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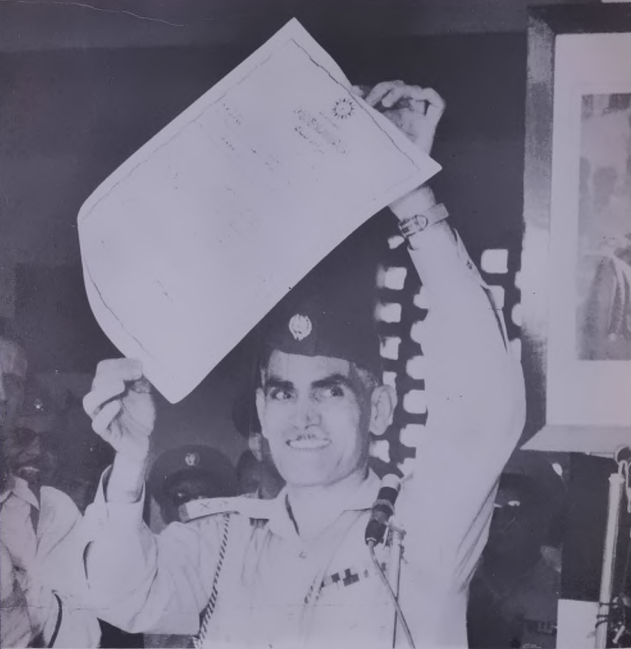
DESIGNER—TRUDY MITTIEMANN

Cover picture;

PALM TREES IN DIYALA
By The Retired Col.
Muhammad Saïh Zaki

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The Faithful Leader Abdul Kerim Qassim holding in his hand a property deed to be given to farmers.

KUWAIT THE USURPED IRAQI TERRITORY

The Faithful Leader Abdul Karim Kassem said:

"Throughout history Kuwait has always been connected with Iraq. Now it is an integral part of the Iraqi Republic".

"Historical events have shown that the 1899 Treaty

was totally dictated and Internationally non-recognized. This treaty was a document that imperialists used in threatening the pusillanimous people and those with no conscience. The sincere ones who stand up for their country's rights fight such treaties and try to abrogate them".

The voice of history speaks the truth across the centuries.

From history — from this record of truth — we call the following facts which stand as witnesses of the Iraqi origin, nature and characteristics of the usurped Iraqi territory with a logic that cannot be refuted or disproved, because it is the logic of history.

— In 1897 Sheikh Mubarak al-Sabah failed to obtain Ottoman recognition of his independence, hence he applied for British protection.

— On the 10th. April, 1900, the British Ambassador in Istanbul informed his colleague, the German Ambassador, of the British Government's intention to maintain its recognition of Kuwait as part of the Ottoman Empire.

— At the same time the British Ambassador informed Tawfiq Pasha, the then Turkish Prime-Minister, that the British Government did not intend to change the status quo in its policy towards Kuwait as an Ottoman territory.

— In August 1900 Sheikh Mubarak visited Basra where the Ottoman Governor laid stress on his former title as Sub-Governor (Qaimaqam) and bestowed on him the medal of "Iqdam" or "Audiacity".

The Sheikh, in return, volunteered to pay for building a mosque bearing the name of the Sultan, in appreciation of his appointment as Qaimaqam of Kuwait.

— When Sheikh Mubarak attacked Najd in alliance with Abdul Rahman ibn Faisal, Muhsin Pasha, the Governor of Basra, interfered and made Mubarak declare the severance of relations with foreign countries (meaning particularly Britain) and emphasize his unflinching adherence and loyalty to the Sultan.

— In April 1901, accompanied by Muhsin Pasha, the Governor of Basra, Field Marshal Mohammed Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Ottoman Forces in Iraq, visited the city of Kuwait. They then returned to Basra, together with Sheikh Mubarak, the Qaimaqam of Kuwait, who renewed his allegiance to the Ottoman Sultan.

— Meanwhile, the German Government informed the competent British authorities that it did not acknowledge any sovereignty over Kuwait other than that of the Ottoman Empire, and that British protection of the Kuwait Territory would be a breach of the Berlin Treaty of 1878 which promised to safeguard the Ottoman Empire.



— On the 3rd. September 1900 Count Meternich, the German Ambassador in London, declared that the German Government had already negotiated with the Sultan concerning the renunciation of force to subjugate the Sheikh, as it had on several occasions acknowledged the fact that Kuwait was an indivisible part of the Ottoman Empire.

— On September 11.1911 Lord Lansdown promised in a letter addressed to the Turkish Ambassador that Britain would not upset the status quo in Kuwait. This promise was made in consequence of a protest submitted by the Turkish Ambassador regarding the British Government's intention to declare Kuwait a protectorate.

— The Ottoman flag remained hoisted in Kuwait until 1914, when the British, who occupied Kuwait, hauled it down. From Kuwait they jumped to Basra to fulfill their imperialistic task, viz. the occupation of Mesopotamia.

— This is the logic of history, the logic of truth that cannot be assailed by doubt or falsehood. In the face of all this, can these facts be disputed? Or can the sun, as the Arabic proverb puts it so beautifully, ever be covered with a sieve?

In fine, Kuwait is an Iraqi territory whether foreign greed admits it or not, whether private interests agree or disagree. The day will come when justice will utter its verdict, and that will be soon enough.

THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

The laws of any state reflect the social stage the country is passing through. The development of legislation to keep pace with the development and systematisation of social relations has progressed under new principles.

The social conditions prevalent in the monarchical regime were pseudo-feudal, being based on extensive land ownership, inhuman exploitation of the peasants, and primitive means of production. In such circumstances, failure to exploit the land to its utmost limits and potentialities was inevitable.

After the victory won by the immortal Revolution of July 14th and the change of the political system from one serving the projects, alliances and large-scale exploitation of imperialism, to an independent system directed against imperialism with its companies, alliances and aggressive schemes, it was necessary to change the former social relations between town and country.

The legislation of the Law of Agrarian Reform (No. 30 of 1968) is a good illustration of the new political system.

The preambles to the Law were issued with the statute. The principal objectives can be summarized as eradicating Feudalism as a means of production and as a system of exploitation, and the removal of the political influence which the feudal overlords enjoyed by virtue of large estates and the misuse of the machinery of the State to serve their own interests and the interests of imperialism.

So the new Law had for its objective the raising of the living standards of a large section of the people, i.e. the peasants, giving them adequate opportunities to raise their social standards in general and the standards of agricultural production in the country in particular, so that agriculture could actively

participate in increasing the national income and in stabilising the national economy.

Perhaps one of the most important principles upon which the Law is based is the fixing of a maximum limit of ownership, with both maximum and minimum limits in the case of lands, to be distributed amongst the peasants, the promotion of good agricultural relations amongst those concerned, the payment of fair compensation to the landlords for lands and associated ancillaries appropriated, and finally the foundation of a cooperative system of production.

Problems of Land Distribution and Related Instructions:

One of the principal tasks to be undertaken by the Upper Committee for Agrarian Reform is to issue instructions and regulations explaining and facilitating the implementation of the Law.

Hence Instructions No. 1 of 1968 were issued on 24.11.1968, laying down the procedure for the submission of declarations by those who come under the Law of Land Appropriation by the Government concerning lands exceeding the maximum limit.

The Instructions also clarified what should be explained in the declarations and the procedure for their submission and endorsement by the special Courts. Then Instructions No. II. of 1968 of the Internal Organization of the Upper Committee were issued on 9.11.58. Thus the organization of the executive body to undertake the task of applying the Law and formulating a system of accountancy and finance was completed. The most important item was the institution of a new Directorate General for Agrarian Reform represented on the Upper Committee by a delegated member (The Minister of Agriculture). The Directorate General functioned from

13.11.1968 up to 13.7.1969, when a Ministry of Agrarian Reform was established according to Executive Statute No. 74 of 1969. This step was taken by reason of the importance of Agrarian Reform and the necessity of extending its machinery in proportion to the amount of its work.

