
THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ

المعهد البريطاني لدراسة العراق

NEWSLETTER NO. 27

SPRING 2011



**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1135395

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The next BISI Newsletter will be published in the autumn 2011. Brief contributions are welcomed on recent research, publications, members' news and events. They should be sent to BISI by e-mail to arrive by 30 September 2011. The BISI Administrator Joan Porter MacIver edits the Newsletter with assistance from Dr Eleanor Robson and others.

(Photos are taken by the Editor unless otherwise noted.)

Cover: Carved ivory plaque from Nimrud, showing a winged human figure, wearing an Egyptian wig, with a large lotus flower above. 8th – 7th century BC. Phoenician style © The Trustees of the British Museum

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The most important recent news for the Institute is the finalisation of our long-awaited arrangements with the British Museum regarding our collection of ivories from Nimrud, previously mentioned to our members last autumn and in our recent 2010 annual report. The Institute has donated over a third of the collection to the museum. We will greatly benefit from the museum's acquisition from the BISI of a similar portion of these ivories, which will provide the Institute with a significant boost to its future finances. The income arising from this endowment will enable the BISI to support its work on an ongoing basis and to plan for our future. The bulk of the funds were raised through the generosity of the British Museum Friends, as well as The Art Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF). We attended the press meeting at the British Museum in early March and it was very exciting to see some of these wonderful objects on display. They were also displayed at a small gathering at the House of Commons, where many of those involved in the fund raising were also invited to see the objects. It gave us the opportunity to thank the donors on behalf of the Institute and Council members.



Photo: Dr John Curtis talking to Maeve Kennedy of 'The Guardian' at the British Museum Press gathering with museum staff and conservators on hand

As part of the press release Dr John Curtis, Keeper of the Department of the Middle East at the British Museum, commented: "Nimrud is one of the most important sites in the Ancient Near East, and the carved ivories found there are amongst the finest products recovered from an archaeological excavation. These ivories tell us a great deal about the art and history of the Middle East in the early first millennium BC, and now they will be available for everybody to see and study. I am hugely grateful to BISI, the British Museum Friends, the Art Fund and the NHMF, for enabling us to purchase this collection". BISI's Council members are indeed very pleased that these objects will be available for scholars to study and for future exhibits. We are especially grateful to our Honorary Treasurer, Mr Iain Cheyne CBE, for all his help and expert advice over the lengthy period of negotiations, culminating in this excellent outcome for all concerned.

This has been a busy period since our last newsletter in November. In December, Dr Augusta McMahon gave a talk at UCL on her recent work at Tell Brak in Syria. Before the lecture, we were pleased to present certificates of achievement to the two visiting BISI scholars from the Iraq Museum, Khawlah Mahleej Khaleel and Faeza Al-Rubaye (see reports on pp. 34-38). After the lecture, they had the opportunity to meet our members at the BISI reception, just a few days before returning home to Iraq.



Photo: Faeza Al-Rubaye and Khawlah Mahleej with Dr Joan Oates at the December reception at UCL.

In February Dr Azzam Alwash of Nature Iraq (<http://www.natureiraq.org/>) gave a fascinating lecture for the BISI Appeal on “The Marshes of southern Mesopotamia, Past, Present and Future” to a sold-out venue in the new Wolfson Auditorium at the British Academy. We were very pleased that Professor Sir Adam Roberts, President of the British Academy, was able to attend. The appeal event was generously sponsored by HE Sheikh Hamed Ahmed Al-Hamed, who has previously sponsored two BISI appeal events. The evening also provided us with an opportunity to thank Mr Mahdi Sajjad and Gulfsands Petroleum for the company’s generous donation to the BISI Appeal. Our most recent Visiting Iraqi Scholar, Dr Muy’ad Sulaiman, of the Department of Cuneiform Studies at the University of Mosul, attended and met a number of BISI members and other guests. Dr Sulaiman’s report (see p. 38) details his time in the UK and we are very grateful to all those who contributed to his visit, which was sponsored by Maureen and Tony Wheeler’s donation.



Photo: Sir Adam Roberts posing a question to Dr Azzam Alwash at the BISI Appeal Event at the British Academy



Photo: Dr Azzam Alwash of Nature Iraq after his BISI Appeal Lecture with BISI visiting scholar Dr Muy’ad Sulaiman and Professor Roger Matthews

Professor Clive Holes FBA delivered the BISI annual lecture in March on ‘Iraqi voices from the margins: ‘Abbud al-Karkhi, ‘Aziz ‘Ali and ‘Abbas Jijan’, which included online recordings of these modern Iraqi poets reciting their own poems. This was a new topic for most of the audience, which stimulated much lively discussion. After the lecture, Professor Holes met Abbud Al-Karkhi’s grandson, who had attended the lecture. We were also delighted to welcome many members of the Iraq Association to the event. At the reception, we presented Dr Sulaiman with a certificate acknowledging his work in the UK.

The active sponsorship of research on Iraq remains a major objective for BISI. Our new financial situation means that we plan to continue to support a broad range of activities for the foreseeable future. A number of reports on past grants are included in this newsletter (see pp. 8-25). In addition, the Institute has recently awarded research travel grants to the following individuals to work on a varied scope of topics, ancient to modern: Noorah Al-Gailani for ‘Documentation of the material culture of two Qadiri Sufi Shrines in Baghdad and Aqra’; Dr Nicole Brisch to work on ‘Old Babylonian Satukku Texts from Nippur’ at the Oriental Institute; Dr Elaine Crawley for ‘Doing Prison Work in Kurdistan: Challenges, Impacts and

Role Development'; and Dr Derek Kennet for 'Partho-Sasanian - Early Islamic Trade between Iraq and South India'. We are also providing grants to Dr John MacGinnis to support the 'Ziyaret Tepe Archaeological Project (2011)' and to Khyam Allami to contribute to the 'Sound of Iraq - SOI Project', which will also be supported by a Visiting Scholars grant for the digital training of two archivists from the Iraq National Library and Archive. This project is also receiving funding in kind from the British Library and the British Council. BISI's 2011 Pilot Project Grant was awarded to Professor Hugh Kennedy for the 'Old Basra Project'. This is an important opportunity to re-engage with work on the ground in Iraq.



At a meeting arranged by the BISI with the BISI Administrator, Professor Kennedy had the unique opportunity to meet a delegation from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, headed by SBAH Chairman Mr Qaees Rashid (left), and Dr Amira Edan, Director of the Iraq

Museum (right), along with a number of colleagues from Basra and Baghdad. We are sure that this will lead to a successful collaboration between Professor Kennedy and the Iraqi authorities, who are very committed to having British fieldwork teams return to Iraq.

As can be seen from all the visitors already mentioned, our Visiting Scholars programme has been thriving. It takes considerable effort to organise all these visits. We could not manage the programme without the support of all the academic mentors, as well as those handling 'personal' aspects of these visits. The reports of our scholars (see pp. 34-39) provide the names of many of those who assisted us during the recent visits and we wish to add our thanks to them all for their generosity in supporting these Iraqi visitors. BISI is considering providing more training courses in Iraq along the lines of the courses given last year by Noorah Al-Gailani and Dr Dominique Collon (see p. 31) and we will be exploring various possibilities over the coming years. BISI is also sending a shipment of books to the University of Mosul's Department of Cuneiform Studies, organised by Dr Fran Reynolds in consultation with Dr Muy'ad Sulaiman. Books and academic material continue to be a major requirement in Iraq's universities. Dr Georgina Herrmann has generously provided a donation of books from Cambridge University Press, which will be sent to Basra Museum, along with a print run of *IRAQ* and other BISI publications.

At our 77th Annual General Meeting in March, we were sorry to say goodbye to Dr Fran Reynolds, who has played a major role in our outreach work for almost a decade, and whose term on Council has come to an end. She launched and organised the very successful Birkbeck-BISI/BSAI study days, as well as working with continuing education groups in Oxford and Glasgow. She has spearheaded a

very long run of wonderful BISI lectures and has been involved in helping us develop our new membership structure. It is under her chairmanship that the BISI Development Grant scheme was started. These grants have provided many writers, societies, arts and other cultural and heritage groups with funding to launch a wide range of projects relating to Iraq. We encourage our members to spread the word (see p. 40) about this BISI initiative within the grant structure. She also played a major role in organising Dr Muy'ad Sulaiman's Oxford programme and contributed greatly to its success. We wish Dr Reynolds all the best for the next stage of her work and we know she deserves a break from all her BISI responsibilities. In our annual report, we neglected to mention the valuable past assistance of Dr Mariana Giovino, who was a co-opted member of the Development Committee, as she stepped down from the committee in 2010. Dr Giovino provided an important contribution to the committee and she also organised a number of study days.

We were all very saddened by the unexpected death while travelling in Canada of our friend and colleague, Dr Donny George Youkhanna, former Director of the Iraq Museum. We held a moment of silence before the March lecture to honour



Donny standing beside one of the smashed cases in the Iraq Museum - the mark of the circular base of the Basetki bronze statue which had been looted is just visible in the lower left corner, which is why he looks sad. The statue was later recovered.

Photo: Dominique Collon, July 2003, Baghdad

him. There will be an obituary in our next issue of *IRAQ*. Many BISI/BSAI Council members and members knew Donny well, ever since the 1980s when Donny was an active member of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and in more recent years. After the 2003 invasion and the destruction at the Iraq Museum, he gave many talks in the UK and the USA to raise international awareness of the problems facing Iraq and its heritage. The BSAI sponsored his participation in the Institute of Archaeology's November 2006 'Archaeology in Conflict' Conference. It was tragic that Donny no longer felt safe to stay in Iraq with his family and he left in 2005 first to Syria and then to take up a position at SUNY at Stony

Brook New York, where he became a professor of anthropology, then of Asian studies. In conjunction with the Department of the Middle East of the British Museum, we are hoping to arrange a memorial service in his honour and will keep our members informed of any dates.

The BISI continues to plan to return to Iraq despite the rapid changes in the Middle East and concrete discussions have now begun. The survey of 'Old Basra' led by Professor Hugh Kennedy, sponsored by a BISI Pilot Project grant, provides a

unique opportunity to resume activities. We hope this is the start of future fieldwork and the Institute looks forward to its future re-engagement in Iraq. Two new Council members, elected to Council in March, will help us in furthering our goals. We are very pleased to announce the election of Dr Teresa Bernheimer and Professor Charles Tripp to Council. Their expertise covering medieval and Islamic periods and modern day Iraq respectively will add to our current extensive academic coverage on Council and we look forward to working with them over the coming years.

In sum, the BISI now possesses a sense of financial security and stability that it has not enjoyed for some time. We are thus in a strong position to build on the developments of recent years, including the broadening of our disciplinary remit, in order to expand our connections and interactions with academic and popular communities around the world, and especially those in Iraq, who share our commitment to furthering the study of Iraq and its neighbours.

*Joan Porter MacIver &
Roger Matthews*

RACHEL MAXWELL-HYSLOP FBA (1914-2011)

Just before going to press with the newsletter, we heard the news of the death of **Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop FBA, FSA** on the 9th of May in a gentle manner at the age of 97. Council wishes to pass on its deepest sympathy to Rachel's family.

Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop was an independent scholar and a lecturer in Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, London 1949-1965. Her principle publications were: *Western Asiatic Jewellery c.3000-612 BC*, 1971; "The Khosh-Tapa-Fullol hoard" *Journal of Afghan Studies* 1982; 'Dalbergia Sissoo Roxburgh' *Anatolian Studies* 1983; "A note on the techniques used by the jewellers of Carchemish and Nimrud" *Aspects of art and iconography of Anatolia and its neighbours* 1993. (Source: British Academy website fellows' page). She was a contributor to the *Journal IRAQ* Volume XII (Spring 1950) "Note on a Luristan Axe in the Otago Museum, New Zealand".

We were very honoured to have had Rachel as our last BSAI President from 2004 to 2007 and briefly as one of our Vice- Presidents (2003/2004). She served on the Council of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq from 1958 - 1996. She became a Fellow of the British Academy in 1991. She was a pioneer in the early days of archaeology and worked with Tessa and Mortimer Wheeler when they founded the Institute during the 1930s. She was very briefly the Assistant Editor of *Iraq* in 1949 when Max Mallowan was editor (see note p. 43).

