

Akra as seen by William and Edgar Wigram Brothers in Nineteenth Century

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ABSTRACT

The present research work entitled "Akra as seen by brothers William and Edgar in nineteenth century" deals with what the two authors had written in their book "The Cradle of Mankind; The daily life in Eastern Kurdistan". The book which is considered as a reference book in historical, geographical and social studies. It sheds the lights on life in Akra through William's and Edgar's views due to the fact that they are considered as an eye- witness to the city that they documented everything about the city and its society and transferred it to the British public.

Introduction

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The research work falls into two aspects, The first deals with the two brothers' biography since they both studies religions and documented their expeditions, in addition to considering other books; their titles, content and relevance to the book "The Cradle of Mankind; the daily life in Kurdistan".

"Northern of Spain" for William Wigram and "The Assyrian Church" for Edgar are instances of these books.

The second aspects which is the care of the present research work deals with the general condition of Akra through the two brothers' views where the content and the authors' academic career were upon.

The both of "The Cradle of Mankind; the daily life in Eastern Kurdistan" is considered as the essence of the present research work since it provides us descriptive texts of the city at late Othman's time.

The research work has based on certain Arabic and English resources in addition to thesaurus. The research work has been concluded with photos adopted from the book in concern documenting different districts of Kurdistan.

The first aspect; the brothers' William and Edgar Biography,

1. William Wigram (1872- 1953)

William was born on 16th of May 1872 in Fornix of heir tiff shire, the youngest son of a priest and he was appointed as a priest in one of Englicanic England churches. He studied the doctrine of Assyrian church and he was well-known for his book on that church. He was educated at Yegram royal school in Canterbury and then was educated by the priest Brook Scott, the bishop of Durham and was appointed as a priest in Bishopricks in 1897. In 1902 he was appointed as a head to the missionary by a mandate frame the head of Canterbury church to Assyrian language and Assyrian church in 1907.the aim behind the missionary was to raise up education among the seculars and Assyrians churches in Kurdistan.

Accordingly, he established a college for Theology and forty five school for Theology in Mesopotamia and he was promoted to be the head of the missionary after five years of hard work till 1912.

During that time he had published his book about the Assyrian church (100-640 A.C) by which he tried to bridge the gap and solve the conflicts between the two churches, Assyrian and Englican.

When he came back from Kurdistan, he composed his Jamons book with his brother Edgar "The Cradle of mankind; The daily life in Eastern Kurdistan" the main concern of this work.

He was dismissed by the Othmans authorities when he was in Kurdistan on the grand of being suspicions in 1912.

In 1912, he moved to Istanbul and stayed there till the beginning of world war I. he kept being a counsel regarding resetting the Assyrians down. After the world war I, he was appointed as a priest in Greece in 1922-1926 after the declaration of the British deputation and he served in the church of Saint Paul in 1928-1936 where he kept writing on Assyrian.

Due to his wide knowledge of Assyrians he was appointed in the Assyrians immigrants camps in Baquba in Iraq. In 1929 he came back to the united kingdom to live in Wales and Salzburg .

His books:

- The doctrine of Assyrian church.
- An introduction about the Assyrian church history (100-640A.c). or the Imperial Sassani (1910).
- The Cradle of Mankind; The Daily life in Eastern Kurdistan (1912).
- Our youngest Allies 1920 issued in Sweden in 1986and published in U.S.A in 1996.
- The Assyrian Stability 1922.
- The Assyrian and their Neighbors.

2- Edger Thomas Wigram 1864-1935

He was born in 1864 for a noble family. He is older than his brother, he was granted the title of "Sir" and he was the 6th Baron of Wigram's. He was interested in Northern Spain history and he composed a documented book about it.

He contributed in composing the book of "The Cradle of Mankind" due to his interest in the Spain magnificent nature. The point is that there was similarity between the natural views of both Spain and Kurdistan. He died in 1935 in great British.

