

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ

المعهد البريطاني لدراسة العراق

NEWSLETTER NO. 25

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR
THE STUDY OF IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)
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The next BISI Newsletter will be published in November 2010. Brief contributions are welcomed on recent research, publications, members' news and events. They should be sent to BISI by post or e-mail (preferred) to arrive by 15 October 2010.

The BISI Administrator Joan Porter MacIver edits the Newsletter.

Cover: An etching of a Sumerian cylinder seal impression by Tessa Rickards, which is the cover image of the forthcoming BISI publication, *Your Praise is Sweet – A Memorial Volume for Jeremy Black from students, colleagues and friends* edited by Heather D. Baker, Eleanor Robson and Gábor Zólyomi (further details p. 32).

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)
STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

‘To advance research and public education relating to Iraq and the neighbouring countries in anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, language and related disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences.’

- BISI supports high-quality research across its academic remit by making grants and providing expert advice and input.
- BISI assists with publications, both print and electronic, for academic and public dissemination of research activities.
- BISI supports and facilitates academic exchange and collaboration between the UK and Iraq through programmes of visiting scholars and academic engagement.
- BISI provides a focus for the UK public and the Iraqi community in Britain to engage with matters concerning Iraq.
- BISI supports public education through organising and supporting lectures, conferences, workshops and study days.
- BISI provides expertise and specialist knowledge to government bodies, journalists and other parties.

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq has been very honoured by the acceptance of The Rt Hon Lord Lamont of Lerwick to become the Institute's Patron, a new role recently proposed by Council. Lord Lamont has expressed great interest in our work and our remit and we look forward to him being involved in raising our profile and developing our future plans. In keeping with an existing tradition, we also invited Dr John Jenkins CMG, LVO, HM Ambassador to Iraq, to become Vice-President of the Institute. We are delighted to inform you that he has accepted this role and has already provided us with valuable assistance and advice.

At our 2009 AGM Dr Glen Rangwala was elected to Council and Professor Postgate and Professor Savage Smith were re-elected. We are sad to say goodbye to Dr Eleanor Coghill, who has stepped down from Council to take up a research post in Koblenz, and we wish her all the best for her new work. We are very pleased to report that Professor Charles Tripp of the Department of Politics and International Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies has joined the BISI Council and our Fieldwork and Research Committee as a co-opted member, which will enhance the Institute's ability to work within our modern remit.

At the AGM, our members approved the Council's proposal to wind up the affairs of the charity, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) and the decision to establish the charity 'The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)' as a company limited by guarantee, and to transfer the assets of the unincorporated charity to the new charitable corporate entity. In April we received the new Charity Commission number 1135395 for the new legal entity 'The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)' as a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 6966984. This has taken some time to sort out but we are now in the process of making all the appropriate financial and legal changes. With the agreement of the Charity Commission and at the suggestion of our independent examiners we are extending the 2010 financial year end to 30 June 2010 to avoid additional professional fees. We will keep you informed on progress. There will also be changes to membership arrangements for standing order payers but members need do nothing at the moment; we will send out letters later in the year.

It is with great sadness that we report on the death of **Professor Donald Wiseman OBE FBA** who served the School in a multitude of capacities for almost five decades. Professor Alan Millard has written an obituary (p.9), which provides insight into Professor Wiseman's integral involvement with our history. We will remain indebted to him for this constancy and devotion to scholarship and the School. We were also saddened at the death of long-time member, **Victor Winstone**, writer and scholar. In 2004 we held a special evening honouring **Gertrude Bell** with a talk about the Gertrude Bell archive and also held the launch of Victor Winstone's revised and updated biography *Getrude Bell* in association with Barzan Publishing. *The Independent* newspaper has kindly permitted us to re-print Tam Dalyell's obituary on Victor Winstone. (pp.10-12)

Members who receive our email notices will know already that at our 76th Annual General Meeting the Institute awarded the **Gertrude Bell Memorial Gold Medal** for

“outstanding services to Mesopotamian archaeology” to **Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr**, Honorary Research Associate of the Institute of Archaeology UCL. Dr al-Gailani Werr is only the fifth recipient of this medal since the first award in 1976 to Professor Sir Max Mallowan. Subsequent medallists have been Professor Seton Lloyd (1979), Professor David Oates (1997) and Dr Roger Moorey (2003). Only one of the originally six minted medals now remains in the keeping of BISI. Chairman Professor Roger Matthews and past Chairmen Dr Harriet Crawford and Professor Nicholas Postgate made the presentation. Professor Matthews noted in particular:

‘her unceasing efforts and invaluable advice and energies in sustaining academic and personal links between scholars in the UK and Iraq. Her input into BISI's highly active Visiting Scholars programme has been fundamental to its great success in recent years, providing training and experience to a broad range of Iraqi colleagues who have taken their enhanced skills back to Iraq. Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr has been, and continues to be, a ray of intense and brave light in an age of darkness and difficulty.’



Professor Roger Matthews, BISI Chairman, presenting the Gertrude Bell Memorial Gold Medal for ‘outstanding services to Mesopotamian archaeology’ to Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr (December 2009)

We also have very positive news on the financial side, with two very generous donations from **Gulfsands Petroleum** and from **Tony and Maureen Wheeler**. These donations will fund the appeal work, which includes the Visiting Scholars Programme (see the reports starting on p. 21).

These past months have seen some intense activity for the Institute and the larger archaeological community in London with the 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (www.7icaane.org/). 7ICAANE was held in the British Museum and University College London on 12–16 April, with almost 900 participants from over 40 countries. The week included wide-ranging talks, presentations, workshops and events, on specific themes, as well as two formal receptions. We wish to thank the other members of the organising committee and in particular Ms Helen Taylor, for assisting with this major undertaking. A generous British Academy conference grant helped to finance the preparations.

We were very pleased that five Iraqi colleagues were able to attend: Mr Qahtan al Abeed al-Mayah, Director of Basra Museum; Mr Muzahim Mahmood Hussein, Head of the Iraqi Department of Antiquities excavations at Nimrud; Dr Abbas al-Hussainy, Al-

Qadissiya University; Raad Hamid Abdullah Al Ammari, SBAH – Babylon Department; and Ali Obaid Shalgam Albutaif, SBAH – Samarra & Southern Iraq Department. These visits were funded by a mixture of grants from the BISI, the 7ICAANE committee, the British Academy, and the British Museum with assistance from DCMS. BISI handled the travel arrangements via Amman where they were all able to stay at the American Center of Oriental Research (www.acor.org), which provided a congenial base during the time it took to obtain the visas. Mrs Nadja Qaisi of the CBRL's British Institute at Amman, also provided assistance to these visitors on the UK Visa application process. We thank the authorities for the assistance they gave in processing the visas, but we all look forward to the day when these applications can be handled directly in Baghdad, as this will ease the considerable extra financial burden as well as time commitment required for our UK visitors.



Professor Roger Matthews, BISI Chairman, Joan Porter MacIver, BISI Administrator with (from left to right) Muzahim Mahmood, Raad Hamid Al-Ammari, Ali Obaid Shalgam, Dr Abbas Al-Hussainy and Qahtan Al Abeed, Iraqi participants at the 7ICAANE, at the opening reception of the Congress at the British Museum. April 2010

All five Iraqi visitors gave talks at the Congress, and later at a special session at the British Museum's Department of the Middle East, on their work: Dr Abbas Al Hussainy on 'Excavations at Marad'; Mr Muzahim Mahmood on 'Pottery from the temple of Ishtar Kidmuru at Nimrud'; Raad Hamid Abdullah Al Ammari on 'Excavations at Tell Abu Al-Zaar 2008-2009, Babylon' and Ali Obaid Shalgam Albutaif on 'Excavations at Tell Al Ajuz 2008-09'. Qahtan Al Abeed discussed the plans for a new museum in Basra. Dr Al-Hussainy, Raad Al Ammari and Ali Obaid also attended a special archaeological database recording session (RADII) with three Iranian archaeologists, organised at the Institute of Archaeology UCL and funded by the British Academy.

In March, BISI sponsored the visit of two archivists from the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) to participate in a Digital Archiving Course at the London University Computing Centre (see Patricia Sleeman's report, p. 21). Dr Saad Eskander, Director of the INLA, was our guest speaker at a special BISI Appeal talk on 'INLA at a Time of National Crisis: Difficult Choices and Unanticipated Challenges' at the British Museum, sponsored jointly with the Department of the Middle East at the British Museum. This talk preceded his participation in the Birkbeck College & BISI Mesopotamian Archaeology Study Day, co-sponsored with Ancient Egypt & Middle East Society (AEMES) and organised by Dr Mariana Giovino, entitled *Seven Years On: The Iraq National Museum, Iraq National Library and Archive & Cultural Heritage in Iraq*. Other speakers were Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr, Honorary Research Fellow, Institute of Archaeology, University College London; Professor Peter Stone, Director of

the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies, Newcastle University; and Dr Eleanor Robson, BISI Vice-Chairman. There was also an exceptional performance by Khyam Allami, 'Ud soloist and BISI grant recipient (see report, p. 12). Members will have the chance to hear Khyam talk about his work at our September lecture and—if they are quick to obtain tickets—can also see him perform with the well known Iraqi musician Ilham Al Madfai at the Proms on 9 August (Prom 33). In March Dr Fran Reynolds was the speaker and organiser of *Mesopotamia: Exploring Ancient Iraq*, a very successful day school organised with the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) of the University of Glasgow

In March we also sponsored the participation of three key Iraqi speakers at the British Academy-funded conference, *Rethinking the Middle East* organised by Dr Lars Berger of Salford University: Professor Dr.Riyadh Aziz Hadi, Assistant President of Baghdad University; Dr Muaffaq al-Rubaie, former Iraqi national security adviser and current Iraqi parliamentary member; and Professor Mouyad al-Windawi, Professor of History at Baghdad University and formerly with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (see report, pp. 19-21). At the end of the conference, we were pleased to be able to present Professor Hadi with the first three volumes of *The Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies* for the Baghdad University Library and will continue to provide this journal to them as an annual donation. Professor Tripp, our recently co-opted Council member, gave the key note speech and Dr Nadjie Al-Ali (BISI Bonham Carter June 2010 lecturer) took part in the final panel. This conference provided a unique opportunity for the Institute to make contact with social scientists who focus on Iraq. We were also pleased that Dr Priya Satia, conference participant, came in advance to deliver the March BISI lecture on her work 'The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia'.