Article XV of the Law was amended by laws Nos. 123, 136 and 189 of 1969. Thus the Upper Committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Prime-Minister with the Minister of Agrarian Reform (the delegated member of the Upper Committee) and the Ministers of Agriculture, Interior, Finance, Social Affairs, Commerce, Communications and Housing as members.

As a result of issuing the Executive Statute, of amalgamating the Directorate-General of Land Survey, Machinery and Agricultural Equipment, of linking the General Agrarian Bank to the Ministry of Agrarian Reform and also of extending the functions of Agrarian Reform, it was necessary to amend some of the instructions and regulations. Thus the Administrative Body assigned certain duties to the various Directorates, and a Consulting Body was formed to scrutinise all cases referred to it by the Agrarian Reform Courts of Appeal (formerly known as the judicial Committees) or the other legal committees. These cases were submitted, in turn, to the Higher Committee, thus enabling it to exercise its judicial authority, to give its opinion concerning all problems submitted to it by offices or individuals connected with Agrarian Reform, to participate in the work of the subcommittees formed by the Higher Committee, to lay down laws, regulations and instructions and to establish a Directorate-General of Planning. The latter is preparing the general

plan for applying the Law of Agrarian Reform, and fixing the stages of implementing the Law. The task of the Inspectorate-General has been confined to supervising the application of the Law of Agrarian Reform and supervising the progress of all offices connected with it.

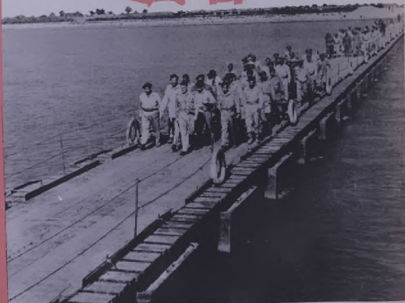
The Law of Agrarian Reform and Its Fields of Application:

When the last Instructions were issued during the period between 23.8.1959 and 10.5.1960 it was noticed that the distribution of land among peasants had taken on such prominence that it necessitated the creation of a special Directorate to undertake this task, replacing the Directorate General for Planning which has been considerably reduced and joined to the Directorate General of the Central Office. Then the Higher Committee issued Instructions No. 17 of 1959 laying down the plan for dealing with the problems of land distribution. The General Secretariat was established to organize the work of the Higher Committee, the Consulting Body and the committee of Appeal for Agrarian Reform. The latter was established in accordance with Law No. 7 of 1960 to review in the capacity of Higher Courts of Appeal the decision of the Courts of Appeal of Agrarian Reform concerning land ownership, joint rights and property debts, all of which are automatically submitted to it for its final decision. The Committee of Appeal is constituted of a chairman with a membership of three judges.

For the purpose of executing the articles of the Law of Agrarian Reform and the instructions issued concerning it, it has been found necessary to issue a Manual of Laws, Instructions and other notices dealing with the problems of land appropriation and the appointment of the Committee of Administration of Lands Appropriated by the Government, which committee temporarily organizes all affairs of distribution, estimates, compensation, agricultural relations and Co-operative Agricultural Unions.

This brief review of the development of laws concerning Agrarian Reform in our Republic of Iraq is based on a book issued by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform entitled, "Agrarian Reform in Three Years".

Our Brave Iraqi Army In The Realm of Development And Progress



H.E. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Leader Abdul Karim Kassam, crossing one of the large military bridges built by the Engineering Battalion.

TECHNICAL ENGINEERING IN THE RANKS OF THE ARMY

"I take pride in the Engineering Section, its officers and other ranks. They have given me an excellent impression ever since the Palestinian Campaign. It pleases me to see the high degree of discipline and order attained by the members of this section, in peacetime, coupled with their ability in fighting to offer fruitful assistance to various branches of the army.

I wish them continuous progress and success in the development of their ability to safeguard the army's interest".

The Leader, Abdul Karim Kassam.

On September 25th, 1933 the Iraqi Army witnessed the formation of the first Engineering Detachment from amongst non-commissioned officers, soldiers, craftsmen and workers in free-lance trades. From these the nucleus of the Engineering Branch of our army was formed.

Volunteers were called for from tradesmen and all possessing the requisite qualifications and also from all members of the Armed Forces prompted by a keen desire to join this new group.

In order to raise the technical efficiency of the group the then Chief of Staff of the Army resolved to send to England some of the cadets of the Military College having the necessary qualifications, physical ability and enthusiasm to work with this group, to join Engineering courses there. They followed Military Engineering courses in Chatham.

The Great Leader advancing towards the place of celebration on the foundation commemoration Day of the Battalion of Military Engineers, September 25th, 1961.

training, they returned to take charge of the new Engineering Detachment and its administration. Thus formation of the first Engineering Detachment was completed.

Stages of Training:

Once formed, and its main duties and training programmes defined, the Detachment was finally sent to Washhash Camp, where it was trained to dig ditches, to set up barbed wire barricades, to make rafts, to construct stone arches and bridges, to build roads and to undertake water purification, the training of infantry and the transportation of arms.

After volunteering to join the Detachment began, the number of recruits increased. They came mainly from tradesmen, the infantry and technical craftsmen. These circumstances made it urgent to expand the group and reorganize its work. Thus the first Engineering Detachment was formed towards the end of 1933.

Just as the number of volunteers increased, the Engineering materials likewise increased. The regular bridging materials were augmented and diversified. The materials for building bridges of folding boats were acquired, together with those

for pipe and campaign bridges. The materials required for water provision, such as modern pumps, large Kaybock pools and water distillers were also made available. Thus the need to step up Engineering work grew more urgent. Hence the Second Engineering Detachment was formed in 1933 after the setting up of an Administrative Headquarters for both Detachments. This Headquarters was the first step towards forming the First Battalion.

The First Engineering Battalion:

After the establishment of the First and Second Detachments, with their administrative Headquarters and their depots for engineering materials, arrangements were made for opening the first course for young Engineering Officers and a number of non-commissioned officers of suitable education to be trained as lecturers in similar courses.

The group completed its training satisfactorily. Its members were then distributed over the two Detachments as Instructors specialized in Engineering Training.

At this point the authorities felt that the re-organization of the Engineering Detachment according to requirements and to the duties assigned to it, was urgent. Hence



the First Engineering Battalion was formed in 1937, and in this same year the Battalion moved to Jalawla where it continued its engineering work on fortifications and batteries, bridge-construction, water provision, and road making and repairing.

In 1938 orders were given to the First Engineers' Battalion to return to Baghdad.

The Engineers' Battalion in Baghdad:

On its transfer from Jalawla', the Battaion established its Headquarters in Rashid Barracks and built married quarters and Depots for arms and engineering materials, rifle racks, as needed in the public interest until the disastrous flood of 1938-1939 destroyed in a few short hours what the Battalion had taken long days and nights to construct. When the flood waters subsided the Engineers' Barracks were rebuilt, together with the Depot of Engineering Training, which was to be the nucleus of the Engineering School in the future and was to undertake the training and teaching of personnel transferring from other units or volunteers joining the Engineering Group. The Depot was afterwards enlarged and developed into the present Engineering School which includes the different training wings, as well as the technical and engineering cadres.

Other Engineers' Battalions:

With the increasing need for engineering Detachments to be added to the other units the Engineering Detachment of the Northern District was brought under the command of the Second Division in 1939. It was named the Engineering Detachment of the Second Division which formed the active nucleus of the Second Engineering Battalion, known at present as the Second Field Engineering Battalion.

In 1940 the Mechanical Engineering Detachment was formed and later joined to the mechanised forces. This was extended later to become the Mechanical Engineering Group the flourishing nucleus of the Third Engineering Battalion now called the Third Field Engineering Division.

In due course the Third Engineering Detachment was formed, which later became the nucleus of the First Engineering Battaion, now known as the First Field Engineering Division.

