



NEWSLETTER



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EDITORIAL

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, a number of important international cultural events have taken place in the Islamic world. Two of these are the international symposiums on "Medical Inimitability in the Quran" held in Egypt, which also dealt with Quran exegesis in general, and the conference on Seerat and the Prophet's tradition held in Pakistan. Hundreds of experts and scholars from different countries of the world came together at these meetings, where all discussions and activities showed the lively and growing interest in Islamic culture and heritage and gave the hope for a better and brilliant future. This confirms the idea of H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC, that Islamic countries are now conscious of their responsibilities in the field of culture and civilisation and that they are endeavouring to preserve and develop their cultural heritage and civilisation. Such efforts are increasing both in the Member States and the OIC's centres and agencies.

Coming to IRCICA, there has been new developments in its activities during the last months; the preparation of two new publications has been completed and they are under press at present. The first book is the "Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Köprülü Library". This library contains one of the most important manuscripts collections of the world, in the fields of history, philosophy and positive

sciences. Original and rare manuscripts augment the value of this precious collection which has accumulated from the middle of the 17th century up to the 20th. The collection comprises about three hundred manuscripts which are today at the disposal of researchers and other interested people. IRCICA undertook the preparation of a catalogue of this collection, the first volume of which is now ready. This volume contains nearly one thousand titles of manuscripts and it will be followed by two other volumes. We hope that this work will be useful for people and institutions interested in Islamic research.

The second book under press is the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Quran". This comprehensive reference book has been prepared in almost five years, during which we established contacts with numerous experts and scholars working in the field of Islamic and especially Quranic studies. We also used a great number of catalogues and other references most of which are available at the library of IRCICA. We tried to cover all translations published from the year 1515 to 1980, and the resulting bibliography is a record of the attempts made by Muslims and non-Muslims for centuries to ensure that it is understood by all. While introducing this bibliography, our first task is to thank all those who assisted us by giving advice,

providing information and making corrections, thus helping us to ameliorate our work and make it more exhaustive.

We hope that this bibliography will be useful in indicating the trends observed in translation attempts, orientations of different translators and results of their works, and will serve as such as a background document at the coming meetings on the subject of the Quran and as reference in studies.

The bibliography will be available at the beginning of 1986.

Lastly, we would like to announce that as the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, we prepared a special brochure specifying the conditions of participation to the international calligraphy competition organised by the Commission. You will find information about this competition in the present issue.

Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu

INVITATION FOR COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

IRCICA is celebrating its fifth inauguration. On this occasion, no. 11 of the Newsletter will be in the form of a Special Issue about IRCICA.

We invite our readers to communicate to us as soon as possible their comments, observations or impressions on our Centre and its activities in general, or about a specific project or publication. These contributions of our readers will be included in the Special Issue and duly taken into consideration in our future work as well as in projects in the course of execution. With many thanks in advance ...

SECOND SESSION OF THE OIC PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DAKAR

The Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs of the OIC had met for the first time in January 1983 in Dakar, Senegal. The Second Session of the Committee was held from 31 October to 3 November 1985, again in Dakar, under the chairmanship of H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, and Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs.

H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC attended the meeting, where the following Member States were represented: Bangladesh, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Turkey. Representatives of subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies of the OIC working in the fields of culture and information were also present, namely those of IRCICA, the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), the International Islamic News Agency (IINA), the Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Islamic Jurisprudence Academy (FIQH), the Sports Federation of Islamic Solidarity and the World Federation of Arab-Islamic International Schools.

Giving the inaugural speech, H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal and Chairman of the Committee underlined the importance of the implementation of the OIC's Plan of Action on Information and Communication adopted by the Third Islamic Summit Conference (1981) with the aim of reinforcing the

capacity of the Ummah to withstand and counter attempts of destabilisation and weakening of Islamic countries' unity, and in order to present objective information on Islamic civilisation to the world. In the field of culture, he said that culture should be an efficient instrument for the spread of the imperishable precepts of Islam, namely tolerance, peace, justice and humanism.

In his statement at the inaugural session, H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC said that Islamic countries were employing their resources to promote an awareness of the cultural values of Islam and that they had launched campaigns for modern education stepped in the heritage and traditions of their people, and established institutions within the framework of OIC to promote cultural growth and cooperation. He said that Islamic countries had launched their own plans of action in the field of information and that they were supporting other developing countries' efforts to establish a new world information and communications order.

During its working sessions, the Committee undertook an in-depth review of the developments that had taken place in the field of culture and information; it examined and adopted the reports of its Sub-Committees for Culture and for Information and those of the subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies of the OIC and heard the presentations of delegations of the Member States. During the debates, due importance was given to the cultural problems of the Muslim minorities living in non-Islamic countries.



Ministers of Culture and Tourism of Islamic countries at the inauguration of IRCICA's exhibition in Dakar

In its Communique, the Committee recommended, among others, that Member States should take concerted steps to employ their information media for the political, economic, social, scientific and spiritual development of their countries, and that the information media of Islamic countries should project developments occurring in the Islamic world in a realistic and objective manner.

In the field of culture, the Committee expressed the need for action to maintain the unique nature and authenticity of Islamic culture in the Member States, and that a planned approach must be undertaken unitedly for the preservation and promotion of Islamic values.

Concerning IRCICA, the Sub-Committee on Culture commended, in its report adopted by the plenary, the "prominent efforts expended by the Centre in fields of study and research in culture and history, in publishing several important books, periodicals and indexes relating to the various fields of Islamic heritage". The Sub-Committee also thanked the Government of Turkey for providing a new building to the Centre (Yaveran building) and appealed to the Member States to make donations to the Centre to enable it complete the restoration of this building.

At the closing session of the meeting, Minister of State of Saudi Arabia H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Ibrahim Massoud pronounced a speech in which he lauded the numerous activities of the OIC in the important fields of information and culture. Pointing out the projects undertaken in the area of culture by OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies, he said that these institutions are showing a good performance and that they should be supported and assisted.

Exhibition by IRCICA in Dakar

During the period of the Permanent Committee meeting, an exhibition of reproductions of Mushaf copies was organised by IRCICA in the same building where the sessions were held. More than 100 old Mushaf copies were displayed at the exhibition, where IRCICA itself was introduced with its publications, as well as by means of photographs, posters and explanatory drawings describing its research projects, exhibitions it organised and other activities. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E.Mr. Abdel Kader Fall, Minister of Culture of Senegal on the first day of the meeting. H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC, Ministers of Senegal, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, Ambassadors of Member States in Dakar and all delegations at the meeting attended the inauguration of the exhibition.



