

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)
DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Al-Shadhir Cultural Diwan, London

On 1 December, an evening of cultural debate took place in London at the Al-Shadhir Cultural Diwan, which is a venue for cultural gatherings and debates. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) was invited to attend this event.

This cultural salon (diwan) has been founded by Mr Saadi Al-Shadhir, with the aim of gathering Iraqi and Arab cultural figures in an informal environment with healthy debates on many cultural and intellectual issues.

The guest of this evening's Diwan was Professor Sabri El-Hafez, an Egyptian academic who works in British universities. He spoke about the cultural scene in Egypt, and its changes during the last century, the challenges it faces and the impact of political changes by Egypt's ruling elites, and their rhetoric and discourse, on Egypt's cultural scene. Egypt was always a beacon for Arab culture, with its literature, artistry and films. It is important to find ways to maintain Egypt's cultural revival, and not to allow it to decline.

December 2018

What's Inside:

- Outreach activities
- From our library
- Anglo-Iraqi images
- Further information



Al-Shadhir Cultural Diwan (Salon), London



Arabic Day event, London

To mark the International Arabic Language Day, which falls on 18 December each year, an event was held on 14 December in London.

This event was held at the residence of the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, and was organised by London's Iraqi Embassy in conjunction with the Arabic Supplementary Schools Association.

Members of the Iraqi and Arab community were invited to attend this event, including Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC).

The event included a welcoming speech from the Iraqi Ambassador, Dr Salih Al-Timimi, and the Iraqi Cultural Attache. Young people from Arabic language schools also participated in this event, which also included a talk by the Iraqi poet and writer, Mr Salah Niazi, one of the early presenters on Iraqi TV in the 1950s. He talked about the significance and complexity of the Arabic language, and the importance of making the language easier and more accessible to new generations of Arab descent.

The International Day of Arabic language falls on 18 December each year. This marks the date (18 December 1973) on which the United Nations (UN) made Arabic one of their official correspondence languages, alongside English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.



International Arabic language day event, London



Oil in the Middle East

This knowledge presentation, held on 5 December, took place at Kings College London (KCL), and was attended by Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC). The event was organised by KCL's Transnational Law Institute.

The speaker was Professor Leif Wenar, who is an expert in the field of international law. He has published a book on this subject, titled "Blood Oil: Tyrants, Violence and the Rules that Run the World". Another book he has published on this subject is titled "Beyond Blood Oil: Philosophy, Policy and the future".

He spoke about the important role played by oil in shaping the economies of the world, and what he describes as "the outdated economic rules" which compels many countries, including Western nations, to trade with the oil-rich countries' tyrants and dictators.

The impact of this is that oil trade contributes to the maintenance of authoritarian and repressive governments in these countries, which in recent decades have suffered from corruption, civil war and terrorism. He described these countries as posing the most serious "foreign threats" to the security of Western nations in the last 40 years.

Whilst some of these oil-rich nations are taking steps to address corruption and to increase democratisation, at this time oil remains the largest source of unregulated and unaccountable power in the world.



Professor Leif Wenar, Kings College London (KCL)



مركز الدراسات الانكلو عراقية
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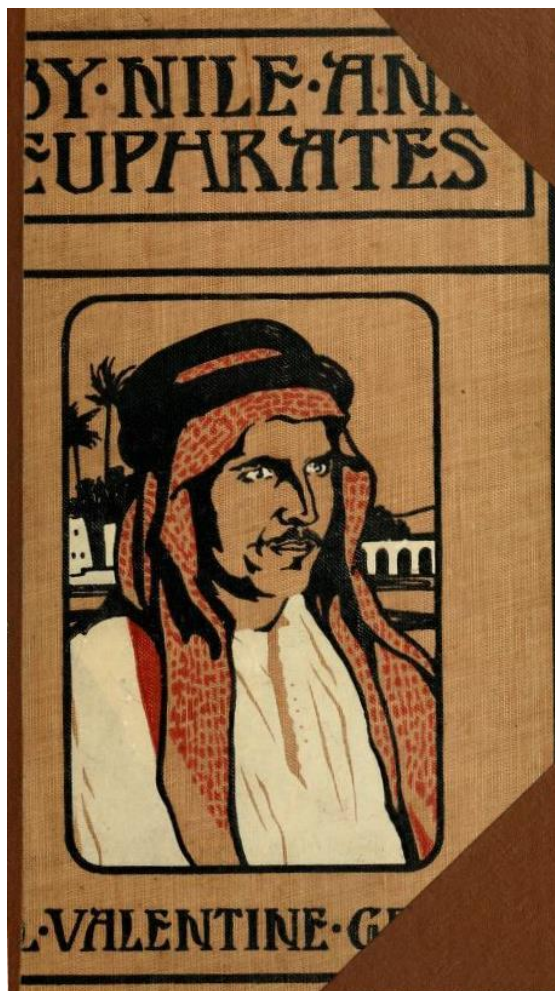
FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

