

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



October 2017

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AISC OFFICE VISIT

On 5 October 2017, the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) welcomed the Iraqi journalist Ms Suad Al-Jazairi to the centre's offices. During her visit, she toured the centre and its library.

Ms Al-Jazairi is a well-known Iraqi journalist and novelist, who has worked with many media organisations inside and outside Iraq.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla, the centre manager, presented her with some of AISC's publications and also received some of her publications, which are now available in the centre's library.

She was surprised at the large volume of books and articles written in English about Iraq and the Middle East over the last two centuries, and particularly that a great part of these important books have not been translated into Arabic. As such, there is now a need to translate the most important publications into Arabic for the benefit of Iraqis worldwide.



Iraqi journalist Suad Al-Jazairi visits AISC's library



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

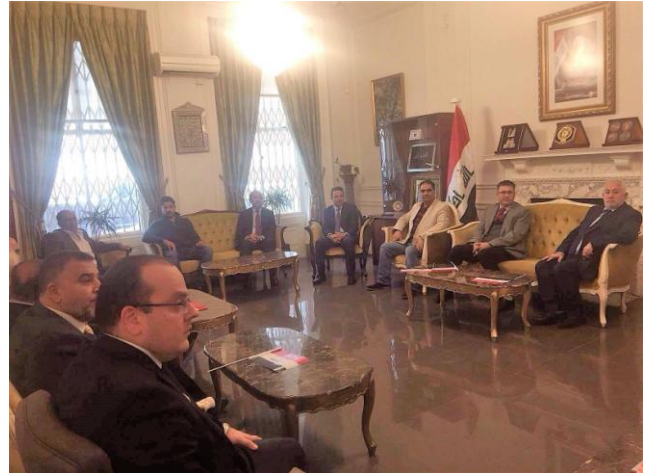
Paying respect to the Iraqi flag: Iraqi Embassy gatherings (17 & 22 October 2017)

Following the liberation of Mosul and the surrounding area from Daesh terrorists, and the recent events in northern Iraq, the Iraqi federal government issued a direction on 15 October 2017 for the Iraqi flag to be raised throughout the country, including the city of Kirkuk.

Unfortunately, some individuals acted in an undemocratic way in many cities worldwide. They damaged the Iraqi Embassy buildings and the Iraqi flag, including London's Iraqi Embassy on 16 October 2017.

A spontaneous gathering of some Iraqi community activists, including Ihsan M Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi from the AISC team, visited the Iraqi Embassy the next day to show support for the Iraqi flag against any attacks and to support the embassy staff against any threats.

As many Iraqis wished to express their support for the embassy and the Iraqi flag, a second gathering was organised for 22 October 2017. This was attended by hundreds of Iraqi community members and activists from a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds under the title "Pay respect to the Iraqi flag".



Above: Iraqi community activists at the Iraqi Embassy, 17 October 2017



Above: the Iraqi community gather outside the Iraqi Embassy, 22 October 2017

Iran's security challenges and their impact on the region

In this month, the AISC team attended two meetings in London which focused on Iran's role in the global arena and the impact of this on neighbouring countries, including Iraq.

On 16 October 2017, an event was held at Kings College London to discuss this issue. It was organised by KCL's Middle East & North Africa (MENA) forum.

The event was introduced to the audience by Dhia Muhsin, president of KCL's MENA forum and a volunteer researcher with AISC. He also introduced the other speakers present at this event; Timothy Stafford from the Henry Jackson Society, Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi from the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Paulina Izewicz from the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The panel spoke about recent developments including the Iran deal.

A further event was held at the offices of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London on 30 October 2017, also related to Iran's role and impact on the region. This was intended to project "the view from Tehran and London". Speakers included Jack Straw, former UK foreign secretary, Michael Axworthy from Exeter University and Iranian university professors Gholamali Chegnizadeh, Sayed Jalal Dehghani Firoozabadi and Kayhan Barzegar, who came from Iran for this event to present some views from Iran's academic community and their perspective on the issues raised.



Jack Straw, former UK Foreign Secretary, with Nadeem Al-Abdalla from AISC. Jack Straw was involved in UK-Iran negotiations.



Dhia Muhsin introduces the KCL MENA forum's event and the speakers to the audience

Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) events

The AISC team attended two other events held at the offices of RUSI in London this month. RUSI is the oldest global security organisation in the world, founded in 1831 and present in Whitehall since 1895.

These events included one which focused on the history of Sunn'ī and Shi'a Islam on 19 October 2017, and another held on 25 October 2017 which focused on global security issues and international relations. The event on 19 October featured a talk by John McHugo, an Arabic linguist with over 40 years of experience in issues affecting the Arab world. He presented his new book to the audience, "A Concise History of Sunnis and Shias". John McHugo studied at Oxford University and also the American University in Cairo. He has worked as an international lawyer in several Arab countries including Egypt, Bahrain and Oman, and chairs the Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine organisation. Also, he is on the board of the British Egyptian Society and the Council for Arab British Understanding.