Exhibition in Dakar: on the right, H.E.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, OIC Secretary General

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, JEDDAH

The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs of the OIC held its Twelfth Session in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 11-14 November 1985.

The General Secretariat of OIC, all subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies and the Member States were represented at the meeting. Action taken by the OIC on different subjects in the economic, social and cultural fields were reviewed in detail by the Commission, which also examined the activity reports and next year's work programmes submitted by each of the OIC centres and agencies. The recommendations of the Islamic Commission will be submitted to the Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held on 6-10 January 1986 in Fez, Morocco.

In its recommendation concerning IRCICA, the Islamic Commission

commended the "exemplary effort of the Centre represented by its continuous achievements and innovative and distinctive work" in research and publication, as well as concerning the library, documentation, archives and information unit services. The Islamic Commission also commended the restoration work undertaken by the Centre at the Yaveran building allocated by the host country.

Display of IRCICA's publications

Simultaneously with the Islamic Commission meeting, IRCICA displayed the books it published, together with posters, drawings and other material representing its different activities and Islamic art exhibitions it organised, in order to give information to participants at the meeting on its recent accomplishments and planned activities.

IRCICA NEWS

IRCICA LIBRARY

Number 5 (November 1985) of the library's "Accession List" has been published. It contains 830 titles of publications.

Presently, 10.000 publications out of the total library collection of more than 15.000 titles have been catalogued and classified. This collection was further enriched during the last couple of months with the addition of new collections acquired as donations. These most recent donations are the following:

- Collection of late Prof. Dr. Mustafa Münif Pasha: Famous physician Prof. Dr. Mustafa Münif Pasha is known for his numerous works in the field of medicine and for his contributions to the establishment of the Awqaf Museum in Istanbul. His private library collection containing rare publications about history, literature and religion was offered to the Centre by his son Mr. Hüsrev Münif. Among these publications is the original manuscript copy of an encyclopaedic dictionary consisting of 18 big volumes. Other publications in the collection are 17 works in Latin script (French) and 73 works in Arabic script (Ottoman).



Prof. Dr. Mustafa Münif Pasha



Mrs. Nezahet Nurettin Ege

- Book collection of Mrs. Nezahet Nurettin Ege, eminent Turkish writer and instructor, who made important contributions in the field of education with her numerous books and articles. Some of her books are the following: "New Pedagogical Trends in America", "The Woman in the World of Democracy", "The Agricultural World". She donated to IRCICA her library collection composed of valuable and rare books in the fields of sociology, philosophy, education, history and literature. There are 262 books in Latin script (French, English, German, Turkish) and 432 books in Arabic script (Ottoman) in the collection, in addition to numerous periodical publications.

BOOKS UNDER PRESS

Two new books by IRCICA are about to be published. The first one is the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran", and the other, the first volume of the "Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Köprülü Library", famous library in Istanbul.

- The first edition of the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran" will be available soon. This book is the product of continuous efforts made by the Centre for the last five years to collect the translations, examine them, scan about 150 reference works and discuss with experts in libraries and museums. The resulting bibliography consists of 1000 pages containing bibliographical information about 2672 translations.

During the course of the project, the Centre assessed the first translation (partial) of the Quran into English, published in London in 1515. It counted 65 different languages into which the Quran was translated until 1980, starting year of the Centre's project.

- The Köprülü Library in Istanbul contains one of the most important manuscripts collections of the world, composed of nearly 2773 volumes under 3500 titles in the fields of history, philosophy, Arab-Islamic studies, natural sciences, etc., most of them original copies.

The catalogue of the manuscripts found in this library will be in three volumes exceeding 2000 pages in total. After the publication of the first volume very soon, subsequent volumes will follow within the next six months. The first volume of 655 pages contains 1000 titles of manuscripts.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE CENTRE

Mother-of-pearl inlaying and metal-cutting exhibition

An exhibition of the Islamic arts of mother-of-pearl inlaying and metal-cutting was held at IRCICA's



*Artist Dr. Zeki Kuşoğlu
with his works*

exhibition hall from 27 September to 11 October 1985. On display were the works of Dr. Mehmet Zeki Kuşoğlu, who is teacher of graphical arts at Marmara University in Istanbul. The works consisted of contemporary applications of calligraphy and ornamentation in the form of mother-of-pearl inlaying and metal engraving, as well as carvings on gold and other metals. Important personalities were present at the inauguration, such as the Vice-Governor of Istanbul, the Rector of Marmara University, many artists and researchers on Islamic arts.

Painting exhibition: "Anatolia"

Delegations participating at the nology" organised jointly by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD, OIC) and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) in October 1985 in Istanbul (see "Spotlight on Cultural News" section in this issue) visited IRCICA on 25 October 1985. On the occasion of their visit, the Centre organised an exhibition of paintings by Mrs. Makbule N.Uyar, one of its staff members. Mr. Khairat Ibne-Rasa, Assistant Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Technical Organisation (ISESCO), who was among the visitors, opened the exhibition.

The artist, having travelled all over Turkey and the Islamic countries of South-East Asia, has painted the places that have impressed her most.

Exhibition of calligraphies carved on wood

The works of artist Mr. Nail Arikdal, consisting of calligraphies carved on pieces of wood, were displayed on 5-16 November 1985 at IRCICA's exhibition hall. The title of the exhibition was "Calligraphy- its Application on Wood". A considerable number of visitors attended the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition, which was opened by H.E.Mr. Bedrettin Dalan, Governor of Istanbul.

Bekir Pekten's Calligraphies

The works of famous calligrapher Mustafa Bekir Pekten were displayed at IRCICA's exhibition hall between 6-27 December 1985. More than 30 calligraphies with gilding were on display. Mr. Hikmet Bozanoğlu, Deputy Mayor of Istanbul and Mr. Cengiz Taner, Director of Culture and Tourism opened the exhibition together.