Hearing Rachel describe her experiences during her many decades involved in the field was a joy that many members and colleagues will have shared. The BSAI/BISI appreciated her active support of our work over many years. She will be missed by many.

The Family will be arranging a funeral service on 16 May and a memorial service will take place later in the year.

**FIELDWORK, RESEARCH & ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
GRANT REPORTS**

THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE MANDAEAN LANGUAGE AND RITUALS

I am grateful to have received the first BISI Pilot Project award, in 2010, for my work on the documentation of the Mandaean language and rituals.

Since then I have finished translating a number of important works: 'The Baptism and Death Prayers and Homilies of the Mandaeans'; 'The Book of Kings'; 'The Teachings of John the Baptist', and 'The Responses (*iniani*)'. I have also documented several performances using ELAN software, which is designed for complex annotation of video and audio recordings. I have made translations into English and Arabic, transliterations of the Mandaic, and/or transcriptions in a Mandaic font of various Mandaean poems, songs and prayers, and parts of the 'Book of Souls'.

The funding has also enabled me to consult with Mandaean Priests on ambiguities concerning Mandaean practices such as the Sacred Sacrament, the Sacred Massage of the Dead, the Communion, the isolation of women during menstruation, and the significance of burying the dead in the direction of north.

In addition I have made video, audio and photographic documentation of several important Mandaean ceremonies, including marriage, baptism, the *zidqa brikha* commemoration, and recitations from the Book of Souls.

On the recommendation of my sponsor Professor Mark Geller I sent my translation of 'The Mandaean Story of Creation' to Professor Rainer Voigt of the Freie Universität Berlin, who is editor of the Harrassowitz series of Mandaic texts, in the hope that he will consider it for publication.

Through all my lectures and meetings with the Mandaeans I always refer to The British Institute for the Study of Iraq as the main supporter of my project in documenting the heritage of the Mandaeans, the last Gnostics of Mesopotamia and the most endangered in the Middle East.

Sabah Aldihisi

**MEANINGS OF MESOPOTAMIAN SACRIFICIAL DIVINATION AND THE
WORK OF MORRIS JASTROW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Mesopotamian divination: primitive mumbo-jumbo or the beginnings of modern science? At the turn of the twentieth century, Assyriologists gave both of these opposing meanings to this ancient scholarly tradition. Why were divinatory practices in ancient Iraq understood in such contradictory ways and what were the reasons underlying these multiple views of the distant past? This is the question I am addressing in my doctoral study in History and Philosophy of Science, supervised by Dr. Eleanor Robson at the University of Cambridge. As historians such as Bruce Kuklick and Jerrold Cooper have shown, the turn of the twentieth

century was a time when the study of the ancient Near East was shaped by questions surrounding its own purpose. Did Assyriology seek biblical truth or secular study? Was archaeology a means of collecting treasures or an emerging scientific discipline? My doctoral research explores how the perceived 'scientific' or 'primitive' qualities of ancient divinatory scholarship were used as evidence in competing sides of these wider disciplinary debates.

Sacrificial divination, also now known as extispicy, was a prevalent and persistent practice in Mesopotamia (Assyria and Babylonia). Mesopotamian royal courts utilized extispicy for over a millennium, considering it a well-tested method for delivering reliable answers. Ruling kings depended on scholarly advisers, such as astronomers, priests and diviners, to aid them in the political decision-making process. Diviners known as *bārû* (literally "seer") made predictions for the king based on ominous marks present on the organs, usually the liver, of a sacrificial sheep. One important form of archaeological evidence related to extispicy are clay models of sheep's livers. Assyriologists interested in divination studied extispicy models, and their visual appeal also made them meaningful for non-specialist audiences. During my MPhil degree I analysed how one particular liver model, now held in the British Museum [BM 92668], was given a wide range of interpretations in the early twentieth century, from that of a primitive, magical object to being described as clear evidence for the origins of rational, scientific thought. My doctoral work investigates the 'scientific' interpretations of this model, in particular those made by Morris Jastrow (1861–1921), Professor of Semitic languages at the University of Pennsylvania, who saw the model as evidence of science and medicine's early origins. Jastrow was a Jewish academic who worked within several disciplines including comparative religion, Old Testament studies and Assyriology. Jastrow was a major academic adversary of the Penn Assyriologist Hermann Hilprecht and became heavily involved in a high-profile academic dispute with him, later known as the Hilprecht-Peters controversy. Hilprecht was accused of falsifying the provenance of cuneiform tablets acquired on the University's expeditions to Nippur in Babylonia, and Jastrow became one of his most vindictive opponents. This was not Jastrow's only instance of academic rivalry amongst his colleagues; he was also an adamant supporter of German Assyriologist Friedrich Delitzsch (1850–1922), whose controversial 1902 lecture *Babel und bibel* had divided academic opinion by stating that the purpose of Assyriology should not be aligned with the search for Biblical truth. In supporting Delitzsch, Jastrow again found himself in direct opposition to Hilprecht—even though Jastrow's admiration was only for Delitzsch's scholarship and not his political or religious views. As Bruce Kuklick has elucidated however, such rivalries were more than simply personal struggles to prove one's intellectual credentials; they had their roots in wider debates about the methods and purpose of Assyriology as a discipline at the turn of the twentieth century.

Jastrow wrote extensively on liver divination, both in his large studies on Assyrian and Babylonian religion and in papers given to non-Assyriological audiences. He lectured on the subject both in the Philadelphia area and as far afield

as London. Clay liver models featured heavily in these papers, becoming an important source of visual evidence.

Whilst Jastrow's published papers have been an invaluable resource for my work, during the second year of my PhD, I wished to move beyond published material and investigate what had influenced Jastrow's scholarship on divination. To do this, I undertook two weeks of primary research at the University of Pennsylvania during Summer 2010, supported by research travel grants from BISI and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Archival material gathered during my research visit has allowed me to contextualise Jastrow's scholarship and understand how it was influenced both by his difficult institutional relationships, and by disciplinary shifts occurring in Assyriology during this period.

During my time at the University of Pennsylvania I examined material held within three repositories. In the University Archives Center, I studied the official records of the Hilprecht-Peters controversy—the high-profile academic dispute involving Jastrow. Numerous newspaper clippings revealed that news of the controversy entered the public arena to a surprisingly large extent, which was previously unknown to me. Records within the University Museum Archives revealed that Jastrow's position within the institution remained marginalised even after this high-profile controversy had died down. Despite Hilprecht's departure from the University of Pennsylvania in 1911, Jastrow never re-established a close working relationship with the Babylonian Section of the University's Museum and academic spats continued unabated. Over several years Jastrow garnered support from faculty members, aiming to institute a resolution that would force the Museum—which was at that time highly insular and autonomous—to work more closely with the University's Graduate School. Jastrow and his supporters desired access to the Babylonian Section's collections for a wider range of people than were then afforded it; they wished to wrest control from the curators, who strictly controlled access to cuneiform tablets. These attempts were, understandably, met with fierce resistance from the Museum's Director and curators. Although Jastrow's aims were based on a desire for academic reform, his self-righteous approach clearly did not help his cause, and Jastrow was accused of wanting to gain control of the museum's collections for “personal motives”. Just as had occurred in the Hilprecht-Peters controversy, disciplinary differences spilled over into bitter personal disputes; in this case, the struggle lasted until the time of Jastrow's sudden death in 1921.

These insights into Jastrow's institutional relations were gained from studying official university records present in the archives. However, acquiring a personal account of his academic isolation and the motivations driving his academic work was more of a challenge—given that no collection of Jastrow's personal papers survives. Fortunately, I was able to locate approximately one hundred letters between Jastrow and personal friends within the papers of his respective correspondents. Now held in the University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, these letters have been an invaluable foundation for creating a detailed picture of Jastrow's academic and social networks within the University of Pennsylvania and

within wider Philadelphia society. This material has proved invaluable in contextualising the reception of his work on liver divination amongst audiences outside of Assyriology. And receptive new audiences were clearly a welcome relief from the acrimonious atmosphere at Penn. Jastrow's personal friendship with several influential medical doctors resulted in invitations to lecture on Assyrian and Babylonian divination at medically-interested societies in Philadelphia. During his lectures, Jastrow stressed that ancient liver divination had a significance in history of medicine, as it was one of the earliest known forms of anatomical study. Medical doctors were a sympathetic audience for this idea; at this time many medical societies were forming special interest groups in history of medicine for doctors who were interested in the roots of their own discipline. Jastrow's network of personal contacts have allowed me to trace how his work on divination entered into medical circles in the United States and Great Britain. This has been the foundation for exploring how and why Jastrow's theories on liver divination came to appear in early-twentieth-century histories of medicine that were written by medical practitioners.

In addition to the archival material amassed during my time in Philadelphia, I also made many new contacts with librarians, archivists and researchers in Assyriology. Whilst visiting the Babylonian Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, I benefited from discussing my work with other researchers; these associations will be highly valuable in taking my own research forward. Whilst my work on Morris Jastrow and the reception of Mesopotamian liver divination is still in progress, I intend to publish my research as my doctoral study nears completion.

I would like to thank BISI most sincerely for their generous support, which was invaluable in allowing me to pursue the archival research for this phase of my doctoral work.

*Ruth Horry
Department of History & Philosophy of Science
University of Cambridge*

ANALYSIS OF 2ND MILLENNIUM BC PERSIAN GULF METALWORK

The Persian Gulf was a vital trade route of the ancient Near East, supplying timber, marine products, and most importantly metals to the mineral-poor but politically-complex societies of southern Mesopotamia. Much is known of the metals trade through the Gulf in the 3rd millennium BC, when Magan (modern U.A.E. and Oman) produced the copper used by the Sumerians and Akkadians. However, dramatic changes in the Gulf exchange system took place in the 2nd millennium BC, when copper trade was re-oriented through the trading port of Dilmun (modern Bahrain and Failaka island, Kuwait), ceasing in the 18th century BC. Understanding this period of change is a difficult matter, tied into the complex political and cultural developments in the trading states and communities from Mesopotamia to the Indus Valley.

To address these issues, I am investigating the metallurgical technology and raw metal sources used at greater Persian Gulf sites from the early 2nd millennium BC, notably the sites of Al-Khidr and F6 on Failaka. I am characterising and describing changes in technology and trade in the Persian Gulf and attempting to link these developments to the wider archaeological and historical record of the region.

I will analyse 500 copper base samples using a variety of techniques:

- WDS compositional analysis and mapping of samples using an electron microprobe. Due to corrosion, targeted analysis is crucial;
- metallographical examinations, providing fundamental information regarding fabrication methods used in Early Dilmun metallurgy;
- A sub-set of samples will be analysed by ICP-OES to obtain bulk compositional data (major, minor and trace elements); and a pilot lead isotope study

My thesis will represent the largest analysis of 2nd millennium BC Persian Gulf metalwork to date and will therefore add considerable original knowledge to the field and will build upon publications such as Weeks' *Early Metallurgy in the Persian Gulf* (2003) and Prange's *5000 Jahre Kupfer in Oman* (2001). To date the bulk of the work on metal exchange systems of the Persian Gulf has focused on its heyday - the 3rd millennium BC. My thesis seeks to understand the early 2nd millennium BC and to offer a new perspective on the period - one of structural change, of political and economic competition, of decline and collapse.

Current Position

In December 2009 I was successful in my application to BISI for a small grant. The original application focused on fieldwork planned for March 2010 alongside a Kuwaiti-Slovak archaeological expedition to Failaka, just off the coast of Kuwait. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this expedition did not go ahead and BISI was kind enough to allow me to shift the focus of the grant spending.

In November 2010, I travelled to Failaka with the Kuwait-Danish Archaeological Mission, lead by Dr Flemming Højlund. BISI supported this trip by assisting with travel costs and the necessary purchase of equipment (see attached list of 2009/10 expenses). The season focused on excavation of Tell F6 on Failaka and I was able to examine the metal finds from the previous year's excavations and those from the 2010 season. In total, I obtained 382 samples - all from small fragmentary finds (see attached Fieldwork Report).

