

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

1ST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (2019)



Visit of the Head of the Iraqi Parliament to London

On 29 January, an event was held at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador to the UK, Dr Salih Hussain Al-Timimi, in London. Mr Mohammed Al-Halbousi, the head of the Iraqi parliament, was the guest speaker at this event.

The Iraqi Ambassador welcomed guests to the event. Mr Al-Halbousi talked about the current situation in Iraq and the region, and the challenges facing the country after the defeat of Daesh terrorists by Iraqi military forces. His talk was followed by a discussion with some members of the Iraqi community in London.

This event was attended by Iraqi community members in London, including Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Ali Al-Mousawi from the Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation/Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre.

Diplomats from the Iraqi Embassy and other national embassies were also in attendance.

1st Quarterly Newsletter (2019)

What's Inside:

- Outreach activities
- AISC Cultural Event
- From our library
- Anglo-Iraqi images
- Further information



London Vigil to remember Mosul ferry disaster victims

This candlelit vigil, organised by the London Iraqi Association, was held in Trafalgar Square, the UK's most famous square, on 28 March to mark the tragic sinking of a ferry in Mosul, Iraq, one week earlier with the missing and loss of 200 lives.

The ferry, taking people to a tourist island in the river Tigris to celebrate the Nawroz (Spring Day), sank in swollen waters.

Members of the Iraqi community attended this event to demonstrate their sympathy with the victims of this disaster and their families, including Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team.

They also attended to express their unhappiness with the circumstances leading to the disaster and the lack of basic safety precautions taken by public transport providers, which reflects the lack of organisation around awarding and managing contracts in Iraq.



**"The Wolf of Baghdad":
The Story of Iraqi Jews
Cultural Event at SOAS,
London University**

On 13 March, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this cultural event at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) in London.

This event, which was organised by the SOAS Jewish Society, is described as "a memoir of a lost homeland" by Iraqi Jews; this was an audio-visual work by Ms Carol Isaacs, a cartoonist and illustrator who has published her work in many renowned international newspapers and magazines. Her business name is "The Surreal McCoy".

Carol's audio-visual work was based on her Iraqi Jewish family's memories of Iraq. Her family left Iraq in the early 1960s and settled in London. She also talked about her experiences of researching the stories of Jews from Iraq and other Arab countries, who feel they are the "forgotten refugees" of the Middle East and North Africa, as the world is now busy with more recent waves of refugee migration and has forgotten the great movement of Jews from their original Arab and Middle Eastern homelands, whether or not this was their choice.

Carol presented this event as part of the SOAS Jewish Society's "Forgotten Refugees of the Middle East" week between 12-14 March. Her audio-visual work to life was accompanied by traditional Iraqi and Jewish music from Daniel Jonas and his music ensemble 3yin, who specialise in Judeo-Arabic music.



Uprooted: 3000 Years of Jewish Civilisation in the Arab World at SOAS, London

On 14 March, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event held at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) in London.

This event was organised by SOAS's Jewish Society as part of their "Forgotten Refugees" week between 12-14 March, which highlights the scale of Arab Jewish migration from their countries of origin in the Middle East and North Africa.

At this event, Lyn Julius promoted content from her new book, "Uprooted: How 3000 years of Jewish civilisation in the Arab world vanished overnight". She talked about Iraqi and Middle Eastern Jews and their memories of their homelands, and the way in which 3,000 years of Jewish civilisation in this region has vanished in the space of a few decades.

Lyn is the co-founder of Harif, the UK Association of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa. This organisation arranges knowledge presentations and film screenings, and also advocates for the rights of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa.



Displacement of Jews from Arab countries and Iran 1948 - 2016

Jewish pop.	Date established	1948	2016
Algeria	1-2 nd century CE	140,000	0
Egypt	2 nd century BCE	75,000	Less than 15
Iran	3 rd century BCE	100,000	8,000
Iraq	3 rd century BCE	150,000	5
Lebanon	1 st century BCE	20,000	Less than 20
Libya	3 rd century BCE	38,000	0
Morocco	1 st century BCE	265,000	2,000
Syria	1 st century BCE	30,000	Less than 15
Tunisia	1 st century BCE	105,000	1,000
Yemen	3 rd century BCE	55,000	50

Chart showing displacement of Jewish communities and when they were founded (Source: JIAC, updated by the author)

* Justice for Jews from Arab Countries



Arthill Gallery event, London: Alaa Jimaa & Jalal Alwan

An art exhibition, featuring the artworks of Iraqi artists Mr Alaa Jimaa and Mr Jalal Alwan, was held between 22-23 March at the Arthill Gallery in North End Road, London.