LECTURES

Talks on the Late Calligrapher Halim Özyazıcı

The art of calligraphy is given an important place within the framework of IRCICA's activities in the



Calligraphies carved on wood

Exhibition of Gilding and Miniatures

Miniatures and gilding works of artist Mrs. Münevver Mamure Öz were displayed at the Centre from 18 November to 4 December 1985. The exhibition was opened by IRCICA Director General before a large audience and attracted great interest.

field of Islamic arts. Since the beginning of 1985, IRCICA had been organizing occasional and informal meetings where calligraphers and lovers of calligraphy had the opportunity to discuss various subjects related to this art. IRCICA decided recently to organise such gatherings according to a schedule and give them a more formal character. Within this



Prof. Dr. Şakir Akça, President of Gazi University at the inauguration of miniatures/gilding exhibition

framework, a seminar was organised on 2 November 1985 at the Centre, about the late calligrapher Halim Özyazıcı. An audience of around 40 people listened at famous calligraphers Uğur Derman, Prof. Emin Barın, Saim Özel and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüsrev Subaşı talking on the works of calligrapher Halim Özyazıcı, his style and working methods and his contributions to the art of calligraphy.

The next such lecture that the Centre plans to organise will be on the life and works of the eminent calligrapher Hacı Kamil Akdik.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Beneficiaries of the four scholarships for assistantship allocated to IRCICA by the Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan have been selected. The Centre served as intermediary in their nomination and the prospective assistants left for Jordan to start studies.

On the other hand, the Turkish Government approved the candidature of three of the applicants for the research and doctorate scholarships it had allocated to the Centre. One

candidate from Algeria is to undertake research in Turkey and two others, from Egypt and Pakistan respectively, are to start doctorate studies in Turkish Universities.

CONTACTS AND MEETINGS

Visit of delegations from sister organisations

Delegations participating at two meetings held recently in Istanbul within the framework of the OIC were hosted at IRCICA on 26 October 1985, whereby they had the opportunity to receive information on the Centre's projects, to examine its library and to become acquainted with its researches and publications. The first of these two meetings was the "Coordinating Conference on Technology" (21-25 October 1985) organised by IFSTAD (OIC) and TUBITAK (Turkey) (see "Spotlight on Cultural News" section) and the second, the "Meeting of Trade Promotion Organisations of OIC Member States" (24-27 October 1985) organised jointly by the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade in Casablanca (ICDT, OIC) and the Middle East Trade and Export Centre of Turkey (OTIM).

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL NEWS

RECENT OIC ACTIVITIES

OIC-NIGER AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF NIGER

As part of its efforts to promote Islamic studies in Africa, the OIC endeavours to set up an Islamic University in Niger, in the town of Sey. The first part of the project, which had been started in 1982, has largely been completed. The Faculty of Arabic language and Islamic Studies has already started functioning.

In September 1985, an agreement was signed between H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC and H.E.Mr. Tiekoura Al Zouma, Ambassador of Niger in Saudi Arabia, whereby Niger will allow duty-free import of equipment, teaching aids and material for the University and grant diplomatic immunity to the teaching staff and support personnel of the University. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. the Secretary General of OIC expressed his hope that the agreement for providing various facilities to the University will help expediting the launching of full academic activities in this University, the largest project undertaken by the OIC.

COORDINATING CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY

A "Coordinating Conference on Technology" has been organised jointly by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD, subsidiary organ

of the OIC) and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). The meeting was held in Istanbul, on 21-25 October 1985. Member States' high officials and decision makers in science and technology and experts and researchers working in this field attended the conference.

H.E.Mr. Mustafa Tınaz Titiz, Minister of State of Turkey pronounced the inaugural speech and said that science and technology were the most important tools to overcome the two major problems facing the world, namely population explosion and the restricted availability of resources. Then, H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman of Saudi Arabia took the floor and talked about his experiences and observations during his space mission on "Discovery" (see "Recent Visits and Observations" section in this issue). He said that the creation of working conditions and cooperation needed by scientists of the Muslim world would only be possible with an Islamic Renaissance. The need for cooperation in science and technology was stressed by H.E. Mr. Muhammed Mukhtar Ould Bah, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, who represented the General Secretariat of OIC at the meeting. Many country papers were presented at the conference, about Muslim countries' situation with respect to higher education, qualified manpower and brain-drain, transfer of technology, research and development, scientific and technical cooperation, etc.

EGYPT

Conference on Seerat in Cairo

The information given here has been obtained from Dr. Ali Özek, instructor at the Faculty of Theology of Marmara University, who was a member of the Turkish delegation at the conference. This was the Fourth International Conference on Seerat and the Prophet's Tradition, organised at Al-Azhar University in Cairo between 1-7 November 1985. Around 300 experts, researchers and scholars participated at the meeting. There were 200 papers which were presented and discussed at four different committee sessions. The conference was opened by H.E. Mohammed Hosni M'barek, President of Egypt, who pointed out the importance of such meetings and requested the participants to prepare encyclopedias on the subjects of Hadith and Sunna, Seerat, and Fiqh.

The four separate committees of the meeting dealt with the following matters: the place of Sunna in Islamic law, Islam and science, the life of the Prophet as an Ideal man, and the family in the Prophet's Sunna.

The final declaration issued at the end of the meeting, signed by the Sheikh of Al-Azhar Jad Al-Haq Ali Jad Al-Haq, highest religious authority in Egypt and Chairman of the conference, contained 24 recommendations, among which are the following:

- The charitable foundations in Islamic countries should coordinate their efforts to achieve complementarity in their work and to extend their activities

to cover all Muslims;

- All concerned organisations in Islamic countries should endeavour to appropriately shape the personality of children and to give them an Islamic education;
- To be involved in religious education at all levels in order to disseminate, among the youth, Islamic culture inspired by the Quran and Hadith;
- To deal with Muslim minorities' problems and help them in acquiring true Islamic knowledge;
- All information agencies and authorities should try to explain the Islamic concepts in order to strengthen Islamic faith and encourage good behaviour.

Cairo Book Fair for children

The General Egyptian Book Organisation held its Second International Children's Book Fair from 26 November to 10 December 1985. Twenty-seven countries in total participated in the fair, displaying about two millions of books. In addition, there were thousands of toys, various devices and computers for children of 6 months to 16 years old, as well as artistic and theatrical performances.