Since my return to the UK in December 2010, these samples have been further examined and 42 selected for compositional analysis with Inductive Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES). The 42 samples selected represent the best-preserved finds and sub-samples were taken to allow the analysis. I attended Imperial College, London in February 2011 to carry out the analysis with the kind support of Dr Paul Fennell and the Department of Chemical Engineering. BISI directly supported this work by enabling me to travel to London, and to obtain the necessary reference standard material (see attached list of 2009/10 expenses).

Metallographic examination of the samples is also ongoing and is carried out at the University of Nottingham. All samples identified as demonstrating metallic content will be subjected to compositional mapping using the electron microprobe housed with the Microanalysis research Facility, based within the Department of Archaeology.

The remaining BISI funds will support further analytical work, including further collaboration with Imperial College, and also enable me to accept an invitation to join the Kuwait-Danish Archaeological Mission 2011 fieldwork season.

Fieldwork Report

Metal Finds from F6, Kuwait-Danish Archaeological Mission, 2010 Season

I spent approximately six weeks working as a member of the Kuwait-Danish Archaeological Mission over November and December 2010. The focus of the fieldwork season was to continue excavations at Tell F6 on Failaka.

Sample Identification

All metal finds from Trench A 2009 (227), Trench C 2010 (162) and Trench E 2010 (297) were examined and some sampled for study. A small number (11) of metal finds were retrieved and examined from Trench A in 2010. None of these were sampled.

Sample Breakdown

	Trench A 2009	Trench C 2010	Trench E 2010	
Sample removed from find	130	38	115	
Sample consisting of whole fragment	44	4	51	
Total	174	42	166	382
	Trench A 2009	Trench C 2010	Trench E 2010	Total
Sheet	34	5	34	73
Rod	31	7	41	79
Production Waste	21	2	18	41
Nodule	42	17	20	79
Fragment	31	8	25	64
Ingot	15	3	28	46
Total	174	42	166	382

Sampling technique and condition

The majority of samples was sawn or cut as this permits a large enough sample object for metallographic examination and bulk compositional analysis. A jeweller's saw was used on smaller or more fragile samples, with a hacksaw being employed on larger or more 'solid' samples. A chisel was also used and is particularly successful on brittle samples such as much of the production waste. If a find had broken post excavation and a loose fragment could be securely identified, that was taken as a sample. Each find was assessed prior to sampling to identify a sampling site that offered a useful sample, while minimising damage and, wherever possible, took advantage of inherent structural weaknesses in the find. Production waste material was subjected to more invasive sampling than worked metal or anything that suggested it was part of an 'artefact'. This allows for a broader examination of the heterogeneous material and such finds are not regarded as valued pieces.

Of the 382 samples taken, 95 are fragmentary pieces taken in their entirety. 287 are samples taken from larger finds. Of these, 22 demonstrate solid metal content. The rest demonstrate varying levels of corrosion with some pieces being entirely corroded. At least 50 other pieces demonstrate at least some metallic content although in some samples this is minimal.

Analysis Strategy

A number of samples have been selected for analysis by ICP-OES (42). This will necessitate removal of 20mg metallic material from the field sample. The sub-samples were digested to provide a solution for bulk compositional assessment. The analyses were carried out at Imperial College, London with the kind support of Dr Paul Fennell at the Department of Chemical Engineering. I attended to perform the digestions and analyses under the supervision of Imperial staff.

Suitable samples were identified by 'naked eye' assessment of metallic content. 22 samples are solid metal pieces – all of these were listed for ICP-OES. In addition, all other samples removed from finds from Trenches A 2009 and E 2010 have been subjected to superficial grinding to allow the metallic content to be reviewed. Trench C finds have been excluded from this exercise due to doubts over the context security. The final number of samples selected for ICP-OES analysis is 42. The results are currently being processed.

All samples assessed as demonstrating metallic content will also be subjected to compositional mapping using an electron microprobe. Due to corrosion, targeted analysis is crucial. Metallographic examinations will provide fundamental information regarding the finds from F6. The funding and access to necessary equipment for these analyses has been secured from the Microanalysis Research Facility at the University of Nottingham, Nottingham. Sub-samples will be cut from the overall sample with a fine bladed saw and mounted in cold cast resin for microprobe and mapping work. Mounted sample will be ground and polished prior to analysis. Samples from all trenches will be subject to this treatment.

Further Work

A lead isotope study is proposed to be carried out at the NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, British Geological Survey, Keyworth. This study will be conducted on a sub-set of approximately 10 samples. Lead isotope analysis offers a route to potentially identify ore sources used in metal production and to trace trade routes and contacts between communities across the Gulf region. This study offers value not only through improved knowledge regarding the finds from F6, but also through adding to the corpus of lead isotope analyses carried out on artefacts from across the region. Only samples from secure contexts and demonstrating solid metallic content will be considered for the pilot study.

Discussions are also ongoing with the Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College in order to identify possible analytical techniques and opportunities for collaboration.

I have been invited to join the Kuwait-Danish Archaeological Mission's 2011 season and plan to examine further the metal finds from the Mission's excavations and expand the available assemblage for study.

*Sarah Cox
University of Nottingham*

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NETWORKS: THE CIRCULATION OF BRONZE AGE SOFT-STONE ARTEFACTS IN BAHRAIN AND CYPRUS

Research context

This research is developing a cross-cultural and cross-temporal, community-based approach to study the nature and mechanisms of trade, incorporating critical evaluation of recent theoretical approaches, and contextual and scientific analysis of materials to evaluate models of economic and socio-political networks. Research is funded by a Graduate School in Arts and Humanities Scholarship from the University of Reading. A generous Research and Travel Grant from the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) has supported study by contributing to covering research costs outside of the UK.

Networks in the trading hubs of Early Bronze Age Bahrain, commonly identified as ancient *Dilmun*, and Late Bronze Age Cyprus, commonly identified as ancient *Alashiya*, are being examined. Both islands were involved in exporting goods for consumption in Mesopotamia and the East Mediterranean and had prominent roles in the Bronze Age metals trade. The opening up of research in The Gulf in recent years (Crawford 2001:9) provides a timely opportunity to explore the potential for a comparative approach with the better documented East Mediterranean. This research is analysing similarities and differences in four key sites: the large centre at Qala'at al-Bahrain and smaller settlement at Saar, Bahrain, and the regional centres of Enkomi and Maroni, Cyprus.

Methodological approaches

This research applies three integrated methodological approaches:

- Critical evaluation of recent approaches to the study of trade and socio-economic and political interactions is being conducted in order to provide a robust framework for contextual and scientific analyses. This includes evaluation of more recent applications of world systems theory, peer polity interaction and social network analysis. Methodologies for the analysis and interpretation of uses of space within sites, and for the analysis of artefact iconography and form have also been considered, developing a framework for studying these factors at the four centres.
- Contextual analysis is being conducted of site layout, and the distribution of artefacts to study evidence for craft production and administration, including spindle-whorls, seals and weights across a range of contexts, utilising the rich excavation and publications records from the four sites. This analysis is enabling investigation of engagement in economic and socio-political networks by different communities and sectors within them.
- Portable X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) analysis is being applied to soft-stone artefacts from known contexts in each of the four centres, to study distribution of materials and sources, and investigate evidence for interaction across socio-political, economic and ideological spheres, defined by the nature of the contexts in which the artefacts are found. That particular communities may have developed specific socio-economic relationships is suggested by results from destructive bulk X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis (Kohl, Harbottle & Sayre 1979), which identify variation in soft-stone circulating around Gulf sites. Whilst XRD offers analysis of the mineralogy of samples, XRF enables analysis of chemical and elemental composition. This research re-analyses with portable XRF a selection of the artefacts analysed using XRD by Kohl *et al* (1979).

Dataset for research

The artefacts selected are representative of a range of artefact types and are from known contexts in order to study a range of functions, including workshop, funerary, temple or ritual, and domestic. Four hundred thirty-two stone artefacts have been analysed as the principal corpus for this research, including whole or fragmentary vessels, seals, spindle-whorls and beads. Workshop debris and possible seal blanks have also been analysed to study craft production.

Three hundred forty-four artefacts from this dataset were excavated from known contexts at the four centres that provide the focus for study, during excavations conducted at Qala'at al-Bahrain by Danish teams in the 1950s-1970s, at Saar by the London-Bahrain Archaeological Expedition in the 1990s, at Enkomi Areas I and III by the Cypriot Department of Antiquities in the 1940s-1950s, at Maroni by teams under the Maroni Valley Project, Maroni Valley Archaeological Survey Project and the *Tsaroukkas*, Mycenaean and Trade Project in the 1980s-1990s, and at the tombs of Enkomi and Maroni by the British Museum in the 1890s.

Site	Museum	Artefacts
Qala'at al-Bahrain	Moesgård Museum, Denmark	85
	Qala'at al-Bahrain site museum, Bahrain	23
Saar	Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain	85
Enkomi	Cyprus Museum, Cyprus	88
	British Museum, UK	22
	Ure Museum, UK	6
Maroni	Larnaca District Museum, Cyprus	5
	Cyprus Museum, Cyprus	1
	Storeroom at Kalavassos, Cyprus	19
	British Museum, UK	10
Total from four centres		344
Hili	Moesgård Museum, Denmark	10
Umm an-Nar	Moesgård Museum, Denmark	1
Failaka Island	Moesgård Museum, Denmark	27
Ur	Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, UK	30
Nineveh	Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, UK	10
Jericho	Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, UK	9
Unknown	Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, UK	1
Overall total		432

Figure 1: Summary of artefacts being analysed for this research

Preliminary observations

Analysis of context types at the four centres is enabling examination of patterns in both the distribution of stone artefacts and in the distribution of different activities. This research has produced phased distribution maps for the soft-stone artefacts at each of the four centres. The function or context of the rooms, buildings, or areas in which the artefacts were found has been determined by examination of the excavation and publication records from each site. This research is examining the spatial distribution of different types of contexts or functions of areas containing soft-stone artefacts within each settlement and chronological variation through time.

A key aim of using portable XRF in this research is to identify groupings within the dataset of 432 artefacts that have been analysed, and thereby possible economic and social networks. The stone materials have been characterised using methods developed for study of geological hand-specimens, for comparison to groups of artefacts with certain element associations. The sparsity of geochemical

characterisation and identification of stone material across the Near East has been highlighted by Moorey (1999). Achieving internal groupings within the dataset for this research therefore represents an important advance on current knowledge about these artefacts, particularly as the stone from which many are produced is not yet known beyond visual identification. In addition, a selection of geological samples is being analysed from possible source areas including those around the Hili region of the United Arab Emirates and the Troodos mountain region of Cyprus.

The artefacts analysed by portable XRF at the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery formed a pilot study conducted in the summer of 2009. Preliminary results and early statistical analysis suggest that portable XRF is a valuable tool for discriminating between groups and sub-groups of stone material. These groups indicate differentiation between geological stone types and between possible source areas. These results are supported by analysis of hand-specimens and colour and density of stone materials. The observations from the pilot study indicate that this research represents a platform for further work in the area of non-destructive provenancing studies.

Artefacts from Qala'at al-Bahrain, Saar, Enkomi, Maroni and a selection of other Near Eastern sites were analysed between September 2009 and December 2010, in the UK, Denmark, Cyprus and Bahrain. Examination of results gathered thus far is exploring the correlation between material type, source-group and archaeological information such as context and artefact type, developing approaches established by Kohl *et al.* (1979).

The analysis and gathering of data for this research would not have been possible without the generous support of the BISI Research and Travel Grant. The grant contributed greatly towards covering my travel, accommodation and subsistence costs whilst working in Denmark and Bahrain on the analysis of 231 vessels, seals, spindle-whorls and beads from Qala'at al-Bahrain and Saar, Hili, Umm an-Nar and Failaka Island. With regard to Qala'at al-Bahrain and Saar this included material from workshop, temple, and domestic contexts.