The second event, held on 25 October, featured a talk by Sir Roderick Braithwaite about global security issues. A former British diplomat with the UK Foreign Office, Sir Roderick Braithwaite has served in Indonesia, Poland, Italy, America and Russia. He was the UK Ambassador to Russia in the early 1990s, following which he became foreign policy advisor to the UK government and Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC).



John McHugo presents his book, "A Concise History of Sunnis & Shias" to the audience at RUSI



Above: RUSI, Whitehall, London



Sir Roderick Braithwaite, former UK Ambassador and diplomat, speaks to the audience at RUSI

Centre for Turkey Studies (CEFTUS) event in London

On 8 October 2017, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team was invited to attend the sixth annual event of the Centre for Turkey Studies (CEFTUS) to recognise the achievements of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot community members in London and the UK. It was the centre's sixth annual event, and was attended by Turkish community activists, politicians and business leaders.



CEFTUS annual event, London

Shmuel (Sami) Moreh remembrance gathering

The Iraqi and Iraqi Jewish community in London gathered to pay their respects to Shmuel (Sami) Moreh, the renowned Iraqi Jewish Professor of Arabic Studies who wrote more than 30 books about Arabic literature and Middle Eastern studies. He passed away in September 2017 aged 84. This gathering took place on 19 October 2017 at the Naim Dangoor Centre in London, and included speeches from friends and colleagues in celebration of his life and work.



Iraqi Jewish professor Shmuel Moreh (1932-2017)

An evening of music & culture

The Iraqi musician Ehsan Al-Emam performed in a concert organised by "The Masters School", which was held on 20 October 2017 in London. At this concert, Ehsan performed traditional Iraqi music. He also took the opportunity to introduce one of his musical students. Also, he performed with the Italian musician Fabrizio Brusca as a dialogue between the Arab lute and the European guitar.



Ehsan Al-Emam performing with Fabrizio Brusca

ANGLO-IRAQI BOOKS

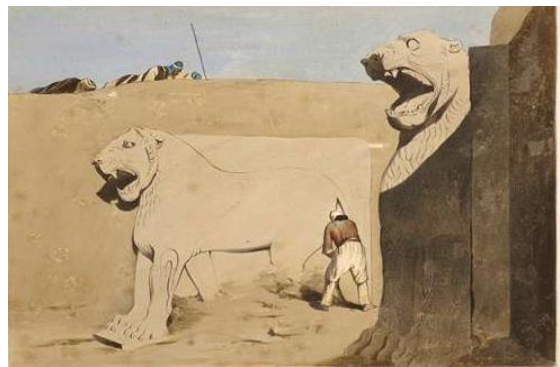
"Sketches Between the Persian Gulf & Black Sea" ***(published 1852)***

This book is a lithographic collection of 24 hand-coloured plates and belonged to the art collection of Robert Clive (Clive of India) (1725-1774). His collection covered sketches and paintings gathered in his lifetime and after his death. This book was published in 1852.

Most of the sketches in this rare book are of Iraq. This book was published in large folio size (576 x 418 mm), and contains hand-coloured sketches of Nineveh, Nimrud, Mosul, Hit, Baghdad, Arch of Ctesiphon, Imam Hussain of Karbala, Sheikh Adi of the Yazidis and Amadia. Other sketches covered Damascus, Palmyra and many other places in Syria and Turkey. However, most of these sketches belong to Iraq.

This book and other similar books are especially valuable to collectors now, because they show historic sites including Nimrud and Mosul in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. Unfortunately, these ancient sites have been damaged or destroyed by Daesh terrorists in recent years.

Earlier this year, a copy of this rare book was sold at auction by Sothebys of London for £75,000 (\$108,000) nearly three times its estimated value. It formed part of the library of the late Iraqi-British architect Dr Mohammed Makiya; Sothebys also sold this library in its entirety for £2.7 million, six times its estimated value.



Sketches from Iraq. Published 1852.

ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

Basra War Memorial for British Commonwealth Soldiers 1914-1921

The Basra War Memorial is a monument erected in Basra, Iraq, to remember 40,682 British and Indian soldiers who perished in Mesopotamia (Iraq) between 1914 and 1921. Over 30,000 of the casualties were Indian soldiers who perished during the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign of 1914-1918 and between 1918 and 1921. The British Army landed in Basra in 1914, and they occupied the region until the establishment of Iraq as a new kingdom in 1921 under British mandate, which began in 1920 and lasted until 1932 when Iraq became independent.

Originally, the monument was located at Basra's Ma'qal port which lies on the banks of the Shatt-al-Arab. It was designed by the British architect Edward Prioleau Warren (1856-1937) who designed many churches and domestic buildings in England. The memorial was unveiled by Gilbert Clayton, the British High Commissioner in Iraq, in 1929. Less than six months after its opening, Clayton died unexpectedly of a heart attack.

In 1997, the Iraqi government moved the Basra memorial from its original location into the desert (mainly for ideological reasons, to keep it away from populated areas). It has been moved to a desert location 30km away from Nassiriyah, which witnessed many battles in the wars of the last century.



Basra War Memorial, erected at Basra in 1929



Basra War Memorial was moved close to Nassiriyah, southern Iraq, in 1997



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"

