

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC) MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



March 2016

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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 outreach visits this month.



VISIT TO BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, STEVENAGE, 16 MARCH 2016

Ihsan Muhsin and Nadeem Al-Abdalla, meeting Simon Bagwell at the Business & Technology Centre, 16 March 2016

Ihsan Muhsin, Director of the Al-Hakim Foundation and Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC Manager, met with Simon Bagwell at the Business & Technology Centre in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Ihsan and Nadeem discussed the development of the AISC project, and the ways in which the Business & Technology Centre can assist us. This involved discussing the ways in which an organisation such as Charity Checkout can assist other organisations and charities in developing their projects.



VISIT TO BAGHDAD: INTRODUCING AISC

In March 2016, Ihsan Muhsin and Ali Al-Mousawi from the AISC team visited Iraq. During their visit, they took the opportunity to introduce AISC to key figures in Iraq's cultural and social sphere. This included meetings with Dr Adel Abdul Mahdi, former Iraqi Vice-President, and Mr Jaber Al-Jabri, Deputy Iraqi Minister of Culture.

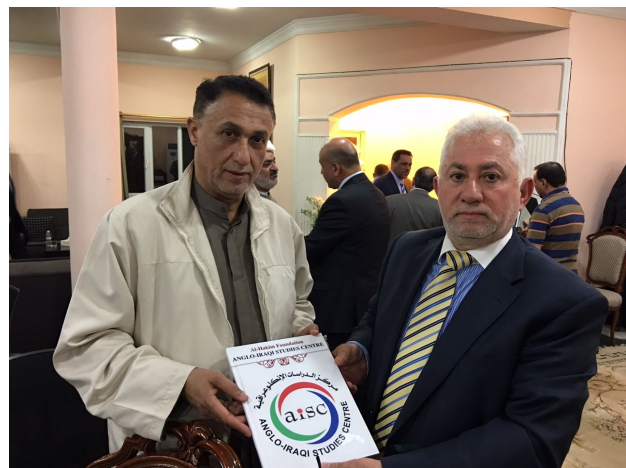
They were very pleased with the establishment of AISC, and spoke warmly of its potential to build bridges between Iraq and Britain and to increase understanding between Iraqi and British communities by introducing the efforts of those who produced English language publications about Iraq. Indeed, they see AISC as a unique point of contact helping to re-establish closer relations between Iraq and English-speaking countries. They have wished us all success in our future and as our project develops.



Ihsan Muhsin and Dr Adel Abdul Mahdi, former Iraqi Vice President, discussing the AISC project in Baghdad, March 2016



Ihsan Muhsin, Ali Al-Mousawi and Dr Adel Abdul Mahdi, former Iraqi Vice President, briefing him about the AISC project



Ihsan Muhsin and Jaber Al-Jabri, Iraqi Deputy Minister of Culture, discussing the AISC project in Baghdad, March 2016

AISC OFFICE SESSIONS

* On 17 March 2016, the Iraqi fine artist Ms Ansam Al-Jarah visited our offices and toured our library. During her visit, she looked at the English language books related to Iraq, ancient Mesopotamian art works and paintings/drawings produced by English-speaking artists in the last two centuries. We discussed the role that AISC can play in helping Iraqis to re-discover their cultural heritage and their historical connections with the English-speaking world.



Ansam Al-Jarah in the AISC library, 17 March 2016



* On 30 March 2016, the Iraqi community activist Dr Hasna Kadem visited our offices and toured our library. We helped her to find English language publications about the Arab marshes in Iraq. Dr Hasna spoke of the role our project can play in helping Iraqis rediscover their cultural heritage and in strengthening the integration of Iraqi-British citizens with the wider community.



Dr Hasna Kadem, browsing the AISC library's collection of books and periodicals

CULTURAL EVENTS

NADEEM AL-ABDALLA: IRAQ IN THE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS

This month, AISC Manager Nadeem Al-Abdalla gave a cultural presentation to the Iraqi community at the Iraqi Cultural Cafe in Camden, London on 27 March 2016.

Nadeem's presentation focused on "Iraq in the Western publications 1800-2000: Western Vision, Iraqi Review". He was introduced to the audience by the Iraqi fine artist, Ms Ansam Al-Jarah, who managed this event.

During the event, Nadeem presented, reviewed and analysed 10 rare articles derived from the AISC collections of English language publications about Iraq, which was well received by the audience; many of whom had not previously had an opportunity to access this information or to become aware of its existence.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ansam Al-Jarah, Iraqi Cultural Café, on 27 March 2016

 A colorful poster for the event. It features a portrait of Nadeem Al-Abdalla, a portrait of Ansam Al-Jarah, and several images of historical and cultural sites. The text is in Arabic and English.

الباحث الأكاديمي
نديم العبد الله
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 .

المعرض الثقافي العراقي في لندن
51

 A flyer for the event with a dark background and white text. It includes the title, presenters, venue, and date.