Thus the Engineering Divisions were established, developing from a tiny seed into a great fruitful tree deriving its vitality from the fountain of our victorious Armed Forces.

Other Detachments:

Just as the Engineering Divisions were started and developed, the Depots of engineering materials were formed and extended. They soon included numerous engineering materials, technical equipment,

huge bridges and modern machines for providing water. Thus the Army Engineering Equipment Detachment was formed to take charge of the storage of engineering materials, together with their maintenance and their distribution over Divisions and Detachments, as and when required. To meet the numerous demands made in the public interest in peace time or in times of emergency, an Engineering Detachment was formed to carry out any necessary work. Thus the Detachment of Foundation Engineering was set up to undertake all work necessary in both peace and war. Consequently, we can be sure that the development of the Engineering Branch will continue as long as the public interest and urgent need require the Army to carry out its work in peace or develop more and more to keep pace with the development of arms and the growth in the number of engineering materials.

A quick glance at the old engineering materials that were formerly used and the modern materials used today would give us clear evidence concerning the development of this vital Branch and the increase in its modern materials during our flourishing Republican era. The Engineering Depots were enlarged to house the materials used for large bridges, modern equipment for water provision, modern dynamoes, amphibious means of transport, explosives and the most up to date factory lighting equipment. Formerly the Branch lacked the simplest basic items.

This progress and development is beyond all doubt one of the achievements of the Iraq of the glorious July 14th, and its mighty courageous army.



A tank crossing a military bridge built by the Engineering Battalion.



A boat used by the Engineering Battalion.



Large cranes.



Varieties of modern technical equipment.



A machine for levelling roads, run-ways and landing strips.

THE MEDICAL COTTON WOOL FACTORY



A NEW INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENT

The history of the first cotton wool factory in Iraq goes back to a decade during which it was more like a heap of machines and instruments not held together by any unity in construction or performance. Work remained neglected because the machines were neither serviceable nor complete. The premises lacked the equipment necessary for maintaining work. The area upon which they were constructed was so small that it ruled out the addition of the accessory sections which were essential. Further, the factory lacked modern electrical installations and adequate electric power.

As part of the comprehensive industrialization scheme which has been followed by the Revolutionary Government, the Council of Economic Planning utilised these damaged parts and pieces to build up a modern factory for medical cotton wool. On February, 20th, 1960, the Council of Ministers decided to take over this factory and appoint Administrative Council to direct the work.

The Council for Planning allotted $\frac{1}{2}$ million dinars to pay the costs of various installations, machinery and equipment needed to set the factory working with maximum efficiency. No effort was spared to achieve this purpose, once the

necessary overhaul of equipment and machinery had been carried out. The electrical installations were reconstructed in all sections. The factory was provided with transformers, a switch-board and extra lines and power points to provide the necessary power for working the machines and for lighting.

Painting and repair work was carried out on the premises and certain new buildings were added to them. These contained the Head Office, the Administrative Bureau, the restaurant and kitchen, the laboratory, a room for transformers, water tanks and so forth. A work-shop was added to the factory to carry out mechanical repairs and provide the factory with spare parts, thus dispensing with any foreign imports.

All this was accomplished within a year, and the factory was ready to begin production.

It was inaugurated by the Leader, Abdul Karim Kassem, the Prime Minister and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, on the 3rd. Anniversary of the Revolution, and the factory went into production.

The potential productive capacity of the medical cotton factory covers:-

STERILIZED COTTON WOOL:- 156,000

Kgms. per year.
Bandages:- 55,000 Kgms. per year.

Medical gauze (material for bandaging):- 20,000 Kgms. per year.
Boric Lint (bandaging material containing a sterilizing element):- 10,000 Kgms.

White Lint:- 15,000 Kgms.
At present the production is limited to cotton-wool and bandages.

These products are distributed amongst the hospitals and the government health institutions.

The present output of medical cotton wool meets all requirements adequately, whereas the production of bandages is still in its early stages. Hence cooperative work is done with the Iraqi Spinning and Weaving Co. (of which half the capital belongs to the Government), to meet the needs of the health institutions.

The raw material feeding the factory comes from the surplus cotton wool resulting from the spinning process in the Iraqi Spinning and Weaving Factories. It is used because of its low price which helps to cut down the production expenses. The cotton wool passes through various stages such as cleaning, boiling, sterilizing, bleaching etc. until it is ready for use in the form of rolls weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ kgm. each.

Cotton wool produced in this factory has high absorptive power



One of the tests required by the medical cotton wool industry being carried out in the workshop.

The bleaching operation that turns cotton snow-white.



The weaver and the weaving machine in the Bandage Section of the Medical Cotton Wool Factory.



Layers of white sterilized cotton wool on their way to the Rolling Section.



Cutting the cotton wool into rolls of $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilo each.

which even surpasses that of British cotton wool as has been proved by certain experiments carried out in the factory laboratory.

It is whiter in colour than the other kinds used at present, such as the Dutch and the Pakistani.

When the factory is working at its full productive capacity (and endeavours are being made to this end) during the current year, 250 trained workers will be needed for the various stages of the work and the proper maintenance and running of the machines.

At present the number of workers employed cannot be given exactly, as more and more are being engaged.

Perhaps one of the most praiseworthy features of the factory is that ever since its establishment it has been run only by Iraqis whose work has reached a high level of skill, in spite of the fact that this trade is quite new in our country.

The administrative body of the factory saw to it that all requisite hygienic and social amenities were provided to meet the needs of the workers. It also set up a magnificent restaurant attached to the factory and decided to put in charge of it a caterer operating under agreed conditions exempting him from paying rent, and thus enabling him to offer good meals to the workers at minimum prices.

Soft young fingers plunged into white carded cotton wool. A woman worker preparing the cotton wool for rolling.



Facts about Iraqi cotton wool

Up till 1948 Iraq used to grow two kinds of American cotton: Agala Rogers and the Old Agala. The first excels over the second in many ways which lead to a greater demand in foreign markets. Hence all cotton cultivation has been confined to this type since 1949. Yet experiments, spread over many years, with the cotton known as cockroft proved that it had qualities preferable to the other kinds. This sufficed to prompt growers to try its cultivation. Limited amounts were cultivated in 1951 in the Northern districts, especially in certain farms belonging to the Directorate General of Agriculture. Then the cultivation was extended to include Baghdad, Diyala and Ramadi. It is hoped that cultivation will eventually spread to all areas of Iraq since sufficient quantities of seeds are ready for distribution to the cultivators. Seeds of improved Cockroft have recently been imported.

These were reproduced extensively on both Government and private farms during the two seasons, 1958 and 1959 with the intention of replacing the old variety by the new improved one.

The most important cotton cultivating districts in the Iraqi Republic are Baghdad, Diyala, Kut, Ramadi and Mosul. The Ministry of Agriculture is making intensive efforts to develop the cultivation of this product and to combat the pests which attack it.



In the repair workshop—fixing spare parts.



After ginning, i.e. separating the seeds from the tissues, the Iraqi cotton is exported to Arab and Foreign countries. Its most important markets are England, Holland, Egypt, Syria and Italy. Moreover, the local market is demanding increasing amounts, thanks to the development of the spinning and weaving industry in the Iraqi Republic.

This is in addition to the quantity required by the Medical Cotton Wool Factory which has recently been established in Baghdad.

The Restaurant-hall where the workers get clean, inexpensive meals.

IRAQ ON THE MAP OF AL-IDRISI

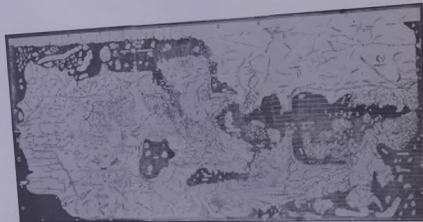
Just as was their wont in any field of knowledge, the ancient Arabians excelled in Geography, developing it to a greater extent than the ancient Greeks. Amongst them there appeared great geographers whose maps and geographical theories were the bases on which a geographical renaissance was realized in the West.

