

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

# ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

## JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER



July 2017

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## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Iraqi Marshes in the Western Publications: Western Vision, Iraqi Review

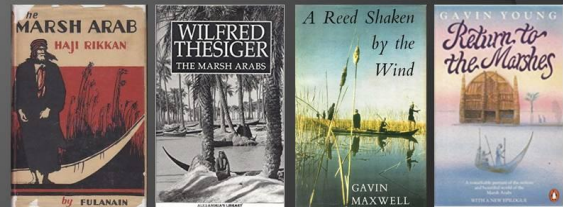
On 12 July 2017, Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre manager, gave the above presentation at a cultural event held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), known as Salam House, in London.

July 2017 marked the first anniversary of Iraq's marshes being granted world heritage status by UNESCO, along with Mesopotamia's ancient sites which were excavated by Western archaeologists in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Nadeem was introduced to the audience by Mr Sadeq Al-Tae from HDF, who facilitated the event. He began by confirming that his presentation would focus on literature written about the Iraqi marshes, not on any technical details relating to agriculture or irrigation.

### *Iraqi Marshes in the Western Publications: Western Vision, Iraqi Review*

A PRESENTATION BY  
NADEEM AL-ABDALLA, BA, MA, MCIL  
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE, LONDON



SALAM HOUSE, 10 LYONS PLACE, LONDON, NW8 8NL  
12 JULY 2017 AT 6.30PM



EVENT ORGANISED BY:  
HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE FOUNDATION (HDF)



Nadeem giving his presentation on the subject of  
"Iraqi Marshes in the Western Publications"



Nadeem's presentation was focused on the work of some Western authors who had lived, travelled and worked in the Iraqi marshes region in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These included:

"*Haji Rikkan, The Marsh Arab*" (by Fulanain, 1927). "Fulanain" was the name under which the English political officer Stuart Hedgcock, and his wife Monica, wrote this book. It describes their time living and working in the Iraqi marshes and the Iraqi marsh dwellers' ways of life and customs.

"*The Marsh Arabs*" (by Wilfred Thesiger, 1964). Wilfred Thesiger (1910-2003) was a British traveller and explorer who spent many years living and working in Iraq's marshes in the 1950s. In this book he gives an account of the Iraqi marsh dwellers, their customs, ways of life and traditions.

"*A Reed Shaken by the Wind*" (1957), was written by Gavin Maxwell (1914-1969) and described his experiences living and working in the Iraqi marshes. Maxwell also wrote a book published in 1960, "*Ring of Bright Water*" about a pet otter called Mijbil that he adopted from Iraq's marshes.

"*Return to the Marshes*" (1977) was written by Gavin Young (1928-2001) who travelled to Iraq's marshes with Thesiger in the 1950s and returned in 1973 at the invitation of Iraq's government.

"*Mammals of Arabia*" (1964) was written by David Harrison (1926-2015), a British zoologist who also visited the Iraqi marshes in the 1950s.

Also, the presentation looked at the photographs taken by Frank Hurley, an Australian photographer who visited Iraq's marshes in the 1940s.



### ***"Towards a Rational Islamic Discourse in the West"***

This knowledge presentation was delivered at AISC's offices on 25 July 2017 by Dr Sayed Ali Al-Hakim, director of the Al-Hakim Foundation in Beirut. Dr Al-Hakim had been visiting London to attend an annual Islamic conference, following which he gave this presentation at AISC's offices. There is no doubt that in these critical times, Islamic discourse has led individuals to the paths of division, sectarianism and violence, threatening the security of the world, the West and Muslim nations.

In this event, Dr Al-Hakim talked about the important role that rational Islamic discourse plays in challenging this divisive and sectarian ideology and producing a more humanistic, tolerant view of Islam and the world. He was introduced to the audience by Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, who facilitated the event. This presentation was attended by members of the Iraqi community, and also by journalist Nicholas Pelham, Middle East Correspondent for *The Economist*, who also held a meeting with Dr Al-Hakim at AISC's offices.

