

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

# ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

## MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



March 2018

### What's Inside:

- Outreach activities
- From our library
- Further information

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

### Iraqi-British Youth & Competencies Conference

On 28 March, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended a conference at Brent Town Hall in Wembley. Held close to London's iconic Wembley Stadium, this conference was aimed at findings ways of communication between Iraqi youths in the UK and young people in Iraq, through a number of pilot projects

A speech was given at the conference by the Iraqi Minister for Youth & Sport, Abdul Hussain Abtan. The conference was organised by the Iraqi Embassy in London and the Arab Supplementary Schools Society, in partnership with the American University of Dohuk, and speakers from many UK universities and institutions.

The importance of language, sport, social life and positive Anglo-Iraqi relations was highlighted during this conference. Many individuals and groups from London's Iraqi community attended this event.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla pictured with the Iraqi Minister of Youth & Sport, Abdul Hussain Abtan



Above: Brent Town Hall, Wembley

## International Women's Day event, London

On 9 March, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the Ravenscourt Park Methodist Church in Hammersmith, London.

This event was organised and hosted by the Iraqi Women's League UK Branch. It was held to mark the International Women's Day which takes place on 8 March every year.

The evening included a speech by the Secretary of the Iraqi Women's League UK Branch, in which she referred to the challenges faced by the Iraqi women through years of war and conflict in the region, and the political difficulties they faced and how women could come together to form a better world.

Traditional Iraqi and Arabic music was provided by Savanna, Mazin and the Iraqi singer Hashim Al-Saedy. Also, traditional Iraqi cuisine was provided at the event.

The event was attended by several Iraqi community members and their families. It celebrated women in the Iraqi community, and Iraqi cuisine and culture.





## Remembering Halabja at the UK Parliament, London

On 14 March, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the UK Parliament.

This event was held in the UK Parliament by British MPs and the KRG's UK representative, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atrocity which took place in Halabja on 16 March 1988.

Speakers included the Iraqi-British MP and government minister Nadhim Zahawi, and the UK's KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government) representative Karwan Jamal Tahir.

Many MPs and peers from the House of Lords, and political and community representatives from the Iraqi communities, including the Kurdish organisations, gathered at this event in which speakers, poets and musicians remembered and commemorated the sad events of Halabja in March 1988.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan M Al-Hakim pictured at the UK Parliament



British MP and government minister Nadhim Zahawi at the UK Parliament



## **Celebrating Nawroz (Kurdish New Year) at the UK Parliament**

On 21 March, 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 London.

This event was organised by the Centre for Kurdish Progress to mark the Kurdish New Year (Nawroz) and also to celebrate the achievements of Kurdish people in the UK.

The leader of the government's opposition, Labour party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, participated in the event and congratulated the Kurdish community on Nawroz. Also, a letter of congratulations from the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, was read to the audience.

Other British MPs, including Nadhim Zahawi, Jack Lopresti and Joan Ryan, also attended the event and congratulated the Kurdish community on Nawroz.

Many representatives from Iraqi and Kurdish political and community organisations attended the event.



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn celebrating Nawroz with the Kurdish community



Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan M Al-Hakim celebrating Nawroz at the UK Parliament



The Kurdish community celebrating Nawroz at the UK Parliament



## Iraqi cultural event, London

On 30 March, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended an event held at the Iraqi Cultural Café in the Ravenscourt Park Methodist Church, Hammersmith, London.

This event featured the Iraqi artist Hani Mazhar, who left Iraq at the end of the 1970s. He lived and worked in Kuwait during the 1980s, where he produced artistic caricatures for the Arabic press. In the 1990s he relocated to the UK and continued to work with the Arab press as an artist and caricaturist. His artwork bears hallmarks of the Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian and Islamic eras which played a great part in the human history.

Hani Mazhar was introduced to the audience by Iraqi artists Faisal Laibi Sahi and Yusuf Al-Nasir. After introducing him with a short biography of his life, Hani then spoke to the audience about the stages of his artistic career and the life events which inspired his artistic works.

Members of the audience participated in this event and spoke about their impressions of Hani's artistic works, in which many international museums are now starting to express an interest.