Perhaps the most prominent Arab Geographer is Abd Abdillah Mohammed Ibn Muhammad Ibn Abdillah, well-known as al-Sharif al-Idrisi, because he was of Alid origin.

Born in 403 A.H./1009 A.D. in Ceuta, North Morocco, he was educated in the University of Cordova, and became celebrated as a geographer, so he was invited by the King of Sicily Richard II to write a book about Sicily and other countries of the world that were known at the time. Thereupon he wrote his book, "Nuzhat al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq", literally "The Pleasure of One Anxious to probe the Horizons". The book was linked with

the name of Richard II, and became known by his name. Prior to his writing it he had made a silver globe with the map of the world drawn on it. He made this map the basis of the subjects included in the book. This is the first global map known in history.

Researchers consider Idrisi's map a key to a new stage in the development of the science of Geography because it divided the earth for the first time into latitudes and longitudes with a precision quite close to ours today.



a: The world map of al-Sharif al-Idrisi drawn in such a way as to place the south at the top and the north at the bottom, the method followed by the Arabs in map-drawing.



b: The world map by al-Sharif al-Idrisi in the position adopted at present: The northside at the top and the south side at the bottom. The map shows the world as known at the time of al-Idrisi, viz. Asia, Europe and North Africa with minute details of islands, rivers, mountains, cities and oceans.



A photographic copy of Dr. Ahmad Susa's book, "Iraq in Ancient Maps".

On examining this map carefully, one finds it very similar to modern maps.

Idrisi comprehended the laws of gravity. "All creatures on this planet", wrote al-Idrisi in "Nuzhat al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq", the air that attracts the light side of them and the earth that attracts the heavy side are like magnets that draw iron towards them".

One of his scientific works that are characterized by precision is his map of Iraq and the other Arab countries. Actually there have come down to us several maps of Iraq drawn by different Arab geographers, but none of them has reached the standard of Idrisi's map which contains ample details of the cities, rivers, villages and mountains. This map surpasses all previous maps in that it locates geographical positions, draws the rivers and limits the extent of the spaces, so that when one examines it carefully one can imagine the main lines which go to form the Iraqi triangle at present.

Although al-Idrisi was not very careful in drawing these lines, a number of other geographers including Ibn Hawqal and al-Istakbri (of the Xth. century A.D.) marked the territory of Iraq between Tikrit in the North, Abadan in the South, Kufa in the West and Hulwan in the East.

Referring to the map of al-Idrisi, we find Tikrit situated near Mosul and the chains of mountains which constitute the North of Iraq at present. Hulwan is situated to the East of the present Iraqi-Iranian boundary line. When one scrutinizes the map further South, one discovers a point located on a line stretching from Basra Southwards bearing the name "Kadhimal", which is a region that was formerly famed for its good weather and beautiful situation. Ancient poets had sung its praise, and it was mentioned in many love sonnets. The modern name for Kadhimal is Kuzaihi. This is a strong geographical basis for the claim laid by the Iraqi Republic on this region which is considered from the purely geographical point of view as a complementary part to the Basra district, as is shown by a close examination of Idrisi's map.

Moreover, the geographical characteristics are the same both in Southern Iraq (mainly in Basra) and in Kadhima (modern, Kuzaihi) insofar as the climate, the reliefs and other points are concerned.

THE BEGINNING OF MINTING IN ISLAM

By Mr. Nasir al-Naqishbandi, Director of Numismatic and Islamic Studies, Iraqi Museum, Baghdad.

On the advent of Islam, the Arabs of Hijaz had in circulation the Byzantine gold dinars, the Sassanid silver dirhams and some Arabic Himyarite coins of Yaman. The Prophet (God bless him and give him peace) confirmed their circulation, and they continued to be current during the Caliphate of Abu Bakr.

Minting in Islam began during the Muslim conquests in the Caliphate of Omar (on whom be God's blessing).

Copper Dirhams:

These were struck in most of the Syrian towns. Some of them are undated (see Plate A, Nos. 1, 2 and 3), others were "struck in 17 A.H. in Damascus" inscribed with Greek characters and the date in Latin figures. They are in the Byzantine style with the figure of their emperor stamped on them.

In Nos. 4 and 5 the mint cities are mentioned in Arabic characters and the rest of the inscriptions, together with the date, is just as above.

No. 4 (struck in Emessa in 31 A.H.) and No. 5 (struck in Damascus in 23 A.H.).

Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9 are undated. Only the place of origin is mentioned at the side of the figure of the Byzantine Emperor. The other side is inscribed in Arabic, "Struck at Damascus by permission".

Nos. 10, 11, 13, and 14 are undated, bearing the figure of the Byzantine emperor. The reverse side is inscribed in Arabic, "Damascus. Waftiyya Dirham" i.e. It was struck in Damascus and it is a Waftiyya dirham.

It will be observed that these copper coins have been regarded as fals, but the inscription "Dirham Waftiyya" or "Ja'iz" "permissible"

makes them dirhams without any shadow of doubt; in the same way the Zengi Ata-begs, with rare exceptions, struck copper dirhams.

Here in the same plate "A" there are also copper dirhams struck at the time of the Omayyad Caliph Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan.

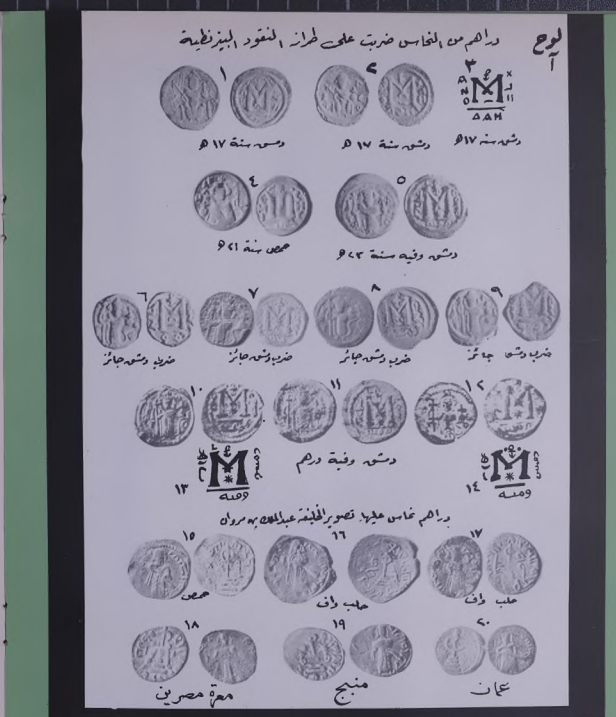
No. 3b bears the image of Abdul Malik carrying his sword, with the inscription round him in Arabic, (For the slave of God, Abdul Malik, Commander of the Faithful). On the reverse side are crosses round which are the words, "In the name of God. There is no deity but God alone. Muhammad is the Apostle of God", followed by the name of the city in which the coin was struck.

No. 15 Emessa, Waftiyya; Nos. 16 and 17, Aleppo, Waftiyya; No. 18 Ma'arrah, Misriyya; No. 19 Manbij and No. 20 Amman.

Silver Dirhams. Plate B.

The Persians had three kinds of dirhams - the weight of one mithqal i.e. 20 karats - known as "al-sulm al-Waftiyya" or al-Kisarawiyya al-Baghliyya and half mithqal, i.e. ten karats, known as "al-Tabariyya" (though they were never struck in Tabaristan) and 12 karats, known as al-Joraqiyya.