Several artists and Iraqi community organisations and representatives visited the exhibition, including Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team.

Alaa Jimaa's exhibition, titled "Iraqi Memory", featured his portraits of past and present Iraqi political and cultural figures in Iraq's modern history and development, from all ideological and faith backgrounds of Iraq. Mr Jimaa previously produced artworks for Mosul International Airport, and he has worked and exhibited in Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Qatar, Finland, Germany and the United Kingdom (UK).

Jalal Alwan's exhibition was titled "Portraits from the Middle East" and his artworks and sculptures focused on the philosophical and psychological questions facing people in Iraq and the Middle East, and questions relating to identity, being, humanity and so on.

Mr Alwan graduated from the Dutch Royal Academy of Arts in 2012, and is a member of the Iraqi Fine Artists Association. He has worked and exhibited in Iraq, the United Kingdom and many Arab and European countries.

The exhibition was well received by the Iraqi community and those in the artistic and cultural scene.



State failure in Iraq: Salam House Event

On 30 January, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended the above event at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), known as Salam House, in London.

The full title of this event was "The root of state failure in Iraq" and featured a knowledge presentation by the Iraqi professor and former ambassador, Dr Muhammad Al-Shakarchi.

This event was held to launch Dr Al-Shakarchi's new book, "Iraq: The Origins of Failure to Build the State". Dr Al-Shakarchi is an expert in law and political science, and a former Iraqi ambassador to Kenya, Romania and the United Nations (UN).

His final diplomatic posting in Iraq before retiring in 2016 was as head of the Department for International Organisations and Conferences in Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Al-Shakarchi's knowledge presentation was attended by an audience consisting of Iraqi community members and activists. A discussion then took place about Iraq's current situation and how this can be improved.



مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

The Geography & Human History of Bahrain at Salam House

On 20 February, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), known as Salam House, in London.

This event featured a knowledge presentation by the Bahraini writer Mr Abbas Al-Murshed, titled "Bahrain – Geography and Human History", in which he gave a brief outline of the situation in Bahrain from his perspective.

Mr Al-Murshed is a writer in the fields of democratic transition and political science. He was a founder member of the Contemporary Awareness magazine, for which he was the editor until 2004. Also, he established and edited the online Al-Manama newspaper from 2001 until 2002 when it was closed by the Bahraini Ministry of Information.

In recent years, Mr Al-Murshed has written and published several books including: "Political Organisations and Associations in Bahrain (2009)" and the "Bahrain in the Gulf Guide 2011".

The event was attended by Bahraini and Arab community members in London.



**"Iraq after the Daesh War:
Future Scenarios"
Political Event in London**

On 27 January, Ihsan M Al-Hakim and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended the above event held at the "Word Club" in London, supported by Diwan Al-Kafeel.

The Word Club, a cultural entity organised by Iraqi writers Mr Alaa Al-Khatib and Mr Abu Feras Al-Hamdani, has been recently established and holds events of this nature to discuss political and social issues affecting Iraq.

The speakers at this event were the Iraqi journalist Mr Abdul Khaleq Hussain, Iraqi political science academic Dr Mazin Ramadani and Dr Goran Talabani, an Iraqi medical doctor and politician.

They spoke to the audience about their perspectives and understanding of the situation in Iraq in the last few years, and the possible future scenarios facing the country after defeating Daesh.

Also in attendance at part of the event was the Iraqi Minister of Culture Dr Abdul Ameer Al-Hamdani. He gave a brief talk to the audience about the cultural situation in Iraq, and was introduced to the audience by Mr Alaa Al-Khatib from the Word Club.

Members of the Iraqi Embassy and the Iraqi community in London attended this event.



International Festival of Creative Poets, Bizerte, Tunisia

The third international festival of creative poets was held in the port city of Bizerte, northern Tunisia, between 7-9 February 2019. It included many creative activities; poetry, artistry, folklore and cultural workshops.