Cultural Event
IRAQ IN THE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS 1800-2000
.... WESTERN VISION, IRAQI REVIEW

Presented by: **NADEEM AL-ABDALLA**
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

Introduced by: **ANSAM AL-JARAH**
FINE ARTIST

Venue: IRAQI CULTURAL CAFE, LONDON
HAWLEY ROAD, CAMDEN, NW1 8RN

Date: Sunday 27 March 2016 Time: 6PM



Nadeem Al-Abdalla presents rare articles written in English about Iraq to the audience, Iraqi Cultural Café, in London on 27 March 2016



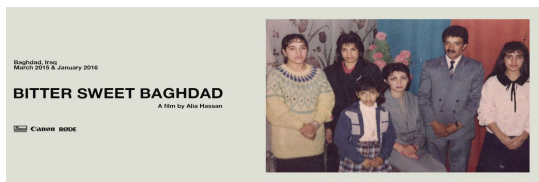
مركز الدراسات الإنكليزية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

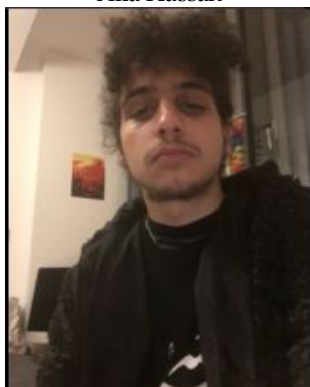
ALIA HASSAN PRESENTS "BITTERSWEET BAGHDAD": A DOCUMENTARY FILM 30 APRIL 2016

On Saturday 30 April 2016, AISC will host the 19-year-old film maker, Alia Hassan, who has made a documentary film which he describes as *"a new powerful film/documentary that attempts to understand the difference and similarity of people living in modern day Iraq and ourselves in the west. The film accounts many different people in their day-to-day activities."*

Hosting this event forms part of AISC's commitment to engaging with young Iraqi-British citizens and the second generation of Iraqi-Britons, encouraging them to develop their knowledge and become experts in Iraqi issues and Anglo-Iraqi studies, via the mediums of education, films, documentaries and so on.



"Bittersweet Baghdad", a film made by 19-year-old Alia Hassan



"FINDING MY FATHER IN MESOPOTAMIA" AN EVENT WITH JENNY LEWIS: 21 MAY 2016

This event, "Finding my Father in Mesopotamia" is to be held at AISC's London venue and 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 is a poet and playwright who teaches poetry and verse drama at Oxford University and at Pegasus Theatre, Oxford. She is the author of "Taking Mesopotamia", a collection of poems relating to daily life in Mesopotamia during the early 20th century.



Jenny Lewis at the launching of AISC on 23 January 2016. On 21 May 2016, Jenny will present a cultural event at AISC about her Anglo-Iraqi experiences

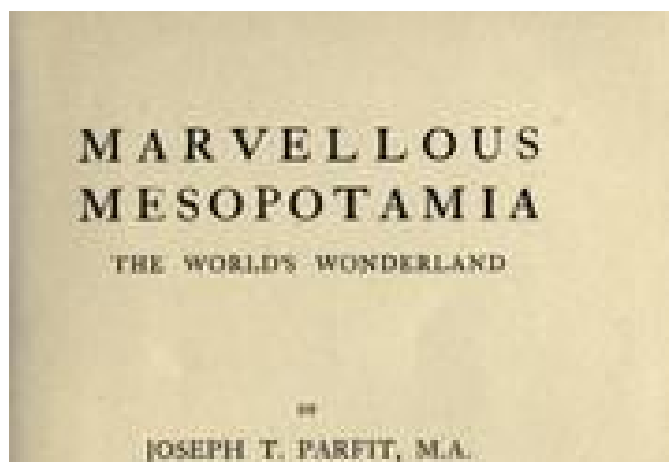


FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

**"Marvellous Mesopotamia, The
World's Wonderland"
(by Joseph Thomas Parfit,
published 1920)**

This book was written and published by Joseph Thomas Parfit, a British explorer who spent many years in Iraq (then known as Mesopotamia). In 1919, the first official census was conducted in Mesopotamia to collect statistics showing the country's population and its demographical character, including details of the country's ethnic and cultural makeup. This marked a shift in Iraq's functioning and thinking towards scientific, recorded methods and was published at a critical stage in Iraq's history and development as an independent nation-state.

Joseph Thomas Parfit (1870-1953) spent several years in Iraq and Syria prior to and during the First World War, during which time he saw the work carried out by Germany (then a Turkish ally) to build Berlin-Baghdad and Berlin-Mecca railways. In Parfit's time, a Berlin-Mecca railway had been completed via Syria, which was also part of the Ottoman Empire; the only parts of the Berlin-Baghdad railway completed by the Germans were between Baghdad-Samarra and Baghdad-Falluja. He describes this further in another of his books, **"Twenty Years in Baghdad & Syria: Showing Germany's Bid for the Mastery of the East"** (published 1917)



POPULATION OF MESOPOTAMIA

THE revised figures of a recently completed census of Mesopotamia show the total population of the country to be 2,849,282.