Hani Mazhar at the Iraqi Cultural Café, London



Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Faisal Laibi Sahi and Yusuf Al-Nasir at the Iraqi Cultural Café, London



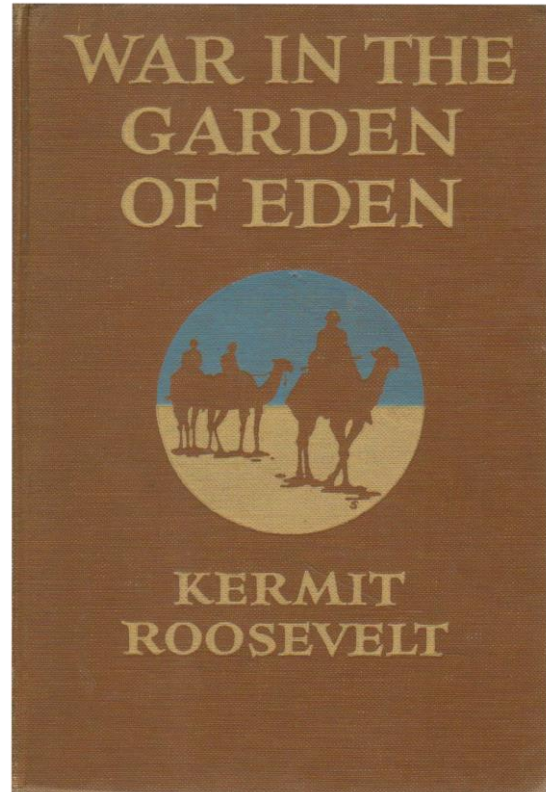
## FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

### ***"War in the Garden of Eden"*** ***By Kermit Roosevelt*** ***(published 1919)***

This book was written and published by Kermit Roosevelt (1889-1943), a US Army major who served with the British Army in Mesopotamia (Iraq) during the First World War, which ended in 1918.

Roosevelt was the second son of former US President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), who served as US president from 1902 to 1910, and the father of Kermit Roosevelt Jr (1916-2000) who was a US diplomat. His son, Kermit Roosevelt Jr, worked as an intelligence officer and played an important role in the US efforts to return Iran's Shah to power in 1953.

Mesopotamia (Iraq) is known in the biblical sphere as the "Garden of Eden", as this biblical garden was located here and was inspired by the world-famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Hence the title of Roosevelt's book, published in 1919, and which draws on his experiences as an army major in the region during the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign. It contains several photographs showing the advance of the British Army from Kut to Amarah, Baghdad, Kirkuk and northern Mesopotamia, and some aspects of life in the region at that time. This included the vast changes the coming of the British army to the country led to during the war years. These changes included the introduction of seaports, railroads and motorised vehicles.



"War in the Garden of Eden", published 1919



Major Kermit Roosevelt (1889-1943) pictured in his later years, during the Second World War. He served with the British Army in Mesopotamia during the First World War

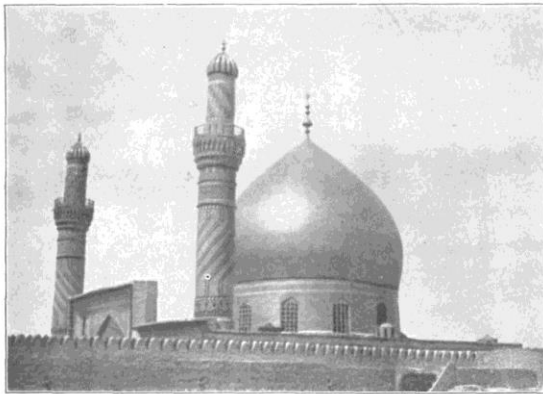




Ashar Creek, Basra



Water wheel on the Euphrates



Golden Dome of Samarra



Armoured car in Mesopotamia on reconnaissance



The Lion of Babylon



Jeweller's booth in a Mesopotamian bazaar

These photographs were published in "War of the Garden of Eden" by Kermit Roosevelt (1889-1943)

## 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 ”