Symposium on Medical Inimitability in the Quran

An international symposium on medical inimitability in the Quran and Hadith, and the medical problems confronted during the practice of the Muslim physician, was held at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, under the chairmanship of Sheikh of Al-Azhar Jad Al-Haq Ali Jad Al-Haq, between 23-26 September 1985.

Around 500 physicians, scientists and scholars from different parts of the world participated at the meeting. There were 32 separate items on the agenda, most of them concerning the main issues that arose with the progress achieved in medical sciences and their relations with Islamic principles and concepts in the field of medicine. The papers presented at the symposium confirmed the truth and validity of many medical principles accepted from the point of view of the Quran and the Prophet's tradition.

The symposium recommended the establishment of an international body which would be entrusted the task of promoting and publishing researches on inimitability in the Quran, and an Institute of Islamic Medicine which would organise academic courses on psychology in Islam.

ENGLAND

Arab League's Book Fair

The Arab League organised its second book fair in London, which has gained a regular character after the success obtained last year. The second fair was held at the Institute of Oriental and African Studies and inaugurated by the Minister of Culture of England. The Chairman of the Arab League Bureau and Ambassadors of Arab countries were present at the inauguration. 56 publishers from 15 Arab countries participated at the fair during which there was also a seminar where problems encountered by publishers were discussed.

IRAN

Congress on Imam Gazali

The representation of UNESCO in the Islamic Republic of Iran will organise an international congress about the great Muslim philosopher Abu Hamid Muhammed Gazali. The congress will be held in Iran on 20-27 February 1986. Paper presentations will be about Gazali's works and contributions.

IRELAND

Symposium on the History of Arabic Medicine

The League of Arab States, in cooperation with the Royal College of Physicians (London), organised an international symposium on the "History of Modern Arabic Medicine", on 12-13 December 1985, in Dublin, Ireland. The Director General of IRCICA also participated at the symposium and presented a paper entitled the "Ottoman Medical School in Damascus (1903-1918)".

KUWAIT

Arab Book Fair

315 publishers and book distributors participated at the Arab Book Fair held in Kuwait from 27 November to 9 December 1985. More than 25,000 titles of publications were displayed. This annual book fair has become a cultural event of great importance attracting the interest of all cultural and literary circles of Islamic countries.

— Cont'ed on p.20 —

ISLAMIC HERITAGE COMMISSION

DECISIONS OF RECENT OIC MEETINGS

The Second Session of the OIC Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, held in Dakar, Senegal on 31 October-3 November 1985, examined the activity report submitted by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. The report covered the work undertaken by the Commission since the first meeting of the Permanent Committee, which was held in January 1983. It explained the decisions taken and projects approved by the Heritage Commission at its Second Meeting held in February 1985 and the follow-up work undertaken by the Commission's Secretariat and Executive Organ (IRCICA) for the execution of these decisions.

Having examined the report, the Permanent Committee expressed appreciation for the special attention given by H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Commission, to the work of the Commission and for the efforts and financial and moral support he extends for the realisation of the Commission's noble objectives. The Permanent Committee also commended the initiative taken by H.M. King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz by allocating a valuable financial award for Islamic architecture (the King Fahd Award for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture within the framework of the Commission's projects) of interest of all Islamic countries.

On 11-14 November 1985, the Heritage Commission was represented at the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held in Jeddah.

The Heritage Commission's report to this meeting, recapitulating its work and activities since the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Commission one year ago, was examined in detail.

In its recommendation concerning the Heritage Commission, the meeting took note, with appreciation, of the "practical steps" taken by the Commission under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, and expressed its appreciation and gratitude to H.M. King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz for having instituted the King Fahd Awards for Islamic architecture. The meeting also welcomed the cooperation and coordination existing between the work of the Commission and that of IRCICA as its Executive Organ.

The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs requested the Heritage Commission to continue coordinating its works with the plans for the preservation of Islamic heritage in the Member States, with a view to combining Islamic efforts in this field, and called upon the Member States of OIC to provide the Heritage Commission with information and documents available to them in the area of Islamic heritage.

KING FAHD AWARDS FOR DESIGN AND RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

The month of December 1985 represents an important phase in the First Competition of the King Fahd Awards for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture, regarding that 30 December 1985 is the call date for registrations, both institutional and individual.

The King Fahd Award Office at the Secretariat of the Heritage Commission received a total of 1124 enquiries from 79 countries, up to 15 December 1985. Out of the total 1124 enquiries, 253 are from 26 OIC Member and observer countries, while the remaining 871 are from 53 non-member countries. In the overall list, U.S.A. ranks first with 219 enquiries, while Italy's "enquiry/population" ratio is the highest: 139/app. 58 million.

The distribution of the enquiries received according to their origin is as follows:

Educational institutions	221
Africa	16
America (North, South)	67
Asia	58
Australia	3
Europe	77
Professional establishments	92
Individuals	811
Total	1124

As to registrations received, their distribution until 15 December 1985 has been as follows:

Total registrations	200
Design	160
Institutional	116 (*)
Individual	44
Research	40
Institutional	21
Individual	19

(*) No final figure can be deduced from the number of registrations; the present value is an estimation with an approximity of max. 10 %.

King Fahd Award in World Press

Professional journals in the world kept informing their readers on the King Fahd Awards. To mention some of them:

- "Al-Madina" journal published detailed information on the event and gave the competition calendar in its 30 November 1985 issue.
- The Italian "Domus", after releasing the news on its Standard Competition List, regularly from May to September, published in October a large review, which resulted in an additional 50 enquiries or so, mainly from Italia and neighbouring countries.
- The Brezilian "Modulo" released the news of the event, resulting in about 10 additional enquiries from South America.
- The Readers' Service of the French "Architecture d'Aujourd'hui" supplied the King Fahd Awards Office with 73 enquirers' addresses.
- The journal of architecture "Mimar" published in Cyprus gave the news in its first issue.
- "Muslim World News" of Saudi

Arabia gave detailed news about the award in its issue dated 25 November 1985.

Several educational institutions, learned societies, professional establishments and individuals are kindly offering their moral and spiritual support to the competition, alongside with their interest and contributions.

A seemingly simple comment, quite impressive in its simplicity, recently came from Mr. Mallam Kudu Aliyu, a post-graduate student at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria:

"... The impression and happiness I had was not only because of the award to be given to the winners of the competition, but due to the fact that it gives room for architects all over the world to participate and come out with more ideas on how to improve Islamic architecture ...".

CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The First International Calligraphy Competition in the name of the late calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç), being organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, has been announced world-wide. The Secretariat of the Commission prepared a brochure specifying the conditions for participation, as well as informative posters in the three official languages of the OIC, and distributed them to all institutions and organisations which would possibly be interested in the competition. It is hoped that the competition will arouse interest especially in cul-

tural and artistic milieus in member countries.

The Secretariat of the Commission continues to send these documents to all prospective participants, free of charge, upon receipt of a written request indicating the name and address of the applicant. The deadline for reception of such requests is 23 March 1986, and that for registration, 21 April 1986. Calligraphic works to compete will be accepted until 15 December 1986.

The competition will be held in the following well-known traditional calligraphic styles:

1. Tuluth and Nasih
2. Djali Tuluth
3. Talik or Djali Talik
4. Divan or Djali Divan
5. - Any other calligraphic style not cited above
- Imitation of one of the calligraphies of late Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç)



Reproduction of a calligraphy by Hamid Al-Amidi, published in "Al-Ahram" dated 15.2.1985

The calligraphies should be representative of the authentic concepts of calligraphy in accordance with the principles evolved by the experts of this art during centuries. Awards totalling US\$ 32.500.- will be given to winners, distributed as follows:

- Main prizes: US\$ 2.500.- for the

- first winner in each of the five groups of calligraphic styles
- Prizes for encouragement: US\$ 1.250.- for the second, 750.- for the third and 500.- for the fourth winner in each group
 - In addition, in each group, six works following the fourth winner in the ordering will receive US\$ 250.- each as honorarium.

RELIGIOUS WAQF OF TURKEY
CONTRIBUTED TO DEMAK MOSQUE
RESTORATION PROJECT

the 4th Islamic Summit Conference (Casablanca, Morocco, January 1984) and the 14th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 1983), the Secretariat of the Heritage Commission (IRCICA) was entrusted the task of undertaking a study concerning the restoration of Demak Mosque. A team of experts headed by the Secretary of the Commission went to Indonesia in February 1984 to examine the situation. The report of this expert mission was submitted to relevant authorities in this country.



Donation ceremony for Demak Mosque

One of the important projects of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage is the restoration of Demak Mosque in Indonesia, which is a monumental mosque having a significant place in regard to Islamic heritage not only in Indonesia, but also in South East Asia and in the entire Islamic world.

In accordance with resolutions of

At its Second Meeting held in February 1985, the Heritage Commission decided to launch a fund-raising campaign to finance this project. Letters were sent to Member States of the OIC, inviting them to contribute to the project. The first answer came from the Turkish Religious Affairs Foundation of Turkey, which contributed 2.500.000,- Turkish Liras for this project, with the intermediary of the Com-

mission's Secretary Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu.

A ceremony was held at the Commission's Secretariat in Istanbul (IRCICA), on 28 October 1985. Following a brief speech pronounced by the Secretary of the Commission to explain the importance and significance of Demak Mosque and the restoration project undertaken by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, Mr. Yakup Üstün, Deputy President of the Waqf, accompanied by Mr. Mehmet Kervancı, Director of the Haj Department, presented the donation cheque to H.E. Mr. Abdulrahim Alamsjah, Ambassador of Indonesia in Turkey, stating that mutual cultural values bring Islamic countries together despite geographical distances. The Ambassador of Indonesia, giving information on the restoration of the mosque, said that with this donation, Turkey was making an important contribution to the preservation of Islamic heritage. The Turkish radio and television and press organs gave news on the event.

NEWSFILE ON ISLAMIC HERITAGE

EGYPT

Restoration of historical mosques

The Ministry of Waqfs of Egypt is involved in restoration projects concerning seven historical mosques in Cairo and other cities. These are the Amr bin Al-Aas Mosque, Seyyida Nafisa Mosque, Al-Zaher Baybars Mosque and Al-Imam Al-Laythi Mosque in Cairo, and Seydi

Ismail Al-Imbabi Mosque in Imbaba, Sheikha Sabah Mosque in Tanta, and the Great Mosque in Al-Mansura.

POLAND

State Ateliers working for the preservation of Islamic monuments

The State Ateliers for Conservation of Cultural Property (PKZ) in Warszawa undertakes archeological, research and preservation missions to Islamic monuments. Its expert personnel constitutes the members of the Polish-Egyptian Mission of Islamic Architecture established in 1972 by an agreement between governments of Egypt and Poland. PKZ actually conducts conservation works in Ameer Qurqumaz burial complex in Cairo, in the Cittadel in Alger and Bey's Palace in Constantine. Results of their scientific investigations and progress reports about conservation works conducted on each monument are regularly published by PKZ, which is ready to exchange its publications with other organisations and institutes working in the field of research and preservation of Islamic monuments, in order to promote beneficial exchanges of ideas and information.

SYRIA

Commission to protect monuments in Sana'a, Shaban and Hadhramut Valley

A "National Commission for the Protection of Historical Monuments in Sana'a, Shaban and the Hadhramut Valley" has been created by the Government of Syria, in response to the call made by UNESCO during the 15th Islamic Conference of

Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Sana'a, December 1984) for all countries to contribute to the international campaign launched for the protection of Sana'a, capital city of Yemen A.R.; in response also to the invitation made by the same Organisation to the Syrian Arab Republic to contribute to the preservation of architectural heritage in the city of Shaban and in Hadhramut Valley in Yemen P.D.R. The Commission is composed of 30 experts and technicians in the field of heritage and historical monuments, and presided by Prof. Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director General of Museums and Antiquities in Syria. It met for the first time in Damascus in August 1985 to examine the work programme prepared by UNESCO and determine the measures to be taken to participate in the projects in question. The Commission also declared its objectives, which may be summarised as follows:

- 1) To determine and explain the importance of these historical places of unique value and disseminate information about them.
- 2) To help the local authorities in Yemen in executing the work programme.
- 3) To provide technical assistance in protection and preservation activities.

