

## **PANEL 1**

# **FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009**

## **A BRITISH FAMILY IN THE ARAB WORLD 1959-2009**

An exhibition arranged by kind permission of the Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

Paintings and drawings, weaving, photographs, collage, language and music to illustrate one family's diverse involvement in the Arab world for half a century .

Our exhibition was an attempt to convey something of how we have experienced the Arab world through art, music, handicrafts , language and photography.

Christine Thomas began to travel in Arabia from the time of her first visit to Aden, where she taught from 1961. She married Leslie McLoughlin there in 1963. The original art work on display shows especially her love of drawing a great variety of buildings in the Arab world and in Exeter .

Leslie McLoughlin initially discovered Arabia in 1962 while teaching Arabic as an Army officer in the British colony of Aden and then serving in the Trucial Oman Scouts (TOS) in 1964.

Jonathan McLoughlin arrived in Aden in 1964 aged 1, departing Saudi Arabia aged 17. On display was one of his many collages.

Elizabeth McLoughlin was born in Beirut in 1967 just before the Six Day War. She learned to weave in Egypt aged 10 and the designs shown were created between 1977 and 2009.

The displays related the family's work to the turbulent events of the period in Arabia and the neighbouring countries

The photographs on display were largely those taken by Leslie from 1961-2009. The Institute also has on permanent display other pictures taken by both Leslie and Christine McLoughlin in Arabia from the 1960's. These can also be accessed via the photo archive held by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter, which specializes in historic photos of the Arab world.

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## **PANEL 2**

### **FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009**

#### **The McLoughlin Family ,Wars and Rumours of Wars.....**

Since 1961 Leslie has visited all Arab countries except Algeria. The family have lived in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Christine and Leslie left Aden just after the first political assassination, in December 1963.

The family was evacuated from Lebanon to UK at the time of the June War of 1967.

In 1973 Christine and Elizabeth found themselves unwillingly in Bagdad when their flight was diverted from Istanbul because of the October War.

In 1975 the family experienced 8 months of the Lebanese Civil War, making an emergency exit by road via Damascus just before Christmas 1975.

The Israeli assassinations of Palestinians in Beirut in April 1973 ended Jonathan's schooling in Lebanon. He and Elizabeth were at school in Egypt in 1977 at the time of the Cairo bread riots which led to President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

The family finally left Dubai in 1981 on the day that President Sadat was assassinated in Cairo.

A planned gap year for Jonathan in Jerusalem 1982-3 was cancelled because of Israeli preparations to assault Lebanon in June 1982.

Leslie began to interpret for HM The Queen and Prime Ministers from 1983.

Leslie and Christine were on a lecture tour in the Gulf for the British Council in late 1990 as Coalition forces rehearsed by land, sea and air the operations to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

The family spent part of the period 1992-3 in the United Arab Emirates and since then Christine and Leslie have made visits to the UAE and Oman with fellow veterans of the Trucial Oman Scouts and their wives.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century Christine and Leslie have had the opportunity to see the entire Arabian Peninsula from the sea as they travel on cruise ships on which Leslie gives lectures.

Aden is now a no-go area because of terrorist threats.

### PANEL 3

#### ARABIA AND EXETER TIMELINE 1959 – 2009

- 1959 Aden: Command Arabic Language School ,Arabian Peninsula (CALSAAP) set up.  
Oman: Defeat of insurgency on Jebel Akhdar,Oman by British forces, TOS and local forces.
- 1962-4 Aden: Leslie taught Arabic to military personnel at CALSAAP.
- 1962 Revolution in Yemen
- 1963 Leslie and Christine marry in Aden
- 1964 Leslie ,Christine and Jonathan resident in Dubai
- 1965-68 McLoughlins live in Lebanon,with visits to Gulf countries;Leslie Director of Studies at MECAS,Shehlan
- 1967 Elizabeth born in Beirut;British evacuate Aden;Israel defeats Egypt,Jordan,Syria in 6-Day War;McLoughlins evacuated to Britain.
- 1970 “Black September”; death of Nasser;  
Regime change in Oman.Sultan Sa’id replaced by son,Qaboos  
McLoughlins return to MECAS  
Start of frequent visits to Gulf countries
- 1973 October War,beginning of Kissinger diplomacy  
Exeter University begins teaching Arabic
- 1975 Assassination of King Feisal of Saudi Arabia  
Beginning of Lebanese Civil War  
Insurgency in Dhofar, Oman defeated with British help
- 1976 McLoughlins live in Jordan
- 1977 McLoughlins live in Egypt;Sadat visits Jerusalem
- 1978-81 McLoughlins live in Dubai