Mr Munir Esah from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) spent a month in London last November as a Visiting Scholar (see report, p. 25). Nick Umney and Laura Dix of the Victoria and Albert Museum organised a very successful training programme for him. His visit was sponsored by G4S Risk Management and he had the opportunity to meet with Andrew Martin and Kerrin Townsend at the company's London office. In September we are expecting our next visitor from Baghdad, who will be training in Glasgow under the guidance of Dr Ellen McAdam, Acting Head of Museums, Glasgow. This visit will be sponsored from the donation of Tony and Maureen Wheeler. We anticipate arranging programmes for a number of new scholars during 2010-2011. We encourage our members to be in touch with any contacts they have in Iraq to let them know about this programme. Applications are received twice a year at the end of April and October; details are on the website. Applicants must be working on research or training that is concerned with Iraq. We do not fund general studies but rather short-term specific research or training opportunities. We also require a level of English that enables scholars to profit fully from their participation.

In January, Dr Suzanne Bott, Cultural Heritage Advisor to the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), assisted BISI in arranging the delivery of a shipment of books to the Mosul Cultural Museum. The photo (p. 7) shows the presentation of the one of the boxes during a site visit to Hatra. BISI has received a citation from the PRT

and the Museum in appreciation of this donation, which comprised books donated by members, as well as BISI. With the assistance of Diane Siebrandt of the Cultural Affairs Office of the US Embassy, Baghdad, we are currently finalising the shipment of the books from the legacy of Dr Jes Canby's library to the Iraq Museum and will also be sending a shipment of all our own publications to the Iraq National Library and Archive along with some other donations. But we do not have a full set of the older *IRAQ* journals (the donation starts with the 1974 with some miscellaneous earlier issues). If any member is able to help make up the remainder of this print run of our journal from their own collection, please contact us.



Dr Bott wrote 'We met Hikmat Al Aswad Majeed [Director of the Mosul Cultural Museum and former BISI Visiting Scholar], Sa'ad Abed, and Zaid Ghazi at Hatra and gave them one box of books. Our PRT Team Leader, Patrick Murphy, is in the photo presenting the books. You can see that everyone is quite pleased!'
January 2010

We are continuing to provide grants for both research and outreach projects. We awarded our first BISI Pilot Project research grant to Dr Sabah Aldihisi for work on *The documentation of the Mandaean rituals and language*. Professor Mark Geller of UCL will collaborate with Dr Aldihisi on the project and we look forward to its future development. Other grantees are: Professor Nigel Ashton for a conference grant to part sponsor the LSE International History Department, LSE IDEAS, and LSE Global Governance conference entitled *Reappraising the Iran-Iraq War Thirty Years Later* (London, 23-24 September 2010); Ms Ruth Horry for a research travel grant to work on *Meanings of Mesopotamian sacrificial divination and the work of Morris Jastrow* at the University of Pennsylvania; Mr Nineb Lamassu for a research travel grant to work on *Documenting and analysing the oral Epic of Qatine* and Dr John MacGinnis for a fieldwork grant to support the 2010 season of the Ziyaret Tepe Archaeological Project. (Grant reports from former grantees can be found starting on p. 12.) We have provided Development grants to sponsor: Art Role's Post War Cultural Festival in Northern Iraq last November; the Christianity in Iraq VII Seminar Day, on *The Liturgical Traditions of the Churches*, Brunei Gallery, SOAS in April; and Contemporary Art Iraq Events at Cornerhouse, Manchester, 16 April – 20 June 2010).

Dr Harriet Crawford and Dr Lamia al Gailani Werr have just spent some time in northern Iraq. Dr Crawford has provided a short report on her trip (see report, p. 29). Dr al-Gailani also visited northern Iraq last November, when she attended Art Role's Post-War Art & Culture Festival in Iraqi Kurdistan (www.artrole.org), representing the British Institute for the Study of Iraq and participating in a symposium (see p. 29).

Council will be considering all our options and may wish to explore opportunities in northern Iraq but this will require careful planning

Our latest BISI Appeal lecture was held on 11 May with Vernon Rapley, Detective Sergeant of the Art & Antiques Unit, New Scotland Yard on Iraq and Afghanistan: Criminal Benefit from Cultural Loss. The looting in Iraq continues to be a very big problem for Iraqi archaeological heritage and the authorities in and outside of Iraq must continue to give this dangerous attention more attention. The speaker pointed out the critical necessity of tracking the stolen objects at the first border crossing to trace criminal activity. Some media and scholarly articles have highlighted the problems of looting but much remains to be done. Stopping the demand from collectors and dealers would help considerably to stem the tide of looted goods from all over the world, not just Iraq.

Last January the UK National Commission for UNESCO, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, the British Academy and ten other UK heritage and culture organisations submitted a letter and written evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry. There is a link to both the inquiry and the press release on the BISI website's 'NEWS' page (at www.bisi.ac.uk). The letter stressed that the UK must learn from the Iraq War failure to protect cultural heritage and ratify as soon as possible the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954).

The publications work of the Institute continues with the recent publication of *Once There was a Place: Settlement Archaeology at Chagar Bazar, 1999-2002* by Augusta McMahon with Carlo Colantoni, Julia Frane and Arkadiusz Soltysiak. Dr McMahon excavated at Chagar Bazar with the support of fieldwork grants from the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (1999–2002). We are in the process of publishing *Your Praise is Sweet: a Memorial Volume for Jeremy Black from Students, Colleagues and Friends* edited by Heather D. Baker, Eleanor Robson and Gábor Zólyomi. It is certainly most fitting that we are the publishers of this volume in honour of Dr Jeremy Black (1952–2004), who was involved with the British School of Archaeology in Iraq throughout his career. He was our Assistant Director and Director in Baghdad in the 1980s and later a very valued member of the BSAI council. In 1988 he became University Lecturer in Akkadian at Oxford in 1988, where he influenced the lives of many students who held in him high esteem as evidenced by this collection in his honour. (For an obituary, see BSAI NL 14, November 2004.)

You can see that this has been an active six months for us and we thank you all for your continued support.

***Roger Matthews &
Joan Porter MacIver***

**Professor Donald Wiseman, OBE, DLit, FBA, 25th
October, 1918 - 2nd February 2010**

With the death of Donald Wiseman BISI has lost one of its most devoted supporters and officers, giving freely his time and thought to the affairs of the Institute, or British School of Archaeology in Iraq as it then was. He edited 'Iraq' from 1953 to 1978, maintaining its position as one of the leading journals in the field, was Chairman of the council from 1970 to 1988, Vice-President 1988-93 and President 1993-2000. He was appointed to the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in 1948, after studying Hebrew and Akkadian at King's College, London and Wadham College, Oxford, with an interruption for service as an Intelligence Officer in the Royal Air Force 1939-45 for which he was awarded the O.B.E. and USA Bronze Star. At the Museum he was entrusted with publication of the cuneiform tablets excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley at Alalakh, with a time limit of two years. That led him to a method of cataloguing and partial edition which made text available rapidly for others to study. In 1950 he joined Max Mallowan's team at Nimrud and while he published tablets found at Nimrud in that way (and those found at Tell alRimah in 1966) he made full editions of the major Stele of Ashurnasirpal (*Iraq XIV*) and The Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon (*Iraq XX*), as well as editing other major texts and finally Literary Texts from the Temple of Nabu (with J. A. Black).

Moving to the Chair of Assyriology at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London in 1961 gave him greater opportunity to share his knowledge with others, offering guidance and encouragement in their studies, research and careers. A variety of students came from Iraq, Israel and other countries to work under his aegis, including Prince Mikasa of Japan and Maurice Couve de Murville, later Archbishop of Birmingham. He took a practical interest in all of them, as he did in the affairs of the Institute, both in London and in Baghdad.

Donald's sincere Christian faith took him across the whole of the ancient Near East, so he served on the Council of the British Institute in Amman, was Trustee of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and was President of the Society for Old Testament Study in 1980. Tyndale House and its Library for Biblical Studies in Cambridge held a major place in his life; he served as its Chairman from 1957-86. Publications related to these concerns include the Schweich Lectures Nebuchadrezzar and Babylon (1985) and a commentary on I and II Kings (1993).

His *Life Above and Below: Memoirs* was issued privately in 2003. Mary, his beloved wife died in 2006. They are survived by their daughters Gillian, Mary and Jane.

The continued existence of BISI owes much to Donald Wiseman's sensible attitudes and wise advice; many scholars owe the formation of their careers to his concern and guidance; many others will remember him for his kindness, his good humour and his humility.

Alan Millard
*Emeritus Rankin Professor of Hebrew &
Ancient Semitic Languages, The University of Liverpool*

Professor D.J. Wiseman, O.B.E., M.A., D.LIT., F.B.A., F.S.A.

Participation with the **British School of Archaeology in Iraq**

Council member 1955-2000

Joint-Director 1961-1965

Assistant Editor IRAQ 1953 - 1961

Co-Edited IRAQ 1962-1978

Joint-Director 1961-1965 (with David Oates)

Chairman of Council 1970-1988

Vice President 1988-1993

President 1993-2000

Friday 4 June at 2.30 A Memorial Service has been arranged for Professor Donald Wiseman at All Souls, Langham Place, London (Just North of Oxford Circus and next to the BBC building.)