TURKEY

1988: 400th Commemoration Year of the great architect Mimar Sinan

The year 1988 is declared as the 400th Anniversary of the death of Mimar Sinan, great architect of the second half of the 16th Century,



Emblem of the 400th Commemoration Year (Mimar Sinan's seal)

who gave his name to an important period in the development of Turkish Islamic architecture. On this occasion, commemoration activities will be organised throughout the year by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Fine Arts, with the collaboration of faculties of architecture. These activities will be at both national and international level and will aim to introduce the contributions of Mimar Sinan to Islamic and World architecture and to determine how contemporary architecture can profit from his works and ideas.



gress for the Study of the Quran" which had been given a permanent basis by the conference on "Quran

MALDIVES

Islamic Symposium and Exhibition

During the International Islamic Symposium held in Male and sponsored by the Muslim World League (30 November-2 December 1985), an exhibition was organised on the subject of the cause of Muslims in Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Eritrea and Palestine. The exhibition was organised by the Supreme Council for World Mosques affiliated to the Muslim World League. It contained photographs, books and documents about the struggle of these Muslim peoples.

PAKISTAN

Quran Congress held in Islamabad

The Third International Quran Congress was hosted on 22-27 November 1985 by the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, in Rawalpindi-Islamabad. The theme of the meeting was "The Quranic Understanding of the Human Situation". It aimed to make academic contributions to Quranic studies and to contribute to a clearer understanding of the Quranic injunctions. Around 40 papers were presented by the participants coming from 25 different countries. The Director General of IRCICA attended the conference and presented a paper introducing the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran" newly completed by IRCICA.

This was the third congress in the series of the "International Congress for the Study of the Quran" which had been given a permanent basis by the conference on "Quran

Through Fourteen Centuries" organised in 1980 by the Australian National University, Canberra to mark the 14th century Hijra. Thus, the conference had become a regular feature organised every three years in any country willing to become the host.

International Seerat Conference

The Quran Congress was immediately followed by the International Seerat Conference, organised on 26-27 November 1985 by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Pakistan. The objective of the conference was to provide an opportunity to scholars and eminent personalities of the Islamic world to deliberate on Seerat and how to derive inspiration therefrom for the solution of contemporary challenges. H.E. Zia ul-Haq, President of Pakistan opened the meeting. In his speech, he highlighted the various aspects of the Seerat of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and said that the special significance of the Seerat is that every act should be performed in obedience to the Divine Will and the entire life should be spent to win Divine benediction. He announced the awards attributed to Seerat books and said that for the last seven years, Pakistan has continuously endeavoured to encourage the writing of Seerat books, and that the related competitions are open to both Pakistani and foreign authors.

Then, the Director General of IRCICA Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu read to the audience the message of H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC. In his message, the Secretary General of OIC said that the Seerat

is "the most authentic manifestation of the teachings of the Quran and the fountain and fundament of guidelines of personal and social behaviour pursued in strict conformity with the principles of Islam". He emphasized that the Islamic Ummah must spare no efforts in apprising itself of the Seerat of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and make continuous efforts to follow the illuminating examples derived from His life. During the working sessions, papers were presented by scholars and researchers from 50 Muslim and non-Muslim countries, about the moral and ethical system of the Holy Prophet, his being an Ideal Man and the system of life and teachings as expounded by Him.

SAUDI ARABIA

International Symposium on the History of King Abdul Aziz

Imam Muhammed bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh organised, on 2-5 December 1985, an international symposium on "The History of King Abdul Aziz". The aim of the symposium was to make known the life history of King Abdul Aziz, achievements realised during his reign, progress realised in the social, political and economic life of the country and his attitudes in different Arab, Islamic and world affairs.

Papers presented by a great number of scholars and historians were centered around the following themes:

- The personal characteristics of King Abdul Aziz
- The political, social and eco-

nomie conditions prevailing before and after the realisation of the Kingdom's solidarity

- Accomplishments made and means used during his reign in the religious, cultural, political, economic, military social and administrative fields
- Historical documents about the period of his reign.

Simultaneously with the symposium, the King Saud University organised an exhibition of books and documents about the life history of King Abdul Aziz, published in Arab and other countries. There were more than 400 works in total, including books, PhD theses, manuscripts, periodicals and articles.

Sixth International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth

The Sixth International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) will be held on 22-27 January 1986 in Riyadh. Presentations and discussions at the meeting will be centered around the theme of "Muslim Minorities". Various cultural activities, seminars and a book fair will accompany the conference. IRCICA too will be represented at the meeting, to present a paper on the Muslim minority in Western Thrace.

Muslim World League's Exhibition of Islamic journals and periodicals

The library of the Muslim World League's Jeddah Office takes an important step regarding Islamic periodical publications. It organises an exhibition of "Islamic Journals and Periodicals", to be held on 21-23 February 1986 in

Jeddah. The exhibition aims at boosting subscriptions of Islamic journals and periodicals and making people aware of the availability of such publications.

SPAIN

World Congress on Youth

The World Congress on Youth organised by UNESCO was held in Barcelona, Spain on 8-15 July 1985, with the participation of 118 countries and 96 non-governmental organisations. The UNESCO had organised a similar congress 20 years ago, in 1964. The 1985 Congress was a meeting on the subject of the youth attended by Ministers of Youth and Culture, experts on youth affairs, authorities involved in planning and organising youth activities and policy makers. The aim was to make policy-oriented recommendations and to define priorities and guidelines for youth affairs. Beside the 40 Muslim participants representing different Islamic countries, the International Islamic Federation of Student Organisations (IIFSO) based in Kuwait was the only Islamic youth organisation represented at the meeting.

TUNISIA

Congress of the Arab Committee of Ottoman Studies

The Arab Committee of Ottoman Studies (ACOS) and the Centre of Studies and Researches on Arab Provinces during the Ottoman Period (CERPAO), both based in Tunis, will organise jointly an international congress on the theme of "The Social Life of Arab Provinces and their documentary sources during the Ottoman period", in accordance with a decision taken at the First International Congress of ACOS in

1984. The forthcoming congress is scheduled to be held in Tunis during the last week of March 1986.

TURKEY

International Consultative Meeting of the Turkish-Arab Relations Research Foundation

The Turkish-Arab Relations Research Foundation based in Istanbul organised, on 9-12 November 1985, a meeting of scholars and experts working on the subject of Turkish-Arab relations, coming from different Arab countries and Turkey, in order to have their views and opinions on the future work of the Foundation in the fields of historical, cultural and economic relations and information and about how to develop cooperation among scholars and researchers of Arab countries and Turkey.