**"By Nile & Euphrates"
(by H. Valentine Geere,
published 1904)**

The above book was published by Mr H Valentine Geere (1874-1923), an American archaeologist who travelled in Egypt and Mesopotamia between 1896 and 1900. This book contains the author's account of his experiences in both countries during this archaeological mission.

Geere firstly worked with Mr Flinders Petrie excavating ancient Egyptian cities close to the Nile; he then worked on the excavations of Nippur with Pennsylvania University's Department of Archaeology. It is clear, from reading his book, that he travelled from Egypt to Mesopotamia (now Iraq) through Arabia (now Saudi Arabia) and that his journey eventually took him into what is now south-eastern Turkey, to the city of Hit. He also ventured into modern-day Syria whilst travelling the route of the Euphrates.

In his later years, Geere established a society which worked to improve relations between Islam and Christianity. He also became a writer for a distinguished American journal, "The Near East" in 1908, becoming its editor in 1911 until his death in 1923.



"By Nile & Euphrates" bookcover



MARKET SCENE AT SANDAFEL.

Market scene by the river Euphrates, Mesopotamia. Illustrations from "By Nile & Euphrates", published in 1904 by H Valentine Geere (above and overleaf)

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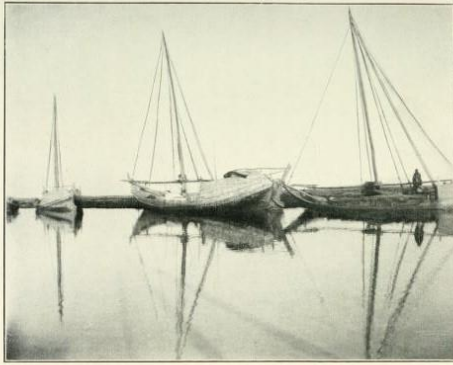




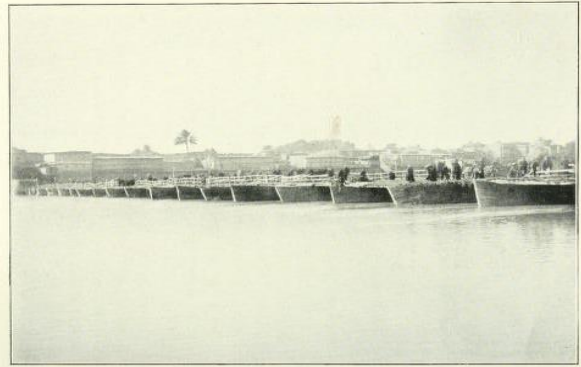
TWO ZAFFIRHS.



A DHOW AT BUSRAH.



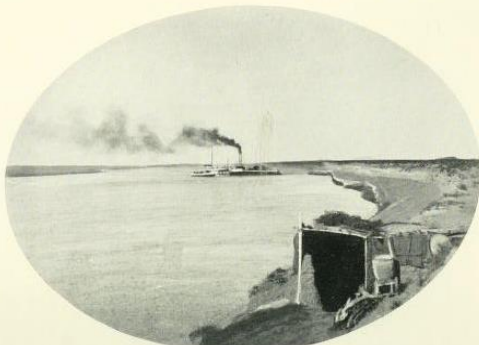
ARAB CRAFT ON THE EUFRATES.



THE BRIDGE OF BOATS AT BAGHDAD.



THE PLAIN AT SIPHER, WITH EXCAVATED PART OF THE CITY WALL.



A TYPICAL BIT OF THE TIGRIS.



A STREET IN THE "EUROPEAN QUARTER," BAGHDAD.

ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

Iraqi painter & sculptor Jawad Salim (1919-1961): Anglo-Iraqi connections

Jawad Salim (1919-1961) was an Iraqi painter and sculptor best known for the "Monument of Freedom" sculpture which was erected in Tahrir Square, Baghdad, in 1961. Both Salim's parents were artists and his siblings, Saud, Nizarre and Naziha, also became artists.

