

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



November 2018

What's Inside:

- Media visit to AISC
- Outreach activities
- From our library
- Further information

Media visit to the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre

On 16 November, the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) welcomed Dr Abdul Hameed Al-Sayeh, editor-in-chief of the Al-Mahjer magazine, and Mr Alaa Al-Khatib, editor of the London Lifestyle magazine, to the centre's offices and library.

They spent a few hours with Nadeem Al-Abdalla, AISC manager, in the centre's library reviewing tens of English language publications about Iraq. Dr Al-Sayeh talked about his project, "Iraqi renaissance era" and how the library's publications can contribute to this project.

Dr Al-Sayeh also conducted an interview with Nadeem for the Al-Mahjer magazine, of which he is the editor-in-chief. This is an Arabic magazine, issued in London, related to the Iraqi community. His interview with Nadeem included questions related to the centre, its library and how this can be part of the new "Iraqi renaissance". Mr Alaa Al-Khatib discussed the role that media publications such as those held in AISC's library and their magazines play in raising public awareness of Iraqi issues.



Dr Abdul Hameed Al-Sayeh & Nadeem Al-Abdalla



Dr Abdul Hameed Al-Sayeh and Mr Alaa Al-Khatib

Iraqi education conference, London

An educational conference on the theme of "raising standards in Iraqi education" was held at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, on 4 November. This conference was organised by the Association of Iraqi Academics in London.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team was pleased to receive an invitation to this conference from the Association of Iraqi Academics. The Iraqi Ambassador's representative, Mr Nazar Mirjan, and the Iraqi Cultural Attache, Dr Nahi Al-Rikabi, also attended and gave speeches to delegates.

The conference included 9 subject areas relating to all aspects of education below university level (primary, secondary and tertiary). Four sessions were held for delegates, covering teacher training, academic and vocational education, special education needs provision and the role played by Arabic supplementary schools.

These sessions were facilitated by Dr Ahmed Jahely, Mr Abdullah Mohsin, Ms Najat Al-Saffar and Dr Abdul Hussain Al-Taee. The speakers were Dr Mohammed Al-Rubaei, Dr Nadia Al-Ali, Dr Douglas Chalmers and Mr Darren Northcott from the National Association of Schoolmasters & Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), Mr Saleh Dhamad from the Universities & Colleges Union (UCU), Dr Tahseen Al-Sheikhly, Dr Abdullah Al-Mousawi, Mr Abdul-Ilah Tawfik and Mr Sami Faris.



Iraqi educational conference, SOAS, London

Iraq environment conference, University College London (UCL)

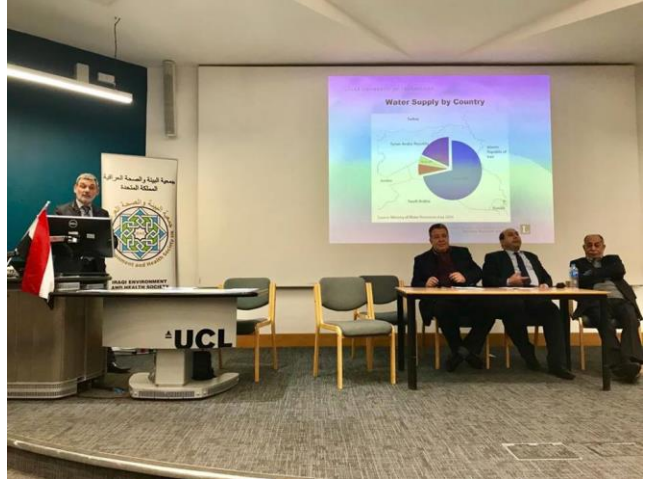
This environmental conference, titled "Desertification in Iraq between Water Scarcity & Climate Change" was held at University College London (UCL) on 11 November 2018.

The conference was organised and facilitated by the Iraqi Environment & Health Society (IEHS). Invitations to the conference were extended to many Iraqi and British academics and interested parties, including Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC).