Delegates came from several Arab countries, including delegations of Arabs living in Europe. This included Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team.

The festival commenced on the morning of 7 February, when delegates left their hotel (Bizerte Resort) at the seafront, and walked through the sights and attractions of Bizerte to reach the festival's first venue, which was a poetry tent in the centre of Bizerte.

On reaching the tent, delegates were welcomed to the festival by Ms Samira Chamtour, manager of the festival and the Tunisian Golden Poems Association. This was followed by a short welcoming speech from Mr Chokri Al-Taleeli, the official representative of Tunisia's Bizerte region, and poetry recitals by six poets.

The delegation then moved to a book fair held opposite the poetry tent, in the Cultural House of Sheikh Idris. This building was formerly a Catholic cathedral during the days of the French presence in Bizerte.

The book fair was a great opportunity for many delegates, including those from Europe, to find and purchase some Arabic books.



International Festival of Creative Poets, Bizerte, Tunisia: Opening Ceremony, 7 Feb 2019

This was held in the afternoon of 7 February at the Bizerte Resort, the residence of the festival's delegates.

The festival was officially opened by the Wali (Governor) of Bizerte, Mr Mohammed Kweider, in the presence of Mr Chokri Al-Taleeli, the official representative of Tunisia's Bizerte region, Ms Samira Chamtouri, manager of the festival and Dr Faiza Saad, the honoured and celebrated guest of this year's festival, recognised for her work in the academic field as an Arab professor in Egyptian universities.

The opening ceremony included a pottery display by Tunisian women from Sajnan, part of the Bizerte province; the traditional Tunisian pottery made in this region has recently acquired UNESCO World Heritage status. Also, there was an art display showing the traditional Tunisian art by five female artists.

The ceremony commenced with a series of poetry recitals, given by more than 16 poets from Tunisia and other Arab countries. Many of these recitals were accompanied by traditional Arabic music by the Algerian musician, Mr Ammar Ben Madani.



مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

International Festival of Creative Poets, Bizerte, Tunisia: Cultural Workshops, 8-9 February

The festival included three cultural workshops, two of which were held on 8 February 2019 (one in the morning and the other in the afternoon); the third cultural workshop was held on the morning of 9 February 2019.

The first workshop, held in the morning of 8 February in the main hall of the Bizerte Resort Hotel, was facilitated by the Iraqi writer Mr Ahmed Al-Sayegh, who resides in Sweden. He introduced the workshop's two speakers; Dr Faiza Saad, Professor of Literary Criticism in Egyptian universities, and Dr Ahlam Maamri, Professor of Narration in Algerian universities.

Dr Faiza Saad, an Egyptian academic who was the celebrated guest of this year's festival, started by talking about female creativity. She argued that "creativity" is both male and female and that as such, there is no need to differentiate between "male" and "female" creativity.

Dr Ahlam Maamri, an Algerian academic, talked about narration in Algerian literature and the birth of short story and novel writing in Algeria in the last 60 years. She gave examples of some quotations from these Algerian novels and short stories.

The workshop concluded with discussions and input from delegates, including the Iraqi writer Mr Hassan Rahim Kharsani, the Iraqi researcher Mr Nadeem Al-Abdalla, the Tunisian journalist Mr Mansour Gherzili and the Algerian poet Ms Nabila Sanjaq.

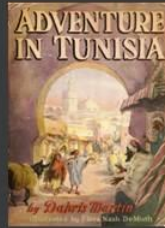




Third International Festival of Creative Poets
Tunisia-Bizert, 7-9 February 2019



TUNISIA & TUNISIAN WOMEN THROUGH THE EYES OF WESTERN FEMALE WRITERS



A Cultural Presentation By
Nadeem Al-Abdalla, BA, MA, MCIL
From The Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre, London, United Kingdom
www.angloiraqi.org

8 February 2019 at 15:00: Bizerte General Library, Bizerte, Tunisia



المهرجان الدولي الثالث للشاعرات المبدعات
بنزرت، تونس 7-9 فبراير 2019



تونس والمرأة التونسية في عيون الكاتبات الغربيات



امسية معرفية عن تونس في الكتابات واللوحات الغربية يقدمها
الاكاديمي والباحث نديم العبدالله
مدير مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية في لندن، بريطانيا
www.angloiraqi.org

التاريخ والمكان: 8 فبراير 2019 الساعة 3 بعد الظهر على قاعة المكتبة الجهوية في مدينة بنزرت التونسية

**"Tunisia & Tunisian women
through the eyes of Western
female writers"
Cultural Presentation by
Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Manager of
the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre**

This presentation was held in the afternoon of 8 February 2019 at the Bizerte Public Library, a historic building which was formerly a synagogue built in the early 20th century.