### ***Islamic Unity Conference***

Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Ali Al-Mousawi from the AISC team attended this Islamic conference in London on 21 July 2017. Titled "*the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Islamic Unity Forum*", it focused on the theme of "Islam and misrepresentation", which was attended by many Islamic scholars from the UK and abroad.



Dr Ali Al-Hakim from Beirut's Al-Hakim Foundation talks to the audience, 25 July 2017



Nadeem and Ihsan from the AISC team at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Islamic Unity Forum, London

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

### Iraqi community events marking the liberation of the city of Mosul

Iraqis had great news in the month of July this year. After 3 years of occupation by Daesh terrorists, the city of Mosul was finally liberated from Daesh control. This was a long and hard-fought military campaign which began in October 2016, and finally ended in July 2017 when the Iraqi army entered the old city and historic mosque and declared Mosul to be liberated from Daesh.

A number of events were held for Iraq's community in London to celebrate Mosul's liberation. On the day that Mosul was declared liberated (9 July 2017) a spontaneous gathering of Iraqi citizens took place at Marble Arch, London. The AISC team attended this event to share in the Iraqi community's relief and celebration of this great news.

On 14 July 2017, the Iraqi Embassy opened its doors to those wishing to sign a book of congratulations for Iraqis on the liberation of Mosul. Nadeem and Ihsan from the AISC team visited the Iraqi Embassy and signed the book, on behalf of AISC and its efforts to foster positive Anglo-Iraqi community relations.

This was followed by a formal event held by the Iraqi Embassy on 16 July 2017 at the Tara Copthorne Hotel in London, for the Iraqi community to gather and celebrate Mosul's liberation after three years of Daesh occupation and a long, hard-fought military campaign to end their control of the city.



London's Iraqi community gather in Marble Arch to mark the liberation of Mosul from Daesh



Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, signing the book of congratulations on liberating Mosul at the Iraqi Embassy in London



The Iraqi community celebrating Mosul's liberation from Daesh at the Tara Copthorne Hotel, London

### **Iraq Trade Conference**

This conference was held in London between 3-4 July 2017. It was attended by Iraq's Foreign Minister, Iraqi and British MPs and political party representatives, and representatives from the Iraqi and British Chambers of Commerce and commercial industries. The conference focused on the great efforts that would be needed to reconstruct Iraq's economy and trade links after Daesh occupation.



Iraqi Conference for Trade & Investment, London

### **Al-Arabi TV Interview, London**

Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, was asked to give an interview to Al-Arabi TV on 6 July 2017. His interview related to the US household goods company Hobby Lobby, who were fined \$3million by the US authorities and ordered to hand over 5,000 ancient Mesopotamian artefacts looted from Iraq. Nadeem expanded on this subject.



Nadeem's TV interview in London, 6 July 2017

### **Iraqi Embassy visit**

Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team visited the Iraqi Embassy on 20 July 2017, to say goodbye to many of the Embassy's staff who had completed their diplomatic missions in London and were returning to Iraq. This visit was an opportunity to meet with the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, and to present him with some of AISC's publications and literature.



Nadeem presenting AISC's 2016 Yearbook to Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, Iraqi Ambassador to the UK

مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



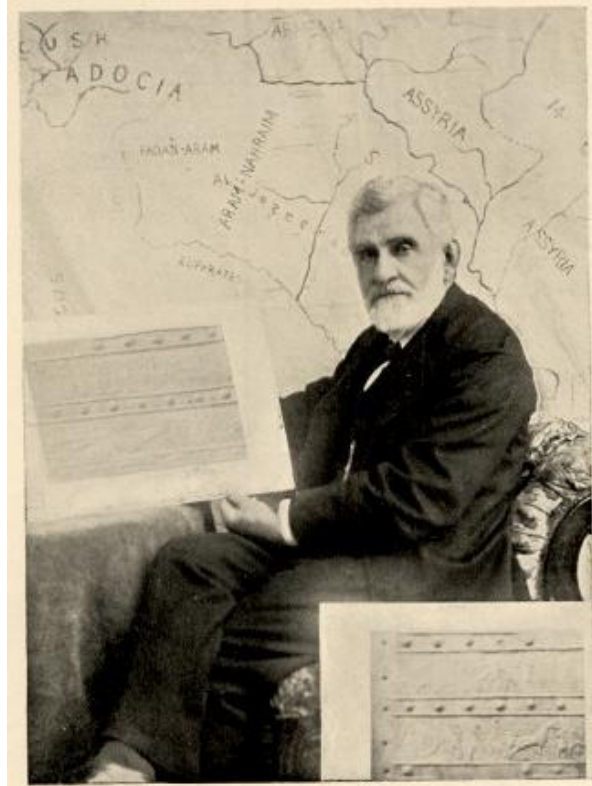
## FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

