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Arabic and Aramaic in Iraq: Language and Syriac Christian Commitment to the Arab Nationalist Project (1920-1950)

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ARABIC AND ARAMAIC IN IRAQ

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Note on transcription

Maintaining a consistent way of transcribing the Arabic, Syriac, and Neo-Aramaic terms and names was not an easy task, because many names have both an Arabic and Syriac spelling, and because of the difference between the West and East Syriac phonological systems, which both occur in Iraq.

For names that have commonly appeared in English, I use the most common spelling in English, such as King Faisal or Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem I Barsoum. For other Christian names, I use the English version of these names (such as Joseph) instead of the Arabic or Syriac ones (Yūsuf and Yawsef). For other names that appear both in Arabic and Syriac I use the most frequently attested version.

The Arabic transcription system I use is the one prescribed by the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. For Syriac, I use a system based on the IJMES system for Arabic. I follow either the West or East Syriac phonological systems, depending on the context in which I encountered the terms or names. Long vowels are only indicated where they contrast corresponding short vowels. *Begadkefat* consonants are represented as soft or hard corresponding to current practice in the West and East Syriac pronunciation traditions of the Middle East.