

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



Event with UK Minister of State for the Middle East & Morocco's UK Ambassador

On 26 June, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the UK Parliament in central London, at the invitation of Mr Neville Green and Mr Faisal Al-Sargan from the Conservative Party's Middle East & North Africa (MENA) association. Speakers at the meeting included Mr Alistair Burt MP, Minister for the Middle East, and the Moroccan Ambassador to the UK, Mr Abdulsalam Abudarar.

Mr Alistair Burt spoke generally about relations between the UK and the Middle East, and his experiences and years of working in Morocco. The Moroccan Ambassador to the UK, Mr Abdulsalam Abudarar, spoke about Morocco's links with the UK and Middle East and its growing role within the Middle East and North Africa. This was a good opportunity for the audience, including Ihsan and Nadeem, to address the Minister and Ambassador regarding Iraq's connections with Morocco and the UK within the international scene.

June 2018

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Alistair Burt, Minister for the Middle East (left) and Abdulsalam Abudarar, Morocco Ambassador (right) speaking in the UK Parliament



AISC Cultural Event "100 Years of Anglo-Iraqi Relations: The Story of the Porter Family"

On 23 June, a cultural event was held at the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC). This event featured a knowledge presentation by Dr Emily Porter, titled "100 Years of Anglo-Iraqi Relations: The Story of the Porter Family."

The event was opened by Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, who presented Emily Porter to the audience. Emily is an Anglo-Iraqi expert, art historian and researcher on religion and art.

She is the daughter of an English father, Cyril Porter, and an Iraqi mother, Lolo Zanbaqa. Emily was born in Iraq, where she studied art in Baghdad. She then completed her higher educational studies in Russia, America and the UK. She worked for the Iraqi Museum between 1965 and 1977. Emily is currently involved in many organisational projects centred around the cultural revival of Iraq and the Middle East, and protecting Iraq's archaeological antiquities. She continues to visit Iraq on a regular basis.

Emily has published many articles and books, including "Babylonian Princess" about the life and times of Maria Theresa Asmar, and "Letters between Carlisle, Baghdad and Bangalore", in addition to many books and novels written in Arabic.



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Dr Emily Porter at the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre,
London

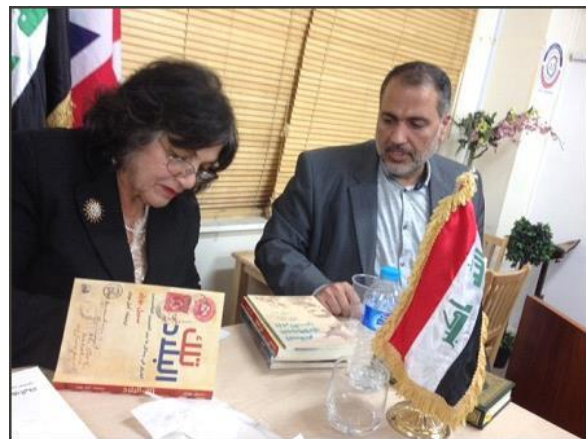
Emily's presentation focused on her father's life in Iraq (1916-1966) and her own experiences and work in Iraq and from abroad.

Emily's father and his family came from Newcastle, where she lives, and worked in the rail industry, with some business connections in India. He was deployed to Iraq during the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign in 1916, in which tens of thousands of British and Indian military and civilian personnel were deployed.

She referred to him establishing a family in Iraq by marrying an Iraqi woman. He married Emily's mother, Lolo Zanbaqa, in 1932 and they had several children, including Emily. They lived and worked in Iraq for the next 50 years until he passed away in 1966, and buried in Baghdad. Her father enjoyed Iraqi life, and he had many friends and their home was an artistic and cultural hub in the 1940s and 1950s.

In short, Emily wished to show that the story of the Porter family in Iraq over a 50-year period represents Iraq's story of the 20th century. This time saw Iraq transform from being part of the Ottoman Empire to British occupation (1914-1920), British Mandate (1920-1932), the birth of Iraq as a kingdom (1921-1958) and its transition to a republic in 1958.

After the event, a reception was held for guests at which Emily signed copies of her last book, "That Country: Letters from Iraq between the two World Wars." This is a collection of letters written in English by Cyril Porter and translated into Arabic by Emily.



Iftar Event at the invitation of the Iraqi Embassy in London

On 1 June, during the Islamic month of Ramadan, the Iraqi Embassy held their annual Iftar event for the Iraqi community. This was held at the Hilton Olympia Hotel in London.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event, along with many other Iraqi community members and activists, some of whom had recently returned from Iraq after participating in this year's parliamentary elections as candidates. The Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Saleh Al-Timimi, spoke to the audience. He conveyed his best wishes to the Iraqi community at the end of the month of Ramadan and for the forthcoming Eid Al-Fitr.