H.V.F. Winstone: Writer, by Tam Dalyell

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Because my father, as a young British official in Mesopotamia, had been instructed by his boss, the High Commissioner Sir Percy Cox, to work directly under his Oriental secretary Gertrude Bell, and because he had taken me, as a child, to the remarkable home in Chelsea of his friend, the archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley, who is best known for his excavations at Ur, it was natural that I should read the books of Victor Winstone, the prolific writer on Middle East personalities and politics.

Winstone's first solo book was published in 1972, a much praised biography of Captain Shakespear. It was Lawrence (of Arabia) who brought to light his fellow countryman's "magnificence" in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Discovering that Shakespear had died heroically at the side of the founder of Saudi Arabia, Ibn Saud, Winstone began a decade of research in Foreign, India and Colonial Office files. That investigation enabled him, at the start of the 30-year rule introduced by the Wilson government, along with one or two other researchers, to unlock the political records of many servants of the Raj and the home country, whose roles in Britain's imperial story had been obscured by official secrecy.

There followed a series of biographies in rapid succession: Gerard Leachman, known as "OC Desert" in the Mesopotamia campaign of 1914-1918; Gertrude Bell, "the lady of Iraq" whose friendship with Lawrence had been instrumental in persuading Churchill in his days as Liberal Colonial Secretary to turn Iraq into a constitutional monarchy; and Sir Leonard, distinguished archaeologist, excavator of the Biblical land "Ur of the Chaldees". There was also a controversial study of military and political intelligence in the Middle East, "The Illicit Adventure".

Born on 3 August 1926, Winstone spent his formative years in Essex, his education dramatically truncated by the approach of war. He left secondary school at 14 in 1939 with little academic achievement but at his mother's instigation was sent to South East Essex Technical College, one of the mighty new techs that appeared between the wars. With excellent teachers to promote his quick powers of learning and comprehension his interests broadened dramatically and quickly took on the political hues of the extreme "isms".

It was the heady time of the Nuremberg rallies, the Spanish civil war and the Mosley marches and international events led to intense debate which spilled over to suburban breakfast tables and student common rooms. As a convinced Marxist (with Shavian reservations) he went on in 1942 to the nearby Municipal College at Stratford to begin medical studies. But he had decided by then that his future lay with the written word, though without any clear sense of direction. The Royal Navy solved the problem and provided a tour of the Mediterranean, the Pacific Islands, Australia, the Red Sea and North Africa.

He entered journalism as a weekly newspaper reporter on demob in 1947 and graduated to writing for specialist journals devoted to the applied and decorative arts. He founded and edited several magazines in those fields and in the 1960s formed a partnership with an architect friend, Donald Dewar-Mills, which gave rise to a successful design and editorial enterprise. Following a bout of tuberculosis, he established his own office at 71 Fleet Street, in the thick of the newspaper and agency world in the mid-1970s which led to a journey to Kuwait, to conversion on the road to Saudi Arabia, and the beginning of his literary onslaught on the Middle East which, he always insisted, was badly in need of protection from the all-pervading legend of T.E. Lawrence.

In 1991 Victor Winstone achieved another unsuspected "first" with his biography of Howard Carter, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun, which characteristically stressed the class bias in Britain's recognition of achievement. In a book that achieved world-wide praise, he pointed out that the most famous and lucrative discovery of all time, made by a self-taught Norfolk lad, had been rewarded with not a single official or academic honour, "not even a lowly MBE".

In our last phone conversation Winstone was appalled by the chaos in Iraq and the violation of archaeological sites and the museum in Baghdad. His most recently published book was *War Without End*, a critique of Anglo-US foreign policy from 1900 to the present, which with apposite timing, he launched online during the course of the Chilcot Iraq Inquiry while he was ill with lung cancer.

In his personal life he was devoted to numerous animal welfare causes and in Devon, where he and his pianist wife Joan Marigold lived for more than 20 years, he was an implacable enemy of the hunting lobby. His letters on that subject in the local press attracted much attention. He leaves four daughters and one son, and eight grandchildren.

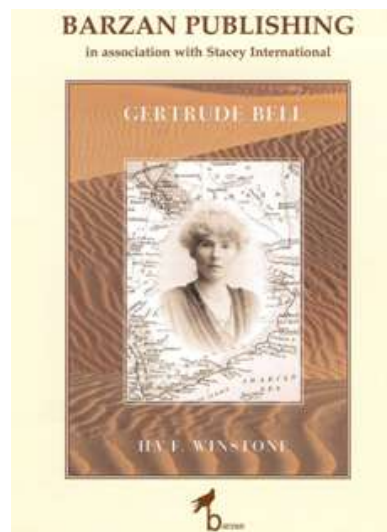
Tam Dalyell

Harry Victor Frederick Winstone, scholar and author: born Ilford, Essex 3 August 1926; married Joan Cory (four daughters, one son); died Barnstaple 10 February 2010.

Monday, 22 February 2010

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**THE
INDEPENDENT**



BISI GRANT REPORTS

The Iraqi ‘*ūd* School: Its Influences and Development – Field research in Cairo, Egypt 2009

The Iraqi style of ‘*ūd* playing is today considered as one of the three main schools of ‘*ūd* performance in the Middle East, alongside those of Egypt and Turkey. Developed primarily in Baghdad from the early 1930s, after the founding of the Institute of Music in 1932 by ash-Sharīf Muḥi ad-Dīn Ḥaydar (Şerif Muhiettin Targan), the Iraqi style of ‘*ūd* playing takes its influence from a variety of sources including the afore mentioned Turkish and Egyptian ‘*ūd* schools, Western Classical technique and the Classical and Folk music of Iraq.

Over the course of the last half a century, great Iraqi musicians such as Jamīl Bashīr, Munīr Bashīr, Salmān Shukur, ‘Ali al-Imām, Khāled Muḥammad ‘Ali, Sālem ‘Abdel Karīm and most recently Naşīr Shamma, have re-invented the instrument and its performance technique creating a style that is masterful, sensitive and highly distinctive. They have continuously pushed the instrument further into its own spotlight by evolving previous repertoire and creating new compositions for solo performance, moving the ‘*ūd* away further and further away from its traditional role of an accompanying instrument to the voice and more towards becoming one of the world’s most versatile instruments that can be used for the performance of various musical styles and genres.. Throughout my studies with the Iraqi ‘*ūd* Maestro Ehsān Emām in London since 2004 and my BA at the School of Oriental and African Studies (2005-2008) my focus has been Middle Eastern music and the ‘*ūd* in particular. Naturally, many questions about the ‘*ūd*, Iraqi, Arabic and Middle Eastern music in general, presented themselves over the years, many of which centred on the ‘*ūd* and the Iraqi school which has been little researched or documented. Questions such as; how did the development of the Iraqi ‘*ūd* School come about? What roles did its various influences have? And what exactly is it that differentiates the Iraqi school not only from the Turkish or Egyptian schools, but also from the other twenty plus countries in the Middle East where the ‘*ūd* is played? It

is precisely these questions that I am aiming to answer through my Masters in Performance as Research at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Inevitably, the path towards answering these questions has become more and more complex as my research has developed, leading me towards the research of many other related topics such as the details and nuances of all that lies at the root of Iraqi and Arabic music, and that which has influenced them over the years including the music of Egypt, Turkey and Iran.

With regards to Egypt, the Egyptian style of 'ūd performance, also known as *madrasat al-'ūd at-taqlīdīya* (the traditional (arab) 'ūd school) has long been the main style of 'ūd performance across the Arab world, including Iraq. Exemplified by great Egyptian artists such as Moḥammad al-Qaṣabji, Riyādh as-Sunbāṭī and George Michel, it is renowned for being highly evocative of *ṭarab* (musical ecstasy) and is exemplified by many musical idioms such as the development of the arab *maqāmāt* (modes) and the modulations between them, to various techniques such as *firdāsh* (long tremolos) and the famed *qaflāt* (cadences). Due to the lack of studies on this topic, there were many questions to try and answer such as; what defines the Egyptian 'ūd school? What are its specifics? Where did they come from? How did they develop? Which of them have influenced the Iraqi 'ūd school? and more importantly how?

With the gratefully received research grant from the BISI, I travelled to Cairo, Egypt for three and a half months (Feb-June 2009) to conduct the first part of my field research on the Egyptian 'ūd school, Egyptian music and to study with the Iraqi virtuoso Naṣīr Shamma at *Beit al-'ūd al-'Arabī* (the Arab 'ūd House) to improve my technique and focus on a more contemporary representation of the Iraqi 'ūd school and his role in its most recent developments.

The trip was a great success on many levels as it gave me the long awaited opportunity to dedicate every waking moment to practising, studying and researching. After the expected rigmarole of settling in Cairo and within a few days of enrolling at *Beit al-'ūd*, I began a rigorous schedule of practising the 'ūd for an average of eight hours per day with few exceptions. Not only were Naṣīr Shamma's expectations high and his 'ūd studies and compositions very difficult, but being surrounded by 30-40 'ūd players (most of who are much younger and much more advanced) after being one of maybe ten 'ūd players in the UK is enough to give anyone a solid dose of realism! After having settled into the new routine I began the usual researcher's hunt for books and recordings around the crowded streets of Cairo, searching every single book shop for important out of print publications on Arabic music from the 70s and 80s (the golden decade of Arab musicology), alongside going through the books in the *Beit al-'ūd* library with a fine tooth comb.

Not content with the study load given to me by Naṣīr Shamma and the other teachers at *Beit al-'ūd*, I was fortunate enough to meet a fellow student who would take me to meet 'Abdu Dāgher, the great Egyptian violinist and composer. Having been a part of the golden age of Arabic music, he continues to teach and perform today at the age of 76 and should be regarded as an Egyptian national treasure for all the knowledge he has about the Egyptian music which influenced the entire Arab world since the beginning of

the 20th century. After visiting ‘Abdu Dāgher at his home a few times, he agreed to have me as a student for the remainder of my stay in Cairo. Within a couple of weeks of weekly lessons with him he was pleased with my hard work and progress and began to teach me some of his own compositions alongside the basic exercises he gives to all his students.



