

**ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION**

**ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)**

**AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER**



August 2018

**What's Inside:**

- Outreach activities
- AISC cultural event
- From our library
- Further information

**Meeting with the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK**

A delegation from the Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation (Ihsan M Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi) visited the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Salih Hussain Al-Timimi, at the Iraqi Embassy on 31 August.

After a few minutes of exchanging thoughts about the current situation in Iraq and the challenges facing the Iraqi community in the United Kingdom (UK), Nadeem briefed the ambassador on the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre's current project of "Iraqi maps in the Western publications, 1500-2000". This project aims to gather, document, archive, present and review Western maps showing Iraq, provinces of Iraq, cities of Iraq, within the wider region covering the times of Ottoman rule, Iraq under British mandate and its transition to an independent country in 1932. This archive of Iraqi maps is very important for Iraqi decision-makers, ministries and authorities, to know exactly the change of boundaries and borders and rivercourses, to have the correct information for infrastructure projects and to guarantee Iraq's rights in regional negotiations.



## Environmental Degradation in Iraq from British perspectives

On 25 August, the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) held a knowledge event which featured a talk by Dr Jehan Baban about "environmental degradation in Iraq from British perspectives".

Dr Jehan Baban, an Iraqi scientist and environmental expert, is the founder and head of the Iraqi Environment & Health Society UK. She graduated from Mosul University in Iraq with a BSc in Chemistry, and gained her PhD at University College London (UCL), where she worked as a research fellow for many years. Also, she has taught in many educational institutions in the UK.

Dr Baban is a chartered chemist, and a member of Britain's Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI). She has published more than 60 scientific papers and articles.

She founded the Iraqi Environment & Health Society UK in 2015, and an Iraqi/international conference was held in London to address the impact of pollution in Iraq. These conference papers were edited and produced in a book by Dr Baban. Her writings cite the main contributors to Iraq's environmental degradation as climate change, which in turn has led to drought and increasing desertification of the country. Other contributing factors include war and terrorism, population growth and new industries which impact negatively on Iraq's environment.



Dr Jehan Baban addresses the audience at the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC)



Dr Baban was introduced to the audience by AISC manager Nadeem Al-Abdalla. Her knowledge presentation, which was also recorded by the Arab media, introduced the latest scientific reports on Iraq's environment which have been issued by British scientific authorities in conjunction with Iraqi experts.

Nadeem also made reference to AISC's English language publications about Iraq which relate to the environment. These include several publications about the Iraqi marshes, how they were and how they were later drained by political regimes for ideological reasons, the story of Iraq's palm dates and the experience of Iraqi palm trees being planting in the USA, and AISC's collection of Western maps of Iraq showing the rivers, canals and lakes in Iraq and the surrounding region.

Dr Baban's presentation showed many facts and statistics which show that Iraq's environment has been degraded by climate change, drought, desertification, new industries, population growth, war and terrorism. Her presentation was recorded by the Arab media, which she followed up with articles for the Arab press providing a brief of her presentation.

The event was attended by Iraqi academics and journalists as well as community activists. This led to a lively debate about the actions which could be taken to counteract Iraq's environmental degradation in conjunction with the international community.



### **Saad Razin: Physics Nobel Prize Winners**

On 8 August, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended a cultural event at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London.

This event was held to introduce the new book, "Physics Nobel Prize Winners" and its author, Dr Saad Razin, an Iraqi scientist who gained a BSc in Physics from Baghdad University and later, his PhD from Westminster University in London. Dr Razin has taught physics in Iraqi and Arab universities and institutions, and he has published many research papers.



### **Tahseen Al-Sheikhly: The Limits of Virtual Freedom**

On 29 August, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended a cultural event at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London.

This event featured a knowledge presentation by Professor Tahseen Al-Sheikhly, an Iraqi professor who specialises in information studies and the future development of information technology and its impacts on society. He is an expert in software engineering, and the manager of the Centre for Future Studies.