- The second Axis:

The general channel conditions of Hatra through the views of both William and Edger Wigram.

1. An examination of the content of the book "The Cradle of Mankind" the book falls into 16 chapter in addition to the preface of the 2nd edition. In the 1st chapter, the two authors tackled upon the trip and detailed description of the lands along from Aleppo to Aurfa through railway. In the 2nd chapter, they tackled upon the land of dust and waste; Mardin and Diar Baher, In the 3rd chapter, there was a description of hovelling from Rome to Nessibeen. Whereas the 4th chapter tackled upon Nineveh and Mosul. In the 5th chapter, they talked about Satan Temple (Oudai) the Sheik of Izedians, in the 6th chapter they talked about Hatra the main concern of the research work. In the chapters; 7th, 14th, and 15th they talked about Barazan, Ammadia and the Assyrian in these regions. Finally, they talked in the following chapters about their trip from Mosul to Baghdad.
 - Hatra the general conditions through two Brother's descriptions.
 - The geographical nature of Hatra after a hard trip from Mosul tpHatra. Hatra was described as a big mountain eons town, it was so cold. It had sharply stopped mountains and valleys filled with ice in winter with heavily dense trees through which large cracks in its mountains.

Akra's Houses

They wonderfully described the houses in Hatra luxuriance houses where there were more than one floor in addition to kitchen, servants room and the sitting room in the grand floor. There was also a big reception room furniture with carpets and pillows. There were also low windows in addition to cellars, kitchen ware, shelves for books. They had their dinner at that house of bacon (spicy meat and eggs) and fruit and they had their coffee as well. They noted that the kitchen ware were all made of wood.

Equality in Akra's Community

The two brothers were surprised to see the good relations among Moslems and Christians in Hatra in particular and all Othman's states in general.

Setting Down in the Government Headquarter in Akra

The two brothers successfully pictured the government's headquarter in Hatra and they described its content as a two- floor premise is enclosed by a yard just like a tavern surrounded by fabulous views of the city. The building was guarded by soldiers and there were beautiful lanterns distributed in a big hall.

The two brothers had a chat in the premises about the awful news about the Italian and they were afraid of Kurds that they might do certain reprisal acts against Christians.

It was obvious that the aim behind the two brother's visit was to be briefed by the city assists and defenses since the city was described as small Istanbul in addition to their fears that the Christians might be hurt from the Islamic neighbors.

The City Bazaar

The two brothers had certain talks with people at Akra market (Bazaar) where they talked about the important events of the city history which is used to be an emirate of Abbasside's Caliphate till its decline by Seljuk's in 1050 A.C.

They reviewed the ancient city bazaar and the buildings in need of reconstruction and they talked about holidays in the city Friday for Moslems, Saturday for Jews, and Sunday for Christians.

They told a story about a Kurdish man came from mountains to Akra's market to buy a mule and he was shot down in the market and been bandaged by a mixture of butter and animal's dropping which was an old way of giving first aids.