The Caliph Omar (may God rest his soul) added up these weights and the result was 42 karats. He took one third of it, i.e. 14 karats, which is the value of the dinar weighing 20 karats. He ordered it to be struck in the Sassanid style in the year 20 A.H. Thus the legal weight of the dirhams was fixed at 14 karats and the gold dinar at 20 karats. Consequently, some of the dirhams struck by the Caliph in 20 and 21 A.H. bear the image of Yazdagird and some of them that of Chosroes II. The image of Chosroes continued to appear on the coins even after this date bearing on the obverse side his name "Khusraw". Behind his head is the phrase, "af-



zud kadah" (may his kingdom grow or endure) in Pehlvi characters. Together with stars and moons. Round him is a hand upon which is inscribed in Arabic, "In the name of Chosroes II. The image of Chosroes continued to appear on the coins even after this date bearing on the obverse side his name "Khusraw". Behind his head is the phrase, "af-

zud kadah" (may his kingdom grow or endure) in Pehlvi characters. Together with stars and moons. Round him is a hand upon which is inscribed in Arabic, "In the name of Chosroes II. The image of Chosroes continued to appear on the coins even after this date bearing on the obverse side his name "Khusraw". Behind his head is the phrase, "af-

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Nahr Teri, the year "pist" i.e. 20 A.H. bearing the figure of Yazdagird III, also No. 22, struck only at Sajj. i.e. Sajstan. In the band one reads, "In the name of God."

Uthman (May God rest his soul) "25-35 A.H." No. 23 bearing the figure of Chosroes II. In the band there is the word, "Barakah", i.e.

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

IN THE IRAQI REPUBLIC

The cooperative movement was launched in Iraq by the promulgation of the Law of Cooperative Societies No. 27 of 1944. Its main purpose was the organization of the work of the farmers and peasants who constitute 70% of the population, but the cooperative movement was, still-born through the lack of any need for it in the stagnancy of public life in the previous regime. With the rise of the Republic activity began to throb in the veins of society. It threw off the artificial lethargy which had kept it inactive for a long time. Economic projects, large and small, developed in various parts of the country. So there appeared Agrarian Reform, irrigation projects and scientific schemes aiming at spreading and deepening knowledge, together with other enterprises and modern establishments, all initiated by the Revolution everywhere to reform the country and improve the economic and social conditions of the nation. Accordingly the significance of co-operation in social life increased and the need for an extensive cooperative organization covering the various branches of economic activity became more urgent. The Cooperative Societies for various purposes established until the year of the Revolution (1958) numbered 55. Their number rose in 1959 to 157 active Societies classified as follows:

1. Cooperative Consumers' Societies: Their objective is to provide members with goods for individual consumption at prices below those

ruling on the market, and to promote the sale of expensive goods, e.g. refrigerators and television sets on the installment basis with reasonable terms for payments.

2. Cooperative House-building Societies: These are the most widely spread. Their object is to build houses for their members at cost price. Their number has greatly increased, and they offer invaluable services to a large section of the population. Thanks to their activity, modern housing estates sprang up in numerous districts of the capital and various parts of the country.

3. Credit Cooperative Societies: They concern that proportion of the population primarily engaged in agriculture. Their task is to provide loans at low rates of interest to help increase and develop productive power. With the progress of Agrarian Reform and the extension of the movement of land distribution amongst the peasants which is one of the main concerns of the Central Authority, the need for such societies will increase. Such increase is exactly what was observed by competent experts when the Law of Agrarian Reform was promulgated on 30th September, 1958. Section II stipulates the establishment of one or more Cooperative Societies by the peasants who received shares in the land distributed, in one or more districts. Article 32 of Section II of the said Law defines the duties and aims of the Agrarian Cooperative Societies. They are as follows:-

1. To obtain agricultural loans according to the areas of land in

the possession of the members.

2. To provide farmers with everything necessary to exploit the land, such as seeds, fertilizers, cattle, water-pumps, agricultural machines and all items of equipment for storing and transporting the products.

3. To set up an organization for cultivating and exploiting the land in the best possible way; including the choice of seeds, the sorting of the products, the combating of pests and the digging of water and drainage channels.

4. To undertake the sale of their main products on behalf of the members.

5. To provide all agricultural services required by the members, and in addition to various social services.

Following the extension of the Cooperative Movement, a Directorate of Cooperation attached to the Ministry of Social Affairs was set up. It was charged with supervising the work of the Cooperative Societies and organizing them so as to serve the purposes for which they were created.

The Cooperative Bank:

This Bank was established in response to the requirements of the Cooperative Movement. Like any public institution founded under the previous regime, it was not an active instrument, for its paid capital was just I.D. 5,000.

With the increase of cooperative activity after the Revolution the Bank had a principal role in this movement. Government provided it

with the funds which would enable it to play its part. The Ministry of Finance contributed I.D. 350,000 towards its paid capital, while the Cooperative Societies contributed I.D. 20,520.

In November 1959, a new statute for the Cooperative Bank was issued containing directives on:-

1. Extension of the scope of its work to serve the Cooperative Societies and to increase their capital.

2. Giving special significance to the participation of the Cooperative Societies, in the development of the Bank and its administration in order to raise efficiency, and to increase the interest of the Societies in it so as to make its programmes more realistic.

3. The addition of new provisions to facilitate the processes of advance payments, of approved lending, of registration of contracts and loan documents and of the recovery of debts.

Other provisions were incorporated to expedite the completion of transactions.

Ever since its development on these lines the Bank has increased the number of loans and advance payments. It signed contracts with the Cooperative Societies covering loans amounting to I.D. 250,000 made to these Societies.

The loans paid by the Cooperative Societies since the Bank began its work (up to 31.3.1961) are shown in the following table:

Amount I.D.	Number of Loan Societies	Number of Grants	Category of Society
72,183	22	31	Consumptive
52,912	12	18	Agricultural
18,829	9	15	House-hldg.
241,945	43	64	Total

Apart from this branch of its activities, the Cooperative Bank undertakes relevant banking business such as the acceptance of the deposits of the Societies, which amounted to I.D. 19,638 by 31.3.1961.

Another development appeared in the realm of Cooperative Credits, namely, the Cooperative Bank became the sole responsible body for advance payments to Cooperative Agricultural Societies, including the Societies named by the Agrarian Reform Law as shown above.

In the budget of the Bank for the fiscal year 1960-1961 allocations were made for the opening of a branch of the Bank outside Baghdad, to facilitate its work and serve



A cooperative dwelling house.

the Cooperative Societies more efficiently.

The Directorate General of Agricultural Cooperation:

This Directorate was established in 1960 to supervise the establishment of Cooperative Societies. No sooner was it established than it arranged a training course for specialist personnel. 26 civil servants were trained in cooperative administration, agrarian reform, credits, marketing and accountancy. These personnel were distributed over agricultural projects to undertake the districts subject to agrarian reform, to study the conditions of these districts from the social, agricultural and economic angles and to ascertain the extent of the peasants' needs and readiness for Cooperatives.

This process is regarded as preliminary to the establishment of the Agricultural Cooperative Societies. The Directorate has begun to draw up a Five-year plan under which a large number of these Societies will be established, together with a number of cooperative Buraux linked with the Directorate General in each case. Owing to the fact that this Directorate has only recently

been established and that the work it has undertaken is of great importance, it has paid, and still pays, particular attention to preparing and training a competent cadre of officials to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it: Among other things it has selected 15 graduates from the College of Agriculture to be appointed as officials and has undertaken their training. It has also been at pains to raise the efficiency of its present staff by putting books and pamphlets dealing with cooperative subjects at their disposal and by providing them with fellowships to study further and acquire experience abroad.

Work in the cooperative field apart, the Directorate is studying the possibility of establishing a centre for rearing animal and poultry under the Great Musayyab Project in order to develop animal production in the district, and also to encourage exploitation in this field.

In addition to all this, the Directorate of Cooperative Agriculture undertakes the administration of a number of important agricultural projects such as the Dujailah, the Great Musayyab and Latifiyyah Projects. It is also doing its utmost to improve the social and economic conditions of the workers in this field, to settle all disputes and disagreements, and to deal with all possible contraventions or similar eventualities likely to obstruct the progress of the scheme.

Members of one of the Cooperative Societies, gathered round a case to pay for their purchases.