The following are the detailed figures :—

Division.	Sunni.	Shi'ah.	Jewish.	Chris- tian.	Other Reli- gions.	Total.
Baghdad . . .	130,000	54,000	50,000	15,000	1,000	250,000
Samarra . . .	66,455	14,215	300	80,970
Dialah . . .	54,953	46,097	1,689	397	900	104,036
Kut . . .	8,578	98,712	381	127	...	107,798
Diwaniyah . . .	1,000	192,300	6,000	5,000	200	204,500
Shamiyah . . .	445	189,000	530	20	5	190,000
Hillah . . .	15,983	155,897	1,065	27	28	173,000
Dulaim . . .	247,000	200	2,600	200	...	250,000
	524,414	750,421	62,565	20,771	2,133	1,360,304
Basra . . .	24,408	130,494	6,928	2,221	1,549	165,600
Amara . . .	7,000	284,700	3,000	300	5,000	300,000
Muntafik . . .	11,150	306,220	160	30	2,440	320,000
	42,558	721,414	10,088	2,551	8,989	785,600
Mosul . . .	244,713	17,180	7,635	50,670	30,180	350,378
Arbil . . .	96,100	...	4,800	4,100	1,000	106,000
Kirkuk . . .	85,000	5,000	1,400	600	...	92,000
Sulcimanie . . .	153,900	...	1,000	100	...	155,000
	579,713	22,180	14,835	55,470	31,180	703,378
Total . . .	1,146,685	1,491,015	87,488	78,792	42,302	2,849,282

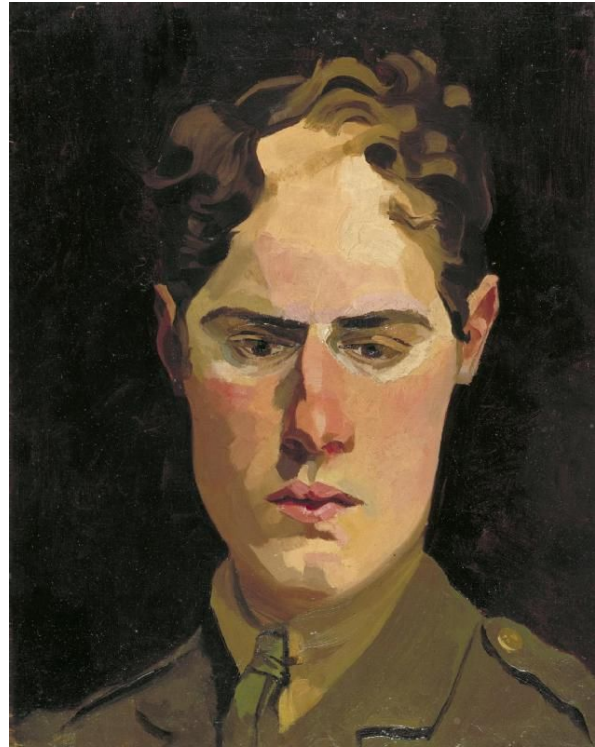
Demographical statistics about Mesopotamia (Iraq), from *"Marvellous Mesopotamia, the World's Wonderland"* by Joseph Thomas Parfit, published in 1920. These statistics are derived from the first ever population census to be carried out in Iraq by the British authorities in 1919.

ANGLO-IRAQI PAINTINGS

From the artist
Richard Cotton Carline
(1896-1980)

Richard Cotton Carline (1896-1980) was a British artist and author who joined the British Army during the First World War. After one year, he transferred to the British Army's Royal Flying Corps, where his duties ranged from designing camouflages for their aeroplanes to flying them in 1918. Following the end of the war, Carline and his brother, Sydney (1888-1929) were sent to the Middle East by Britain's Imperial War Museum as official war artists, to depict aerial combat in the region.

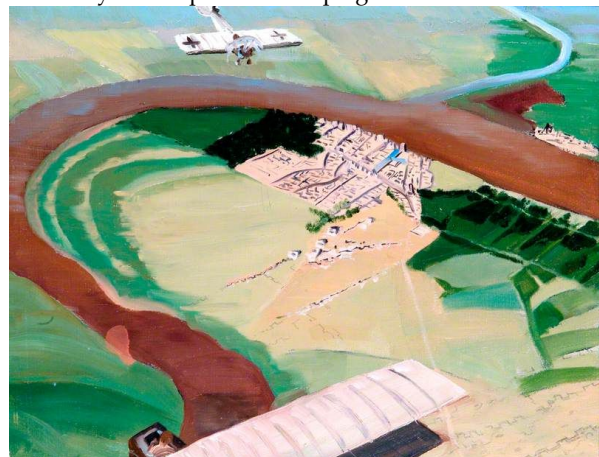
Carline painted "Baghdad from the Air" in 1919 as part of these aerial depictions, in addition to a self-portrait of himself in military uniform during the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign of 1914-1918.



Painting by Richard Cotton Carline: A self-portrait of the artist in military uniform during the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign of 1914-1918



Baghdad from the Air, 1919
Painting by Richard Cotton Carline



Siege of Kut from the Air, 1915
Painting by Richard Cotton Carline

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

www.angloiraqi.org

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