This conference consisted of three sessions, discussing the environmental challenges facing Iraq. Many subjects were covered in these sessions, including "desertification", "water resources", "climate change", "legal aspects of water and environment", "water pollution", "soil pollution" and "dust storms".

Speakers at the conference included former irrigation minister Dr Latif Rashid; Dr Saad Alsam; Professor Tahseen Al-Sheikhly; Professor Salman Al-Rawaf; Professor Riad Al-Zuhairi; Professor Rafid Al-Khaddar; Professor Nadhir Al-Ansari; Professor Numan Jabbar; and Dr Hamid Al-Kifaey.

Shortly after the end of this conference, a statement was issued to the media setting out the recommendations arising from these sessions.



Iraq environment conference at University College London (UCL)



مركز الدراسات الانكلو عراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

Lecture about Iraqi WMD (1991 – 2003)

On 13 November, an event titled “Disarming Iraq after the Gulf War” was held at University College London’s School of Archaeology. This event was organised by UCL’s Global Governance Institute.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event, which featured a talk by Dr Malfried Braut-Hegghammer of Oslo University. Dr Braut-Hegghammer has worked for many years on the subject of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction which led to UN sanctions, resolutions and the eventual second war between Iraq and the UK/US in 2003, which led to the removal of the former presidential regime of Saddam Hussein. Her lecture focused on the 12 years marking the end of the Gulf War in 1991 and the second war of 2003.



RUSI event: “The Hall of Mirrors” book launch

This event was held at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London on 29 November. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team was present at this event.

On 11 November 2018, the world marked 100 years since the end of the First World War and it was in this vein that Mr Jim Storr, a former British Army officer, launched his book titled “The Hall of Mirrors”. Mr Storr’s book, and his lecture, analysed the wars and warfare of the 20th century and its outcomes. These include the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East; the birth of eight new countries in Europe; the end of Japanese and German military might, and the expansion of Russian power.



Education in Iraq: A Problem in Search of Solutions

This event was held on 7 November at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event.

The event featured a knowledge presentation by Professor Mohammed Al-Rubaei, on the subject of education in Iraq and its current challenges.

Professor Al-Rubaei is an advisor to the Iraqi presidency and the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education. He has worked in universities in the UK and Australia, and previously worked as an advisor to UNESCO on Iraqi issues.



The cosmic necessity of colour

Another event was held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London on 21 November. This event was attended by Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC).

The event featured a knowledge presentation by the Iraqi photographer Mr Hussain Sakafi on the "cosmic necessity" of colour, its symbolism and significance in society and culture.

Mr Sakafi is a professional photographer who has worked with many international companies. He has organised several photographic exhibitions in London and the Arab world.