The Khoryat IN TURKOMAN FOLK - SONGS

The Turkomans in Iraq have a kind of written folk-poems. Although attempts have recently been made to collect them, their authors are unknown. They transmitted them from generation to generation for many centuries. They are mostly in quatrains known as **Khoryat** or **Qoryat** that use a pun for the rhyme word.

Authorities differ as to the origin of the word, "Khoryat". It is believed that it originated in Central Asia, the primitive homeland of the Turkomans. It was passed on by the wandering Turkoman tribes in their successive emigrations until it reached us. These folk-songs eventually spread in all Turkish-speaking regions. We find clear examples of them in the literatures of Turkey, Adherbayjan, Iraq and in parts of Central Asia.

It is possible that the word "Khoryat" is derived from the Ogghoryan Turkish word "Qor" or "Khor" (as it is pronounced in other Turkoman dialects).

The caravan people of Turkoman tribes such as the Tartars, Bashkiris, and Qirghiz sing a special kind of folk-songs in the form of quatrains called "Khor".

They are arranged in the form of metrical quatrains, as already mentioned. They could be in the form of short passages or stanzas only, the fourth line of the quatrain being repeated as a refrain for the stanza. The first hemistich of the quatrain usually consists of two assimilated words which give the full meaning of a pun. They may



be two words, one of which governs the other in the genitive case. This hemistich is a kind of rhyme for the quatrain.

The contents of the "Khoryat" include all possible human social activities. They are almost a complete record of chivalry, love, anecdotes, puzzles, wise-sayings, customs, traditions, wallings and even philosophy.

The distinguishing characteristic of these quatrains is that they are expressive of the love of life dominated by a merry and optimistic mood, even though they may be veiled with some grief. These reflect aspects of vitality, of feeling and revolt against inactivity and death... and a yearning for life.

The Turkoman folk-lore poet does not refer to his problems openly, preferring suggestion rather than frank declaration. He complains of fate that "gives the nuts to him who has no teeth", or which favours "the spiteful scoundrel rather than the worthy and meritorious man". This complaint is none other than a criticism directed against the unjust conditions prevailing in those countries of which the poet speaks; so he takes shelter behind words with double meanings to avoid cruel punishment by the authorities. He induces the listener to sympathize with the afflicted, the injured, the wretched and the unfortunate.

The words "wounds", "medicine", "fault-finder", "hat", "beloved" and "scoundrel" have special meanings in Turkoman "Khoryat". The word "wounds" indi-

cates calamities, difficulties and pains. "Medicine" means victory over these calamities and triumph over fate.

The fault-finder, the scoundrel and the spy represent the powers which lie in wait for the poet to prevent him from reaching his goal. The "beloved" suggests the objectives which he wishes to reach, such as happiness, rest, quietude and freedom from all pain.

Although all these quatrains have their individual characteristics, they are expressive of the sympathetic spirit of the group towards the poet.

The idea of pain in the "Khoryat" contains two elements: the element of force which rebels against time and defies pain itself, and the element of weakness which is represented in the obscure hope that problems might solve themselves, together with the expectation of hope and rescue from outside his being... from that omnipotent, for-

telal ...sewoq eladibim
"lavroK" sifi lo isab isat A
nasokutT lo consese sifi otai etisab
-lof ilis sra stoq edT. agnos-10f
-mos ni silgnas omes sdi qawed
was diw entitap stisipra qisoc
stetioce qerivole hne
diw xane sra stisatp seadT
doiw "emapaM" to shud laisoqe
yloas nas oW. esnu ulqerz evad
of zalisoq ora esnu seadT ysa
peti ni "lavroK" nasokutT
was a hidi qunioa dirow si ji. ylo
saw osium nasokutT lo ybiray
sifi lo dnos a sa dindax ni mod
ylio edT hidi os argnis ol bosat
"emapaM" two it seosoc of omes
osium sifi mod ji dsirigatid diwid

of Turkey and Adherbayjan. Up to the present day Karkuk still keeps its own "Maqams" the like of which is unknown anywhere else. There are about 20 Maqams for the "Khoryat", amongst others are the Mukhalif Bashiri, Kesuk, Yatimi, Mujila, Cardo etc.

Most of these "Maqams" are derived from the famous Iraqi "Maqams". The Mukhalif" is derived from the "Segah" and "Bashiri" from the "Rust" "Mal Allah" from "al-Hijaz", "Ahmad Dayi" from the "Chargah". There are also "Maqams" for the "Khoryat" derived from the other Turkoman "Maqams", for instance, the Maqam known as "Matarri" is derived from the "Maqam" called "Omar Galah".

There are also "Maqams" named after famous "Khoryat" readers such as "Mojilla", "Muhaw" and others.

Those interested in literature began to collect this legacy of folklore and write it down during the XIXth. century. The first of these attempts was that of the Turkoman poet "Sayyid Urfi" who made a large collection of "Khoryat" in Rabi' al-Akhir, 1268 A.H. The publication of these songs was started in the middle of the XXth. century, in 1950 to be exact, when Muhammad Habibi published part of it under the title: "**Al-Khoryat Wa'l-Aghani al-Sha'biyyah al-Karkukiyyah**", "**The Khoryat And The Karkuk Folk-Songs**". This was followed by attempts to publish other collections, the best of which was that made by the late Turkoman writer, "Mulla Sabir" in 3 volumes under the title, "Selections From The Khoryat of Karkuk".

The collection of Ata Tarzi Bash, the first worthy objective study of the Khoryat, contained over 2000 quatrains in three Volumes, entitled al-Khoryat wa'l-Aghani al-Sha'biyya fi Karkuk". **The Khoryat and The Folk-Songs in Karkuk**, the first volume of which (1956) contains the preface whilst the other two contain the said number of quatrains.

Below is a number of translations of Turkoman "Khoryat":

I.

Baghdad.
I love Baghdad.
How can a nightingale forget
The pleasure of the flower garden
And the anxious love of the rose?

II.

It equals a hundred moons.
Yes, your beauty equals one hundred moons.
Many a month does not equal a single day.
Yet a single day may equal one hundred moons.

III.

O' wretched one, why do you complain?
They are only days that will pass,
For he who closed the doors
Will open them one day.

IV.

There is an eye,
Yes, there is the antimony decorating
the eye,
And there is the eye itself.
There are eyes which deserve to be
feasted upon with looks,
And there are others
Which are unworthy of the gift of
sight!

V.

Do not be cruel to me,
For I am wounded. Do not be cruel
to me.
The spiteful scoundrel has stabbed
me.
If you are generous, please do not
be cruel to me.

Turkoman folk-dance to the well-known (Jug) song.



The Turkoman artist Omar Tabla Bash, aged 110. He is well-versed in all the Maqams of the Turkoman Khoryat.



A painting depicting a Turkoman folk-dance.

ANIMAL WEALTH IN IRAQ

Large numbers of animals, both wild and tame, are found in Iraq. The former abound in the Northern Districts, where mountains, caves and deep valleys are geographical features, though they are growing smaller in number owing to increasing urbanisation.

Among the wild animals in the North are tigers, leopards and wolves.

The source of animal wealth in Iraq, however, is the tame animals. Their total number is estimated at about 17 million, including the sheep and cattle which exceed 12 million in number, in addition to beasts used for transport, e.g. horses, mules and asses. These last are growing smaller in number, owing to the decreasing need for them.

Even in the desert sheep, cattle and camels produce meat, milk, wool and hides. Wool production, however, differs according to the variety of sheep available; for, as is known, Iraqi sheep are derived from three stocks: (1) al-Karradi, in the North, which is characterized by abundance of wool (2) al-'Usi, which is found in the Middle Regions. Its wool is less profuse, but of better quality, (3) al-'Arabi or al-Shughali found in the Middle and Southern Regions. Its wool is of the best quality owing to its softness.