***"The Garden of Eden & Biblical Sages", published 1895***  
&  
***"Asshur & The Land of Nimrod", published 1897***  
**By Hormuzd Rassam**  
**(1826-1910)**

The above books were written by Hormuzd Rassam (1826-1910), an Iraqi Assyrian archaeologist from Mosul, who later became a British citizen and settled in the UK.

Rassam met the British archaeologist, Sir Austen Henry Layard (1817-1894) in 1846, and Layard hired Rassam to work on his excavations of the ancient Mesopotamian city of Nimrud, close to Mosul. He was so impressed with Rassam's hard work and dedication that he helped Rassam to travel to the UK and study at Magdalen College, Oxford University. Rassam studied there for 18 months before returning to Mesopotamia (Iraq) to accompany Layard on his second archaeology mission to excavate Nimrud, between 1849 and 1851.

Layard left archaeology to pursue a political career, however Rassam continued to work on the excavations of Nimrud and also Nineveh in the 1850s. Here, Rassam made several important discoveries, including the clay tablets which were later deciphered as "The Epic of Gilgamesh" by the British Assyriologist George Smith (1840-1876).



Hormuzd Rassam (1826-1910)

### ASSHUR AND THE LAND OF NIMROD

BEING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERIES MADE IN  
THE ANCIENT RUINS OF NINEVEH, ASSHUR, SEPHARVAIM, CALAH,  
BABYLON, BORSIPPA, CUTHAH, AND VAN,

INCLUDING

A NARRATIVE OF DIFFERENT JOURNEYS IN MESOPOTAMIA,  
ASSYRIA, ASIA MINOR, AND KOORDISTAN

BY

HORMUZD RASSAM,

AUTHOR OF THE "NARRATIVE OF THE BRITISH MISSION TO THEODORE, KING OF  
ARMENIA," "BIBLICAL NATIONALITIES, PAST AND PRESENT,"  
"THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND BIBLICAL  
SAGAS," ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

ROBERT W. ROGERS, PH. D. (Leipzig), D. D.,  
PROFESSOR IN DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



CINCINNATI: CURTS & JENNINGS  
NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS

1897

After excavating Nimrud and Nineveh, Rassam returned to the UK where he pursued a diplomatic career for the UK Foreign Service for several years. However, after taking part in efforts to resolve the Abyssinia crisis in the 1860s, Rassam returned to archaeology, undertaking excavations in Mesopotamia (Iraq) on behalf of the British Museum in London.

Many of the British Museum's artefacts from ancient Mesopotamia were brought to them by Rassam, being his findings from the excavations of ancient sites in Mesopotamia (Iraq). These included findings from Nimrud, Nineveh and Babylon.

Rassam's main findings, for which he is well known, include the Ashurnasirpul temple of Nimrud, two bronze strips from Nineveh's ancient Balawat Gates (the point of entry into the city in ancient times), the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, which were underneath a mound known as "Babil" and a palace belonging to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Other important finds Rassam made whilst excavating these ancient sites included the Cyrus Cylinder in Babylon (a declaration by Cyrus from 539BC), and the temple of the sun at Sippar in Babylon.

Many of Rassam's finds can be seen today in the British Museum, based in London. These include the winged bulls of Babylon uncovered during his excavations and the cylinders upon which cuneiform was written in ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq).



Site of the Temple of Ashurnazipal, Nimrud, Iraq – photograph taken in 1878



Assyrian Arch leading to Royal Palace, Nimrud

## 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:

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**Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre/  
Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation  
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Company No: 8323352**



“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,  
Where East Meets West ”