In addition to analysis at the Moesgård Museum in Denmark, and Bahrain National Museum and Qala'at al-Bahrain site museum in Bahrain, my visits to these countries enabled me to visit key sites. I visited exhibits at all three museums, and in Bahrain visited the site of Qala'at al-Bahrain, providing me with useful insight for my research. The visits gave me the opportunity to build working relationships that will prove invaluable to my development as a doctoral student and in my early postdoctoral career. At the Moesgård Museum, I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing my research with a number of individuals, including Dr Flemming Højland and Steffen Larsen. At the two museums in Bahrain, I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Isa Mohammed Ameen, Undersecretary to the Minister of Culture, Khalid Al-Sindi, Head of Archaeology at Bahrain National Museum, and Dr Pierre Lombard, Director of the French Archaeological Mission of Qala'at al-Bahrain. I am very grateful to all staff in these museums for their kind help.

The opportunities presented to me through the visits to which the BISI Research and Travel Grant has contributed have been extremely valuable, and my appreciation for the support of BISI cannot therefore be understated.

It is hoped that this research will lead to publication as I near the completion of my doctoral thesis. I have already had the opportunity to present my research and preliminary findings at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE, London 2010), the International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the East Mediterranean and the Near East (ICASEMNE, Paphos, Cyprus 2010), The Tombs of Enkomi (British Museum Excavations) international conference (Nicosia, Cyprus 2010), and the British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology annual conference (BANEA, Norwich 2011). The publication of papers on my research is pending in the proceedings publications for the ICAANE, ICASEMNE and The Tombs of Enkomi (British Museum Excavations) conferences.

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Acknowledgements

Dr Wendy Matthews, Professor Bob Chapman, and Dr Stuart Black for supervision; Adam Jaffer at the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, Dr Flemming Højland, Steffen Larsen, Bo Madsen, Mohammed Bander, and Nanna Kirkeby at the Department of the Near East at Moesgård Museum, Professor Gerald Cadogan, Professor Sturt Manning, Dr David Sewell, the Director and staff at the Cyprus Museum, the Director and staff at Larnaca District Museum, Dr Robert Killick, Mr Mustafa Ebrahim, Mr Salman Almahari, Lubna and staff at the Bahrain National Museum and Qala'at al-Bahrain, Dr Thomas Kiely and Duncan Hook at the British Museum for assistance regarding sites and visiting museums; BISI and the London Centre for the Ancient Near East (LCANE) for grants and bursaries.

*Helen Crossman
University of Reading*

IRAQI MIGRATION TO SYRIA AFTER 2003: CHOICE, CONSTRAINT, AND CRISIS

Since the U.S. led invasion of 2003, Iraq has witnessed displacement on a mass scale. Hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, decided to leave their homes. How did they make these decisions? What factors and information influenced them? What factors constrained their choices? How did state collapse and re-formation affect displacement? These were the issues I sought to learn about during fieldwork for my doctoral thesis at the University of East London. With a generous BISI travel award of £2500, I made a preliminary visit to Jordan and Syria in February 2009 to meet with researchers, NGO workers, and Iraqi refugees. I decided to focus my research on Iraqis in Damascus, Syria. I arrived there in February 2010 to collect testimonies from those displaced after 2003 and had collected 29 by April 2011. The sample was not representative but comprised an interesting range of people whose experiences could be studied in depth. It included professionals, students, and civilian members of the former military establishment. I also spoke to Christians and Mandaeans, including a Mandaean Sheikh. The majority of those I spoke to came from Baghdad, but others came from Fallujah, Basra, Karbala, and Mosul. Whilst in Damascus, I also conducted research for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Syria about the economic activity of Iraqis in Damascus. The contacts I made during the study also assisted me in my doctoral research.

The decision to leave home is not one that is taken lightly, especially if it involves crossing an international border and there is the possibility that one day, you may not be able to return. I want to emphasise that even in the situations of insecurity described above, it is still a decision, though it is often one made under extreme constraint with few options available. At one end of the spectrum, the choice may be limited to staying and dying, or leaving and living, and the time given to make this decision measurable in hours. At another end, there may be more time, no immediate danger to one's safety and family, and perhaps there are more options on the table. Nevertheless, it is a decision taken under a level of duress.

The invasion and the radical reforms that the occupying authorities and their appointees introduced led to the collapse of the Iraqi state, leaving hundreds of thousands of people with no income and in situations of extreme economic insecurity. The Iraqi state had been dismantled during the international embargo, imposed by the UN after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1991, but sustained by the U.S. and U.K. governments until 2003. After the collapse of the state came a period of generalised insecurity, and state re-formation enacted in a way that led to bloody sectarian conflict. In addition to the risks of death and detention at the hands of the occupation armies, Iraqis faced an array of other threats. Terrorist groups set off car and truck bombs in populated urban areas. Militias and criminal gangs roamed the streets, but the lines between the two groups were blurred. Iraq's professional and middle classes were targeted by perpetrators whose identity is still unconfirmed. So too were Iraq's religious minorities like the Christians and Mandaeans. They

were not protected, even nominally, by any armed groups and were being excluded from the 'new' Iraq, one dominated by those espousing a supposedly 'Islamic' politics, but one intolerant of other faiths. The police and other state security services were too weak or too infiltrated by those groups to provide the population with an adequate sense of safety. In this landscape of multiple dangers, displacement occurred on a mass scale. It is not a new phenomenon in Iraqi history, but after 2003 it occurred nationally, no province was unaffected by the phenomenon. The precise number is unknown. It is certain that hundreds of thousands left their homes, and some estimates argue that millions fled. They left to places inside Iraq, or to Syria, Jordan and elsewhere.

The experiences of displacement varied. The process was fast in some cases. For those who were formerly high ranking and well known government officials, the danger was typically immediate, the threats very clear. One man's house was attacked shortly after the fall of Saddam's regime, forcing him and his family to flee quickly to Syria. He was a former director of a state run energy company in southern Iraq. Another man, a former pilot in the Iraqi air force, was given enough warning to leave his home because a family friend with connections in a militia saw his name on a hit list. They had both been victims of the purge of symbols of the former regime in order to make way for the incoming one.

Others I spoke to had less swift experiences of displacement and their decisions were affected by the flight of others before them. One Shia family living in a mixed neighbourhood in Baghdad watched as one by one the Shia families living on their street were displaced after receiving threat letters. They realised that a neighbour was responsible for threatening one family. Within months they were the last Shia family living on their street. They secretly left for a different district in Baghdad before they were threatened themselves. They quietly packed belongings into their car each night, taking them to a relative's home in the day time until they had moved all of their valuables and essential furniture. They did not feel safe being the last Shia family on the street and wanted to leave in time to salvage their belongings and try to rent out their home.

The process of displacement can involve many different factors. The integrity of the neighbourhood, the space in which people function and feel safe, is key. One lady from a Christian neighbourhood in Baghdad spoke of how the Jaysh Al Mahdi (JAM) militia, tied to the Sadrist movement, gradually came to dominate the space where she lived. Sermons from the local mosque became longer and louder as more speakers were added, disrupting church sermons on Sundays. Church activities were reduced to a minimum, music classes and other activities postponed. Priests asked women of their congregation to cover their hair and to generally keep their heads down. More and more Christian families left the street, their homes occupied by Shia Muslim families, some of whom had been displaced from neighbourhoods that Sunni militias came to dominate. Armed men from JAM had twice entered their property. Once they claimed to have been looking for a sniper on their roof, another time on New Year's Eve checking to see whether alcohol was being consumed, perhaps to use as an excuse to seize property. Her family now live in

three different countries – in Iraq, Syria, and the U.S.A. They hope one day to reunite in a safe country. The neighbourhood space changed in a way that made many Christians there feel insecure enough to leave.

It is not always an obvious threat that makes people decide to leave. A Shia man from Baghdad watched as Sunnis were pushed out of his mixed neighbourhood. The neighbourhood became a nominally more pious one, with residents pooling money together to build a Husseiniya, a Shia community centre and place of worship. But the character of the neighbourhood changed. He described the unpleasant way that Sunni neighbours were treated before they left, and social pressures they experienced as the Shia residents became less and less tolerant of them. He had experienced the generalised violence of Baghdad, and had even witnessed the assassination of a shopkeeper in his neighbourhood. However, a strong factor in his decision to leave was the desire not to live in an area where sectarian bigotry was socially acceptable, something he also felt was becoming common in the whole city. There is an Arab saying: “Whoever lives with a people for forty days becomes one of them.” Perhaps the idea of becoming one of them was the threat here, one to his character. He moved to Jordan where he had briefly holidayed before, then left for Syria where there was a kinder immigration system and a more accommodating population. He established a small charity for refugees before resettling in the U.S.A.

What happens when the whole country feels like an unsafe space for you? What if it is a dangerous place for your whole community? The Mandaean I spoke to in Damascus felt that they were being excluded from the new nation being built in Iraq, one that excluded non-Muslims from its territory. A Mandaean Sheikh's family had been the victim of an armed robbery and some of his family members were murdered. There was a strong suspicion of police collusion in the robbery because officers had been close by and refused to intervene. The Sheikh had been part of a Mandaean delegation that visited Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, the highest Shia religious authority, several times to ask for a clear religious ruling banning attacks on Mandaeans and their property. He refused each time. One of the men who established Iraq's Minorities Council, a Mandaean from Baghdad, argued that Sistani and other religious authorities are happy to see Iraq rid of Mandaeans and other non-Muslim, non-Shia, minorities. Because Mandaeans and other non-Shia Muslims do not automatically recognise the authority of Shia clerics, they are an obstacle to the notion of *wilayat al faqih* – the idea that the highest ranking Shia cleric should also be the political ruler. Those dominating the formation of the new Iraqi state appear unconcerned by the plight and flight of Iraq's Mandaeans.

The above is just a selection of the experiences of displacement of Iraqis in Syria after 2003. I was able to write in more depth about displacement in academic journals. With the testimonies I gathered in Damascus, I wrote about the relationship between displacement and statecraft – the art of state building. “Displacement and statecraft in Iraq: recent trends, older roots” will appear in the forthcoming issue of *The International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*. I have also written about the informal economic freedoms that Iraqis are given by the

Syrian state, using data collected for the UNHCR Syria study. I discussed the experiences of economically active Iraqis in Damascus to show how the government tolerates them working and running small businesses despite it being formally illegal. That article shall appear in the forthcoming issue of the journal *Ruge*.

Journal articles can afford more space for discussion than in my report here, but I will present my research much more extensively in my doctoral thesis. Once my thesis is complete, there will be two copies in the BISI library for any one who would like to know more. I would like to thank BISI again for their encouraging support, and for recognising the importance of shedding light on the tragic displacement of so many Iraqis since the invasion of 2003.

Ali Ali
University of East London

FIELDWORK RESEARCH REPORT: IRAQI REFUGEES' ASSISTED AND SELF-REPATRIATION FROM SYRIA AND JORDAN

With the generous support of the BISI and the CBRL, I had the opportunity to carry out a period of in-depth fieldwork in the Middle East, as part of my PhD project "Iraqi refugees' assisted and self-repatriation from Syria and Jordan". This multi-sited comparative research investigates the scale, politico-economic nature and societal dynamics of Iraqi refugees' return migration. The first research question focuses on the role that information plays in Iraqi refugees' assisted and spontaneous returns. The second area of the research concentrates on the real or perceived factors that affect forced migrants' decisions about return and reintegration in their home societies. The third question explores returning refugees' ability and potential to be actors of change and influence socio-political and economic transformations in host and home countries.

The investigation is theoretically informed by the actor-oriented approach (Escobar, 1995; Long, 2001) and looks at how refugees interact with other stakeholders, especially institutional actors, and react to existing information, policies and interventions in order to devise solutions to their immediate problems and carry out their life projects. Jordan's and Syria's constantly changing immigration and asylum policies, for example, have direct and long-term effects on Iraqi refugees' livelihood strategies, decisions and projects to repatriate. Moreover, home and host countries' attitudes towards the return of Iraqi refugees are influenced by global politics and by past and current security, political and economic relations between Iraq and its neighbours. The analysis includes the impact of politico-economic developments, in home and host countries, on forced migrants' ability and plans to return and participate in the reconciliation and reconstruction processes in Iraq.