Nadeem was introduced by the Tunisian writer and publisher Mr Mohammed Badawi, former head of the Tunisian National Union of Writers, and with the participation of Dr Faiza Saad, the celebrated guest of this year's festival and the Iraqi writer Mr Hassan Rahim Kharsani.

Nadeem's presentation was titled "Tunisia & Tunisian women through the eyes of Western female writers". He reviewed the literary, artistic and photographic work of five female Western writers and three male Western writers, who wrote about Tunisian life.

These authors included American explorers and photographers Frank Edward Johnson and Maynard Owen Williams, both of whom published articles in the National Geographic magazine about Tunisia in the early 20th century. He then discussed the work of British writers Olive and Herbert Vivian, "Tunisia & The Barbary Pirates, 1899"; Frances E Nesbitt, "Algeria & Tunis, 1906"; Ethel Stefana Stevens, "The Veil: A Romance of Tunisia, 1909"; and the American writers Blanche McManus, "The Spell of Algeria & Tunisia, 1908 and 1924" and Dahrís Martin, "Adventures in Tunisia, 1930".



International Festival of Creative Poets, Bizerte, Tunisia: Closing Ceremony, 9 Feb 2019

The third and final working day of the festival, 9 February 2019, consisted of a cultural workshop and poetry recitals by delegates. This was followed by the closing ceremony, which included exchanging thanks letters, speeches and certificates between delegates and the festival organisers.

Nadeem presented thanks letters on behalf of the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) to the Tunisian Minister of Culture, Mr Mohammed Zayn Al-Abdin (handed to his advisor, Mr Chaker Chikhi, who attended the festival on behalf of the Minister of Culture). Similar thanks letters were presented to the Governor of Bizerte, the Cultural Representative of Bizerte Mr Chokri Al-Taleeli, and to Ms Samira Chamtouri, manager of the festival, and to many academics and festival delegates.

It was also an opportunity to present a collection of rare books from AISC's library, which Nadeem reviewed in his presentation on 8 February. Some of these books are more than 100 years old. The books were handed to Mr Chaker Chikhi, Mr Chokri Al-Taleeli and Mr Khaled Al-Obeidi as presents from AISC to the Tunisian cultural scene.

These books included "Tunisia, Kairouan & Carthage", published in 1908 by Graham Petrie, "Time's Footprint in Tunisian Sands", published March 1937 by Maynard Owen Williams, and "Adventures in Tunisia" published 1946 by Dahr Martin.



FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

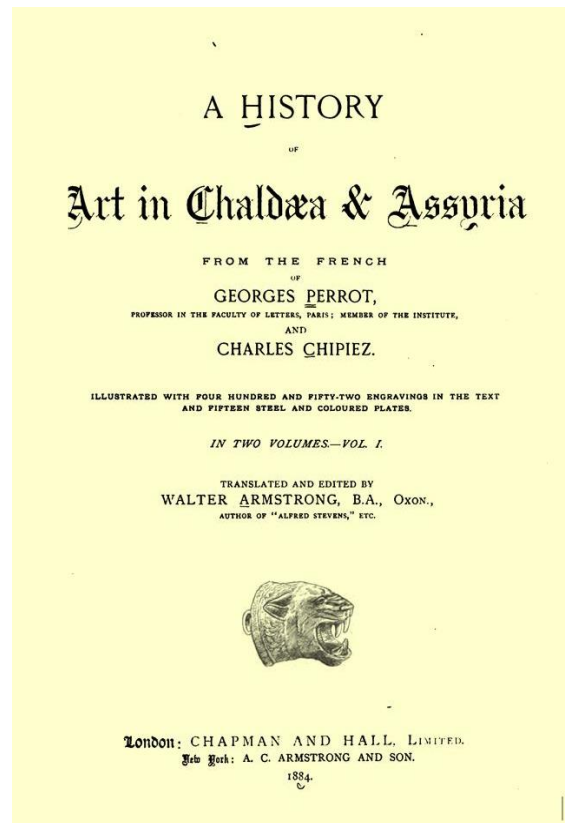
"A History of Art in Chaldaea & Assyria" (1884)