Iraqi wool is exported in large quantities in addition to what is

used in the modern spinning and weaving factories in the Iraqi Republic. In 1960 the amount exported exceeded 6,010,000 Kgms.

Wool apart, the production of goat hair is also on the increase; we have more than two million animals consisting of two types:

(1) al-Mir'iz, with long, soft hair used for clothes and bed-spreads.

(2) The ordinary goat with rough short hair. It is reared primarily for its milk. Successful attempts have been made to improve its offspring by crossing it with foreign goats, e.g. the Syrian and Indian with the result that yield has doubled.

Cows and buffaloes give abundant milk. In the present regime, of 14th July, the industry of milk derivatives made such great strides that a Government Department for Dairy Products was established which, in turn, set up a large dairy factory in Baghdad and contributed to the establishment of a dairy factory in Karbala. It encouraged the increase of non-government dairy products and gave help to producers according to well-laid plans which have produced the best possible results.

Meat is obtained from sheep and cows. The consumption of camel and buffalo meat is at a lower level.

Among other new projects which

have been launched is the Scheme for canning factories. The first of these is being built this year in Karbala as a first step towards developing the production of Iraqi tinned meat.

The production of skins and hides is increasing and developing rapidly. The quantities exported have been increased so much that in 1960 they amounted to about 13½ million Kgms. of sheep and cattle skin.

Among other valuable products is camel hair. It is obtained from two kinds of camels. The first is known as, "al-Judi", producing camel hair in abundance, and the other is "al-Khawwar", whose hair is less dense than that of the former, but which excels in its patience and endurance of hunger and thirst. Naturally enough, desert tribes use the latter.

Domestic birds, especially chickens, represent a large proportion of our animal wealth. Many farms have been established for breeding poultry, improving stocks and producing finer strains, e.g. the Lakehorn type.

The products of these farms, such as eggs and chickens, are distributed to centres in the "Liwaa" or "Counties". They are also sold to the public to help raise the standard of the domestic birds and increase their productivity.

The Mir'iz goat with its long soft hair.

A sheep and lambs on the bank of the Tigris.



Buffaloes. They were introduced into Iraq for the first time during the governorship of al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf al-Thaqafi by the Arab general Muhammad ibn al-Kasem al-Thaqafi, after his conquest of India.





The Abbasid Castle in Baghdad

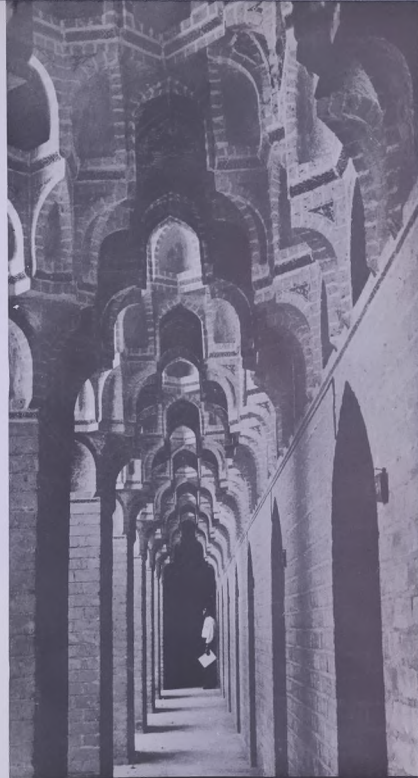
A magnificent two-storeyed building surrounding a large rectangular shaped fortress whose area is 430 square metres that is the Abbasid Castle in Baghdad. In the middle of the Eastern Wing is a large roofed hall, the height of which is nine metres. Its upper part is covered with exquisite decorations. Its walls are adorned with a beautiful kind of cornice that starts from a height of 3.5 metres. The hall is joined at both ends to a decorated portico that encircles the courtyard and contains groups of rooms. In the Southern Wing there are seven small rooms; the area of each is less than 9sq. metres. Above each room on the first floor is a room on the second floor of the same area. The designs of each of these rooms differ only slightly. The portico in front of the doors of the rooms rests on eight strong pillars with spaces of two metres between one pillar and another. Between the portico and the doors of the rooms there is a corridor more than a metre in breadth. The Northern Wing is similar to the Southern one with its two-storeyed rooms and portico. On the east and west sides there are two halls facing each other, but of the two only the eastern hall, which we have already mentioned, is still in existence.

The entrance of the Castle is the river side, but it is separated from the river by a large garden. The Castle includes a number of large halls behind its Southern, Eastern and Western porticoes. The castle is roofed with bricks in two differing architectural patterns. Its decorations in brick vary strangely. Some of them have geometrical designs, others botanical, still others are a combination of the two. The fourth category, however, resembles woven carpets and decorations imitating wood carvings.

The Castle varies from one side to another and from one spot to another in an exquisite pattern that amazes the observer.

Who Built the Castle and when?

This magnificent edifice is decorated, as one can see, with wonderful kinds of decorations and other ornate geometrical designs, but it is free of all ornamental inscriptions as is the case with all Islamic buildings in the Abbasid



The long portico, with exquisite chevron mouldings in front of the Southern Wing which has been repaired.



A Window of Marjan's School "al-Madrasah al-Marjaniyya" founded in 758 A.H./1357 A.D. with Arabic inscription in Naskhi style.

period and others. This gave rise to a long drawn out argument regarding the history of this immortal monument, its builder, its age and purpose. The argument is still in full swing without reaching any final decision acceptable to all disputants.

At present the difference of opinion is centred round two possibilities. One School holds that the Castle is "Dar-al - Musayana" which was built by the Abbasid Caliph al-Nasir Laidinillah in 578 A.H./1170 A.D. To be an academy and library where savants met to discuss highly learned problems. The other declares that the present Abbasid Castle is

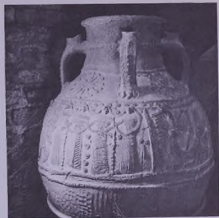
the "Sharabi School" (al Madrasah al-Sharabiyya) which was founded by Iqbal al-Sharabi, a prominent military Commander at the time of al-Mustansir Billah. It was built in 628 A.H./1231 A.D. Supporters of both theories are still at sixes and sevens amongst themselves, but it is noticeable that both factions agree that the date of the Abbasid Castle goes back to the last Abbasid period, from the last third of the XIIth. century to the first third of the XIIIth. century A.D.

The Abbasid Castle After Eight Centuries:

History remained silent and never mentioned this Castle after the fall of Baghdad. The Ottoman-Turks who ruled Iraq for more than three centuries used the building for military purposes, so it was a depot for ammunition and arms. It was, therefore, neglected and damaged as was the case with all large historical buildings under the Ottoman Regime.

The entire North side had collapsed save one room; a similar fate befell the Western lobby, of which there is nothing left today. The other sides were also destroyed, as a result of which the main parts of the Castle are badly deformed.

An earthen-ware water jar, dried in the open air by exposure to sunlight, and adorned with human figures, pictures of imaginary animals and plant leaves forming star-shaped designs (XIIIth. century A.D.)

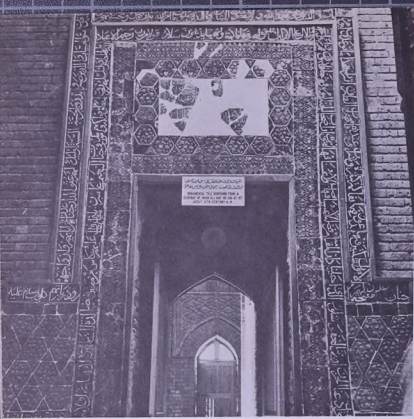


BRITISH MUSEUM

Plaster decorations from the Great Mosque of Mosul with bands of Arabic inscription in Kufic style.



A plaster window decorated in the Khalili style, from the Great Mosque of Mosul (VIIth. Century A.H./XIIIth. Century A.D.).



of the Mosque of Sinjar. It is made of sculptured marble with Naskhi inscriptions and a background decorated with floral and botanical decorations. This relief goes back to the 15th. century A.H. XIIth. century A.D.

