

SABRE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1969, Sabre Foundation has devoted the last quarter century to setting the highest standard in book assistance projects worldwide. What makes Sabre unique is that its book programs are demand-driven and its materials are of the highest quality. Overseas recipients—libraries, schools, universities, and medical and research institutions—select books and CD-ROMs from detailed inventory lists, and receive only new titles and quantities specifically requested. Since 1986 Sabre has shipped nearly \$300 million worth of new books and other educational materials to more than 80 countries, as far flung as Croatia, Indonesia, Lebanon, Rwanda, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

Sabre has committed itself to work in the most shattered countries at first opportunity. When the ink was barely dry on the Dayton Accords, Sabre began its nine-year effort to rebuild the collections of devastated academic libraries in Sarajevo. Sabre has also undertaken programs in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Palestine, and Iraq. In the latter instance, Sabre is working on its 21st shipment, endeavoring to ameliorate the consequences of decades of isolation and neglect, and the destructive wave of looting in 2003.

Sabre Foundation relies entirely on grants and donations to undertake its work. Each program entails securing donations from publishers, documenting and warehousing inventory, coordinating availability with demand, establishing overseas partnerships, packing, and shipping.

Sabre's work demonstrates the power of libraries as centers of renewal and the critical role of education in general, not only for countries emerging from devastating circumstances, but also for countries critically in need of development. These programs serve to increase the prospects of localized stability and prosperity, and to enhance peaceful co-existence between nations.

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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Sabre Foundation would like to express its deep appreciation to Advisory Committee member James Costa for creating the video, and to the volunteers from MIT's ASPIRE (American Students Promoting Iraqi Education) program for their assistance throughout the evening.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In recent months, Sabre has received specific requests for text books and educational materials from the countries listed below. Our goal is to fulfill these needs, to the dollar amount shown, by year's end. *Please consider pledging any amount—large or small—to help us rebuild a war-torn world.* Donation envelopes have been inserted in the program.

Afghanistan \$25,000

The Afghan American Medical Professionals Association requests medical books, atlases, and CD-ROMs for medical schools throughout Afghanistan.

Iraq \$5,000

The Kurdistan Ministry of Higher Education requests university-level agriculture and veterinary science titles.

Liberia \$10,000

The University of Liberia requests medical, nursing, and pharmacology books, atlases, CD-ROMs, flash cards, and other learning materials.

Pakistan \$3,000

"Humanity First," an NGO in Mansehra (North-West Frontier Province), requests books on biology, physics, mathematics, medicine, pharmacology, political science, and law for Kohat University of Science and Technology and Hazara University.

Rwanda \$5,000

"Umusanzu mu Bwiyunge" Outreach Library (at the Documentation Centre, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), requests books on international law, human rights, genocide studies, war crimes, humanitarian law, criminal law and procedures, peace and conflict resolution, and related subjects.

Sierra Leone \$2,000

Sierra Leone Book Trust requests picture books, story books, educational toys, and learning materials for children.

Ukraine \$10,000

Sabre-Svitlo requests university-level titles in the humanities, social sciences, business and economics, as well as books and CD-ROMs for children.

Rory Stewart is a graduate of Eton and Oxford, has been a member of the Black Watch and the British Foreign Service, wayfarer extraordinaire, deputy and acting governor in Southern Iraq at the time of the CPA, founder of the Kabul-based NGO, Turquoise Mountain—dedicated to the revival of traditional Afghan crafts and the rehabilitation of a devastated traditional Kabul neighborhood—and is now Ryan Family Professor of the Practice of Human Rights at Harvard, and Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School. It leaves one breathless.

Additionally, Rory Stewart seems remarkably capable of taking the measure of person, place, and experience, and of leaving a mark, whether concrete or literary, in his swift progress. His book, *The Places in Between*, which chronicles his winter trek on foot through the mountains between Herat and Kabul, short months after the fall of the Taliban, in true “Mad dogs and Englishmen” (albeit in his case British men) style, is a modern adventure informed by history, in particular the memoirs of Babur, founder of the Mughal dynasty, that tests the pulse of a country likely to remain important to us for years to come. His other book, *The Prince of the Marshes*, with its granular approach to his experience of governing the Iraqi provinces of Maysan and Dhi Qar after the March 2003 invasion, conveys exceptionally well the distress, disarray, fissile character, and hopefulness of a repeatedly abused and battered population abruptly dispossessed of its totalitarian overlord, and the mad scramble for authority, power, and definition of the situation that many Iraqis and those interlopers who attempted to govern them—however temporarily—engaged in during the fateful rule of the CPA. Rory’s candor is disarming, his observations acute, and his insights many, with wonderfully chosen quotes from Machiavelli, T.E. Lawrence, and Sumerian proverbial literature acting as thematic signposts throughout.

We are glad and honored to welcome Rory Stewart this evening, as an informed witness to places in crisis of great interest to Sabre Foundation, as a gifted word-smith, and as an individual engaged in active efforts to rehabilitate the afflicted country of Afghanistan,

We are honored that Dr. Saad Eskander, Director General of the Iraq National Library and Archive, has come from Baghdad to celebrate Sabre’s 40th year this evening, and we are delighted that Sabre’s efforts could be of some benefit to his institution. Dr. Eskander’s remarkable life may be measured by the many challenges he has faced and overcome. Orphaned at 15, he was a refugee in Iran at 18 with his siblings. After many trials, he made his way to the UK, where a professor at the University of North London was persuaded to admit him into a BA program. Despite lacking proficiency in English, Saad displayed a deep familiarity with Western authors, whom he had read in Persian, and promised that he would study hard. A few years later, he had earned a PhD in international history from the London School of Economics.

By some alchemy, Dr. Eskander has distilled a profound understanding of the world from the extraordinary array of sometimes horrible experiences he has had, resulting in a practical realism that is leavened with hopefulness rather than cynicism, permitting him to act effectively, and giving his every expression uncommon clarity.

It was a great boon to Iraq that circumstances permitted Saad Eskander to become Director General of the Iraq National Library and Archive, where his performance has been exemplary under the most trying of circumstances. Most people lead their lives without ever arriving at such a place, where character is tested in profound ways with lasting results. In the face of a grim legacy and fractured present, Saad has not only created a compelling model for what life in Iraq could and should be: progressive, fair-minded, non-sectarian, and transparent; his example has demonstrated the manner in which virtually any institution might be governed to achieve the most positive of results, and inspire a highly productive and content staff. This is the result of an absolute commitment to bring out the best qualities in every staff member, and to provide them opportunities to realize their talents, by conveying an aspirational point of view to counter the stultified one inherited from the totalitarian past. For this we honor his achievements, and thank him for his presence among us.

BENEFACTOR

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PROGRAM

- 6:30 RECEPTION
- 7:30 SEATING FOR DINNER
- 7:45 WELCOME
Franz Colloredo-Mansfeld
- 7:50 INTRODUCTION OF FIRST SPEAKER
Jeff Spurr

Rory Stewart
Ryan Family Professor of the Practice of Human Rights
Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School
of Government, Harvard
- 8:30 HONORARY AWARDS
Kenneth G. Bartels

Charles Getchell
William Lindsay
Congressman Tim Petri
- 8:40 INTRODUCTION OF SECOND SPEAKER
Jeff Spurr

Dr. Saad Eskander
Director General of the Iraq National Library & Archive
- 9:00 TESTIMONIALS