Lesson with ‘Abdu Dāgher at his home in Cairo (May 2009)

Although the studies at *Beit al-‘ūd* were invaluable to me, my time spent with ‘Abdu Dāgher soon became the centre of my focus. Not only are his compositions notoriously difficult to render solo on the ‘ūd (they are composed on the Violin for an ensemble and full of *taqāsim* (improvisations) that must follow composition-specific melodic guidelines) but they are also full of all the musical details that made Egyptian music so influential across the years. It was for this precise reason that his performance style and his technique was so relevant to my research on the ‘ūd and Egyptian music in general. Intertwined with the classical or traditional rules and guidelines of the Arabic Maqam system, yet ahead of their time, not only for their complexity, beauty or ingenuity but also because they represent a development of instrumental Arabic music which retains the poetry and lyricism that characterises the singing of the Arab world. Through the many evenings spent with ‘Abdu Dāgher, his musicians, his students and his friends, I learnt about Arabic music and Egyptian ‘ūd that which is only transmittable orally and by example, through performance. Thank heavens for digital audio recorders!

If that wasn't enough to keep my days occupied, I decided to take some lessons with a former student of both ‘Abdu Dāgher and Naṣīr Shamma, the young Egyptian ‘ūd player and composer Ḥāzem Shahīn, one of the most creative and talented musicians in the Middle East today. Beside being a phenomenal ‘ūd player, Ḥāzem Shahīn is a deep well of knowledge on the Egyptian ‘ūd school and the history of Egyptian music in the 20th Century, specifically with regard to how much of it was rooted in religious music and influenced by various Egyptian Sheikhs who were masters of the art of Qur'anic recitation. Alongside learning some of the performance techniques of the Egyptian ‘ūd

school, he helped me refine my thoughts and ideas about my research, taught me some of the methods he had learnt for presenting ‘Abdu Dāgher’s compositions solo on the ‘ūd, some classical Egyptian repertoire and one of his own compositions.



Lesson with Ḥāzem Shahīn at the Cairo Opera House (April 2009)

In the meantime, having progressed with my studies at *Beit al-‘ūd*, I was asked by Naṣīr Shamma to join him and a small ensemble (made up of former students who now teach at *Beit al-‘ūd*) for a performance at the Syndicate of Journalists in Cairo who were honouring him for his achievements. The only issue was that I had to learn four new compositions and be ready for a performance two days later! Needless to say, this epitomised my feeling of being thrown in at the deep-end which had been prevalent since my arrival two months earlier. Fortunately all went well, even if unexpectedly, whilst on stage, Naṣīr Shamma announced that I would play a *taqsīm* (improvisation) in the middle of the next piece we were going to perform, which was a medley of Arabic and Iraqi songs which has no fixed structure (the songs are chosen by Naṣīr Shamma on the spot). To say I was trembling with nerves would be an understatement!



Concert at the Syndicate of Journalists with Naṣīr Shamma and Beit al-‘ūd Ensemble (April 2009)

Beyond the performance based studies, the bibliographical research I was able to conduct at the Music Library of the Cairo Opera House and in the various books I was able to purchase was invaluable in understanding the history of the 'ūd and for deepening my knowledge of Egyptian and Arabic music theory and how it has changed throughout the centuries.

All in all, the short time I spent in Egypt was nothing short of fundamental for my research into the development of the Egyptian 'ūd school and how that has influenced the Iraqi 'ūd school, alongside my development as a musician, performer and potential academic. Throughout my research, the topic which I thought was focused and acute has developed into a complex web of details, highlighting how much is musically shared across the Middle East alongside the distinctness of each country's traditions. This has lead me from technical instrumental 'ūd studies, to the fine details of the Arab maqam system, to the philosophy of Islamic Art and its influence on the music of the Middle East as a whole. It has also generated myriad ideas for future research and creative projects.

Since my return from Cairo, my research has continued in London through various practical and academic studies (transcription, analysis etc...) and will see me heading across to Istanbul in the spring of 2010 to further my study of the Turkish 'ūd school and the influence of Turkish music on the music of the Arab world, Iraq in particular. Parallel to this, my musical/professional path has also taken an enormous turn, thanks to the trip to Cairo and the opportunity for immersion that it provided. In the six months since my return I have been able to share what I learnt at various performances around the UK, the main one being an unlikely solo 'ūd performance at Birmingham's Supersonic music festival (July 2009) which usually features all kinds of Metal, Noise and Avant Guard music. I also performed live for BBC Radio 3's In Tune and at the Southbank Centre in London (October 2009) with contemporary/medieval music composer Stevie Wishart's group Sinfonye. And from December 2009 to January 2010 I will be performing 'ūd for the Royal Shakespeare Company as part of their new production of Arabian Nights at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Finally, and most importantly, this November 2009 I was nominated for and awarded a new mentorship/scholarship by the BBC titled "World Routes Academy". Essentially this is a BBC Radio 3 award which is based around their world music programme World Routes and it aims to provide a platform for young musicians of non-western traditions to learn and develop under the mentorship of a recognised artists, supported by performance and recording opportunities provided by BBC Radio 3.

This new project will officially launch in January 2010. For its first year the focus will be Iraq and will see me working with the internationally renowned Iraqi singer Ilham al-Madfa'i. Aside from three World Routes programmes which will be dedicated to this project and the music of Iraq in general, I will be travelling to Beirut, Damascus and Amman in the spring of 2010 to work with Ilham al-Madfa'i and his musicians before performing at the BBC Proms in August 2010. For more information, please visit the

dedicated BBC micro-site here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/worldmusic/worldroutesacademy/>

Once again, I would like to express enormous thanks to the BISI for the opportunity they provided me to further my academic and artistic path. I can only hope that its fruits can be shared by as many people as possible and augment the growing list of initiatives attempting to heal the wounds of Iraq.

Khyam Allami

2009 Report on the progress of the Syrian-European project for the Syrian Digital Library of Cuneiform Texts (SDLC)

Within the framework of the *Agreement on the development of a Syrian-European team in order to achieve the Syrian Digital Library of Cuneiform Texts (SDLC)*, signed in Damascus in June 2007, and following a first campaign undertaken in Aleppo in 2008, we continued our project and worked in Syrian museums from the 10th to the 28th of July 2009.

This year, our project benefited from support from the following institutions: DGAM (Damascus), Max Planck Institute (Berlin), UCLA/CDLI (Los Angeles), CNRS (Paris), BISI (London), and IFPO (Damascus).

DGAM gave us permission (2009/07/8) to study the collections of cuneiform tablets from Tell Bi'a (ancient Tuttul), kept in the archaeological museum of Raqqa, and those from Tell Beydar (ancient Nabada), kept in the archaeological museum of Deir ez-Zor. It is the goal of the SDLC, within the framework of the international project the Cuneiform Digital library Initiative (CDLI), to digitize all cuneiform inscriptions kept in Syria and to prepare new electronic editions of these collections, in order to create a 'virtual' museum of all Syrian cuneiform inscriptions.

The 2009 research team was made up of:

- Bertrand Lafont (CNRS Paris-Nanterre, coordinator of the project)
- Jacob Dahl (University of Oxford)
- Imad Samir (University of Damascus)
- Christina Tsouparopoulou (Max Planck Institute, Berlin)
- Matthew Ong (UCLA, Los Angeles)
- Amjad al-Qadi (Syrian student, Basel University)

Thanks are due to all of those who lend supported to the project in the planning stages for this years mission, before we went to the Euphrates region where the tablets are kept. Thanks are due, in particular, to Dr. Bassam Jamous (DGAM), Dr. Michel Al-Maqdissi (DGAM), Mrs. Muyasar Yabroudi (National Museum, Damascus), Mr. Ahmad Tarakji (DGAM), Haytham Hassan (DGAM) and Antoine Suleyman (DGAM), along with the colleagues in charge of the archaeological expeditions of Tell Bi'a (E. Strommenger, K. Kohlmeier, M. Krebern timer) and Tell Beydar (M. Lebeau and his epigraphists), and those

of the Institut français du Proche-Orient (Damascus): their support, their help and their encouragements was essential for the success of our work.

From the 12th to the 16th of July we worked in the archaeological museum of Raqqa, on the collection of cuneiform tablets from Tell Bi'a (ancient Tuttul). We wish to acknowledge the quintessential help and support given by Mr. Mouhamad Sarhan (DGAM Raqqa) and Mouhamad al-Jajan (keeper of the Raqqa museum), who gave us a very friendly welcome and who did their best at ensuring the best possible work-conditions for us. We collated and digitized 372 of the 382 published tablets from Tell Bi'a, edited in the book by M. Krebern timer, *Tall Bi'a/Tuttul – II, Die altorientalischen Schriftfunde*, WVDOG 100, Saarbrücken 2001 (= KTT, “Keilschrifttexte von Tuttul”). With the exception of tablets nr. 58, 74, 176, 180, 227, 232, 259, 299, 335, 360, that we were unable to recover in the reserve collection of the museum, in spite of our thorough searches with the museum keeper, we were thus able to work on the entire collection of cuneiform tablets from Tell Bi'a.

From the 19th to the 23rd of July we worked on the collections of cuneiform tablets from Tell Beydar kept in the archaeological museum of Deir ez-Zor. Mr. Mou'ayin al-Ali, Director of the museum, welcomed us as kindly as his colleagues in Raqqa. He provided us with friendly and efficient help. We studied, digitized, and photographed all of the 216 cuneiform tablets published in the *Subartu II* (F. Ismail *et alii*, Brepols, 1996 – 148 texts) and *Subartu XII* (L. Milano *et alii*, Brepols, 2004 – 68 texts).

Upon our return to Damascus we organized a meeting of the members of the committee in charge of the evaluation of our work (art. 10 of the agreement). We met on the 28th of July. Unfortunately, Wissam Habib (DGAM), usually the co-director of the project, with whom we were unable to meet at the time of our arrival at Damascus, communicated to us that she had no time to participate in this meeting. Therefore, the three remaining members of the committee, Imad Samir, Muyasar Yabroudi and Bertrand Lafont, met at the National Museum. This year's work was positively evaluated, and we discussed the on-line presentation of the results of that work (the SDLC website), and our program for next year (see below).