He has also published over 35 research papers in international scientific magazines. His presentation looked at "digital wildfires", cybercrime, and the limitations of freedom in the virtual (online) world.





## **Iraqi Democratic Movement: Current Protests in Iraq**

On 24 August, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended a cultural event organised by the Iraqi Democratic Movement UK (IDMUK). This event was held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London.

The event looked at the current protests taking place in Iraq. The speakers were Mr Jonathan Steele, former Chief Foreign Correspondent at The Guardian newspaper, and Dr Renad Mansour of Chatham House.

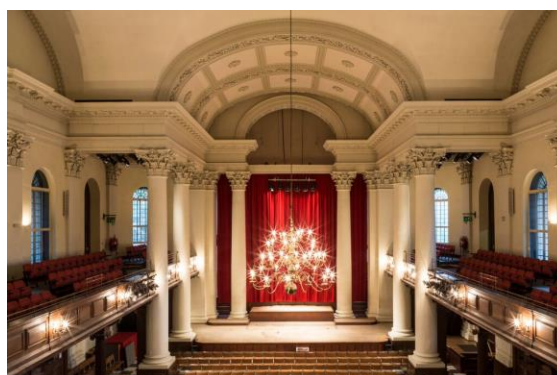
Both speakers are experts in Iraqi issues, with extensive research and publication experience in the issues affecting Iraq. Both of them have been in Iraq in recent years. This event was an opportunity to exchange thoughts between the speakers and the audience about the current issues in Iraq.



## **Launch of the Arabic Musical Academy**

The Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre manager, Nadeem Al-Abdalla, received an invitation to attend the launch of the Arabic Musical Academy in London on 31 August.

This event was held at the iconic St Johns Smith Square Theatre, which was founded as a church in 1728. It was struck by a bomb during the Second World War, and reopened in 1969 as a grand concert venue. The founder of this academy is Ms Thana Al-Lousi, who worked hard to bring her vision to life. The musical performance is credited to maestro Mr Alaa Majid, who gathered a range of Arab musicians and choral voices from the UK and Europe to create this musical ensemble, with a vision to re-invent classical and traditional Arabic music for all tastes and generations.



## FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

### **Arabia, the Cradle of Islam** (By Reverend Samuel Zwemer, published 1900)

This book, published by the Reverend Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), documents his time as a Christian missionary in the Arabian Peninsula, and also his time in Mesopotamia (Iraq). Many chapters of his book have been dedicated to Iraq.

Many Mesopotamian regions and cities are mentioned and described in his book, including Basra, Baghdad, Al-Faw, Ur, Amara and Nassiriyah. Also his book talks about the Arch of Ctesiphon, Ezra's Tomb, keleks of the river Tigris, and in one chapter he describes the so-called "star-worshippers of Mesopotamia" in what is now northern Iraq. Basra was known for the quality of its dates which were exported to America and Europe by steamer:

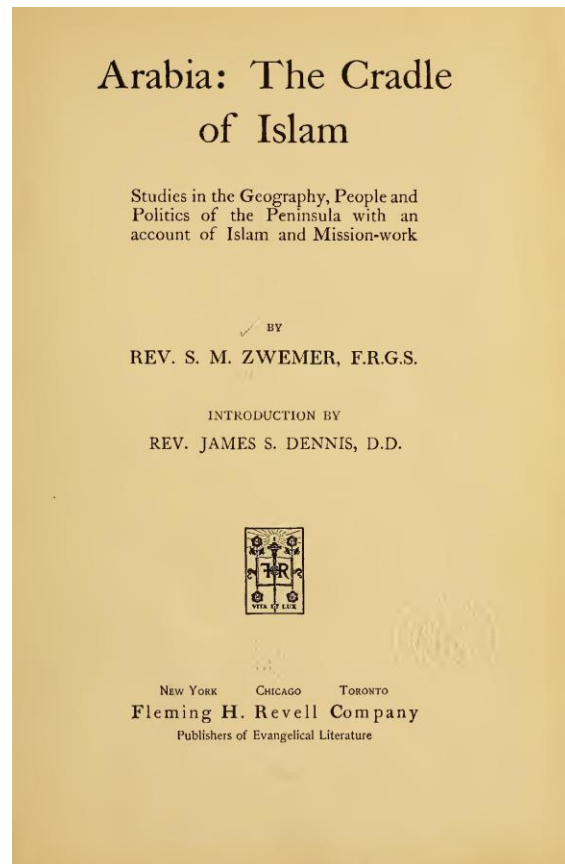
*"....The average export to London and New York from Busrah for the last five years has been about 20,000 tons, nearly one half of which was for the American market .... There are over 30 other varieties [of dates] cultivated near Busrah....."*