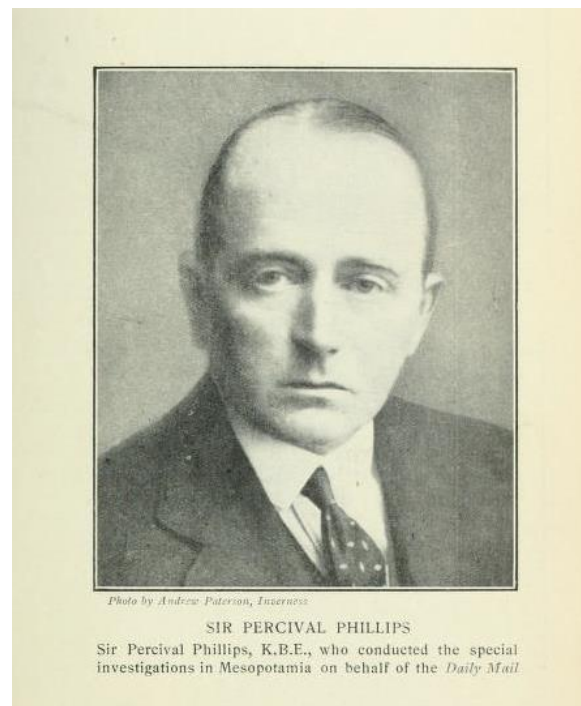
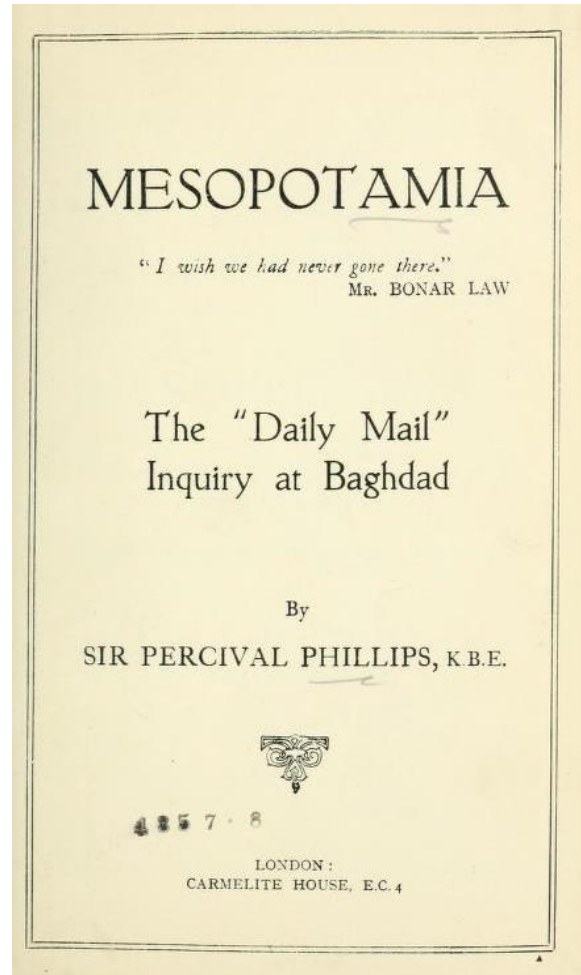


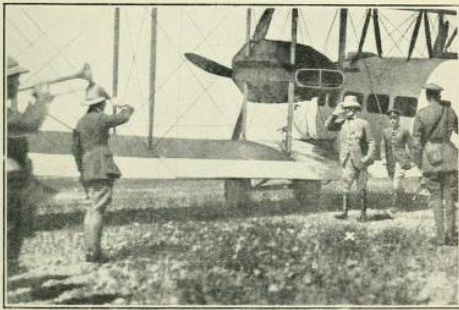
FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

"Mesopotamia: The Daily Mail Inquiry at Baghdad" (by Sir Percival Phillips, published 1922)

The above book was published by Sir Percival Phillips (1877-1937), an American journalist who worked with the British newspaper *Daily Mail*. He was tasked with travelling to Baghdad to carry out an enquiry into the facts of Britain's occupation of Mesopotamia, which led to a new political entity under the name "Iraq" and was put under British mandate by the League of Nations in 1920. Britain's involvement in Iraq at the time of this enquiry was not popular, due to the high cost involved in maintaining the country (at least £100 million between 1918-1922). Britain was already £8 billion in debt at that time due to the war. The cost was high because of the great numbers of personnel and artillery used to maintain order, in a time of insurrection by Iraqis in what was later known as the so-called 1920 "revolt of Iraq". This led to the British Prime Minister at the time of this enquiry, Mr Bonar Law, describing his stance on Iraq as **"I wish we had never gone there."**

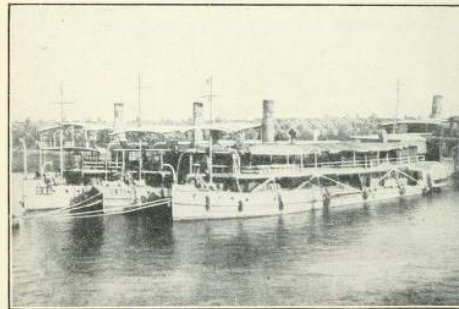
The author's conclusion was that Britain could not afford to remain in the country; the country was difficult for the British to govern. His recommendation was that Britain should withdraw from Iraq, whilst retaining the area around Basra to protect the oilfields and the Abadan refinery in neighbouring Persia.