H. E. Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Honorary President of the Foundation addressed the inaugural session and dwelt upon the one thousand years-old common history and cultural heritage of Arabs and Turks. He said that a new impetus should be given to boost relations between Arab countries and Turkey and that priority should be given to increasing the flow of information between Arabs and Turks with the help of meetings, films, publications, exhibitions and touristic exchanges. Separate sessions were devoted at the meeting to presentations and discussions on cooperation for economic research, arts and information, cultural relations and historical research. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador (Ret.) Mr. Ismail Soysal, Chairman of the Board of Directors



President of Iraqi Academy Prof. Dr. Saleh Al-Ali addressing the Arab-Turkish relations meeting

of the Foundation delivered a speech stating that the meeting reached its aim and provided useful guidelines and proposals for steps and concrete action to be taken by the Foundation in pursuance of its objectives. He said that in accordance with the meeting's decisions in the field of history, the Foundation will examine the schoolbooks utilised in Arab countries and Turkey with the aim of correcting errors they may contain. In the field of culture and arts, the Foundation will continue to make efforts to establish cooperation among Arab and Turkish institutions to revive and develop common cultural and artistic values and products.

IRCICA Director General, who is a member of the Administrative Board of the Foundation, and Prof. Ahmed Isaa and Messrs. Salih Sadawi and Tahseen Taha from IRCICA contributed to the meeting. The participants visited headquarters of IRCICA in group on 12 November 1985, and received information on the Centre's activities. They also listened at a concert by the Turkish State Classical Music Chorus of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, organised on the occasion of their visit.

Forthcoming Meeting of Manuscripts Experts

A meeting of experts and scholars working in the field of Arabic, Turkish and Persian manuscripts will take place in Istanbul on 26-28 May 1986. The meeting is organised under the sponsorship of the National Library of France (Paris), and the French Institute of Anatolian Studies in Istanbul. The aim of the meeting will be to assess the state of researches undertaken on the subjects of paleography and the technical aspects of the Islamic manuscripts. Paper presentations and discussions at the meeting are expected to deal also with methodological issues involved in the study of manuscripts and their origin.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Book Fair in Sharjah

An international book fair organised by the Sharjah Cultural Department was opened on 5 November 1985 at the Sharjah Export Centre. 184 publishers and booksellers from 14 Arab countries participated at the fair. Inaugurating the fair, Ruler of Sharjah H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al-Qasimi said that he was happy that the Emirate hosts such an important Arab cultural gathering.

ART NEWS

BAHRAIN

Islamic Art Exhibition

An Islamic Art Exhibition is organised in Manama during December 1985. On display will be around 200 copies of Mushaf and several products of the Islamic arts applied on different metals, dating mostly from the 7th to the 12th centuries.

OMAN

International Symposium on Traditional Music of Oman

This symposium was organised in Muscat by the Ministry of Information of the Sultanate of Oman and the Oman Centre for Traditional Music, on 6-16 October 1985. More than 30 scholars and experts from Oman and other Arab countries participated at the symposium. Papers were presented on a wide range of topics including the collection of songs and performances, research and archive techniques, cross-cultural influences on music, Omani genres of traditional music and dance, relations between the traditional arts on the one hand and society, the media and education on the other, etc.

The symposium was held after the completion of a project undertaken by the Ministry of Information and the Oman Centre for Traditional Music, to collect and register music and dance performances in Oman through video and sound recordings, and to establish a col-

lection of photographs, representative musical instruments and interviews with masters of the traditional arts.

SPAIN

Spanish-Islamic Art Museum

Three museums planned to be established in Madrid, namely the Archeological, Contemporary Art and Spanish Art Museums will be brought together in a single big complex named Spanish-Islamic Art Museum. The complex to be built will also comprise a library, meeting halls and research sections and will be among the largest museums in the world. It will contain material dating from the 9th to the 15th centuries.

TURKEY

Mother-of-Pearl Inlaying and Miniatures Exhibition

Between 8-20 October 1985, the works of Mr. Vedat Tanca (mother-of-pearl inlaying) and Mrs. Meral Erbasat (miniature) were displayed at Alarko Holding Art Gallery in Istanbul. The first artist, most famous representative of the traditional engraving arts in Turkey, displayed his mother-of-pearl inlayings on wood, while the second artist's works consisted of miniatures in the traditional Islamic style.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

In this regular section of our Newsletter, we introduce this time:

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

The Islamic Council of India is a non-political body established following a decision taken unanimously at a meeting of Muslim intellectuals and scholars held in New Delhi in March 1981.

The objectives of the Council are geared to the promotion of the economic, social and educational progress of the Muslim community in India, and the strengthening of ties with the rest of the Muslim world. Mainly and more specifically, it endeavours:

- to establish an effective relationship and strengthen brotherhood between Muslims in India and in other countries.
- to fight the educational, social and economic backwardness of Muslims in India.
- to help and guide young Muslims to get higher scientific and technical education.
- to organise training centres for Muslim young graduates, to enable them to appear in competitive examinations conducted for recruitment in States and Central Services and admissions in medical, engineering and technical courses.
- to organise symposia, seminars and conferences in furtherance of the Council's objectives.
- to organise Muslim craftsmen in cooperative societies.

Since its establishment, the Council attached great importance to the question of strengthening bonds of friendship and improving relations among all Muslims of the world, on the basis of their common historical processes and events, and the current trends of increasing areas of cooperation. To this aim, the Council endeavoured first

to establish systematic and regular exchanges of views and experiences with other institutions doing work in social, educational, religious and economic fields, by introducing itself and organising reciprocal visits and joint meetings.

The poor standard of education of Muslim students is a cause of concern for the Muslim community in India. To help alleviate this problem, the Council plans to launch a scheme under which Muslim students from all over India will be awarded allowances and admitted to Aligarh Muslim University (the only Muslim university in India) or in other universities, expenses to be borne by Muslim institutions and personalities through efforts of the Council. The best students would also be financially helped, guided and encouraged to join vocational, technical and job-oriented courses. Another acute problem assessed by the Council is that of unemployed Muslims. To help them find jobs, the Council aims to open information centres for job seekers, as well as to keep direct contact with overseas employers particularly in Islamic countries.

Still another priority project of the institution is related to problems of Muslim craftsmen whose products attract great interest on world markets, but who still have negligible earnings and very bad living conditions. The Council aims to organise the craftsmen in cooperatives and make them aware of marketing techniques and demand patterns for their traditional handicrafts.