Field research

The fieldwork was conducted in Damascus and Amman, the two neighbouring capitals and main recipient cities of Iraqi refugees generated by the

2003 US-led war in Iraq. The field research started in January 2010 and was completed on March 2011. My prolonged presence and interaction with the studied population was essential to establish trustful relationships with potential research participants and familiarise myself with their language, socio-cultural habits and traditions, their individual and collective identification and decision-making processes and their livelihood strategies. In each city, I conducted 60 interviews, in Arabic and in English, with prospective returnees, with members of the host communities, with representatives of local and international organisations working with refugees, embassy personnel, and officials of relevant ministries and public authorities. The field evidence was corroborated through the collection and analysis of relevant documents, literary works and media sources. These research methods proved to be valuable tools to collect a wide range of information:

- refugees' intentions and projects regarding permanent return to Iraq
- refugees' transnational livelihoods and spontaneous cross-border activities
- qualitative and quantitative data on assisted voluntary repatriation policies and projects, and return and reintegration opportunities and challenges
- institutional attitudes, opinions and practices regarding Iraqi refugees' repatriation

Post- fieldwork reflections

The Iraqi participants in this study have made personal assessments of their conditions and life circumstances in exile and, within the limits of available information, uncertainty, legal and socio-economic constraints in host and home countries, have taken independent decisions and actions to resolve their problems. Like in other displacement crisis, the number of Iraqi refugees who return unassisted is far in excess of those who take part in assisted repatriations. The parameters used by the refugees to determine when and how it is appropriate to return often differ from those used by humanitarian assistance providers and other institutional actors. Iraqi returnees seldom rely on the available repatriation assistance, which materialises in the form of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) with a limited impact on the development prospects of the migrants, since they are designed and implemented without the active involvement of the beneficiaries and without regard to the compatibility of such projects with the longer-term socio-economic needs and interests of the receiving societies. In the absence of institutional assistance, Iraqi refugees adopt circular migration, cross-border and transnational livelihoods as an independent strategy to resolve their immediate problems and to enhance future opportunities. Nyborg Sørensen (2004) identified two typologies of mobile livelihoods, namely 'staggered repatriation' and 'revolving returnees'. The former includes fragmented families, with one or two members, usually male, returning to the home country in search for socio-economic opportunities, while women and school-age children remain in the country of asylum. Such livelihood strategies are perceived by the migrants as a safety net, since it allows them to reduce the economic and security risks of return and opens

windows of opportunities. Mobile livelihoods simultaneously include aspects of the static and discreet durable solutions of "voluntary repatriation", "local integration" and "third country resettlement" promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Refugees' potential role as agents for socio-political and economic development is not solely related to their permanent return. Rather, under favorable conditions, refugees can contribute to the reconstruction of economic infrastructures and the socio-political fabric of their home country through transnational activities and social networks, by exposing the areas of origin to a constant multi-directional flow of economic and social remittances (Levitt 2001).

In conclusion, refugees' flight, return attempts and following re-migrations are integral and interactive phases of the complex forced migration experience. The protracted wars in Iraq have caused the progressive fragmentation and global dispersion of Iraqi families and the establishment of transnational linkages and practices connecting Iraqi migrants in various countries of the world. In the absence of strong family ties in the home areas, some Iraqis have low motivation and support to re-establish permanent livelihoods in their home communities. Yet they may still wish to return to recoup their lost citizenship rights and property in order to integrate them into their transnational livelihoods. The spontaneous transnational practices of Iraqi refugees need to be taken into account in the design and implementation of context-specific return and reintegration assistance policies (Van Hear, 2006). The international refugee regime is concerned with tracking and preventing refugee re-migration after repatriation. Stopping returnees' re-migration, however, may hamper the natural transnational practices that refugees have developed as alternative livelihood strategies in the absence of other, better solutions.

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*Vanessa Iaria,
University of Sussex*

THE SHIA OF SAUDI ARABIA: IDENTITY, POLITICS, SECTARIANISM AND THE STATE

Recent events in the Gulf have shown, better than any theoretical or historical discussion can, how deeply intertwined Bahraini and Saudi politics are and to what extent the fate of the Saudi Shia is related to that of their co-religionists across the causeway. Funded by a BISI research travel grant, I was able to travel to Bahrain for ten days to study these links and to access a number of archives and conduct interviews. Bahrain is only a thirty minutes drive from Qatif and other cities in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. But the flow of ideas, images, and news across these and other borders has been enhanced by modern communication technologies. During my research trip I could only get a short glance at these developments, but they might be studied further in a future research project, as they are of immense strategic and theoretical significance.

Saudi families from the Eastern Province - both Sunni and Shia - have for centuries migrated to Bahrain at times of crisis, and Bahrainis have come to the Eastern Province. Many of these extended families still have branches in both places and intermarriage is very strong between Bahrain and the Eastern Province. During my fieldwork, I was able to meet and carry out interviews with some of those families. Furthermore, I visited the extensive bookshops, both in Manama and outside of Manama, that specialise in the historiography and religious history of the region, and where I bought many books and journals.

I also visited an archive on the history of the Opposition movements in the Gulf, particularly the leftists. This is important as both Saudis and Bahrainis were drawn into these leftist movements. This short research trip has given me the opportunity to understand how the revolts that have swept the Arab world in recent months work and how they have spread from one country to another. It has also allowed me to gather the last bit of material that I need to successfully finish my PhD in the coming months.

*Toby Matthiesen
PhD-Candidate and Teaching Assistant, SOAS
Research Fellow, Pembroke College, Cambridge*

DEVELOPMENT GRANT REPORTS

IRAQ: ARCHAEOLOGY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CONFLICT

BISI Co-Sponsored Conference

On March 31st the British Institute for the Study of Iraq and the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East (Durham University) jointly sponsored the conference and film event "Iraq: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Conflict" that took place at Durham University. The conference and film were open to the public, and encouraged academics, cultural heritage professionals and

interested parties to attend. While many conferences and lectures have taken place to discuss the damage and looting that has occurred in Iraq over the last decade, this one aimed to move forward and think about what actions can or should be done in the future by us – people interested in cultural heritage – to prevent similar tragedies in future conflicts. This topic is exceedingly relevant in light of events that are taking place in many parts of the Middle East today.



Professor Peter Stone in the centre of the lecture theatre with Michelle de Gruchy, one of the conference organisers on the right. Photo provided by the conference organisers.

Peter Stone, the archaeologist who advised the Ministry of Defence (MOD) prior to the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003, opened the day with “Lessons learned from the destruction of cultural property in Iraq”. Detailing the events, leading up to and immediately after, the invasion of Iraq by coalition forces, and the

subsequent damage to cultural property in Iraq, he continued to describe the various measures to protect cultural heritage in conflict that have been suggested, implemented and still need to be developed. He also described the different ways archaeologists have worked with the military from the Monuments Men model of the Second World War to the advisory role played by archaeologist today. The interaction between archaeologists and the military is a key issue which was more fully explored in a discussion session at the end of the day. If cultural heritage experts are going to advise the military, at which time and to what degree should they be involved? Does direct involvement with troops, as in the Monuments Men model, pose unnecessary risk to cultural heritage experts, and to what degree does it indirectly impact the reputation of affiliated institutions and others in the field? One conclusion that was largely agreed upon was that if cultural heritage experts choose not to advise the military, then they need to acknowledge the potential for increased damage to cultural property and cannot wholly fault the military for not knowing what they, the experts, would not teach.

After a coffee break, Tony Wilkinson gave a brief tribute to Donny George, the former Director General of the Baghdad Museum, who passed away a few weeks ago. Then, giving a talk about “Cycles of Destruction: Archaeology in Iraq in the 20th (& 21st) century AD”, he described the damage that has been caused by the cycles of war and peace in Iraq since the Iran-Iraq War through to the 2003 Iraq War. He also highlighted the three factors that helped make the recent Iraq War a “perfect storm” for looting and damage to archaeological sites. These were: the

high market value of antiquities, the withdrawal of wages and loss of (in particular) agricultural markets resulting in poverty, and the minimum amount of administrative control and security.

Emma Cunliffe followed by discussing her ongoing Ph.D. research examining “Satellite imagery and site destruction in Northern Iraq”. During her talk she highlighted a very important point about the nature of threats to archaeological sites. We tend to focus on the damage to sites resulting from direct conflict, but fail to consider how war also represents a time of resource development and intensification, which can have an equally detrimental effect on site preservation. Using the case study of the North Jazira during the Iran-Iraq War, she demonstrated how a dam project carried out by foreign contractors and designed to improve irrigation and crop yields caused far more damage to sites than any other activity. Following her paper, an interesting question was posed by one of the conference attendees who is currently working in urban planning and site conservation within Iraq, but is faced with the potential destruction caused by development: If I have an area with 5,000 archaeological sites what do I do? How does one make decisions about how to best preserve, record, and represent the archaeology that will be lost?

In the UK, there are laws and procedures for mitigating damage to archaeological sites that development projects are bound by. Furthermore, in the UK we have numerous archaeological contract firms who specialize in accomplishing this goal. The attendees and speakers shared several potential ideas, but felt with no clear guidelines for this scenario and, as was seen later in the day, limited legal requirements for any action to take place (especially for small tell sites whose names are not as famous as Babylon and Ur) there is still a considerable amount of damage taking place that could potentially be mitigated.

On a more positive note, it was observed by several attendees that by examining sites on satellite imagery through time, it might be possible to observe the extent and causes of damage. These techniques, which Emma is using for her doctoral research, could provide a practical solution for the monitoring of sites by large organisations such as UNESCO, or in no-fly zones and situations where ground visits are restricted. As satellite imagery is rapidly improving in quality and lowering in cost, it is becoming a more accessible resource.

In the afternoon, Jon Price brought to light some further issues in his talk “Recent Heritage and Contemporary Culture: US military interaction with the Cognitive Terrain in Iraq”. In particular, he highlighted the tendency for people to think of cultural heritage as only consisting of ancient sites and objects, and neglecting to include more recent (20th century) artefacts, which are also culturally significant in this category. This more recent heritage includes objects, vehicles, and architecture from the Second World War and the Iraq-Iraq War. This “recent heritage” is, in some cases being taken from Iraq by military personnel or dismantled due to it being seen as a trophy or a reminder of the atrocities of Saddam Hussein’s regime. This recent heritage is illustrated by the monumental Iran-Iraq War memorial gates displaying hands modeled after Saddam’s holding

crossed swords, which are currently being dismantled. It was pointed out that this “recent heritage” should be left to the Iraqi people to decide how it is displayed; for example, there have been calls by local organizations to preserve these monuments in a museum documenting the atrocities that took place under Saddam’s regime.

Finally, Janet Ulph, a lawyer specializing in, among other things, the study of the illicit trade of cultural property and money laundering, provided a legal perspective. Her talk, entitled “Protecting the heritage assets of Iraq: are current UK laws sufficient?” examined the ability of the UK legal system to deal with the trade in cultural property and whether further legislation is needed. It was shocking to hear how complicated it can be to successfully prosecute dealers of looted antiquities under the specific international laws concerning this topic. It seems that in many cases with existing UK laws regarding the trade of cultural property, dealers only have to claim ignorance of the artefact’s provenance or authenticity to make prosecution significantly difficult. The Draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Bill that recently fell would have been an important step in beginning to remove this burden. Furthermore, it can be extremely difficult without the right cultural heritage expert on hand to prove that antiquities coming up for sale are in fact the exact ones that have been looted, and not a similar example. Catalogues of artefacts from museums are essential to identifying looted property, although this does not help if artefacts have been looted directly from archaeological sites.

