

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER



May 2017

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AISC CULTURAL EVENT

100 Years: British in Baghdad ... Birth of a new Iraq

On 20 May 2017, the above knowledge presentation was given at the offices of the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre by Nadeem Al-Abdalla, researcher and centre manager.

This year marks 100 years since the British Army entered Baghdad on 11 March 1917, which paved the way for Iraq's birth as a new, independent nation-state in 1921. Also, the coming of the British Army in this era brought about significant social change in Iraq as it emerged from the former Ottoman Empire.

Professor Dr Tahseen Al-Shaikhly concluded Nadeem's presentation by giving a brief summary of the importance of scientific research for advancing Iraq's knowledge base in the future. Also, he facilitated questions and answers from the audience at this event.



Professor Tahseen Al-Shaikhly and
Nadeem Al-Abdalla (above)



Nadeem pictured with guests (above)

Nadeem's presentation covered three key themes: Iraq's placement in the world and the former Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century, a brief outline of the British Army's military campaign in Iraq (then known as Mesopotamia in British documents), and the implications that the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign had for life in Iraq.

To illustrate these points, Nadeem showcased maps of the region, photographs and statistics showing the role Iraq played in the early 20th century and its development in the years after the British Army entered Baghdad in 1917, the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the birth of Iraq as a new, independent nation-state in 1921.

Guests in attendance at this event included Ms Aberer Al-Hussaini, Member of the Iraqi Parliament and Co-Ordinator of the Iraqi Parliament's Committee of Higher Education & Scientific Research. She also visited the centre's library and had a discussion with Nadeem about the Anglo-Iraqi publications.

Other guests included Mr Nazar Mirjan from the Iraqi Embassy in London, Mr Karwan Jamal Tahir, UK Representative of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), and many other researchers in the field of Anglo-Iraqi studies in addition to interested members of the Iraqi and British community.



Above & below: guests attending Nadeem's knowledge presentation, 20 May 2017



Ms Aberer Al-Hussaini, Iraqi MP, pictured with Nadeem in the centre's library, 20 May 2017

AISC OUTREACH VISITS

Events at the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation

“The Wisdom in Kurdish Poetry”

On 10 May 2017, representatives of the AISC team attended a cultural event titled, “*The Wisdom in Kurdish Poetry*” with poetry readings from the Kurdish poet, Bireh Mird.

This cultural event was presented by Ms Gialas Khalifa, an Iraqi Kurdish activist and educationalist who works closely with the Kurdish Cultural Association in London.

Gialas was honoured by guests attending the event for her efforts in bringing Kurdish poetry and culture to life. She has worked with London’s Kurdish and Iraqi communities for many years, and before coming to the UK spent many years as a teacher of arts and literature in Iraq.

“Journey in the History of Iraqi Stamps”

On 24 May 2017, representatives of the AISC team attended another cultural event at Salam House. This event was titled, “*History of Iraq: Journey in the World of Stamps*”. The event was presented by Mr Freddy Khalastchy, owner of a prolific Iraqi stamp collection. Freddy took the audience through a journey of the Iraqi stamps from 1900 to 1958. These stamps were firstly issued for use in Iraq by the Ottoman Empire, later the British authorities in Iraq and then the Kingdom of Iraq.



Above: Gialas Khalifa receives floral tributes from guests at her cultural event, 10 May 2017



Nadeem Al-Abdalla of the AISC team, pictured above at the cultural event of Gialas Khalifa, London

مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



Mr Freddy Khalastchy presents samples of stamps used and issued in Iraq to the audience, London

Launch of Khan Mirjan Family Cultural Club, London

On 13 May 2017, Ms Tina Lloyd (Thanaa Al-Alousi) hosted an event to launch the Khan Mirjan Family Cultural Family Club at the Tara Cophthorne Hotel in London. Representatives from the AISC team attended this event. This event featured a concert featuring traditional Iraqi music (Maqam) by the Iraqi singer, Mr Ismael Fadhel, and the musical band was led by the maestro Mr Alaa Majeed. The concert was a great opportunity for guests to celebrate Iraqi culture, folklore and arts.

The event was attended by Dr Saleh Hussain Al-Timimi, Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, in addition members of London's Iraqi community.



Remembering Khalil Shawki, Questors Theatre, London

On 18 May 2017, representatives from the AISC team attended this theatrical event held to remember the life and work of the late Iraqi actor, Mr Khalil Shawki (1924-2015). It began with a brief documentary film about Khalil, followed by a theatrical dialogue between his four adult children, concluding with a theatrical performance, "Once Upon a Dream" by Ms Ronak Shawki and Ms Selwa Jarah.



Tina Lloyd at the launch of the Khan Mirjan club, pictured with Iraqi Maqam singer Ismael Fadhel



Remembering the Iraqi actor Khalil Shawki

“Iraq after Liberation of Mosul”, RUSI, London

On 31 May 2017, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended the offices of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London.

This presentation was about “turning a fragile unity into stable government”, showing the results of a survey conducted among Iraqis earlier this year. It was given by Mr Leslie Campbell of the National Democratic Institute, and Mr John Moreira from JPM Strategic Solutions.