We have begun to prepare a detailed catalog of the collections we worked on (372+216=588 tablets), to process the raw files in order to produce composite images of all sides of the objects, and to prepare an electronic edition of the texts. Every member of the committee, the authorities of the DGAM, and the directors of the Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor museums will receive, along with this report, a DVD with the composite images obtained during this campaign.

At the same time, we have begun to work on the website, currently accessible at the following URL:

http://cdli.ucla.edu/collections/syria/index_e.html

Introductory pages are already online in French and in English, and Arabic pages will appear soon. We hope to serve on-line, on this web-site, by the end of this year, a full presentation of the following collections, as a result of our 2008-2009 work:

– Deir ez-Zor Museum : 220 tablets of Tell Beydar/Nabada (Ebla period)

- Aleppo Museum: 800 tablets of Sumer (Umma, Drehem) (Ur III period)
- Raqqa Museum: 380 tablets of Tell Bi'a/Tuttul (Amorite period)

We are currently exploring the options of hosting a 'mirror' (static mirror, updated every year) of the website on a server in Syria. The website is currently hosted in Berlin (MPIWG) and Los Angeles (CDLI/UCLA). In coordination with M. Al-Maqdissi, contacts will be made to the webmaster of the website and data-server of *Studia Orontica*, Bassel Shahade. But other sites or servers at the DGAM could also be solicited.

In 2010, we hope to be able to carry on our work, with the following collections:

- Emar (Aleppo)
- Chagar Bazar (Aleppo and Deir ez-Zor)
- Tell Leilan (Deir ez-Zor)

We have begun to approach the colleagues in charge of the publication of the material of these archaeological sites, and the relevant applications will be sent to the DGAM at the earliest convenience. Granted successful applications, we plan to organize expeditions to these two Syrian museums in 2010.

Bertrand Lafont

CNRS Paris-Nanterre

(The BISI travel grant funding was for Dr Jacob Dahl, participant)

Major British Academy sponsored conference on Western policies toward Iraq and the wider Middle East meets strong global interest

On March, 17-19th, the British Academy hosted a well attended international and interdisciplinary conference under the joint leadership of Dr Lars Berger, Dr Gaynor Johnson, Dr Christian Kaunert and Dr Sarah Leonard (all Salford University/Greater Manchester). It brought together some of the world's leading thinkers to assess the historical and contemporary challenges facing Western policies towards the Middle East. Speakers from the United States, Russia, Iran, Israel, Iraq, Turkey and many European countries discussed over one hundred years of Western intervention in the region and present research that covered a wide range of topical issues. These include British involvement in Middle Eastern affairs, the politics of violence and state-building in Iraq, European attempts to foster political reform in the broader region, Turkey's role as a re-emerging regional actor, women's rights and the impact of the Cold War on the Middle East. The conference programme generated overwhelming interest not only amongst scholars, but also amongst the UK and US foreign policy communities with a substantial number of delegates attending from the US departments of state and defense.

Keynote lectures were delivered by leading researchers Professor Charles Tripps (SOAS) and Professor Erik Goldstein (Boston University). Professor Tripp's thoughts on 'The Seductions of Violence and the Making of Iraq', which he further develops in his upcoming monograph on the politics of resistance in the Middle East, set the stage for lively exchanges during the question and answer session as did Professor Goldstein's

fascinating assessment of 'Britain's Plans for a New Eastern Mediterranean Empire, 1916-23'.

The British International Studies Association – International Working Group on Mediterranean Studies made a generous bursary available to allow promising PhD students to present their research on issues such as perceptions of gender inequality in Saudi Arabia among female US troops during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Kelly Shannon/Temple University), Iraqi state sponsorship of terrorism under the regime of Saddam Hussein (Magdalena Kirchner/Heidelberg), US-Iraqi relations in the late 1950s (Brandon King/Toronto), and the discursive foundations of the US role in the Middle East (Andrew Patrick/Manchester).

The conference organizers are particularly grateful for the generous financial assistance offered by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq which made it possible to invite three high-profile Iraqi scholars and practitioners. Former Iraqi national security adviser Dr Muaffaq al-Rubaie and Professor Mouyad al-Windawi, Professor of History at Baghdad University and formerly with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, joined Christopher Prentice, former UK ambassador to Iraq (2007-2009), in one of the conference's central events, a roundtable moderated by Professor Eric Davis (Rutgers) to discuss the ramification of Iraq's parliamentary elections on 7 March. (Photo of the roundtable participants) A recording of the animated exchanges between the panellists and the audience about the direction of Iraq's fledgling democracy as well as the costs and benefits of the US/UK effort to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein is available on the British Academy website.

Earlier, the conference had kicked off with well-attended panels that dealt particularly with the foreign relations of the 'new' Iraq. Professor Henner Fuertig (German Institute for Global and Area Studies) chaired a session that featured James Denselow's (King's College) paper on current relations between Syria and Iraq and Dr Tamir Libel's (Bar-Ilan) presentation on the changing Israeli perceptions of the US presence in Iraq. The conference organizers were also very pleased to see a strong presence of Turkish colleagues presenting their views on the evolving Turkish-Iraqi relationship. Professor Dietrich Jung (Southern Denmark) acted as chair and discussant for a panel which featured Professor Meltem Müftüler-Bac (Sabanci) and Dr Mesut Özcan (Istanbul Commerce University) offering their assessment of Ankara's policies toward Iraq and the wider Turkish neighbourhood.

The morning of the conference's final day began with a panel that gathered widely recognised experts on the history of Western foreign policies. Dr Gaynor Johnson (Salford) addressed British policies toward Iraq in the context of the League of Nations, while Professor Stephanie Wichhart (Niagara) did the same in the context of the Kurdish problem. Professor Priya Satia (Stanford) spoke about the past, present and future of air control in Iraq, a topic which she had also addressed in a very well received lecture at the British Institute for the Study of Iraq.

This historical section was complemented by a fascinating panel chaired by Professor Isam al-Khafaji (Amsterdam), a leading authority on Iraqi and Middle Eastern history

and politics, whose expertise was highly valued by the US authorities in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. Dr John Franzen (Norwich), Bryan Gibson (LSE) and Brandon King (Toronto) shed light on different aspects of US and British policies toward Iraq during the 1940s and 50s.

The conference's grand finale returned the focus to Iraq's post 2003 domestic reform process: Professor Riyadh Aziz al-Hadi, Vice President (Academic) of Baghdad University, kindly agreed to chair and discuss a high profile panel featuring Professor Isam al-Khafaji, Professor Eric Davis, Dr Reidar Visser (Oslo) and Dr Nadjie el-Ali (SOAS). Dr Visser's presentation focused on the coalition arithmetic of the Iraqi parliamentary elections of early March whose results just about began to emerge when the conference convened. Professor Davis presented his assessment of post-2003 democratic reform in Iraq which will feature prominently in his upcoming research monograph 'Taking Democracy Seriously in Iraq'. Dr el-Ali presented her views on the history of the women's movement in Iraq and the current challenges it is facing before Professor al-Khafaji put the Iraqi experience in a wider regional context.

The conference organizers would like to thank Angela Pusey of the British Academy, Joan MacIver (BISI) and Dr Michelle Pace (BISA-Working Group on International Mediterranean Studies) for the very helpful support and advice in the run-up to and during a successful conference.

Lars Berger

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BISI VISITING SCHOLARS AND APPEAL REPORTS

INLA Archivists attending the DPTP at the University of London

Our last Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP) at the University of London was attended by many people from the UK and abroad. Among the attendees were two people from the Iraq National Library and Archives in Baghdad (INLA). Waleed Al-Naqshabandi and Zahraa Al Lami both work in the INLA and attended the last DPTP. Thanks to the British Institute for the Study of Iraq for your help with this project. We had tried to bring 2 people in 2009 but this had failed so it was a great achievement for us to get them here finally!

In April of 2003, the National Library and Archives (Dar al-Kutub wa al-Watha'Iq) of Iraq, which was located directly across from the Ministry of Defense, was burned and looted. The burning and looting appeared to have taken place on two occasions: April 10 and April 12-13. These fires were set professionally with accelerants. In total, an

estimated 60 percent of its total archival materials, 25 percent of its books, newspapers, rare books, and most of its historical photographs and maps were destroyed. Before the destruction, the library and archives were reported to have held 417,000 books, 2,618 periodicals dating from the late Ottoman era to modern times, and a collection of 4,412 rare books and manuscripts. According to Dr Saad Eskander, Director of the INLA, Saddam loyalists burned the entirety of the Republican Archive, which contained the records of the Ba'athist regime between the years 1958 and 1979. Also completely destroyed were the Ba'athist court proceedings detailing the charges against and trials of party opponents. Records of Iraq's relations with its neighbors, including Iran, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, are missing. Iraq has accused neighbouring countries of stealing sections of its national archives. In addition to these documents, which would have been of great interest to Iraqi citizens as well as to historians, the INLA lost records and documents from the Ottoman reign, the British occupation, the monarchical era, and much more. The destruction or loss of these materials, according to Eskander, did not occur only during the April 2003 attacks.

