

'May your city drink water aplenty'*

A Free Study Day on Water in

Ancient, Medieval and Modern Iraq

Saturday 3rd March 2012

10am-4.30pm

Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1

Organised and sponsored by
The British Institute for the Study of Iraq
(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

In conjunction with the
Department of History
School of African & Oriental Studies

Over six thousand years the history of Iraq has been shaped by fresh water. The rivers Tigris and Euphrates irrigated the fields of the world's first cities and the capitals of some of the greatest empires. Their waters have been managed and mismanaged, used as weapons, poured as libations, and inspired some of the finest poetry, literature and art. This study day will explore the role of water in the story of Iraq, ranging from the Sumerians and Babylonians through the golden age of Islam to the oil-rich nation of today.



*Ea (Sumerian Enki), god of
sweet water and wisdom
Akkadian cylinder seal, ca. 2250 BC
(British Museum)*

Speakers:

Frans van Koppen, Dr Paul Collins, Professor Emilie Savage-Smith FBA and Professor Adel Sharif. With performances by Andy Lowings of *The Gold Lyre of Ur*.

*From the Sumerian myth of *Enki and Ninhursag*

Attendance is free, but prior **registration is required** for this event on a first come first served basis. Please email bisi@britac.ac.uk or call 020 7969 5274 to register, providing your name and contact details.

For further details go to www.bisi.ac.uk

