

A scene of an internal water-way in Abu al-Khasab, Basrah Governorate.  
Photo by: Sabah Jassim.

## IRAQI ARTIST

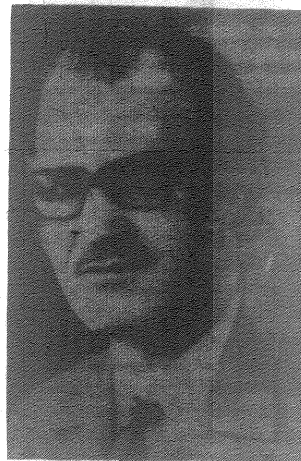
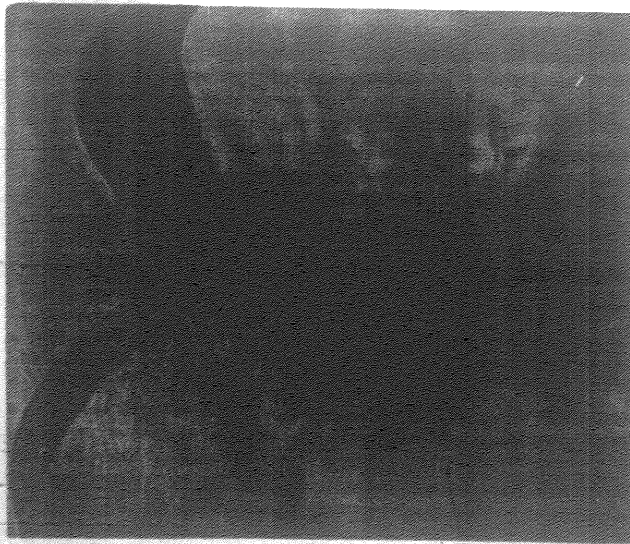
# LEST WE FORGET DR. QUTAIBA SHAIKH NOURI

The sudden and tragic death of Dr. Qutaiba Shaikh Nouri on 11th April was a severe shock which we still suffer and perhaps no one yet could appreciate the volume of vacancy that will be felt in our cultural life. Dr. Nouri was neither an ordinary physician nor an ordinary artist; he simply was a man whose intellect channelled both science and art, with highly creative potentials. His great love for life was his motivation to extend all his powers for serving humanity in this part of the world. This article will only deal with the artistic side of his activities.

Dr. Nouri practiced painting as an amateur, as he did not join any academic school for art. Together with other friends, amateurs and professionals, they founded the first art group in 1950, namely the Societe Primitive group. At that period, along with the same line followed by the other members, he painted nature, making several landscapes in an impressionist style which he showed among the group exhibitions.

His first one man show was held in 1969; there his career was marked with a professional approach towards art, as in the succeeding year he developed his own theory, trying to seek his individuality in art.

The circle to him was the main object in his compositions, through which he was connecting the geometric form with the meaning of life in more than one aspect. The colours, therefore, were pure and eloquent, reflecting the artist's liveliness and fresh look to life. For several years he elaborated on this theme until his last one man show (1978), in which he was diverted into more concrete theme: "Man and Wall." Man in that collection represents certain psychological situations. Colours were also subject to this complete change, they were more earthly in order to create the actual reflection of time as represented in these walls.



Besides, Dr. Qutaiba Shaikh Nouri was an excellent photographer. He had one of those gifted eyes that could pick up beauty out of any trash. His originality was in showing detailed parts of any simple and

ordinary object, as he cleverly reflected such a part in a purely artistic form.

If one tries to go through all the cultural activities of this doctor-artist, it will take long to cover it up. He simply enriched our cultural life generously with his love and knowledge.

### SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

- Surgeon and painter
- Gave many lectures on Iraqi modern art — art of posters, modern movements in arts, Arabic calligraphy in plastic arts, science and visual art.
- President of Iraqi Artists Society 1972 and 1974.
- Participated in many exhibitions in Iraq and abroad.

May

end of the first stage in their governments and the beginning of the second one.

## THE STRAINS OF LIFE

Calgary, Alberta:

A Mother killed three of her young daughters by throwing them into the icy Bow River here and then committed suicide by jumping in with the fourth, police said.

## MUSICAL FORUM

The International Council of Music has decided to organize the fifth forum on Asian Music in Baghdad on December 1. A number of Asian countries are to take part in the forum.

A committee was formed for scheduling the agenda of the forum. It comprises representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture and Arts besides the National Committee of Music.

## ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL ...

The Ninth Asian Film Festival is to be held in Jakarta on November 19/1979. Realizing the importance of films as a medium of communication, it was decided at the meeting of Asian film producers that a cultural fund be set to finance future Asian film festivals and other programmes connected with Asian culture.

Other issues discussed were on the exchange of films among Asian countries, export duties on films and cooperation in film making.

Asian governments were also called to treat film-making as an industry which requires assistance in terms of facilities.

## NEW COMPUTER TAKES DICTATION

Paderborn — It understands human language but it cannot yet hold a conversation. Its vocabulary is limited and it can only answer in writing. This little computer recently shown in Federal Germany for the first time, is the first step along the road to total electronic information processing. The system will be on sale for a bout DM25,000 shortly. Words and figures relating to orders, technological findings and other matters are dictated into the computer via a microphone. The dictation can be checked on the screen. Processing is then done in the usual way. At the moment the computer can deal with 300 slowly spoken words. In five years the figure will be 4000, which it can pick up at normal dictation speed.

