



with the Blessed Perfection Baha'u'llah, and with him in this work, has consented to render this service. He is in every year of his youth he visited the located in Chi- cago." Center of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l-Baha. He Throughout the remainder of came to America in September, 1909, to the issues of Volume III, and all of complete a course in medicine, graduating Volumes IV and V

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-there were 19 issues in each volume-Dr. line with Haifa from the center of the build- ing. In this photograph Dr. Bagdadi compiled and wrote the manuscript Bagdadi is seen digging the first shovelful of in the form of pages, which were photo- earth-the graphed, reduced to page size, etched on other friends present following him in breakzinc, which became the printing plates for ing the ground. It was indeed fitting that the Persian sections of the Star of the West Dr. Bagdadi should have this honor, and his association with this great event 1 is suffiof writing was distinctly Arabic in char- cient evidence of the esteem his fellowacter. Th:s labor was accomplished by Dr. believers had for his valiant and devoted la- bors for the Temple and the Bagdadi in addition to translating Tablets Cause of Baha'u'IIah. of 'Abdu'l-Baha and speaking on the Cause wherever the opportunity arose-all this NOTEWORTHY QUALITIES OF DR. BAGDADI

gery. Mr. Windust spoke of the time when his family met 'Abdu'l-Baha in an upper room DR. BAGDADI WITH 'ABDU'L-BAHA at the home of Mrs. Davies in Chicago. IN CHICAGO When He saw the youngest child, He took Reference was made to the photograph of her upon His lap and called for someone to bring candy for the little 'Abdu'l-Baha, together with five of the Ori- one. Dr. Bagdadi instantly responded, leaping ental Baha'is, taken by Mr. Killius in Lin- down the stairs two or more steps at a time, coln Park, Chicago, in 1912. Standing di- obtained the candy, and sprang up stairs rectly behind 'Abdu'l-Baha, on the right, is

with it, handing .

Dr. Bagdadi. In looking at this photograph, the bowl to 'Abdu'l-Baha as a courier would

one is impressed with the thought that our present an urgent message to a king. It was

beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, has, in an impressive demonstration to many who

his cablegram, perfectly described the quali- witnessed it, of the divine qualities of "inties of Dr. Bagdadi. stant, exact

and complete obedience" Dr.

This photograph was taken directly across Bagdadi so remarkably possessed. the street from the Plaza Hotel. In this Mrs. Grace Ober also

testified to this outconnection, it is interesting to note that standing characteristic of Dr. Bagdadi, by

when it was taken, no one dreamed that in telling the following experience: "I was

this same part of Lincoln Park, the Chi- keeping house in New York for 'Abdu'l-icago Historical Society would erect the Baha and His party of

interpreters at the

splendid museum which stands there today. time when He attended the

Peace Conference at Lake Mohonk. Late at night, the

DR. BAGDADI'S DEVOTED LABOR FOR THE bell rang furiously and at the door stood Dr.

TEMPLE

Bagdadi, no hat upon his head, his hair

Shoghi Effendi, in his cablegram request- disheveled, and his clothes covered with dust.

ing the holding of this memorial gathering He rushed into the house saying 'Abdu'lfor Dr. Bagdadi, states : . . . "Advise Baha'i Baha had sent

him to bring a rug to Lake

Communities of Chicago and surrounding Mohonk at the earliest possible moment. I

regions hold befitting memorial gathering in begged him to have something to eat, to

Temple for which he so valiantly and de- bathe and rest for a little while. But quickly

votedly labored." . . . finding what he wanted he rushed away with

In this connection we were reminded by it. During the short time he was in the

Mrs. True, of the photograph taken on this house I learned that 'Abdu'l-Baha wished to

Temple site March 21, 1921, and published present a gift to the Secretary of the Peace

in the Star of the West, Volume XII, No.2. Conference, Mr. W . H . Short, Sec'y of the

It was the beginning of actual work for the

1 This breaking of ground for the actual construction of the first  
Mailiriqu'l-Adhkar tion of the caissons to bed rock should not be  
in America; that is, the breaking of ground confused with the boring oper-  
ations begun on September 24, 1920, to obtain a core of soil strata  
before beginning the digging of the caissons, which  
caissons to bed rock-the one directly in began March 21, 1921.-Editors  
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Friends assembled on Mailiriqu'l-Adhkar grounds, Chicago, March 21, 1921.  
Dr. Zia M. Bagdadi digging first shovelful of earth.

New York Peace Society, before the close During these years Dr.  
Bagdadi was a  
of its sessions next day, and that it was nec- pillar of strength to the  
Baha'is of America  
essary that some one of His party go to the manifesting firmness in the  
Covenant and  
city for it and return at once. Dr. Bagdadi all that it implies. He alone  
seemed to unhad instantly volunteered. He discovered derstand the deep  
meanings of this most  
there was no passenger train at that great characteristic-that is:  
through the  
hour and boarded a freight train, arriving power of the Covenant no one  
can create a  
in the condition I described. I learned sect or division in the Baha'i  
Faith; through  
later that in returning he again rode on a this most great  
characteristic, the Center of  
freight train as there was no other trans- the Covenant will protect the  
Cause from  
portation at that early morning hour. Dr. now until at least qne  
thousand years, and  
Bagdadi was the embodiment of the perhaps until thousands of  
years have passed  
quality of "Instant, exact and complete away.  
obedience." Those who attended the  
eighth session of  
The chairman expressed the thought that the Baha'i Congress at Hotel  
McAlpin, New  
everyone present at this memorial gather- York City, April 30th, 1919,  
will never forgetting, who knew Dr. Bagdadi, no doubt cher- get Dr.  
Bagdadi's presentation of this most  
ished in his heart and memory some par- important matter. Although he  
had been  
ticular remembrance or many remembrances ill for three days, he arose  
to astonishing  
of our dearly beloved Dr. Bagdadi. heights and depths of

understanding in this

address, unfolding all the qualities Shoghi  
FIRMNESS IN THE COVENANT, AN OUT-  
cablegram prompt-  
STANDING QUALITY OF DR. BAGDAD!  
"exem-