Leslie Campbell and John Moreira with event facilitator Dr Aniseh Bassiri, RUSI, London

Remembering Nawshirwan Mustafa, Iraqi-Kurdish leader

On 28 May 2017, representatives from the AISC team attended this event held to mark the passing of Mr Nawshirwan Mustafa (1944-2017), General Co-Ordinator of the Kurdish Movement for Change (Gorran) and the leader of the opposition in Iraq’s Kurdistan region. This event was attended by hundreds of members of the Kurdish and Iraqi communities.



Guests gather to remember Nawshirwan Mustafa at the Landmark Hotel, London, 28 May 2017

Iraqi Community standing with Manchester

On 25 May 2017, the AISC team attended an event in Hammersmith, London. This event was organised by the Iraqi Association, about the suffering of Iraqi minority groups in Mosul. The Iraqi community attending also showed their solidarity with the city of Manchester in the aftermath of the dreadful terror attack there three days earlier.



Iraqis standing in solidarity with Manchester, 25 May 2017

FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

***"The Tigris Expedition: In Search
of Our Beginnings"***
By Thor Heyerdahl
(1914 -2002), published 1980

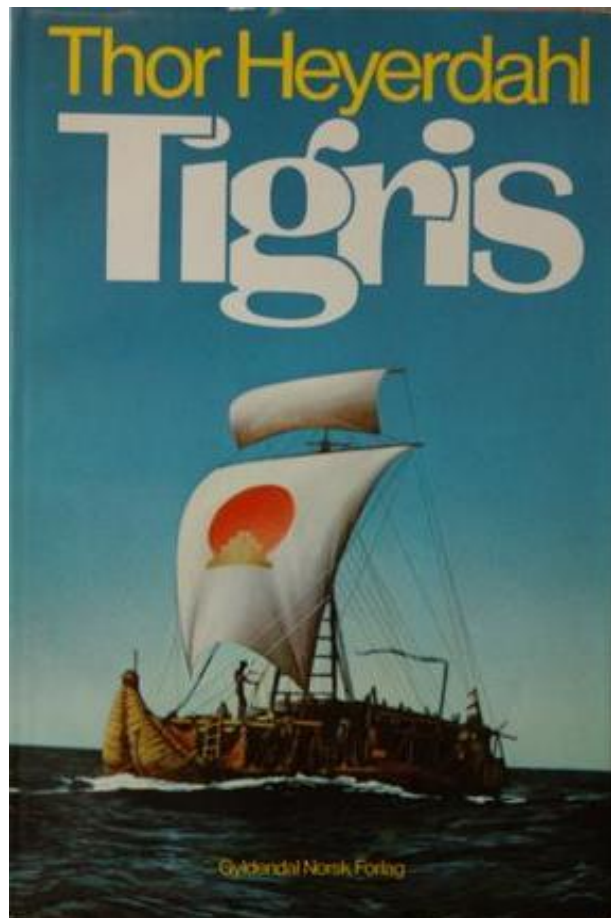
This book describes the journey of the Norwegian writer, traveller and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl (1914-2002) from southern Iraq, in 1977.

Heyerdahl's intention in undertaking this expedition was to retrace and experience first-hand the trade routes that must have existed in ancient times, connecting Mesopotamia (Iraq) to Egypt and the Indus Valley. He wanted to demonstrate that trade routes must have existed between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley (now in Pakistan and India), and with it the possibility of Mesopotamians reaching southern and eastern Africa in ancient ships.

For this expedition, Heyerdahl built a ship made of reed, called *The Tigris*. In this expedition he was accompanied by a crew of 11 men, who were drawn from many countries, including Rashad Salim from Iraq. Heyerdahl sailed this ship from the Shatt Al-Arab, southern Iraq, to the Gulf, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa, Djibouti. Most seaports in Yemen, Arabia and eastern Africa refused to let him dock; only Djibouti allowed him to dock in his ship, so in protest at this he ended the expedition by burning *The Tigris* ship. A museum in Norway has kept a model of this ship and other ships he built for his sea expeditions.



Thor Heyerdahl (1914-2002) built many ships in traditional styles, to cross oceans and led many famous sea expeditions (1947;1969;1971;1977).



Heyerdahl's expedition in "The Tigris" ship lasted from 1977 to 1978, travelling from Iraq to Africa. He gave his account of this journey in a December 1978

National Geographic Magazine article and expanded on this in a more detailed book, published in 1980



Heyerdahl's "Tigris" ship under construction, southern Iraq, 1977



Rashad Salim, the youngest and only Iraqi crew member from 11 men accompanying Heyerdahl on his "Tigris Expedition". Rashad is pictured in a visit to the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre, and attending our cultural event in May 2017



Heyerdahl's route from Iraq to the Gulf, Indian Ocean & Horn of Africa, Djibouti (1977-1978)



The Tigris, built in Iraq in 1977 by Heyerdahl, sailing to the Gulf, Indian Ocean & Horn of Africa



The burning of "The Tigris", 3 April 1978 at the Horn of Africa, Djibouti



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 ”



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