— A Niche made of sculptured sandstone with human figures. It goes back to the time of the Ala-Beg State in Sinjar (506 - 617 A.H.).

— A collection of glass jugs and bottles used for perfumes, and as a toilet set. Some of them are decorated with pictures. Others are small and finely made. These go back to ca. 300 A.H./912 A.D.

— Gold and silver coins, the most ancient of which date back from the time of 'Uthman ibn Affan 29 A.H./650 A.D.

— Large water jugs decorated with botanical designs and pictures of birds in the Barbutin manner. They go back to the time of the Ata-beg State in Mosul (XIIIth. century A.D.)

— Relief sculptures on pottery of unknown date.

▲ A section of a wooden door from al-Kadhimain Mausoleum.

▲ A frieze of inscription on a blue glazed-tile (from the VIIIth. century A.H./XIVth. A.D.).

Then repairs were undertaken by the Directorate General of Antiquities which began restoration work in 1934. It has so far repaired the Southern and Eastern sides, and it is now engaged in rebuilding the Northern Wing and the other demolished parts of the Castle, adequate funds having been allocated for this purpose by the Revolutionary Government.

The Abbasid Castle Museum:

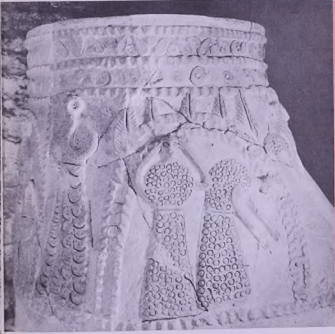
When the Directorate General of Antiquities had completed the Wings of the Abbasid Castle, it decided to make use of the Castle by converting it into a museum of Islamic-Arabic Relics and Remains. So it filled the large halls situated behind the Southern Side and the small rooms within the same wing with the most wonderful remains of Islamic civilization in its heyday, in the realms of art, industry and architecture.

Of these we can quote the following :-

28 — The entrance to the Oratory



Two lines of Kufic inscription on a blue glazed-tile from the Great Mosque of Mosul (VIth. century A.H./12th A.D.).



▲ An earthenware store for storing grains, decorated with human figures. Date unknown.



▶ A marble niche probably belonging to the time of Abu Ja'far al-Mansur, the 2nd. Abbasid Caliph.



Glass Ware And Crystal Industry

The Arabs were specially fond of crystal on account of its hardness and attractive appearance. They made glasses out of it, believing that to use them for drinking was highly beneficial to health.

Amongst other kinds of crystal they had, was the stone-hard type that was well-known for its purity.

The Najaf district is famous for a special kind of clear and pure crystal, of which rings and vessels are made. This is known as "Durr al-Najaf" - The Pearl of Najaf. From it lamps known as "Thurayya", Venus types of chandeliers - were made, as well as optical lenses.

Certain caliphs collected glass and crystal-ware objects as a hobby. Amongst others one may cite al-Radhi Billah al-Abbasi concerning whom a certain historian says, "I never saw so much crystal in the palace of any king as that of al-Radhi, and certainly no sovereign ever made so much use of it or spent so much money on it as he did. In the end he acquired as much of it as any other sovereign ever did.

Historians usually mention one other item in connection with Cal-

phs in this respect. It concerns al-Mu'lasim, on the eve of his decision to build the city of Samarra. He ordered skilled workmen to be brought from Basra to produce the glass necessary for his newly-built capital. On the whole, the palaces of the caliphs and the houses of the rich in the old Iraqi society contained a great deal of glass and crystal-ware as objects of luxury and decoration.

Glass and crystal are at present used in the construction of the holy shrines and in the decorations covering the inside of the cupolas - such as chevron moulding and many-sided geometrical designs and other patterns that excel in beauty and charm, not to mention the various breath-taking crystal pearls and chandeliers which a visitor would not fail to notice at first glance⁽¹⁾.

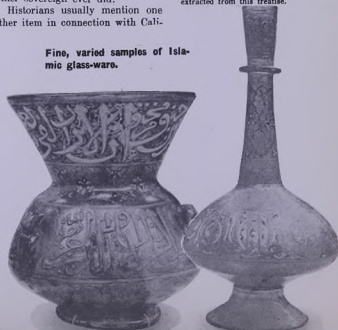
(1) A treatise under the above title will soon be published in the series of "al-Thaqafa al-Sha'biyyah", "Popular Culture" by Mr. Michael Awad. It deals with the glass and crystal-ware industry of the Iraqis. On account of the importance of this subject we saw to it to offer the readers of "New Iraq" a short outline about this industry extracted from this treatise.

Archeological finds in ancient Iraqi cities show that the Iraqis were quite proficient in the glass and crystal industry. Various samples of ancient Iraqi glass have been found in different parts of the country, many of which are kept in world museums. Amongst others are glass vessels which comprise a variety of vases, bottles, cups, lamps, pots and decorative glasses. These glasses were used for keeping perfumes. They are thin and small, prismatic and rich in decoration. Specialists assert that the decorative glasses were made of a kind of material that was mixed with lead to produce a bluish or greenish colour. Of this there are many illustrative examples in the premises of the Abbasid Castle in Baghdad and the Museum of Arab Relics in Khan Marjan.

The Iraqis took special interest in glassware industry. Its factories were to be found in Baghdad, Samarra, Hira, al-Qadisiyya (near Samarra) and Harbi. They took particular care in decorating the glass with glistening pictures that have a metal lustre, and the colours of the enamel.

A large number of vessels were inscribed with verses written in gold, white, blue, red and green... The people of those days were also highly interested in painting pictures on drinking glasses, vessels and lamps that were made of ordinary glass or crystal.

Fine, varied samples of Islamic glass-ware.



Glass decoration in the Hira court-yard in Karbala



BASH TABYA ... A WELL KNOWN RELIC OF MOSUL. THE GREAT MOSQUE OF MOSUL, ONE OF THE REMAINS OF THE VITH. CENTURY A.H. XIITH.A.D. (FROM MUHAMMAD AMIN KAKA - MOSUL.)



Looking Forward
Meditation
Joy
From Zuhair Salim



READERS' ALBUM



Entrance to Rashid St. from the South Gate.



On an Excursion. By Birjanik Tatyosian, Mosul.



A scene of the Tigris across Suwayra, South of Iraq. A breath-taking painting by the painter Muhammed Salih Zaki. (Inside the 1st. Cover): Tahrir Square, Baghdad.

MUHAMMAD SALIH ZAKI

- Born in al-Fadhil Quarter, Baghdad, in 1888. Brought up in the midst of a family well-versed in learning and culture.
- He began his early academic career at Hamidiya School prior to his admission to Rushdiyya School.
- He graduated at the Military Intermediate School (Rushdiyya) the Military Secondary School (Iddiyya) and the Military College in Baghdad.
- He completed his study at the Military College, Istanbul, and passed out as a second lieutenant of cavalry in 1908, at the age of 20.

- He served in the Ottoman-Turkish Army till World War I, then he served in the Syrian Army and finished his military services in the Iraqi Army from 1922 to 1938, when he retired with the rank of colonel.
- He practised painting beautiful nature scenes following in the footsteps of famous painters in Istanbul.

During His long trips as a cavalry officer he produced many of his artistic works which are a faithful record of his sight-seeing and impressions of the countries he had the opportunity to visit.

- He went to Europe in 1938 to see the art galleries there. During his tour he saw most of the European countries that had an artistic heritage. On his way home, he visited the Middle-eastern countries, looked particularly for their artistic aspects and made contacts with their renowned artists.
- He lectured on the art of drawing at the Tafayyuth School, Baghdad, making use of a series of exercise books containing drawings prepared in a way that is compatible with the various ages and stages of learning.
- He enriched Iraqi art with a wealth of drawings and paintings which are a record of the beautiful natural scenery of Iraq from north to south.

IRAQI ARTISTS