In the evening, the award-winning film, *Son of Babylon*, by Iraqi writer/director Mohamed Al Daradji was attended by sixty people, both conference attendees and members of the general public interested in seeing new Iraqi cinema. This excellent and affecting film details the journey made by a young Kurdish boy and his grandmother across Iraq in search of his father, who has been missing since the first Gulf War. The film highlighted the Iraqi landscape, with glimpses of sites such as Nimrud and Babylon and, most importantly, highlighted the plight of many Iraqi families who have had to deal with the disappearance and loss of loved ones.

We would like to thank all of our speakers and participants for their contributions and are pleased to say that we have received very positive feedback from all involved in the conference and the film screening. Finally we would very much like to thank BISI for their support. Without it, we would not have been able to make this event possible.

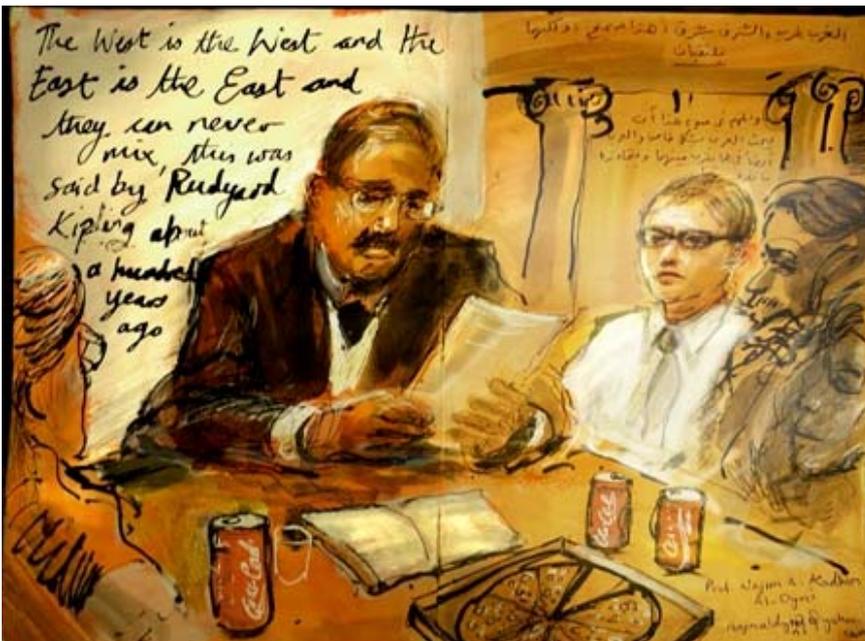
*Michelle de Gruchy &
Kristen Hopper
Archaeology Department
Durham University*

[Editor’s Note: The BISI provided a subvention to Boydell Press to facilitate the reprinting of *The Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Iraq*, edited by Peter G. Stone and Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly (August 2009) in a new paperback version. ISBN 9781843834830]

EIGHT YEARS IN BABYLON: THE CLASSICS AND THE IRAQ WAR EIGHT YEARS ON

This brief summary is written both in order to meet the stipulations for acquiring funding from the BISI and to thank the organisation and its funders for supporting the conference “Eight Years in Babylon: The Classics and the Iraq War Eight Years” On which was held at Royal Holloway College’s Bedford Square location on the 18th of March. The BISI’s generous funding allowed this conference to bring together an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars and artists to explore how cultural responses to the Iraq War have been mediated through Greco-Roman antiquity.

In particular BISI funding allowed for the participation of the conference’s keynote speaker Professor Najim Kadhim, Professor of Criticism, Comparative and Modern Literature at the University of Baghdad. Professor Kadhim proved to be an invaluable contributor to the conference and was remarkably helpful in framing the question of “Otherness” with regards to the relationship between Iraq and the West.



Drawing of Professor Najim Kadhim Al-Dyni. His response to the Kipling quote, which is written in Arabic on the drawing attached- "West is west and East is east, that's correct, but they do meet. What's important is that the west specifically, and the Arabs too, search for what brings them together and overcome what separates them."

Drawn by and reproduced with permission from peace artist, Xavier Pick.

In addition to Professor Kadhim’s paper, there were papers covering such diverse ground as the movie 300, the current state of archeology in Iraq, and Australian theatrical responses to the war. Speakers included Dr. Tony Keen (Open University), Professor Nancy Rabinowitz (Hamilton College, New York), and the BISI’s own Chairman, Professor Roger Matthews of the University of Reading.

The final paper of the day was, however, presented not by an academic but by an American soldier, Lt.

Mark Larson who shared his personal account of reading Aeschylus’ mediation on war, *The Persians*, while in a modern combat zone. This paper, like Professor Kadhim’s, provided a unique perspective in an audience made up primarily of Western academics.

While it is certainly true that the majority of the audience was comprised of Western academics, I am happy to report that there was a great deal of diversity in the crowd and many of those from the arts community and the general public joined the day. Most significantly, Xavier Pick and his production crew from Prospect Arts came to prepare themselves for their filming trip to Iraq. As a consequence, the conference will now feature as part of a documentary film and art exhibition which they are producing.

*Katie Billotte
Centre for the Reception of Greece and Rome
Royal Holloway College, University of London*

**BISI TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN IRAQ
&
VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME**

REPORT ON BISI'S SULEYMANIYAH MUSEUM TRAINING COURSES

In November 2009, Lamia al-Gailani Werr travelled to Suleymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan to attend a Post-War Art and Culture Festival. She was extremely enthusiastic about her visit and six months later she returned with Harriet Crawford at the invitation of the Director of Antiquities of Suleymaniyah Governorate, Kamal Rashid. Reports on their visits were published in *BISI Newsletter 25* (May 2010), pp. 27-30.

Six months later, Lamia's daughter Noorah al-Gailani, curator of Islamic Art at the Burrell Collection in Glasgow, and Dominique Collon, a retired Curator from the Department of the Middle East in the British Museum, were invited to spend two weeks in Suleymaniyah and to give a series of talks and training to the Museum staff, again at the expense of the Directorate. This is their report.

On 29 October we met up safely at Heathrow, had an easy flight to Amman where we spent the night in the airport hotel. We were served a huge breakfast at 4.30 a.m. before catching a flight to Suleymaniyah. The approach to landing was very bumpy because there was a terrific wind and we had to circle three times. We were met by Kamal Rashid and Hashem Heme, respectively Directors of the Directorate of Antiquities and of the Museum, and as the Guest House was full, we were taken to the Mihrako Hotel, conveniently situated near the Museum. In the evening we were taken out to dinner, together with Dr Farouk ar- Rawi (whom many of you know) who was working on tablets in the Museum.

We more or less achieved our programme of talks, but attention was somewhat diverted because our visit coincided with a UNESCO assessment of the Museum, and we also lost two days - the Sunday and Monday after our arrival - which were training days for the airport staff to enable them to identify looted material. In that context there were talks by Museum staff, and we were both asked to give talks on

the second day! We managed to cannibalise some slides from our PowerPoints (luckily Noorah had a laptop and when she had finished her talk, Dominique worked on her's (till midnight because of delays due to powercuts)! Dominique spoke about the looted material from the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, and Noorah talked about what happens if antiquities are successfully smuggled out of a country, and how some of the money generated is used to fund terrorism, amongst other illegal activities. In addition to giving her own brief talk, Noorah also translated Dominique's talk. Later we discovered that as many of the younger members of the Museum staff were happier speaking Kurdish than Arabic, if Dominique spoke slowly enough in English with sufficient gestures at her annotated images, the audience seemed to understand and it saved repetition. The airport staff training ended on Monday 1st, and we were co-opted to hand out certificates to those who attended. When Dominique left two weeks later, one of the airport staff stopped her as she was about to board the bus to the plane - not to search her but to thank her profusely!

On the Monday afternoon we were both interviewed for Kurdish TV and must have disappointed our interviewer as we both refused to agree that the Kurds were responsible for the origins of Civilisation at Shanidar! He was very insistent that Dominique agree that the people buried in the Shanidar Caves were Kurds, and was obviously unaware that they were actually "fin-de race" Neanderthals! He also seemed to be unhappy with Noorah's answers as she expressed to him her view that it did not really matter whether the Kurds had been around for tens of thousands of years or merely one thousand: in this day and age they had a natural right to be here and this was their indisputable homeland. As far as we know, the interviews were never aired!

On the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and the following Monday, Dominique gave PowerPoint talks on the Nimrud Tombs, Mesopotamian Deities, The Queen of the Night and Mesopotamian Music; the one on the Nimrud Tombs had all the women drooling over the jewellery! Noorah's course consisted of the following PowerPoint lectures: 1. History, Ethics and Principles of Museums; 2. Interpreting Objects for Display in Museums; 3. The Educational Role of Museums in Society; 4. Museum Design, Exhibitions and Displays.

This programme was followed, on the second Tuesday, by Noorah's Practical Workshop that aimed at trying out some of the aspects explored in her four lectures, especially how to interpret objects, and display them in a meaningful manner. The Practical Workshop involved setting up three small displays. The trainees (all women) were divided into three teams, each creating one display. Each group selected a maximum of seven objects from the museum's stores to illustrate a display theme they chose amongst themselves. Each team created their own texts, labels, graphics, and object mounts. The three exhibition themes were "Exploring metal technology in Mesopotamia", "Animal depictions in Mesopotamian art", and "The use of vegetal and geometric patterning on objects from Iraq". The teams were tremendously motivated, but unfortunately because of the two days lost at the beginning, they had no time to generate the required exhibition leaflet, poster

and simple educational activity, public programme or handout relating to their display.

On the fourth day, the Thursday, the three displays were set up for a half a day's viewing. They were to have been judged by Kamal and Hashem, who, much to our disappointment, had to attend to visitors. Lamia (who had arrived from Baghdad the day before) and Dominique assessed the displays, and feedback was presented to the participants, followed by a group discussion and reflections.

During these last four days, Noorah also delivered three extra PowerPoint presentations in response to issues raised during the display exercise. These presentations were: 5. Coin Displays in Museums; 6. Cylinder Seal Displays in Museums; with the last PowerPoint prepared for the final day to illustrate her closing remarks: 7. How to update the Display at the Sulaymaniyeh Museum. She had also brought a lot of relevant material that is on sale or available as hand-outs in British museums, and had them professionally copied. While Noorah presented her final PowerPoints, Dominique, together with the very obliging Museum Accountant, spent hours photocopying those that had to be processed singly.

The women who had taken part in the course very kindly invited us and Lamia, out to lunch to say Thank You. In the evening, Hashem and Kamal took their other guests and the three of us for a farewell dinner in what turned out to be the same restaurant as for lunch! The next day Noorah and her mother left early for further travels in Iraq, and Kamal and Hashem took Dominique to the airport.

Alas, much to our disappointment, the airport was the furthest we ever went outside the town during our whole two weeks. As the Museum closed for the day at 1.00 to 2.00 p.m., this made for very long afternoons, although we did have lunch invitations. Ala (responsible for the Museum's database) took us under her wing and introduced us to the bazaar, and Noorah did further work on her PowerPoints. Oil has been found nearby, and Suleymaniyah is a boom town with a population that has increased from 50,000 in 1965 to 1,800,000 in less than 50 years. It was founded in the last decade of the 18th century, so there are few old buildings apart from a small bath complex in the bazaar, and the main mosque, which was cordoned off for renovation. We went to the oldest (not very old) church, where the service was taken by a Copt who had been ousted from his church in Baghdad. We had a talk with the nice woman treasurer, who invited us to share in a large post-Eucharist rice dish, but as we had had a large breakfast, we declined. On two occasions we would have been able to visit the Museum's excavations had we not been teaching. During the middle week-end of our stay, we wondered where everyone had got to, only to discover on the Monday that after a grand lunch that six of us had gone to on the Thursday, only the two of us and Hashem had not been struck down by food-poisoning!