I first met Dr Saad Eskander, director of the library and archives in Abu Dhabi in 2006. He gave a talk about his work at the INLA. On my return to London I contacted him and asked him if he would consider writing a diary about his day to day life as the Librarian of the INLA. At first he declined as I think he did not wish to discuss his colleagues' day to day lives in this way. However he agreed and wrote his blog for us (The Society of Archivists UK and Ireland) and this was subsequently picked up by the British Library and hosted by the library. His entries document the events covering the library and archive's restoration. By 2007, the center "had already become a safe haven for intellectual activity, fully accessible to the public, with a state-of-the-art computer center". In addition, there is also a facility for transferring documents to microfilm, a cataloging operation, and a department that locates documents from Iraqi government ministries. Having been a major player in the history of Iraq, the British Library was able to help the reconstruction, by providing microfilm copies of rare books and microfiche copies of documents relating to the administration of Iraq from 1914 to 1921 that were held by the British in India. Despite the fact that five staff members have been killed, along with the library closing for days at a time due to heavy fighting, Eskander says he sees the institution as "an important source of uniting and unifying the country." Waleed and Zahraa came to London to learn more about the preservation of digital assets. I attended a CILIP awards ceremony for Dr Saad Eskander at the British Library in 2008. At a private dinner attended by the great and the good in relation to Iraq (of which I am not one!), Dr Eskander spoke to a group of us and asked for specific help in learning how to manage digital material. As the INLA is being partly replenished with many digital copies of collections from the British Library, it has been imperative that staff at the INLA learn how to deal with this material and not risk the loss of these digital records. In addition many of the records being produced by government are now 'born digital' and also need special care and attention if they are to last.

Waleed and Zahraa spent 3 days initially on the Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP). During this course they learnt about the keystones of digital preservation. DPTP is an intensive 3 day event developed by the University of London Computer Centre and Cornell University 5 years ago. It has been described as the "a

veritable Swiss army knife of tools, models, maps, trends and critical thinking. If you are venturing into the world of digital preservation, do **not** leave home without it.” (Sandy Ryan, British Library).

In addition to their three days of very intensive work and study with us at SOAS, Waleed and Zahraa spent time at the British Library looking at digital preservation in action. The British Library have been very engaged in assisting the INLA in its reconstruction. Their day at the British Library consisted of a meeting with Richard Davies, Digitisation Manager, a tour of studio to show range of digital equipment and how the BL manages its digital projects, digitisation and digital preservation. They also spent much time at the India Office Records where many of the collections relating to Iraq history are being digitised for the INLA.

As for Waleed and Zahraa themselves, both are very hard working employees of the INLA. They love their city and their country. Both had suffered during the last few years in different ways. A lot of admiration was expressed for their boss, Dr Eskander and all his work in the INLA. He has also set up a women's union within the library as well as a nursery for children! Waleed and Zahraa adapted well to England, considering they had never been away from their families before and made the most of their experience here. However they did not adapt to English food! There was great joy when we found an Iraqi restaurant where the waitress was from Baghdad! Their English was good especially considering they had never been to an English speaking country before. They have been attending English classes for 2 years which have been provided by the INLA. I enjoyed showing them London, bringing them to my house and they delighted in being here. I took them back to the airport laden down with books and reading material on digital preservation and record keeping. I am in regular contact with Waleed and developments in the INLA. Thanks again for your support. <http://dablog.ulcc.ac.uk/>



Patricia Sleeman
*Archivist, Digital Archives Department
University of London Computer Centre*

Patricia Sleeman with Zahraa (holding a BISI Newsletter!) and Waleed at a post training gathering in a London pub – photo taken by Joan MacIver, who presented them both with BISI publications.

Report on my time in the UK 2007-2008

I would like to submit my deep appreciation for the kind and golden chance which you helped me to have, as an academic visitor to UCL in 2007-2008. I have so many thanks for everyone who supported that project, especially the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (at first it was the British School for Archaeology in Iraq) via a generous donation from the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, the British Academy, UCL, the British Universities Iraq Consortium and the British Museum for all their efforts. [See BISI NL 21, May 2008 p.4]

I am pleased to provide the following report on my activities during my time at the Institute of Archaeology, which focused on the following areas:

RESEARCH

I have carried out research in three areas:

- The position of the ancient city of Marad in Mesopotamian civilization. My proposal to work on this topic was supported by the British Academy from wide fields as a subject for a visiting fellowship, which I held and I will be producing an article on the topic of Marad.
- The present status of archaeological heritage of Iraq. I am working on this subject in the light of my experiences as past Chairman of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq. In collaboration with my UCL sponsor, Professor Roger Matthews, I have now completed an article on this topic for publication in the refereed journal *Public Archaeology*
- I have also continued my studies and writing on the subject of the preservation of Dharab Castle in Iraq, where I previously conducted fieldwork.

TEACHING AND SEMINARS

I delivered lectures and seminars in the UK, mainly at the Institute of Archaeology at UCL and I lectured and held seminars on the ancient history and archaeology of *Mesopotamia as well* as on the archaeological heritage of Iraq to students at undergraduate level.

CONFERENCES

I participated in several important conferences in the academic year I was in the UK and these included:

- The British Academy Sponsored Schools and Institutes (BASIS) Evolving Societies Conference, London (November 2007)
- The Ancient Nineveh Workshop at Durham University (December 2007)
- The Day School on the Sumerians at Birkbeck College (January 2008)
- The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology (BANEA) Conference, Liverpool University (March 2008)
- The British Museum Ancient Iraq Day (April 2008)
- The Sixth International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), Rome, La Sapienza University (May 2008)
- ARCIA Conference Bologna University (May 2008)

MEETINGS

I have also participated in many formal and informal meetings with colleagues at the Institute of Archaeology UCL and in other academic institutions in London and other cities in the UK.

For everybody's help in arranging my participation in that kindly way I say thank you so much for your kind support.

Abbas Ali Al-Hussainy
Associate Professor & Director of Museum of Antiquities and Arts,

A short report about my time at the V & A

First of all its very difficult to understand the historical movement without the historical memory or the historical collections and many countries progress in the field of documentations and collections management, while in my country (IRAQ) the documentation system is still manual and unlinked as well.

The collections are every were as shown below :



Hence the Iraqi higher authority decided to devolve the documentation system as result I made a request to the BISI to help us in our Iraqi inventory program .

The BISI program



BISI administration and Visiting Scholars Programme with the cooperation of Victoria & Albert (V&A) Museum built a practical program for one month which began in early November 2009 . The team leader was Mr. Nick Umney, Director of Collections Services, in the management sector and the rest team were: Heather Caven; Flavia Dietrech; Laura Dix; Jack Britton; Sara Winmill (IT Networking); Mariam Rosser-Owen ; and James Stevenson The V&A program focused on :

- Timing/Laura Dix
- Collection management /Heather Dietrech
- Standard & Procedures

- Procedures Manual/ Flavia Dietrech
- Tech- service /Jack Britten
- Photography/ James Stevenson
- Collection display-ME Collection/ Mariam Rosser-Owens
- Data base/ Sara
- Store management / Amanda Ward
- Building management

With the progressing of the program many ideas were **glowing**, which lead to change my **priorities** to: security systems; marking the object; store management; and Database recording.

My vision has changed as well to: security is the effective means which will give the project the required time and more flexibility to reorganizing the collections as well as the documentation.

As I came back to Iraq I made a report with details to State Minister of Tourism & Antiquities as well as to the SBAH and today the SBAH administration recognized that they have to use the high density cabinet. It is easier to prepare these cabinets since most of SBAH collection are made of clay i.e just like ceramics.

Finally I can say that V&A program WAS useful specially the role of Mrs. Mariam Rosser-Owen.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who gave me the possibility to complete this course.



*Munir with Nick Umney and Laura Dix at the final 'debriefing' on his training programme at the V & A
(Photo: Joan MacIver December 2009)*

Munir .A.Essa
*Member of Higher Committee
of the Iraqi Museum Inventory
State Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities*

BISI Note: We wish to thank Nick Umney and Laura Dix for the amazing training programme, that they put together at the V & A and elsewhere. Other visits were arranged with colleagues at the British Library, the British Museum, the National Maritime Museum and the Imperial War Museum. His visit was sponsored by a generous donation from G4S Risk Management.

BISI MEMBERS' REPORTS AND NOTICES

Visit to Iraq - Post-War Art & Culture Festival in Sulaymania

Last November I travelled to Iraq, first to the Kurdistan Region, where in Sulaymania I attended the Post-War Art & Culture Festival in Iraqi Kurdistan, representing the British Institute for the Study of Iraq and participating in a symposium (<http://ukiniraq.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=Speech&id=21857752>). After a week in Kurdistan, I travelled down to Baghdad, and the following are my impressions of the places I visited there. (Please forgive me for what sounds quite a negative experience of Baghdad, but it is the reality I encountered there.)

The Iraq Museum

Apart from the Assyrian and Islamic galleries which were redisplayed with assistance from Italian archaeologists, the remainder of the galleries were hastily done for the opening in February 2009. In addition to the well exhibited Assyrian and Islamic galleries with ample labels, there was a display of antiquities acquired by the Museum since 2003, some as a result of confiscation and few through archaeological excavations. But all the redisplayed galleries were lacking in quality information, including basic identifications and descriptions of the various object assemblages.

The objects inventory project is moving rather slowly, with some five thousand objects checked so far, leaving an estimated two hundred thousand still to be done. Staff in the museum's photography department is busy digitising all the old photographic prints held by the museum, but due to lack of memory capacity, whether in the form of computer hard-drive memory space or CDs / DVDs or USB memory sticks, are resolving to scanning the images at very low resolution (75 pixels). The computers being used for this process are ordinary PCs with little capacity. And due to the lack of investment in equipment, their printer is out of order, in need of ink cartridges. Preserving these photographic prints in other formats is very important, as many of them are considered to be unique records of early archaeological excavations, and most are the only visual evidence remaining of the looted museum objects.

Unfortunately, due to the brevity of my visit to Baghdad, I was not able to inquire about the various archaeological excavations being conducted around the country; but I was able to meet Ratib Ali Faraj, the excavator working in the Anbar region in western Iraq. Faraj has been excavating at Tell Aswad (not to be confused with its namesake in the Diyala region in the east). The tell is on the left side of the Euphrates between Ramadi and Hit. It is an Early Dynastic settlement surrounded by a wall 5.20m thick, interrupted by square towers, the outside walls built with stone boulders and libn fill. Amongst the structures excavated there is a painted Early Dynastic temple with numerous finds of painted and plain pottery, some fragments of stone statues, thirty seven cylinder seals, terracotta figurines mostly representing animals, copper objects and silver jewellery.