- 1979            The Islamic Republic of Iran replaces the Shah's regime
- 1980-88        Iran –Iraq War
- 1981            October 6 :Assassination of President Sadat
- 1982            McLoughlins live in Saudi Arabia
- 1983            Leslie interprets at 10 Downing St.(till 2009,at intervals)
- 1985            Ruler of Sharjah,Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad : Ph.D. of Exeter University
- 1990            Iraq occupies Kuwait
- Taif Agreement,to end Lebanese Civil War
- 1991            Iraq expelled from Kuwait
- 1993            McLoughlins live for last time in the Arab world,in Dubai
- 1999            Establishment of Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS),University of Exeter

## THE THIRD MILLENIUM

- 2000 Intifada begins in Palestine; McLoughlins' homes now all in Exeter
- 2001 July Ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad : Ph.D. of Exeter University inaugurates new IAIS building  
September 11 attack on New York "twin towers" by Al-Qa'ida  
November United States bombs Afghanistan
- 2002 February: Saudi Arabian Peace Initiative unanimously accepted by Arab League  
Israel assaults West Bank towns and refugee camps
- 2003 Coalition attack on Iraq
- 2005 Assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri
- 2006 Leslie interprets for Prince Charles on Iraqi matters
- 2007 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of move of MECAS from Jerusalem to Lebanon
- 2008 Birth of first grandson, Daniel McLoughlin  
Israel celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 2009 Lebanon opens first Embassy in Syria  
Syria opens first Embassy in Lebanon  
Britain prepares to withdraw last troops from Iraq  
United States sends 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan  
Leslie interprets in London between Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and the President of Lebanon.

## PANEL 4

### FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009

#### CHRISTINE MCLOUGHLIN'S PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

Christine has had her sketch books with her throughout the four decades she has spent in Arabia and in Exeter. She also branched out to the Mediterranean and the Baltic when accompanying Leslie on cruises for which he was giving lectures.

She has worked in a variety of media throughout the years spent in Lebanon, the Gulf area, the countries of the Levant, and Egypt.

The hung exhibits showed her favourites among the works she has completed in Lebanon, Arabia and Exeter. On display also were copies of some of her travel sketch books (Arab world, Mediterranean countries), and prints of Exeter water-colours now in private collections.

## PANEL 5

### FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009

Paintings and drawings by Christine McLoughlin

- 1 Libya. Leptis Magna. Arch of Trajan
- 2 Jordan, Petra, Al-Deir ("The Monastery")
- 3 Yemen, Wadi Daha
- 4 U.A.E. Dubai. Street scene, 1970's
- 5 Saudi Arabia. Street in Jalajil
- 6 Jordan, Petra. The Treasury.

- 7 Saudi Arabia,Eastern Province. Fortified tower
- 8 Saudi Arabia,Mada'in Salih
- 9 Egypt.Giza.The Sphinx
- 10 Saudi Arabia,Dumat Al-Jandal,ca.1975
- 11 Saudi Arabia,Dir'iyya,near Riyadh
- 12 Oman,Bausher,nr.Muscat.Fort
- 13 Exeter University .Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies -I
- 14 Exeter University .Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies -II  
Entrance
- 15 Exeter Cathedral.
- 16 Exeter Cathedral,North porch
- 17 Exeter Cathedral Close.House near Cathedral.Deanery  
Place
- 18 Exeter.“The House That Moved”
- 19 Exeter. House by Stepcote Hill
- 20 Exeter Cathedral.Statues on West Front.
- 21 Exeter.Tower at Exe Bridges.
- 22 Exeter Cathedral.Brewer's Door.
- 23 Exeter Cathedral Close.St.Petrock's
- 24 Exeter Cathedral.South Tower.
- 25 Exeter Quay.Arch
- 26 Exeter.Gardens at 26 Palace Gate

## **PANEL 6**

### **Arabia to Exeter 1959-2009**

#### **Some work by Jonathan and Elizabeth McLoughlin**

##### **Weaving display**

The samples shown were of Elizabeth's work throughout a period of more than 25 years.

She learned to weave in 1977 at the age of 10 at a handicrafts school near the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, run by the organization WAFWA 'AML ("Fidelity and Hope"). This was set up by the wife of President Anwar Sadat to rehabilitate Egyptian soldiers wounded in the fighting against Israel.