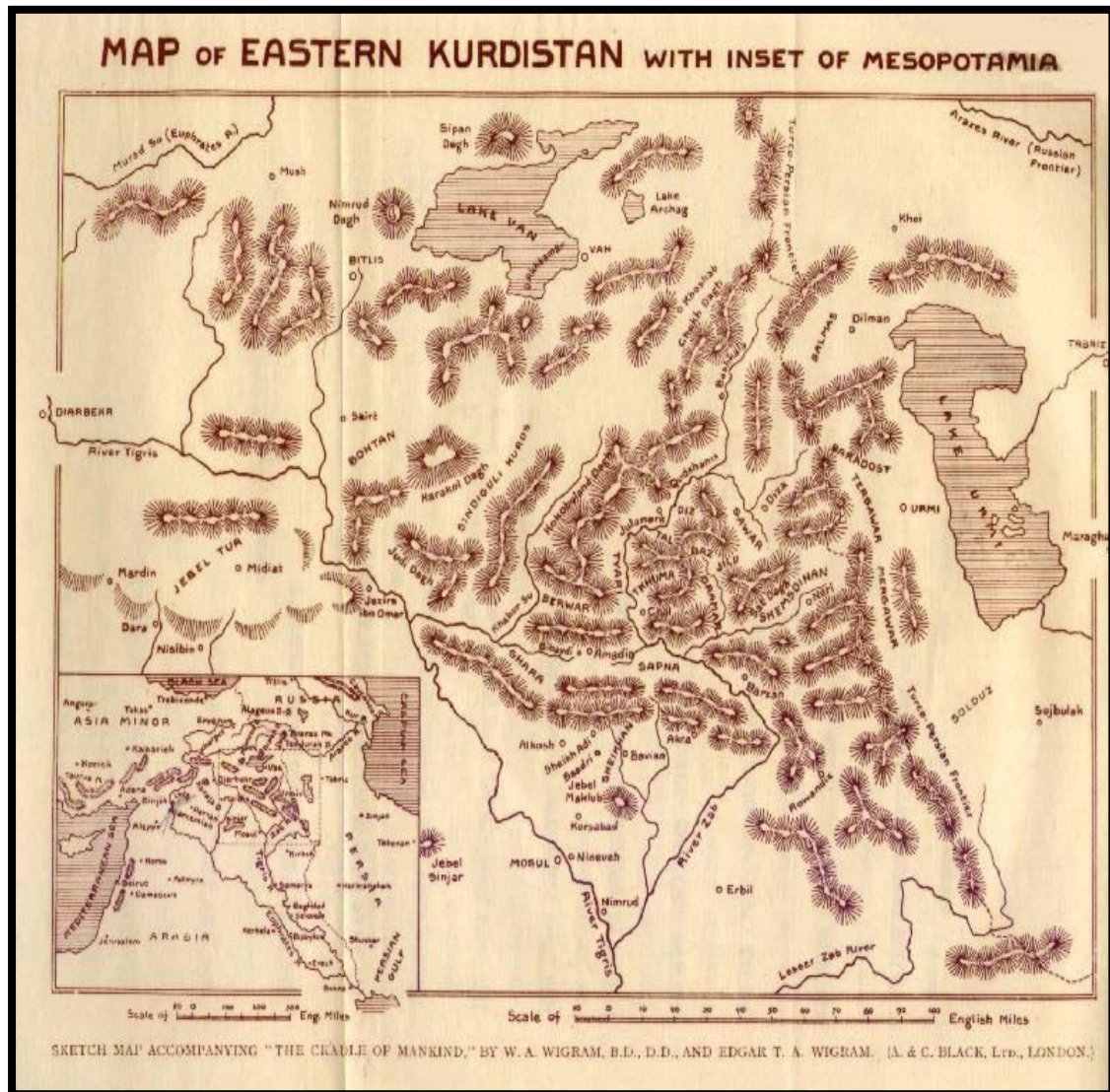
Conclusions

Out of the above research work, the following conclusions have been conducting;

- The two authors documented the religious, social and cultural history of Kurdistan in general and Hatra the concern of the research in particular.
- The two authors talked upon the Christians ways of living in Akra in addition to reviewing the city as a military fortress and a headquarter for Othman's administration in Kurdistan.
- The book "The Cradle of Mankind" tackled upon the British means of drawing land roads before world war I especially the Euphrates Island Aleppo, Orfa, Mosul and Kurdistan and that strategic road constitutes the southern border of Minor Asia Istanbul; the Othman's Sultanate headquarter.
- The two authors successfully described the city views and people, they described the traditions, customs of having food and drinks and even ways of making drugs, pottery, and kitchenware.
- The two authors documented the designs of buildings and houses in the city as well.

Figure (1)

Map of Eastern Kurdistan



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