Islamic Monuments in Baghdad

I was able to visit several monuments and shrines during my short visit, including the shrines of Umar Al-Sahrawardi, Ma'aruf Al-Karkhi, and Abd Al-Qadir Al-Gailani; the

Maqam of Khidhir Al-Yass; and the Bab Al-Wastani gate of Baghdad. I found Umar Al-Sahrawardi's shrine, with its 13th-century dome, almost completely neglected, with widespread damage to the fabric of the building caused by rising damp. Not only the wall plaster but also the floor tiling has come away due to the dampness. A small room off the main chamber holding Sahrawardi's tomb contains the grave of the last Abbasid caliph Al-Musta'sim-Billah, simply crumbling down because of the unchecked damp. The conical dome above the grave of Al-Sahrawardi, one of only two 13th-century architectural structures surviving in Baghdad, has a gaping vertical crack on its exterior, running down from its peak, giving the impression that the dome is in serious danger of collapsing. It seems that the shrine has fallen victim to the current bureaucracy in Iraq, exemplified by the tug of war between the Ministry of Awqaf (religious trusts), which funds the upkeep of the shrine, and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, which is responsible for the preservation and upkeep of the building.

The shrine of Ma'aruf Al-Karkhi, a 9th-century Sufi saint, has been rebuilt several times in its more recent history, and was renovated completely in the late 1990s. Its Ottoman building and dome was demolished and replaced by a multi-coloured Indian-turban shaped monument, with a new minaret that looks like a modern airport watchtower. Ma'aruf's original minaret is the only thing that survives, spared the demolition, but forbidden from being seen from the outside, it has been encased by the new building, capped by a mirrored internal dome, and dissected by the new building's three-story mosque and its crypt. I apologise if I sound very negative, but it genuinely pains me to see Baghdad's heritage falling into inadvertent neglect or being lovingly defaced!

However, there is one happy story to be told, and that is of the National Library, which gives real hope that Iraq is on its way to recovery. I turned up there by chance, forced into going in by the rain and the flooding and traffic jams it caused. I found them in the middle of a celebration to honour the life and achievements of Salim Al-Alussi, a renowned historian and former editor of the scholarly journal *Sumer* and a former director of the National Archives. Dr. Sa'ad Eskandar, the head of the National Library, was kind enough to invite me to join the celebrations, and met with me to discuss his work and plans for the Library. The whole building was like a beehive full of busy, happy looking staff, with a positive sense of achievement about the place.

November visit to Sulaymania

I was able to visit the Department of Antiquities in Sulaymania where I met most of its energetic and enthusiastic staff.

Sulaymania Museum

The Museum at the moment is at a stand still, but a refurbishment programme and re-exhibiting the antiquities is scheduled for this year. The Museum's antiquities cover nearly the whole history of ancient Iraq. Since 1991 life-size replicas of well known rock mountain reliefs have been exhibited in the Museum, an outstanding achievement by the staff. On the façade of the museum is the Darband-i Gaur relief (located in the Qardagh range of passes), representing a victorious king trampling on his fallen enemy. Judging by the king's attire and head dress, he is most probably an Early Old Babylonian ruler. Inside the museum you are faced with the replica of the relief of the Qizqapan Midean

tomb façade (located west of Zarzi), flanked by the replicas of the Parthian or Sassanian rock reliefs from MeerQuli (I prefer Sassanian, but the Sulaymania archaeologists are not certain of the dating), showing possibly male dignitaries. One figure comes from the lower site of MeerQuli, the second from the top of the mountain. It is there that the Antiquities Department of Sulaymania is conducting excavations at a rather mysterious settlement (see below, Excavations). In the courtyard are fragments of the longest Sassanian royal inscription of king Narseh (293-302 AD), waiting to be conserved, restored and reassembled by an Italian team. An Italian group is also helping to digitise of the coin collection and training the staff in the Museum.

Excavations

The first season of excavation by a team of archaeologists from Sulaymania have unearthed an unusual settlement on top of the PiraMagroon mountain at MeeQuli, about 1618m above sea level. It is most probably a military post, its size is nearly 1116x760m. The settlement is surrounded by a wall intercepted by square shaped towers built in the cliff of the mountain with undressed stone boulders. It has a strange structure consisting of a large rectangular hall divided by parallel walls. The excavators are puzzled about its function. In addition to the discovery of stamp seals and Sassanian pottery, pottery fragments from earlier periods have been found in the fill, with the possibility the earth was brought from other sites, as there are even fragments of Ubaid type pottery. The height of the settlement, hanging on the side of the mountain, made accessibility difficult to the excavators. They had to climb the 1618m mountain by foot, and the excavator Zuhair Rijab had to stay there without climbing down for several weeks. It is hoped excavations will continue next spring.

Lamia al-Gailani Werr

Visit to the Director of Antiquities of Sulaymaniyah Governorate, Northern Iraq May 2010

Lamia al-Gailani and I were invited by the Director of Antiquities of Sulaymaniyah Governorate, Kamal Rashid, to visit Sulaymaniyah at the end of April. We were most warmly welcomed and all expenses were paid by the directorate. Lamia is assisting the staff with cataloguing a large number of cylinder seals which have recently been acquired by the Museum and I discussed the possibility of future cooperation between BISI and Sulaymaniyah with Kamal and with Hashem Heme, the director of the museum.

We were also able to meet a very large number of people including Mrs Talabani, the wife of the President of Iraq, who is extremely interested in the heritage of the region, the UNESCO representatives for Iraq, the staff of the Erbil Institute and of course the staff of the Sulaymaniyah museum who were all young and enthusiastic. They are also very aware of their need for training, especially in conservation and museum management. Some of them are learning English and will be taking TOEFL exams as a preparation for further studies.



We visited the heritage houses in Sulaymaniyah, which are to be part of a UNESCO grand plan for the redevelopment of the heritage of the city, went to Erbil Citadel, and climbed up to see the relief of Annubanini at Darband-i Gaur, an unforgettable experience in most beautiful country.

After our discussions with the director, it was agreed that BISI would try to set up a course in Sulaymaniyah, similar to the one given in Baghdad some years ago concentrating on principles of museum management and some general history. [See Noorah al-Gailani's report in BSAI NL 13 – May 2004.] The Museum also expressed great interest in a

possible joint field project in the future.

The Museum has few facilities, but is hoping to expand into the building next door with more room for a laboratory and a properly equipped library. Unfortunately, the university does not teach archaeology but does have ancient history. Lamia will try to make contact with the department before she leaves at the end of May.

Sulaymaniyah is stable and safe and now that links have been established there is the possibility for mutually beneficial and very fruitful cooperation between BISI and the staff of the museum at a number of levels. We would be extremely welcome and this looks like an excellent opportunity for us to return to Iraq for the first time in twenty years.

Harriet Crawford

Iraq Tourism – Hinterland Travel

In April Hinterland Travel completed another tour of the ancient sites, historical places and Shrine cities of Iraq. The return to Iraq since 2008 has been a slow, but positive process, and it is now gathering momentum with an increasing number of departures.

Upon arriving in Baghdad a visit to the National Museum sets the tone for both the 9 and 17 day tours throughout the length and breadth of the country. Baghdad changes daily, and as the security situation continues to improve so our group gets around the city more easily. Baghdad is at the centre of our trip, and we return to it several times during our tour. Travelling north from Baghdad our first stop is Samarra, viewing the Malwiyah Minaret, the ruins of the Caliph's Palace and the Abu Dalaf Mosque. We travel on as far north as Erbil, where the Citadel awaits the modern archaeologist's spade. We travel to the monasteries of Der Mar Matti and Der Mar Benham and visit the forlorn, neglected ruins of Nimrud. Returning south to Baghdad more amazing sites await us, including the famous Arch at Ctesiphon. Departing further south our journey takes in Babylon, where in addition to the historical site, Saddam's Palace awaits our inspection. Borsippa (Birs Nimrud) with its famous ziggurat is not far away. Kish, the City of Sargon, is also close by as are the Islamic Shrine cities of Kerbala and Najaf, the Mosque of Kufa and the small town of El Khifal. Here in Khifal some interesting new work and restoration is

taking place on the site of the old synagogue and tomb of Ezekial. Gertrude Bell's favourite site Ukhaidir is close by as are the At Tar caves.

The great Sumerian cities are now part of our schedule – Nippur, Uruk and Ur. These sites, isolated and overflowing with pottery shards from the old excavations, always inspire the imagination and inspire further investigation. Next we make brief visits to very ancient Eridu and Tell Ubaid and view the Marshes before arriving in Basra. Here we conclude our tours with a boat ride on the Shatt al Arab, before returning to Baghdad for a final day's excursions.

The aim of our tours is not just to learn more about the history and archaeological of this fascinating and ancient country, but also to gain a rounded view of Iraq, with its Islamic heritage and its national and political past and present. But most of all, to contact and engage with the people of Iraq, wherever and whenever we can.

The situation in Iraq in regard to security gets better all the time, but for the moment we still have to avoid certain areas due to the ongoing tensions, both political and between various religious and ethnic groups. Mosul, with its wealth of Assyrian sites and Christian churches, is unfortunately one of these. Hatra is not yet restored to our itinerary, and some of the other Sumerian sites in the south, such as Telloh (Lagash), are not easily reached on a tour schedule for practical, logistic reasons and again, local tensions with looting etc. On every tour that we operate we add, where possible, some new site or experience, and in due course sites such as these will be back on our itinerary.

Archaeologically and practically, most of the ancient sites are neglected to a greater or lesser degree, but plans are in place for their refurbishment and provision of facilities for future tourism. The infrastructure is beginning to take shape, with protective fences and site guards slowly beginning to appear, marking the start of improvements ahead.