TAX COLLECTING BY BOMB

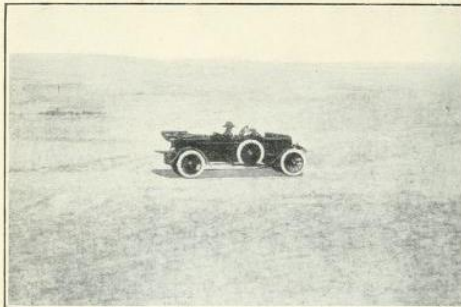
Sir Percival Phillips describes how the Royal Air Force is being utilised to get in the Mesopotamian revenue by bombing old women and recalcitrant men. Sir Percy Cox (x), the High Commissioner, preceded by his guard of honour, arriving by aeroplane to meet a sheikh north of Ramadi.



OUR "WAR FLEET" IN MESOPOTAMIA

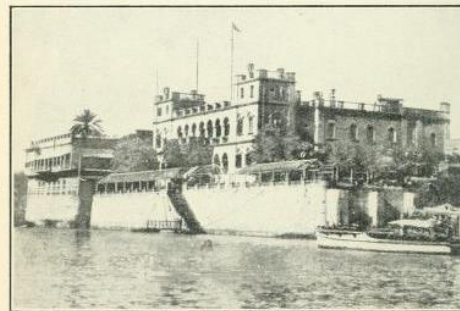
Derelict river steamers at Basra—part of our "War Fleet" on the Tigris. They cost £80,000 each, and no one will now buy them!

iv



TYPICAL MESOPOTAMIAN SCENERY

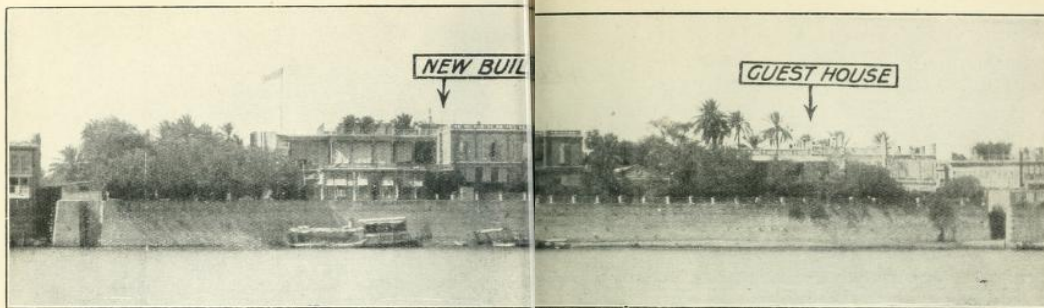
Country that costs the British Taxpayer £8,000,000 a year.—"Typical Mesopotamian scenery (one mile east of Baghdad)" is the description applied to this photograph reproduced from "The Insurrection in Mesopotamia, 1920," by Lt-Gen. Sir Aylmer Haldane, published by William Blackwood & Sons. The picture is an eloquent commentary on the waste of British money in Iraq.



THE OLD RESIDENCY

The old British Residency at Baghdad, now the General Headquarters of the Royal Air Force. The High Commissioner is established in a new Residency which has cost the British taxpayer, up to date, nearly £160,000. For the present year the expense of this establishment is £80,000, of which half is borne by the Iraq Government.

ii



"THE HOUSE OF COKKOS"—BRITISH RESIDENCY IN BAGHDAD

A photograph of the new British Residency in Baghdad, for which taxpayer has had to find nearly £160,000. Sir Percival Phillips, who has investigated Mesopotamian affairs for the *Daily Mail*, describes its work combination of new and old buildings with about the same accommodation country house.

The photographs above can be found in Sir Percival Phillips' book, "Mesopotamia: The Daily Mail Inquiry at Baghdad".

These photographs show British residencies in the country and the artillery used by the British. In his enquiry, Sir Percival Phillips concluded that Iraq was difficult for Britain to govern and that the British should withdraw from the country.

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 ”