This great book, published in two volumes, contains over 400 plates and illustrations showing the artistry of Chaldaea and Assyria. The book volumes were written by the French archaeologist Georges Perrot (1832-1914) in conjunction with Charles Chipiez (1835-1901), a French architect known for his particular interest in the architecture of the ancient world. Perrot and Chipiez produced many similar publications of this nature, including "A History of Art in ancient Egypt", published in 1883, "History of art in Sardinia, Judea, Syria, and Asia Minor", published in 1890 and "History of Art in Persia", published in 1892. This book has been translated from French to English by the British art historian Walter Armstrong (1850-1918).

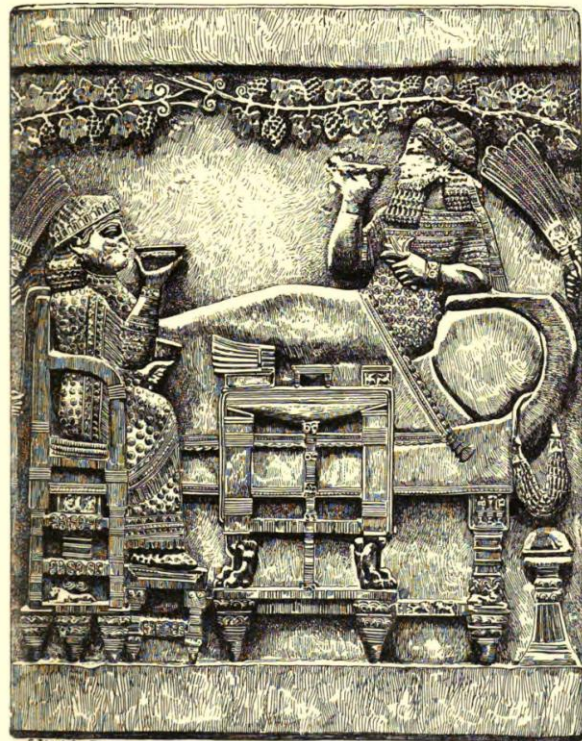
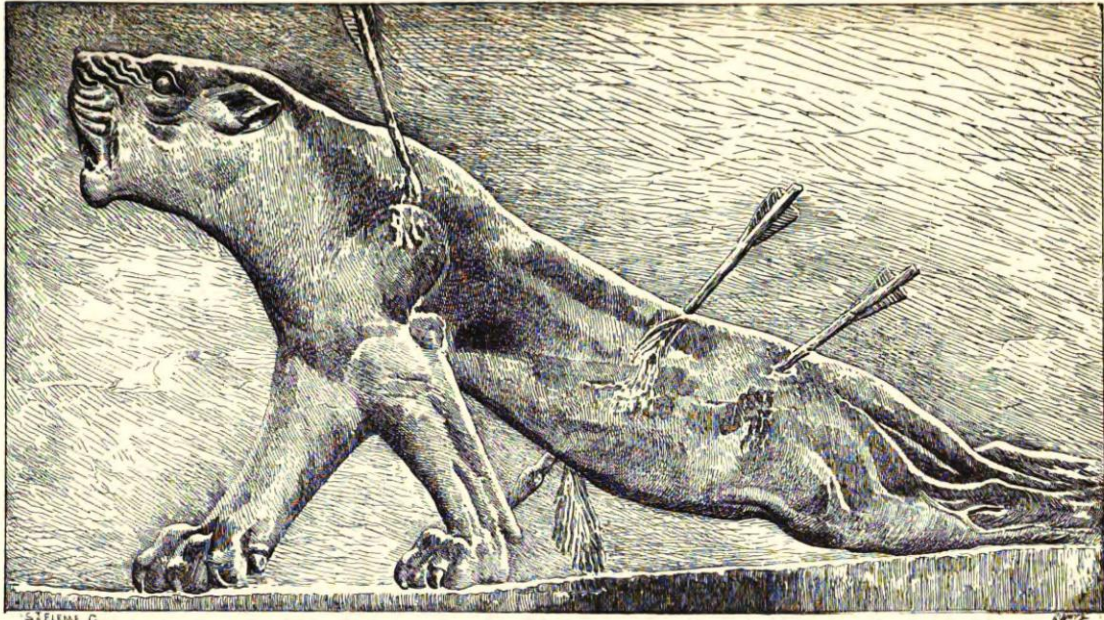
Most of the illustrations in this book are by the French artist Saint-Elme Gautier (1849-1903), who produced hundreds of artistic impressions based on exact copies of original Assyrian and Chaldaean friezes and sculptures from the collections of the Louvre Museum and British Museum, which he spent hundreds of hours to produce. Saint-Elme Gautier illustrated many books, and was also a cartoonist exhibiting his cartoons in the "Le Figaro" newspaper.



مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

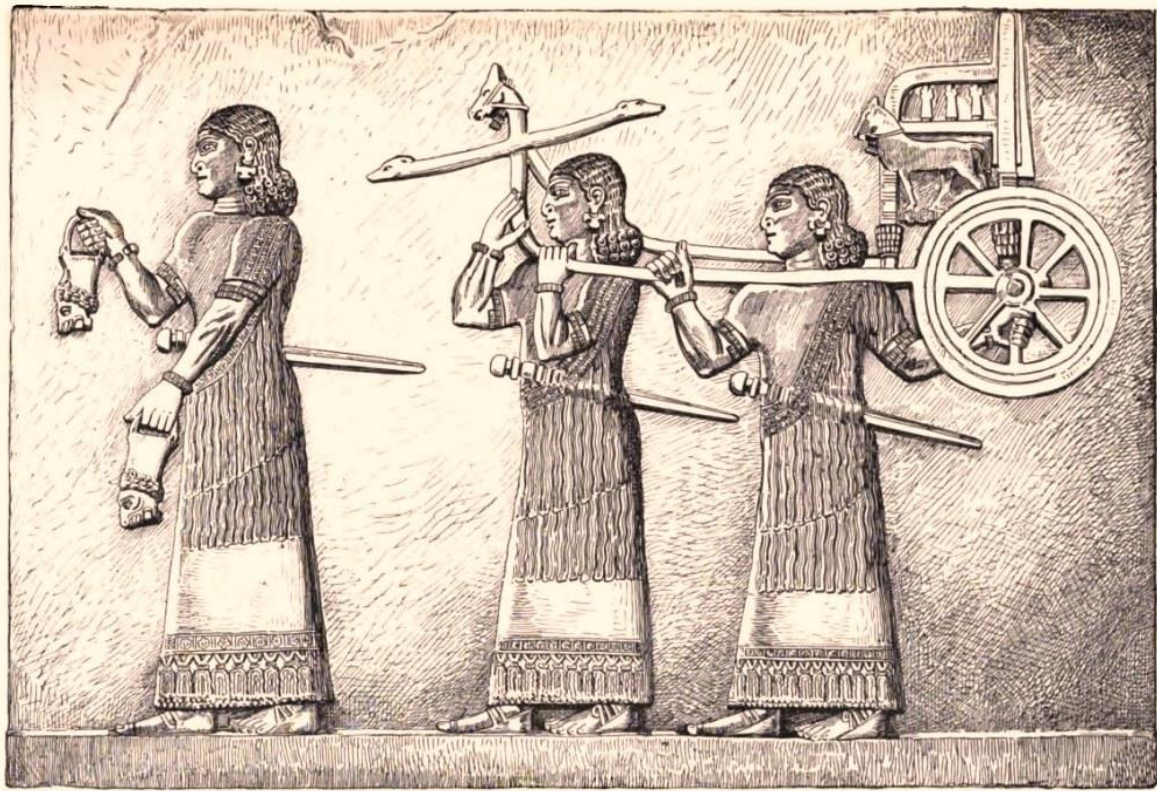


From Layard



Saint-Elme Gautier paintings

French illustrator and painter, who painted the Assyrian and Chaldaean art in the French and British museums in the 1870s. This page shows paintings he produced of the Assyrian friezes in the British Museum; the next page shows paintings he produced of the Assyrian friezes in the Louvre Museum.