Our next tour departs on Sept 4th 2010. It is a special combination tour of Kurdistan Iraq and Mesopotamia. Following this we have 17 and 9 day tours departing on September 8th, October 6th and November 3rd. In 2011 we will have a full series of tours running from March onwards. Combinations of Turkey, Iraq and Iran, and combinations of Syria, Lebanon and Iraq are all to be included in our programmes along with our more traditional Exploring Kurdistan Iraq and Mesopotamian 17 and 8 day tours. See our website www.Hinterlandtravel.com for further details.

Geoff Hann

Director of Hinterland Travel and a BISI member

Email: hinterland@btconnect.com

BISI NOTE: In March Joan Porter MacIver and Lamia Al-Gailani Werr took part in an Asia House Travel Forum 'Babylon to Chang'an: Asia's Museum & Heritage' and delivered a talk on 'Tourism in Iraq and Iraq's Heritage'. [www.asiahouse.org]

BOOK DONATIONS FOR THE BISI LIBRARY

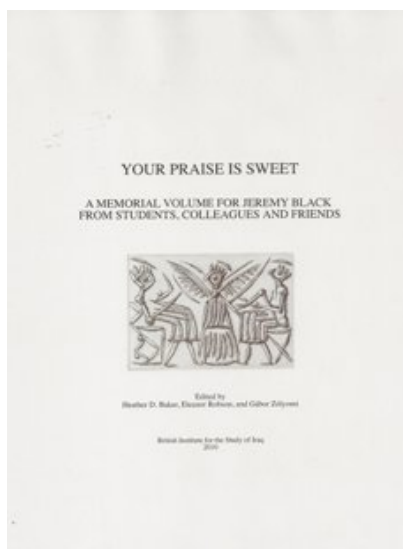
Cohen, Ada and Kangas, Steven E., Eds, *Assyrian Reliefs from the Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, A Cultural Biography*, Lebanon, N.H., University Press of New England, 2010 ISBN 978-1-58465-817-7

Jassim, Saad Z. and Goff, Jeremy C., Eds, *Geology of Iraq*, Brno, Czech Republic, , Dolin, 2006 ISBN 80-7028-287-8

Peacock, A.C.S., Ed *The Frontiers of the Ottoman World*, Oxford, OUP for the British Academy, 2009 ISBN 978-0-19-726442-3

Winter, Irene J. *On the Art in the Ancient Near East Volume I Of the First Millennium B.C.E.* ISBN 978-9004172371 & *Volume II From the Third Millennium B.C.E.*, ISBN 978-9004174993 Leiden, Brill Academic Publishers, 2009

NEW & RECENT BISI PUBLICATIONS



Your Praise is Sweet – A Memorial Volume for Jeremy Black from students, colleagues and friends edited by Heather D. Baker, Eleanor Robson and Gábor Zólyomi
This volume is intended as a tribute to the memory of the Sumerologist Jeremy Black, who died in 2004. The Sumerian phrase za3-mi2-zu dug-ga-am3 ‘Your praise is sweet’ is commonly addressed to a deity at the close of a work of Sumerian literature. The scope of the thirty contributions, from Sumerology to the nineteenth-century rediscovery of Mesopotamia, is testament to Jeremy’s own wide-ranging interests and to his ability to forge scholarly connections and friendships among all who shared his interest in ancient Iraq.

A4, hardback, Pages: 472 (xii + 460) ISBN- 978-0-903472-28-9 Price £35 (June 2010 – publication date)

Once there was a place : Settlement Archaeology at Chagar Bazar, 1999-2002 by with Augusta McMahon with Carlo Colantoni, Julia Frane and Arkadiusz Soltysiak
428 pp 88 plates, sewn A4 ISBN 978-0-903472-27-2 Price £25

PRICE REDUCTION for Alastair Northedge’s *The historical topography of Samarra (Samarra Studies I)* ISBN 978-0-903472-22-7 Price £25 (Previously £40)

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ
GRANTS:
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACADEMIC VISITORS

The Institute promotes, supports, and undertakes research and public education relating to Iraq and neighbouring countries, carrying out work not covered by other BASIS-sponsored institutions. Its coverage includes anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, languages, and related disciplines within the arts, humanities, and social sciences from the earliest times until the present.

BISI RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE GRANTS

The Institute invites funding applications twice a year for grants in aid of research and for the organisation of academic conferences. Applications are welcomed to support research or conferences on Iraq and neighbouring countries not covered by other BASIS-sponsored institutions, in any field of the humanities or social sciences, concerned with any time period from prehistory to the present day. Awards will normally fall within a limit of £4000, though more substantial awards may be made.

In addition, the Institute particularly welcomes funding applications for **pilot projects preliminary to larger research projects** to support research on Iraq, in any field of the humanities or social sciences, however, projects related to the theme of *Exile and Return* are particularly welcome. Funding of up to £8000 is available, for **one** pilot project a year. The Institute will also offer assistance to the award-holder in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies.

Applicants **must** be residents of the UK or, very exceptionally, other individuals whose academic research closely coincides with that of a BISI sponsored project or excavation. (Please contact BISI in advance of preparing an application to determine if this would be applicable if you are not a UK based researcher.) Two academic references are required. All applications and references must be received by **31 October and 31 January annually**.

BISI DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Grants are available to support development events and projects, such as lectures, study days, and popular publications that relate to Iraq and neighbouring countries and to the areas of interest covered by BISI. A Development Grant application should normally be for an amount up to £500 but more substantial grants may be made. Applicants need to submit an application form and two references to the BISI Administrator. Applicants must be residents of the UK and preference is given to activities taking place in the UK, or in Iraq or a neighbouring country. The deadlines for applications and references are **15 October and 15 April annually**. In special circumstances BISI will consider urgent applications at other times.

BISI VISITING IRAQI FELLOWS & SCHOLARS GRANTS

BISI offers two or three grants each year to be held in the UK by visiting scholars from Iraq in the fields of archaeology, ancient languages, museum and heritage studies, and other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. The academic focus must relate to the study of Iraq and priority is given to scholars at an early stage of their careers and applicants must have a reasonable standard of ability in the English language. Applications are due by **31 October** and **30 April annually**.

All grant requirements, conditions, and application forms, as well as membership forms, are available from: BISI Administrator, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, United Kingdom and the BISI website: <http://www.bisi.ac.uk>

Please contact the BISI Administrator if you have any queries regarding BISI grants. The deadlines for application may be under review and we suggest you consult our website **www.bisi.ac.uk** if you are interested in applying for any of the BISI Grant schemes.

BISI 2010 – 2011 LECTURES & OTHER FUTURE EVENTS

16 April – 20 June - Contemporary Art Iraq Events - new and recent film, video, photography, installation and performance from Iraq. The exhibition is collaboration between Cornerhouse and ArtRole and was supported by a BISI Development grant at **Cornerhouse, Manchester** <http://www.cornerhouse.org/>

22 May at 6 p.m. - **The Association of Iraqi Academics Meeting & Lecture 'Water Problems in Iraq and the Middle East'** by **Professor Adel Sharif** (Surrey University) Venue: University College London, Cruciform Building, (lecture room 2), Gower Street, London WC1 6BT.

22 May - *Classsic Voices of Baghdad* at 7.30 pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

18 May - 31 August - Arabic Calligraphy Exhibit - the Iraqi calligrapher, **Mr Bihnam Al-Agzeer** at the Arthur Probsthain Bookshop/Gallery, 41 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PE.

25 May at 5.30 pm -CBRL Lecture, 5.30pm **'Dispossession and Displacement: Forced Migration in the Middle East and North Africa. Is the Past Prologue?'** by **Dr Dawn Chatty**, Deputy Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
<http://www.cbri.org.uk/>
Venue: The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

4 June at 2.30 p.m. - **A Memorial Service for Professor Donald Wiseman** at **All Souls**, Langham Place, London (Just North of Oxford Circus and next to the BBC building.)

5 June - ZIPANG Day Out

Locations: the British Museum and Poetry Cafe, 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden WC2H 9BX <http://www.zipang.org.uk/>

Thursday, 17 June at 5.30 p.m. - BISI Bonham Carter Forum and Lecture with **Dr Nadje S.Al-Ali of SOAS on Women & Gender in Iraq: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives** (A reception will take place after the lecture.)

Venue: The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

3 July - Last ZIPANG Day Out <http://www.zipang.org.uk/>

9 August – Performance by **Ilham Al Madfai and Khyam Allami**

Prom 33: BBC Radio 3 World Routes Academy, Royal Albert Hall, London

Thursday, 16 September - BISI Talk at 6 p.m. (tbc) - **Khyam Allami on the Iraq 'Oud School** - details to be confirmed – check the events page of the BISI website for updates.

23-24 September - LSE International History Department, LSE IDEAS, and LSE Global Governance conference '**Reappraising the Iran-Iraq War Thirty Years Later**'. Conference organizers: Professor Nigel Ashton,; Bryan Gibson; and Ranj Alaaldin. Ideas.Middleeast@lse.ac.uk.

[This conference is being sponsored in part by a BISI conference grant.]

Saturday 20 November - **The Ancient near East: Power and Propaganda'** at the Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford in association with BISI - details are available from the BISI Administrator or on the Department's website <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/>

9 December - BISI 2010 AGM and Lecture by **Dr Augusta McMahon** of the University of Cambridge on **the Excavations at Tell Brak (Details TBC)**

6-8 January 2011 BANEA 2011 - The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology Conference Main Themes : Artistry, Artisanship and Divisions of Labour in the Ancient Near East <http://www.banea.org/>
The School of World Art Studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich

February 2011 – BISI & Birkbeck College Mesopotamian 2011 Study Day (Provisionally scheduled - to be confirmed)

17 March 2011 - BISI Lecture **Professor Clive Holes FBA** (Details tbc)

For updates and further details, please check the BISI website
<http://www.bisi.ac.uk>

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ

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- Full voting rights at the BISI AGM in person or by postal ballot

How to Become a Member of BISI

Please post a completed Membership Request Form **and** accompanying Membership Payment Form to the Administrator. Our Membership year starts in January and we send renewal notices the previous November. You are very welcome to become a Member at any time during the year and will receive the appropriate journals for that year.