Effendi mentions in the

ing this memorial gathering--of

When 'Abdu'l-Baha came to America in  
unquestioning loyalty,  
1912, He awakened and began to educate  
exertion"-combined with a  
the Baha'is to the Most Great Characteristic  
arresting and soul  
of the Revelation of Baha'u'llah, namely,  
address of that

plary faith, audacity,

indefatigable

dramatic appeal that was

stirring. This outstanding

The Center of the Covenant-that which  
stenographithe previous Divine Manifestations did  
'in Volume XI of the Star

remarkable Congress was taken  
cally and printed

not bring. From that time until the day  
of His ascension in 1921, He stressed its  
importance with ever increasing emphasis,  
AND BEING

of the West.

DR. BAGDAD! WRITES OF SEEING

thus preparing them for the hour when  
His Will and Testament was brought to  
Bagdadi wrote a

WITH BAHA'U'LLAH  
In the year 1929, Dr.

light.

book telling of his birthplace

and travels in

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the Orient under the title, Treasures of the  
WILHELM

MRS. LAURIE C.

East. In it he describes the peerless pano-  
By Roy C. W I LHELM

rama of the Plain of 'Akka surrounded by  
mountains and sea, in the center of which  
tendency began

Mother's strong religious

is the Mansion of Bahji, located about one  
religious fundamile from the Mediterranean and three miles  
I do not recall her ever

with her mother who was  
mentally though

from the town of 'Akka, Palestine. It was  
she did not

having attended a church; and

here Baha'u'llah lived the last few years of  
professional

believe that a system in which

His exile until He departed to .t he Supreme  
was in accord

religionists "reached for hire

World in 1892 . Dr. Bagdadi tells that here,  
example of Jesus.

with the admonitions and

when he was a child, he had the great privi-

During my early years

Grandmother often  
 lege of seeing and being with Baha'u'llah. spoke to me of so many of the  
 Bible prophe-  
 He wrote: cies being fulfilled and said  
 she believed the  
 "I had the greatest honor and privilege to Promised Age was near and we must  
 all be  
 see Baha'u'llah and sit at His feet many days watchful to recognize the  
 Great Day when  
 and nights in this Mansion. Here He used it came. Mother and father  
 were members  
 to hold my hand while walking to and fro of a denomination to which  
 they sent me in  
 in His large room, revealing Tablets, chant- my youth-though they were not  
 orthodox  
 ing the prayers with the most charming and in their views, rather they  
 shared Grandmelodious voice, while one of the attendants mother's beliefs  
 that the Creator of all hutook them down. Here I saw Him teaching  
 manity was interested in all humanity.  
 and blessing the pilgrims who came from all About 1890 Mother became  
 dissatisfied  
 lands. On hot days He would take me with with the churches and began  
 searching for  
 Him to the outer alcove of the Mansion reality. She investigated  
 various teachings  
 where it was somewhat cooler. I would including the philosophies of  
 the East, Christand in a corner with folded arms, my eyes tian Science,  
 etc. I sometimes wondered,  
 fixed on His incomparable countenance, "What next?" Mother also felt  
 deeply that  
 while the gentle breezes blew on His soft jet the Great Day was near, that it  
 might come  
 black hair which reached almost to the waist, even in our time-and how would  
 we be  
 flowing beneath the taj, like a crown, that able to recognize its  
 fulfillment!  
 covered His head and a part of His broad, Mother had a friend,  
 kindred in thought,  
 full, high forehead. in Miss Laura Jones, also of  
 our old home  
 "From His light-colored garments which town-Zanesville, Ohio: they often  
 met towere- similar to those of all the ancient gether, and wondered if  
 the Spirit might be  
 prophets, I had always inhaled the fragrance upon the earth at this time:  
 how shall we  
 of the pure attar of roses. At times He find Him, etc. Shortly after  
 the early 90's

would spend half an hour on the alcove, and Miss Laura moved to Chicago.  
There she  
my eyes would remain fixed on His majestic heard of the Baha'i Faith, and  
wrote to  
face. But whenever He glanced at me with Mother that she had found that  
for which  
His brown, piercing, yet most affectionate they had been seeking. In her  
letter she ineyes, then I had to turn mine away and look cluded some  
pamphlets, among which was a  
down on the floor. copy of the "Hidden Words."  
Mother read  
"At my birth, Baha'u'llah named me these, and accepted immediately.  
About  
'Zia' (Light) and gave me the Turkish title 1898 or 1899, when I was a  
traveling sales-  
'Effendi.' But on my first visit to Him, man, Mother mailed me a page  
from a newswhen He inquired about my health, I re- paper containing a  
photograph of 'Abdu'lplied in Arabic 'Mabsoot' (I am happy). He Baha and  
an article in which something was  
questioned, 'How is your father?' I an- said to the effect that many  
regarded Him as  
swered, 'Mabsoot'; and 'How is your a return of the Spirit. Having  
in mind  
mother?' He asked. 'Mabsoot' was my re- Mother's various explorations I  
was not so  
ply. He laughed heartily and after that He deeply impressed, but wrote  
upon the maralways called me Mabsoot Effendi (The gin, "Strange if  
true" and returned it to her.  
Happy One)." In 1901 and 1902, Mother and  
Father vis-

— In Memoriam: Dr. Zia M. Bagdadi (Used by permission of the curator)