Elizabeth continued to weave throughout the period when she moved between Britain and the Arab world. In 1988 she moved to Devon, settling in her present home in Exeter in 2007, where she has continued to experiment enthusiastically with a great range of wools.

The Dryad loom on display was the one she has used since returning from Cairo to Oxford in 1978.

##### **The collage**

Jonathan's first 2 years were spent between Germany, Britain, Sharjah, Aden, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. His first school, in Lebanon, was Arabic-speaking. His collage shows the influence on him of the years he spent with the family in the Arab world and in particular his love of calligraphy.

The theme of his collage is "BELONGING" and features his wife and their son, Daniel, born in October 2008.



## PANEL 7

### FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009

**Leslie McLoughlin**

**Books and photographs**

Leslie chose to display photographs of Arabia going back to the 1960's. The focus was on Arabia-in-Transition.

The books on display related to literary works which he has translated into English, several with an Arabian context.

Among many fascinating items was Volume 1 of the greatest Arabic dictionary in 15 volumes This is "Lissan Al-Arab ("The Tongue of the Arabs").

The whole set was a gift from the late Tawfiq Yusuf Awwad, whose novel on Lebanon he translated in 1974 as **DEATH IN BEIRUT**. The inscription is in the author's own hand. He met his death in Beirut in 1988, killed by a stray shell while sitting in the Beirut garden of his son-in-law, the Spanish Ambassador to Lebanon

## **PANEL 8**

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**Lissan Al-Arab = “The Tongue of the Arabs”**

The author of “Tawaheen Beirut”, Tawfiq Yusuf Awwad, presented the 15 volumes of this magnificent dictionary to Leslie McLoughlin in Rome, July 1974. Shortly afterwards his residence as Ambassador of Lebanon was attacked by a pro-Israeli mob.

The dedication reads:

**“Many a brother to you  
was not born of your mother.....”**

**To Leslie McLoughlin who translated me into English**

The writer was killed in Beirut in 1989 by a stray shell, while sitting in the garden of the Spanish Ambassador, his son-in-law.

The translation appeared in 1976 as “Death in Beirut”.

## PANEL 9

### FROM ARABIA TO EXETER 1959-2009

The following is a list of the pieces of Elizabeth's weaving which were on display

1. Overshot weave.Cream,purple,blue,yellow.Baby colours.Blanket.
2. Overshot weave.Red,brown.Scarf or hanging
3. Radiating design.Mottled weft.Wall hanging
4. Bright yellow.Yellow/red warp.Plain weave
5. Shiny pebble effect. Plain weave
6. Shades of brown.Plain weave
7. Mustard and beige. Overshot weave
8. Diamond Variations.Brown and yellow. Overshot weave
9. "One of my favourites".Fine yarns.Orange,pink.Scarf
10. Red variations.Multicoloured and textured.Chenille weft
11. Overshot weave.Metallic-red,brown,blue,silver. Scarf
12. Liquorice.Brown,blue,black.Uneven thread.Scarf
13. Mauve with red.Red warp.Textured weft.
14. Overshot weave-blocks.Pink,purple,yellow.
15. Fluorescent.Red mohair.Black warp.
16. "Orange Peel".2 shades of orange. Overshot weave
17. Rosepath.Red,brown,black.Bubbly weft
18. Red and white flecks.Flecked weft.Decorative piece.
19. Decorative panel.Red,blue,yellow.Plain knitting wool.

- 20 Overshot weave.Blue,green.Chunky weft
- 21 Rosepath design.Blue,pink.Mohair.Scarf
- 22 “Baby blue” with white.Chenille weft
- 23 Plain.Male colours.Scarf
- 24 Plain.Red,grey,brown
- 25 Plain weave.Pink,purple and green.Curtain tie-back
- 26 Overshot weave.Pink,purple,black.Scarf or belt
- 27 Bricks.Red,white.String warp.Belt
- 28 “Sparks”.Pink.Mohair
- 29 Plain/stripes.Pink,brown,cream.Proper weaving.Wool scarf
- 30 Twill.Chair back.Pink,yellow,blue
- 31 Red,white,blue.Chenille weft.
- 32 Pink,white.Combination Rosepath design.
- 33 “Chariot Wheels”.Turquoise warp.
- 34 Plain design.Blue,red,white
- 35 Rosepath design.Blue green