We also talked with many of the staff, who are in real need of guidance as to their role. There is a good library that includes all Muayid Said Damerji's books, but it is mostly unsorted and uncatalogued and therefore largely unused. Dominique examined cylinder seals and other objects that had recently been acquired by the Museum. The policy that museums pay for material brought in to

them which they deem to be genuine has had the unfortunate result that many of the crates of objects that come to the Museum contain forgeries. These include pastiches made up of broken glass objects of different periods glued together; some are easy to identify, others less so. The real problem as regards coins: there is a specialist for Islamic coins on the staff, but huge numbers of “ancient coins”, purporting to be hoards, are brought in - on one afternoon some 700 early “Lydian” coins! One of the staff, helped by advice from Lamia during her visit, and by a large number of books on seals (also supplied by Lamia) has developed a good eye for cylinder seal forgeries. The senior staff are overworked, and many of the junior staff do not seem to have any particular function and hang around waiting for something to happen. The situation in the stores is pretty chaotic but the staff lack the skills needed when handling objects. Their computer skills are perfectly adequate, but not many speak English, and searching Google in Kurdish is not productive.

The highlight of the two weeks was the enthusiasm generated among the participants by Noorah’s Practical Workshop. They came alive, worked very hard and were incredibly motivated. They would welcome being entrusted with more curatorial work, such as updating the existing displays, or laying on temporary exhibitions. With more practical training and encouragement, some of them could become excellent curators.

*Dominique Collon
Noorah al-Gailani
March 2011*

KHAWLAH MAARIJ KHALEEL FROM THE IRAQ MUSEUM AT THE GLASGOW MUSEUMS - Report on a BISI Visiting Iraqi Fellowship Grant

I attended a training course at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre about new methods in museum storage and collection management. I would like to express my gratitude to all those who gave me the opportunity to complete this course. I give my special thanks to all at the British Institute for the Study of Iraq who took care of me, especially Mrs Joan Porter MacIver for her assistance and wonderful kindness, and her sister Dr Barbara Porter at the American Center of Oriental Research in Jordan. I am especially obliged to Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr for her support in helping young Iraqis develop their abilities and to re-ignite awareness of culture and heritage in Iraq.

I would also like to say thank-you to all the staff of the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre (GMRC) who helped me throughout training course in Glasgow, in particular: Dr Ellen McAdam (Acting Head of GMRC), collections manager Celine Blair, research manager Dr Helen Watkins, Jane Rafferty (collections management (documentation)), Dr Martin Bellamy (major projects research manager, Noorah al-Gailani (curator of Islamic Civilizations at the Burrell Collection), Tony Lewis (Curator of Scottish History at St Mungo’s Museum), Simon Eccles (Senior Curator of Ancient Civilizations), Pat Collins (Curator at the Burrell Collection), conservator Christina Siegart, and inventory assistant Charlene Hyde.

The training course covered the following topics:

1. Collections management policy, development and management including: ongoing development, key strategies, departmental structure in museums, planning and governance; collections management policies in museums, accreditation standards; acquisitions and disposals, lending and borrowing, holdings, documentation (library and archive) and inventory, conservation, storage, security, insurance and access to collections.
2. Application of inventory objects, in the Maryhill, Burrell and GMRC inventories. These teams are supported by a conservator whose role is to advise on the condition of objects, their safe handling and movement, cleaning of objects prior to photography, training staff on handling and marking objects and some conservation work on objects deemed to be vulnerable to further deterioration unless dealt with. Each team works systematically through the collections, ensuring that each object has an identification number (accession number) marked on it. This is checked on the collections database to ensure the number is correct and the object matches the description. Additional information, such as detailed description, measurements, weight and location, is added to the database record. The object location is recorded to box level—that is, the location consists of building and room code, rack and shelf numbers and box number. The object is then passed to the photographer who takes digital images and prepares them for linking to the database (correct image sizes, image file named using the object accession identification number). The image information is prepared on an Excel spreadsheet by the inventory assistants and then imported into the database program by the collections officer (documentation). Once the image data is imported and the images saved on the computer server the image is available for viewing by database users. If objects are found in store with no number then a temporary number is assigned and a record created on the database.
3. Archaeological archiving standards. Proposed archiving standards, which should be circulated for consultation among stakeholders including planning archeologists, archaeological contractors, academic archaeologists and other potential users before adoption. Future acquisitions should follow these standards as far as the requirements of planning archaeology and the procedures governing treasure trove permit. Recent initiatives such as *Oasis* and *Aspire* have developed a clearer information flow for archaeological projects. These tools must provide early warning for archaeological projects in the collecting area. The archiving standards include:
 - the documentary archive, the material archive, including a summary of standards, composition, planning, data gathering, analysis and report writing, preparation for archive transfer, curation of human remains, scientific samples, samples taken on site, sampling in analysis;
 - the principles of selection and retention of finds;
 - archive transfer, including the transfer of documentary and digital archives, transfer of title and marine wreck and finds;

- copyright and title.
4. The museums are divided into two sections: the national museum and the open museum. The first one comprises several collections in different museums, namely the Burrell Collection, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art, Provand's Lordship, the Hunterian Museum in the University of Glasgow, Scotland Street School and the Museum of Transport. The second consists of open museum resources - reminiscence kits, covering topics such as childhood and tenement life. Kits contain original objects, photographs and other material. There are also similar handling kits for topics in science, folk and folklore, and world religions such as Bahai, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism.
 5. Conservation of the Elizabethan jack clock in the hospital, with a human figure (jack) who strikes two bells kicking his heels at the quarter hours and lifts a hammer to strike a big bell at the full hour. An x-ray of the jack will help to find out about the structural construction and its condition. Following this condition assessment of the figure, considering the overall condition of the clock a decision can be made on how to proceed: i.e. can the clock be run normally, could it be run once and filmed, or not run at all? The clock has been on open display for about 25 years. About 10 years ago it was stopped; as it was not properly protected the pendulum and weights were at risk of getting damaged. The pendulum was even taken off. Another concern was the wooden jack figure, whose striking action puts a lot of stress on the figure.
 6. I attended the 3rd annual collections research conference on 29 October 2010 in the Burrell Collection's lecture theatre, whose themes included: inventory research projects, art research projects, natural history, conservation research, history research projects, and technology research.
 7. I visited the ancient archaeological site in Kilmartin House Museum, one of Scotland's richest prehistoric landscapes. Kilmartin House is an award-winning world-class centre for archaeology and landscape interpretation established to protect, investigate and interpret this internationally important archaeological landscape and the artifacts that have been found there. I was given a tour of the temple of wood and stone circles, which was used for a long period, commencing around 3500 BC through to about 1050 BC and subjected to extensive alteration over the long period of use. I also visited Edinburgh Castle. The volcanic rock it sits on has been occupied by humankind since the Early Bronze Age. Despite its prominent position it has been sacked many times and 1650 was used as a barracks for the royal regiment and a prisoner of war camp for Napoleonic sailors. Now the castle is a major tourist attraction and hosts the royal military tattoo and the one o'clock gun.

*Khawlah Maarij Khaleel Kaab
Iraq Museum*

**FAEZA AL-RUBAYE REPORT ON TIME AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM
(26 October - 12 December 2010)**

I spent six weeks at the British Museum taking a course on the conservation of ivories. This training was very necessary for my job and my study because I learned several new methods of treatment and conservation of ivories, from both theoretical lectures and practical sessions. I was given an introduction to the different types of ivory, how to distinguish between them and how the materials deteriorate. I was shown how to examine ivory and bone objects and to assess their condition using an optical microscope and UV light. I learned how to work on objects under magnification (magnifier and microscope). I was taught how to clean ivories, to remove dirt using dry and solvent cleaning techniques, how to remove old surface coatings and excess adhesive from joints using solvents, and how to consolidate fragile surfaces. I also studied photographic documentation and record-keeping using the Museum database.

In addition, I learned about the work of the Organics and Ceramics, Glass and Metal Conservation Section. In particular I studied cuneiform tablet work that is carried out by the Ceramics Conservation Section. I learned about conservation handling of museum objects and about materials testing using the Oddy test (with the Preventative Conservation Section), as well as best practice in storage (with the Collection Services department) and the manufacture of storage supports (with the Prehistory of Europe Department).

I had great pleasure in studying for my MA, spending six days with Dr Georgina Herrmann during my time in England to discuss the ivories in detail and to consider the various groups and styles. We also had the opportunity to examine some trays of ivories in the British Museum.

This was my detailed itinerary:

26-10-2010: meet Mrs Joan MacIver at the airport

27-10-2010: 11am, visit the Institute of Archaeology University College London and arrange a library reader card courtesy of Robert Kirby;

12.45pm, meet Ms Ghadha Al-Gailani at the British Academy to discuss schedule for English language tuition;

3pm, meet Ken Uprichard, Head of conservation and Management programme at the British Museum

3.30pm, Lecture by Jessica Johnson, Programme Director of the National Institute for the Preservation of Iraqi Cultural Heritage in Erbil

28-10-2010: meet BISI member Mary Harris at British Museum so that she can show me around London.

29-10-2010: meet Ms Ghada to arrange time for English Language tuition

1-11-2010: meet Dr Georgina Herrmann in the study room of the British Museum's Department of the Middle East.

3-11-2010: take English lesson .

8-11-2010, 9-11-2010: meet Dr.Herrmann in the study room of the British Museum's Department of the Middle East.

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10-11-2010 to 15-11-2010: Attend session on conservation aspects of handling objects, facilitated by members of the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research at the British Museum.

24-11-2010: see Book of Dead Exhibition at the British Museum.

25-11-2010: meet conservator Liesa Brierley to learn about conservation methods and the Oddy test.

26-11-2010: meet staff from Collections Services to learn about the British Museum's storage practices.

6-12-2010 and 7-12-2010:

meet Dr. Georgina Herrmann; attend presentation.

9-12- 2010: attend BISI Lecture and Reception at University College London.



Photo taken at Faeza's presentation of her work at the British Museum's Conservation Department with Ghada al-Gaylani, Ken Uprichard, Head of the Conservation Department, and Monika Harter, who was one of the major organisers of Faeza's placement at the British Museum. December 2010

I would like to thank BISI Chairman Professor Roger Matthews, Administrator Mrs Joan Porter Maclver, Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr, Professor Harriet Crawford, Dr John Curtis, Dr Georgina Herrmann, Dr Robert Kirby, Ken Uprichard, Mary

Harris, Monika Harter, Sherry Doyal, Clare Ward, Ms Ghada al-Gaylani, Azza al-Gailani, and all at the British Institute for the study of Iraq, the British Museum, and everyone else who helped me during my stay in the UK. I would also like to give many thanks to the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman and apologise if I have forgotten anyone.

Finally I look forward to explaining and discussing all of this exciting new information with my colleagues in Iraq Museum, and to explain it to my students. Many thanks for this opportunity.

*Faeza Al-Rubaye
Iraq Museum*

OXFORD RESEARCH LEAVE OF DR MUAYAD MOHAMMED SULAIMAN

I was given a fellowship by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) for two months of research (February and March 2011) at the University of Oxford. It was the second time a fellowship had been given to a person from the University of Mosul, the first being that given to Professor Khalid Salim Ismaeel in 2007 for two months' work in the University of Cambridge.

My visit to Oxford was very useful and fruitful, because I was able to work on twenty Old Babylonian cuneiform tablets (from the period of King Rim-Sin I of Larsa, 1821-1764 BC). These tablets were not known about until relatively recently,

because they came to light as a result of theft, and not as a result of archaeological excavations. The Jordanian government retrieved the tablets and returned them to the Iraq Museum in Baghdad in 1999. I first worked on the tablets there, and then came to Oxford to work on them with Dr. Stephanie Dalley, the famous specialist in Old Babylonian texts. Later in 2011, Dr. Stephanie Dalley and I hope to publish our findings on the first seven tablets in the journal *Iraq*.

During my time in Oxford I had the benefit of staying at St Cross College and was elected a Visiting Fellow there. I attended three lectures on Ancient Mesopotamia by Professor Zainab Bahrani, and three seminars on the same subject at the Oriental Institute. I visited the British Museum twice, and met Dr. John Curtis, Dr. Jon Taylor and Dr. Irving Finkel. I also attended two BISI lectures at the British Academy. Lastly, I took English lessons with Anna Merton and Gabriel Kan (via the Language Centre at the University of Oxford).