Americans used to consume Basra's dates during the annual Thanksgiving Festival and at Christmas time.

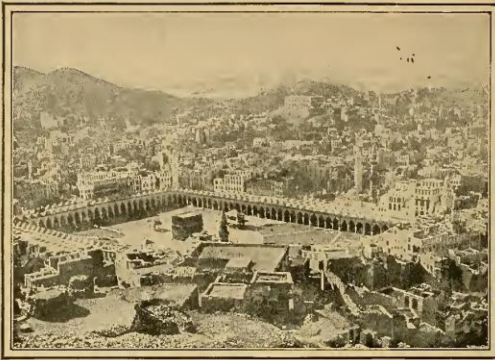
The author of this book lived and worked in the Arabian Peninsula for several years, and gave his account of the region in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Reverend Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952), author of "Arabia, the Cradle of Islam", published 1900, which describes Arabia, the Gulf and parts of current Iraq



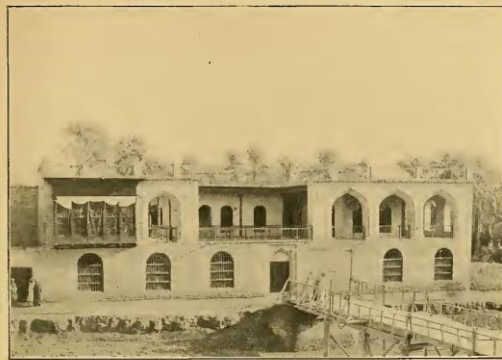




VIEW OF MECCA AND THE SACRED MOSQUE



INTERIOR OF A NATIVE SHOP



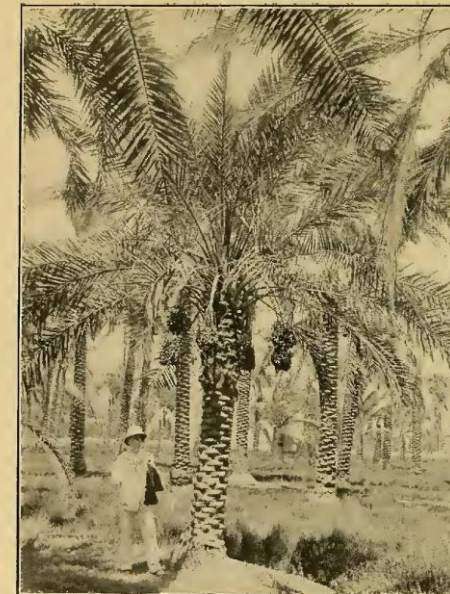
THE OLD MISSION HOUSE AT BUSRAH



THE BIBLE SHOP AT BUSRAH



THE KITCHEN OF THE OLD MISSION HOUSE, BUSRAH



A DATE ORCHARD NEAR BUSRAH



مركز الدراسات الانكلو عراقية  
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

[www.angloiraqi.org](http://www.angloiraqi.org)

Or contact us at:

Email: [info@angloiraqi.org](mailto: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](mailto:nadeem@angloiraqi.org)

### Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation Director:

Mr Ihsan M Al-Hakim

Email: [alhakimuk@talktalk.net](mailto: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 ”

