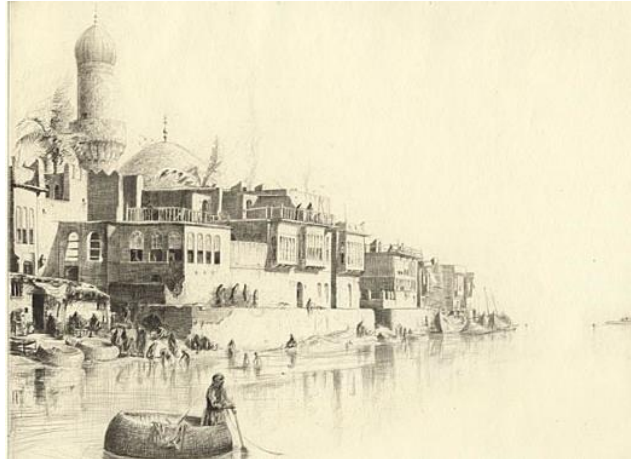
Ezra's Tomb, near Amara, Iraq



The Port, Basra



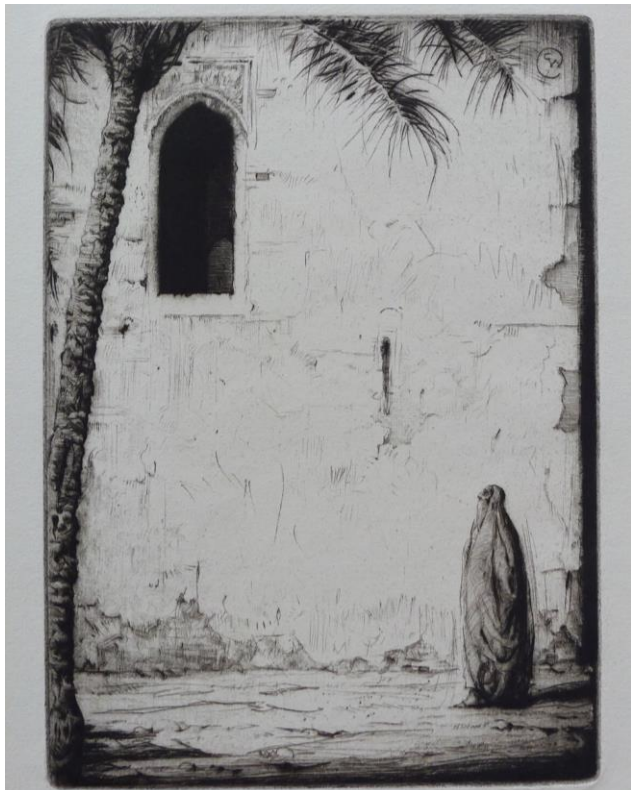
On a Baghdad roof, Iraq



Goofahs on the River Tigris, Baghdad, Iraq



Ezekiel's Tomb, near Babylon, Iraq



Through an open window, Iraq

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”