Also at the event, an honour was bestowed by the Iraqi Ambassador on Iraqi sporting personalities who reside in the UK.

Education and Democracy: Italian Cultural Institute, London

On 5 June, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team participated in a cultural event held at the Italian Cultural Institute, London. This event looked at the role of education in society, and its role in establishing and maintaining democratic rule. This formed one of several of the institute's knowledge presentations on the theme of "history and democracy". The speakers at this event were Mr Andrea Mammone and Ms Priyamvada Gopal from Cambridge University.



Iraqi Embassy Iftar Event, Olympia, London



Italian Cultural Institute, London



In Memoriam: The life of Dr Faleh Abdul Jabbar

On 7 June, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the London School of Economics (LSE) to remember the life and achievements of Dr Faleh Abdul Jabbar, an Iraqi sociologist and academic, passed away in March 2018. During his lifetime he wrote and published many books relating to social and political life in Iraq, including "The Shi'ite Movement in Iraq" and "Ayatollahs, Sufis and Ideologues: State, Religion and Social Movements in Iraq".

The event was chaired by Professor Toby Dodge, Director of the LSE's Middle East Centre. The speakers at this event were Professor Charles Tripp and Professor Deniz Kandiyoti from SOAS and Dr Renad Mansour from Chatham House.



London School of Economics, where academics paid tribute to the life and work of the late Iraqi sociologist Dr Faleh Abdul Jabbar

"Future of Intelligence": Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) event

On 20 June, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team participated in an event held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), known as Salam House, in London.

This event featured a knowledge presentation by Dr Tahseen Al-Shaikhly, an Iraqi academic with expertise in the field of information technology. He spoke about the prominent progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern society, and how its role in modern life will develop in the future to become a key part of human existence.



Dr Tahseen Al-Shaikhly and Sadeq Al-Taei at Salam House, London



ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

Edward Bawden's paintings of Baghdad & Iraq

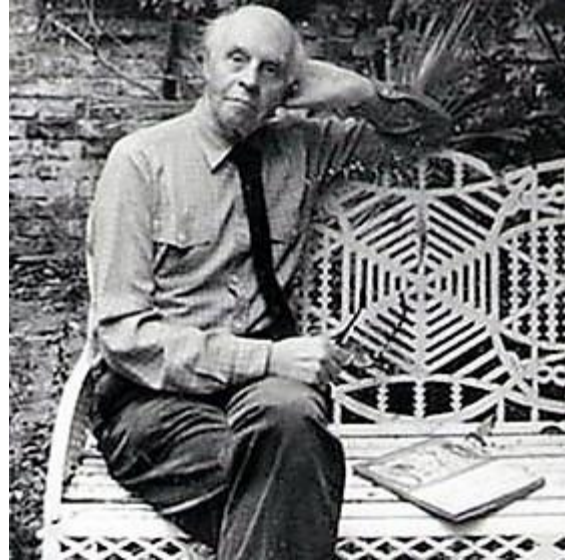
Edward Bawden (1903-1989) was a British artist who served in Iraq during the Second World War as an official war artist.

Bawden produced several watercolour paintings of daily life in Baghdad and Iraq. He graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1925.

Bawden's early artistic works included painting tiles for London Underground, which were later exhibited at the International Building Trades Exhibition in Olympia, London in 1928. He also designed posters for the London Passenger Transport Board (LPTB), now known as Transport for London (TfL).

In 1942, whilst serving as a war artist in the British Army, Bawden was posted to Iraq where he was attached to the British Embassy in Baghdad. During this time, Bawden lived on a house on the banks of the River Tigris in Baghdad, along with a fellow British artist, Kenneth Wood (1912-2008) where they met and networked with several emerging Iraqi artists, including Jawad Salim, Esa Hanna and many others.

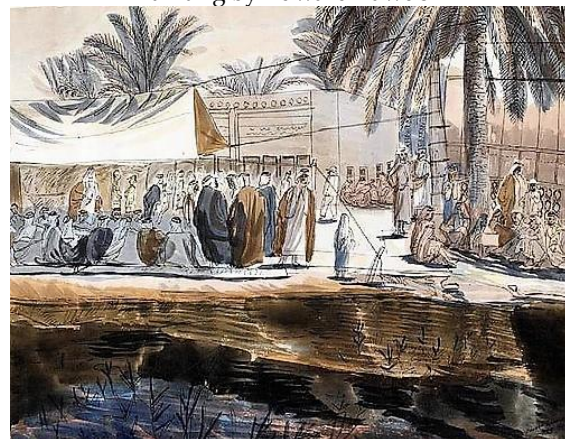
Whilst in Iraq he produced paintings of Baghdad and the River Tigris. He also undertook a study of the Marsh Arabs, and this is shown in many of his watercolour paintings of the marshes and its people.