I would like to thank the BISI Appeal Committee for making a grant to myself and Dr Fran Reynolds for the purchase of books for the Cuneiform Studies Library in Mosul University. The purchase of books on ancient Mesopotamia, including books on Akkadian and Sumerian language, is of great benefit to staff and students in my department.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks, not only to the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) and its Appeal and Visiting Scholars Committees, but also to everyone who helped me during my stay in the UK: Professor Roger Matthews (Chairman, BISI), Mrs Joan Porter MacIver (Administrator, BISI), Dr. Barbara Porter (Director of the American Center of Oriental Research - ACOR), Dr. Stephanie Dalley (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford), Dr. Fran Reynolds (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford), Dr Jacob Dahl (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford), Professor Clive Holes (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford), Dr. Harriet Crawford (Institute of Archaeology, UCL), Dr. Lamia Al-Gailani (SOAS), Professor Emilie Savage-Smith (Oriental Institute and St. Cross College, University of Oxford), Professor Andrew Goudie (Master of St. Cross College, University of Oxford), Dr. John Curtis (British Museum), Dr. Jon Taylor (British Museum), Dr. Irving Finkel (British Museum), Anna Merton, Gabriel Kan, and Nazik Matty, Kate Kelley, Laura Hawkins, Moudhy Al-Rashid, and Crispin Smith (students at the University of Oxford).

*Dr. Muayad Mohammed Sulaiman, Assistant Professor &
Head of Department of Cuneiform Studies
College of Archaeology, University of Mosul, Iraq*

[Editor's Note: The Institute would especially like to thank Professor Andrew Goudie Master of St. Cross College, Oxford for supporting the selection of Dr Sulaiman as a Visiting Fellow to the College during his recent stay. In addition, Dr Sulaiman received English language tuition from Anna Merton Kan and A.G.Y. Kan, during his Oxford stay, which was of great benefit and we wish to thank them both for their assistance and for helping him put together this report.]

BISI GRANTS: RESEARCH, ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, VISITING IRAQI SCHOLARS & BISI DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Institute promotes, supports, and undertakes research and public education relating to Iraq and neighbouring countries. 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. For more information on the Institute and any grant applications, please consult the BISI website (<http://www.bisi.ac.uk>). For all its grants the Institute reserves the right to consider applications outside the deadlines on an exceptional basis.

BISI RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE GRANTS

The Institute invites funding applications for grants in aid of research and for the organisation of academic conferences and for one annual pilot project. Applications are welcomed to support research or conferences on Iraq and neighbouring countries not covered by other British Academy BASIS-sponsored institutions (<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/orgs.cfm>), 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 and the Pilot Project award may be up to £8000. The Institute will also offer assistance to a Pilot Project award-holder in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies.

Applicants must be residents of the UK or, exceptionally, other individuals whose academic research closely coincides with that of the BISI. Two academic references are required.

Applications and references must be received by **10 January annually**.

BISI VISITING IRAQI FELLOWS & SCHOLARS GRANTS

BISI offers two to 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.

Applications and references must be received by **1 March 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 to the BISI Administrator and two references are required. 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 (please check for eligibility prior to applying).

Applications and references must be received by **1 September annually**.

BISI 2010-2011 LECTURES & OTHER FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday, 28 May 2011 Christianity in Iraq VIII Seminar Day

The Christian Library from Turfan, focusing on this Church of the East monastery and its links with Mesopotamia.

Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS. Any queries can be directed to the seminar day organiser, Dr. Erica C D Hunter [eh9@soas.ac.uk].

Thursday, 9 June 2011 BISI Bonham-Carter Lecture at 6 p.m.

Dr Georgina Herrmann OBE FBA on *The Nimrud Ivories, 1845-2011*

Venue: The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 (note different venue.) The event is free but ticket reservations are required. Please apply for tickets by sending a request to the BISI Administrator (bisi@britac.ac.uk) for your place(s).

Tuesday, 14 June 2011 – Lecture 6. 00pm-7.30pm (Tea will be served from 5 p.m.)

Dr Laurence Louër (Science Po Paris) on *Shi'a Religious Authority in the Gulf*

Venue: The British Academy 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH
This is the Annual Lecture of the Clerical Authority in Shi'ite Islam Project of the British Academy, sponsored by the British Institute of Persian Studies and the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies. To reserve a place, please contact by e-mail the Hawza Project Administrator at jane.clark@exeter.ac.uk. This annual lecture will be followed, on **Wednesday 15 June** by the Hawza Workshop *Challenges and Prospects for the Hawza* (www.thehawzaproject.net)

Thursday, 1 September 2011 BISI Appeal Lecture with Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum - SAVE THE DATE.

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

Thursday, 17 November 2011 BISI Lecture – Dr Michael Seymour on *Current work at Babylon*

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

Thursday, 23 February 2012 BISI AGM & Lecture – details to be confirmed.

ZIPANG DAYS OUT 2011 – Mornings at the British Museum & Afternoons at the Poetry Café – Find story clues with a Mesopotamian heritage trail and hear and tell a Mesopotamian story with music from Iraq

Future dates: **4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November & 3 December**
For further details go to www.zipang.org.uk

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

**THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ COUNCIL
& COMMITTEE MEMBERS & BISI OFFICERS**

<i>Patron:</i>	The Rt Hon Lord Lamont of Lerwick
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Dr John Jenkins CMG, LVO (to May 2011)
<i>Chairman:</i>	Professor Roger Matthews
<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	Dr Eleanor Robson
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Mr Iain D. Cheyne CBE
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Co-opted members of the Fieldwork & Research Committee: Mr Nigel Wilson FBA

Co-opted members of Publications Committee: Dr Augusta McMahon

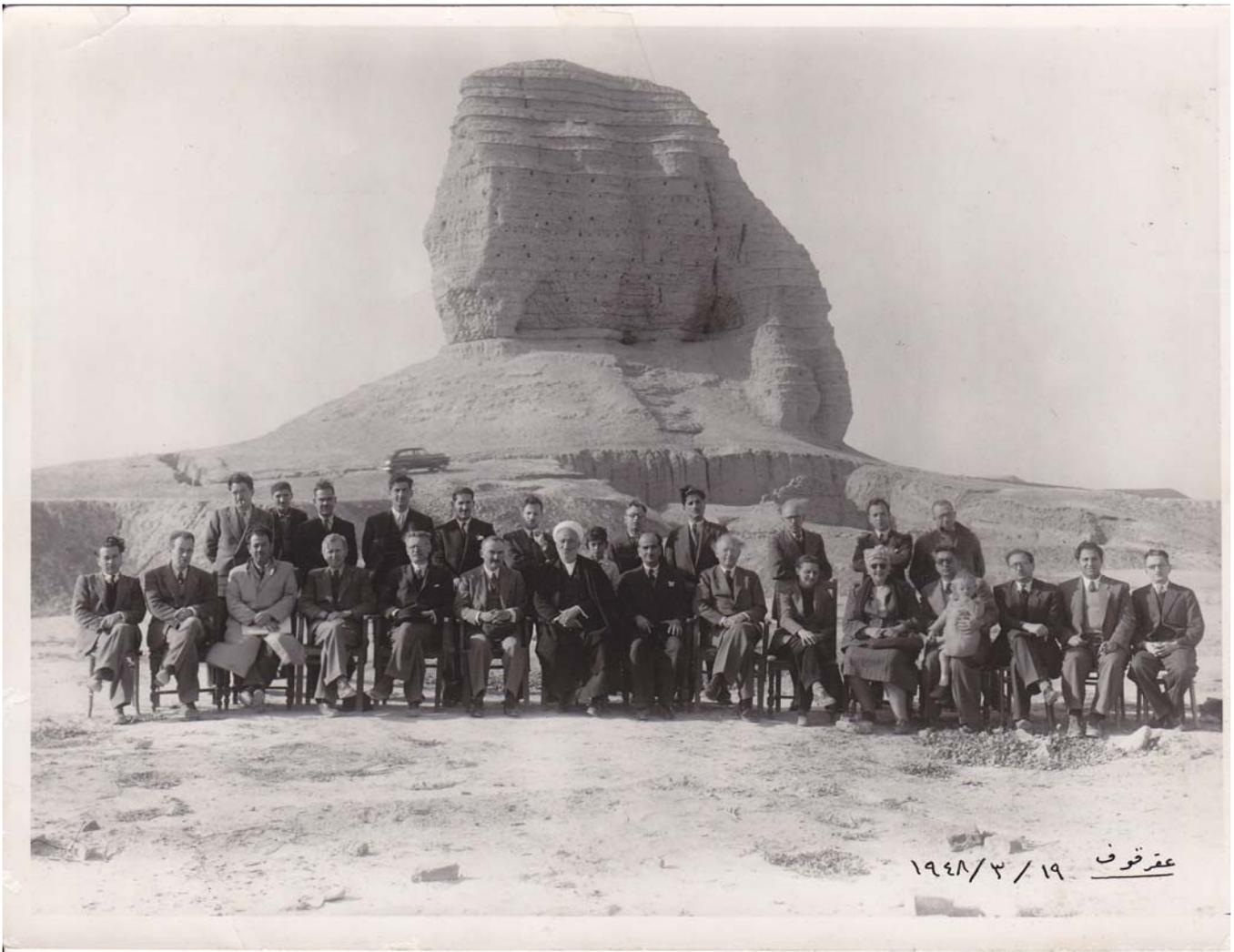
Co-opted members of the Development Committee: Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr

BISI Appeal Committee Members:

Mr Peter Davies (Chairman); Dr Harriet Crawford (Vice-Chairman); Mr Bashir Siman; Mr Iain Cheyne CBE; Sir Terence Clark KBE, CMG, CVO; Mr Simon Eccles-Williams; Dr Lamia al Gailani-Werr; Mrs J.P. MacIver (BISI Administrator) & Mr Alan Sandall (Secretary to the Appeal)

BISI Committee Abbreviations:

A = Appeal Committee; D = Development Committee; F = Finance Committee;
P = Publications Committee; R = Fieldwork and Research Committee; V= Visiting Scholars
Committee; & W = Working Committee



Seated from right: Gorgis Awad (Librarian), Mahmoud al-Ameen (Historian), Bashir Francis, Hussein "Awni" Atta, Agatha Christie, Heidi Lloyd, Albrecht Goetze, Naji Al-Aseel (Director of Antiquities) Ridha al-Shibibi (Minister of Education), Max Mallowan, Gates (American?), Alexander Heidel, Taha Baqir, Salim Lawi, Akram Shukri (Painter and head of laboratory).

Standing from right: Abdul-latif Chalabi, Salim al-Alusi, Sabri al-Dhowaibi, Sadiq al-Hassani (editor of *Sumer*), Meer (Typist), Ahmad Mahdi, Izz-al-din al-Sandouq, Albert Bashir (Translator), Abdulhamid Khayat, Mahdi (Driver), Muhamad Ali Mustafa.

Archive photo from *Aqar-Qūf* (عقرقوف) which is near the confluence of the Tigris and Diyala rivers about 30 km west of Baghdad. The Ziggurat of Dur-Kurigalzu was excavated during 1943-1945 by the Iraqi archeological service. In March 1945 Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter (BSAI Chairman) and E. H. Keeling (BSAI Hon Secretary) reported that "at the request of the Iraqi Government, the Executive Committee agreed to publish as Supplements to *Iraq* two reports of recent excavations by the Department of Antiquities at 'Aqar Qūf, near Baghdad, the site of the Kassite King Jurigalzu's capital built about 1400 B.C." This photo was taken in March 1948 with Max Mallowan and Agatha Christie and many members of the Department of Antiquities and the Iraqi Government. At the time of this photo Max Mallowan was the Editor of *Iraq*. Photo provided courtesy of Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr from Salim al-Alusi in Baghdad, who recalled ALL the names of the people in the photo.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

at the British Academy

10, Carlton House Terrace

London SW1Y 5AH

United Kingdom

E-mail: bisi@britac.ac.uk

Tel. + 44 (0) 20 7969 5274

Fax + 44 (0) 20 7969 54011

<http://www.bisi.ac.uk>