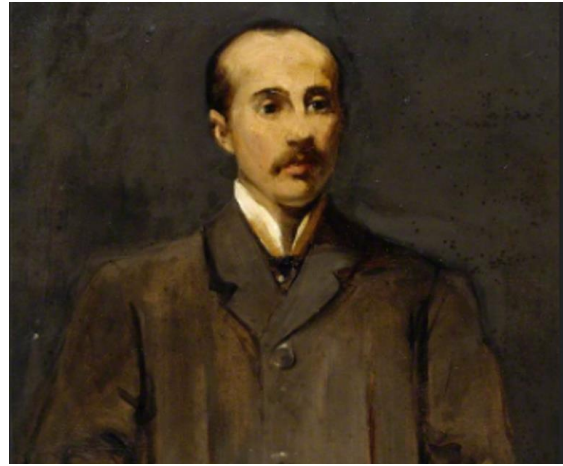


ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

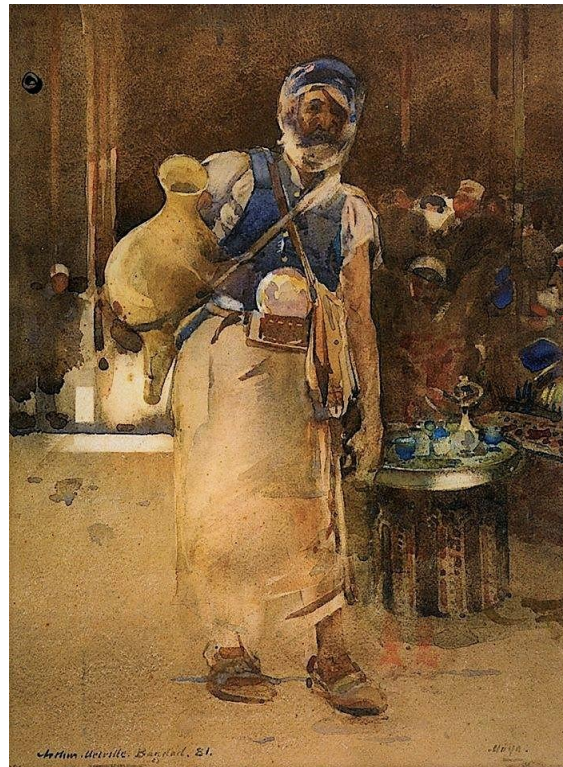
From the British artist Arthur Melville (1855-1904)

Arthur Melville (1855-1904) was a Scottish artist, known for his travels in eastern lands. Melville studied art in Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, before moving to Paris in 1878 where he became part of the Grez-sur-Long artists' colony. He produced a large collection of artworks, which he then sold to fund his travel to Egypt, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Turkey in 1881. He reached Baghdad in April 1882, writing in his journal 'we sighted the minarets of Baghdad. What before had been to us only a name of the "thousand and one nights" became at once a reality'. Although disappointed that the city little resembled the romantic fantasy of the Arabian Nights, Melville made numerous sketches of Baghdad's scenery and people.

Melville developed a unique method of watercolour painting, to show the way the light shines in the humid Middle Eastern sunshine. This technique is known as "blottesque" and involves using dabs of pigment on wet paper, then blotting them with a sponge. From 1884 until his death from typhoid in 1904, Melville worked closely with a group of artists known as "the Glasgow Boys", dispersed between Scotland and England. Many of Melville's artworks are exhibited in the National Galleries of Scotland, England and Australia.



Arthur Melville (1855-1904)



"A Gentleman of Baghdad", 1883



"Dawn over Mosul", 1883



مركز الدراسات الانكلوعراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



Paintings of Baghdad (1882 & 1883) by the Scottish artist Arthur Melville (1855-1904)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

www.angloiraqi.org

Or contact us at:

Email: 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

Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation Director:

Mr Ihsan M Al-Hakim

Email: 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 ”



www.angloiraqi.org

London
United Kingdom