Edward Bawden (1903-1989) pictured during his later years in Essex, England



The banks of the River Tigris, Baghdad, 1940s.
Painting by Edward Bawden



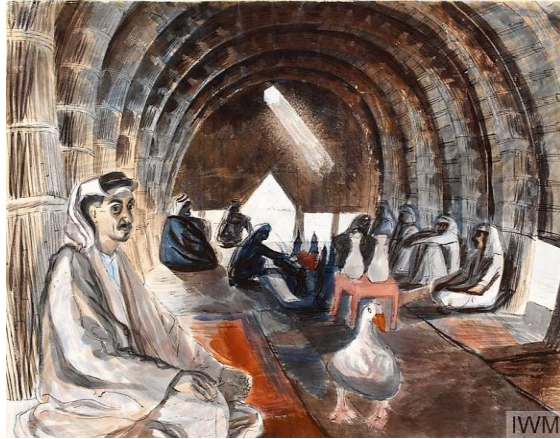
Preparing to entertain guests, Iraq, 1944.
Painting by Edward Bawden

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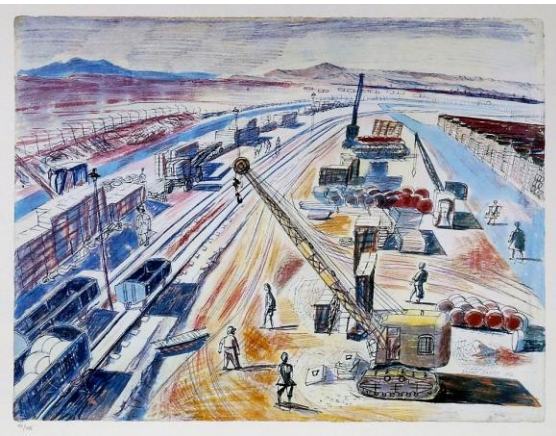




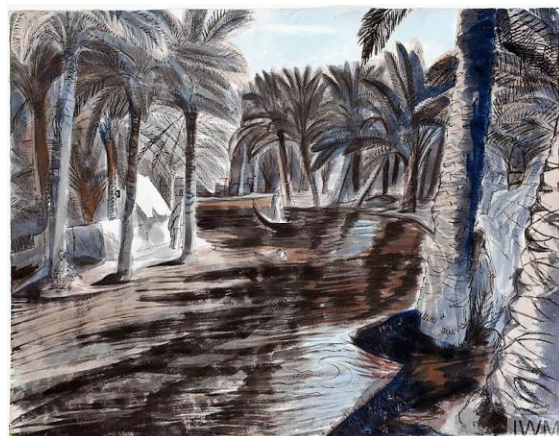
Sinjar – a view of the town, 1943.
Painting by Edward Bawden



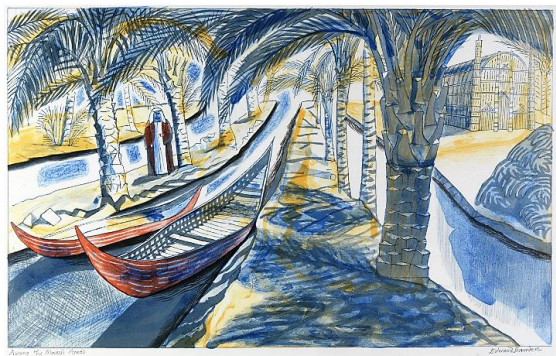
Sheikh Muzhir Al-Gassid in his Iraqi marshes reed-hut tent, 1944. Painting by Edward Bawden



Aid to Russia – the railhead at Khanaqin, Iraq, 1940s. Painting by Edward Bawden



Sheikh Muzhir Al-Gassid's section of the Hacham Tribe's creek, Iraqi marshes, 1944.



Among the Marsh Arabs, 1940s
Painting by Edward Bawden



Sheikh Raisan Al-Gassid, brother of Sheikh Muzhir Al-Gassid, Iraqi marshes, 1944.
Painting by Edward Bawden

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

www.angloiraqi.org

Or contact us at:

Email: info@angloiraqi.org

Tel: +44 20 8452 3270

Correspondence Address:

AISC, PO Box 240, 22 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JE

Centre Address:

AISC, Unit C1, 289 Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2 6NX

AISC Manager:

Mr Nadeem Al-Abdalla

Email: nadeem@angloiraqi.org

Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation Director:

Mr Ihsan M Al-Hakim

Email: alhakimuk@talktalk.net

**Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre/
Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation
Charity No: 1154526
Company No: 8323352**



“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”