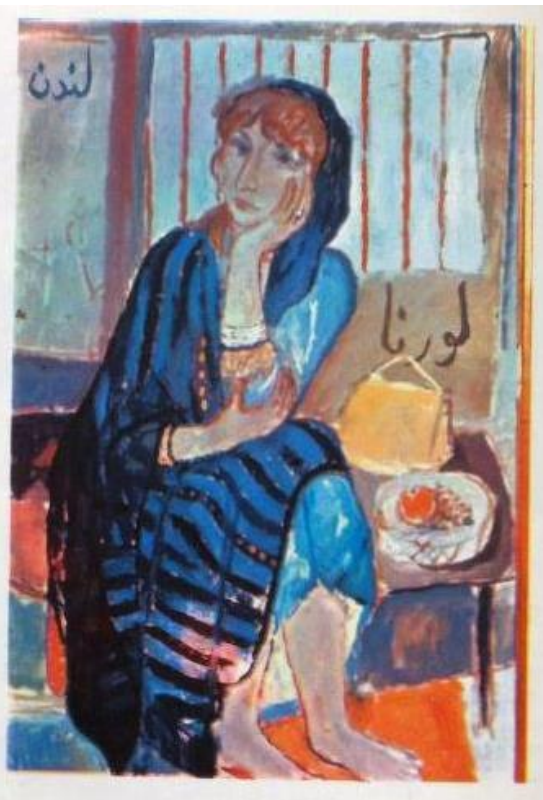
He began to study sculpture in Paris and Rome (in 1936 and 1938) before the outbreak of the Second World War, which forced him to abandon his studies and return to Baghdad. During the Second World War, many Western artists came to Iraq and Salim became associated with British and Polish artists. His associates included the British artists Kenneth Wood and Edward Bawden, and a fellow Iraqi artist, Esa Hanna.

Between 1946 and 1949, Salim studied in London at the Slade School of Art. It was here that he met his future wife Lorna (born 1928), who is also a successful artist in her own right. In the 1950s, Salim returned to Baghdad where he became director of the Institute of Fine Arts. His paintings from that time have been sold by Western auction houses, most recently for over \$1m.

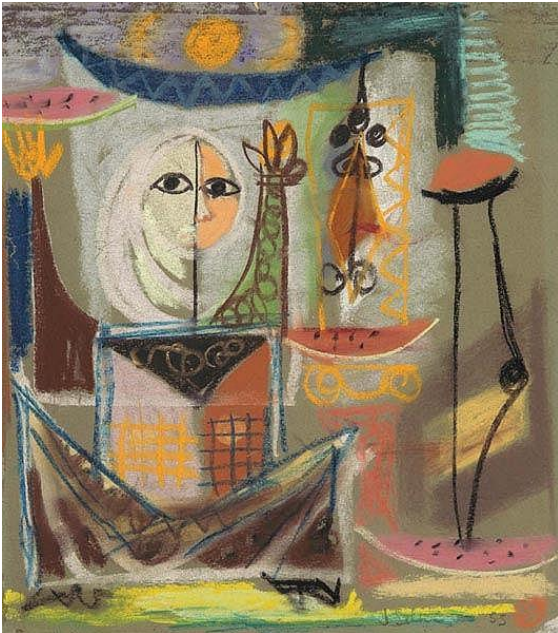
After Iraq was declared a republic on 14 July 1958, Salim was commissioned to design and erect the "Monument of Freedom" in Tahrir Square, which became an iconic centre of Baghdad. Unfortunately he died in January 1961, six months before it was unveiled in July 1961.



Jawad Salim, Esa Hanna and the British artist Kenneth Wood. Baghdad, 1943



Portrait of Jawad's British wife, Lorna Salim in traditional Iraqi dress



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Jawad Salim (1919-1961) was one of Iraq's most renowned international artists.
Top left: "The back gardens of Camden Town", an area of London where Salim lived (1947)
Top right: "Portrait of a Girl" (1950), sold by Sothebys (London) in 2011 for £235,250
Bottom left: "Portrait of an Iraqi woman" (1953), sold by Lawson-Menzies (Sydney) in 2014
Bottom right: "Monument of Freedom", Baghdad. This is one of the most important monuments in the Middle East. Nadeem Al-Abdalla is pictured with this monument in 2013

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 ”