Secretary General of the Islamic Council of India is Mr. Mohammed Yunus Saleem. Its address is:

The Islamic Council of India
200 Munirka Vihar
New Delhi-110067, India

MUSLIM MINORITIES

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Islamic Banking in China

The Islamic Association in Urumqi, capital city of Xinjiang region in East Turkistan, has set up an Islamic Limited Stock Company. The Company plans to raise money to Muslims for investments in Islamic printing houses, as well as processing plants, shops and restaurants. Muslims in China are conservatively estimated at over 50 millions.

Pakistan to help Muslims in China

The Pakistani Government will assist Muslims in China in training the religious personnel and renovating mosques and madrasas, a Government statement said. The offer was made by the Minister of State of Pakistan for Religious Affairs H.E.Mr. Maqbool Ahmad at a meeting with a Chinese delegation headed by Haji Hussain Heiboli. Pakistan will also supply religious books for East Turkistan.

Bulgarian Turks in the Turkish Press, January-April 1985,

Directorate General of Press and Information, Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ankara

The book in Turkish language titled "Türk Basınında Bulgaristan Türkleri" (Bulgarian Turks in Turkish Press) is a collection of news and articles published in various press organs of Turkey. It has been issued very recently by the Directorate of Press and Information of the Turkish Prime Ministry. The 750-pages book carries 424 such news, providing thus detailed information on many specific cases of oppression against Muslims in Bulgaria.

EDITOR'S POST

We were happy to receive, recently, a letter from the "Centro Islamico in Espana" (Islamic Centre in Spain, Madrid), which kindly expresses the interest of Spanish scholarly and cultural milieus in our Newsletter, and recommends that the Newsletter be sent especially to departments of history of medicine of universities in Madrid, Granada and Sevilla.

IRCICA is always ready to meet such requests for its Newsletter.

IRCICA IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Al-Madina

Mr. Muhammed Abdou Sabbagh, editor at the journal "Al-Madina Al-Munawwara", has continuously followed the development of the Centre's activities, keeping the Arab reader informed of them. An interview he had recently with the Centre's Director General was published in the 8 November 1985 issue of the journal. New developments taking place at the Centre are explained in the article, especially the restoration of the Yaveran building and the activities to be held in this building when completed, such as training programmes on Islamic arts and the provision of working space for visiting researchers. The article also gives news about the Centre's library and new researches completed, such as the preparation of the "World Bibliography of the Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran".

Asharq Al-Awsat

An interview by Mr. Abdallah Al-Sheikh Mohammed with the Director General of IRCICA was published in the 28 November 1985 issue of the journal. The interview deals with the Centre's publications and especially the book entitled "Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine", the Centre's research project on Islamic history and steps taken until now for re-writing the history of Islamic nations, as well as efforts made by the Centre to prepare catalogues of manuscripts.

Bilgi-İşlem

The monthly journal Bilgi-İşlem (data-processing) published in Istanbul included, in its no.2-3 of September-October 1985, an interview with IRCICA Director General, concerning the use of the computer in the Centre and particularly in the library. Detailed information is given about the computer system used in the library for classifying and cataloguing the library collection. The "list processing" facility of the system allows for preparing and printing periodical "Accession Lists" with full bibliographic information. It also permits to facilitate and accelerate library procedures and the search for books.

Journal of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry

Mr. Ali Coşkun, member of the Administrative Board of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry interviewed the Director General of IRCICA on the Centre's objectives and activities and the interview was published in the August 1985 issue of the Chamber's journal, under the section titled "Interview/Culture". Different projects undertaken by the Centre, its publications, the meetings and exhibitions it organised are explained in detail in the article, putting particular emphasis on the Centre's objective of promoting cultural relations and cooperation among Islamic countries.

RECENT VISITS AND OBSERVATIONS



H.E.Mr. Mohammed Zarruk Rajab in the middle; on his right, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Turkey H.E.Mr. Cahit Aral

H.E.Mr. Muhammed Zarruk Rajab, Secretary General of the General People's Congress, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, visited the Centre on 25 September 1985, during his official visit to Istanbul. H.E.Mr. Muhammed Zarruk Rajab was accompanied by a Lybian delegation and H.E.Mr. Cahit Aral, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Turkey. The guests received information on the Yıldız Palace where the Centre is located and the Centre itself, its objectives and on-going projects. H.E.Mr. Muhammed Zarruk Rajab expressed his satisfaction for the work undertaken here and recorded his impressions as follows: "Undoubtedly, it is with great esteem that future generations will remember the efforts made by today's scholars and researchers in such valuable works, which are aimed at objectively linking the past to our times, in order to learn the realities and find our way. Thanking those who work here for their efforts, I wish God will give them success and show them the right path."

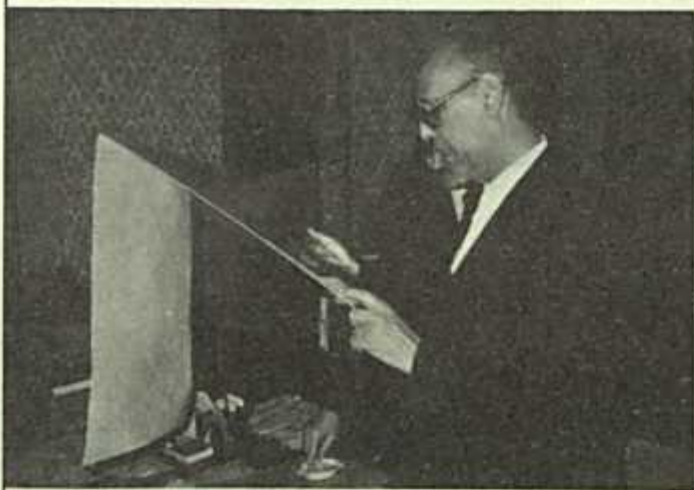
H.E. Sheikh Abdul Wahab Ahmed Abdul Wasi, Minister of Awqaf and

Hajj of Saudi Arabia and the official delegation accompanying him in Turkey visited the Centre on 16 December 1985. After receiving information on the Centre's research projects, publications and library, the Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book of the Centre: "I visited this Centre and observed the valuable work undertaken here under the direction of my brother Dr. Ekmel-eddin Ihsanoğlu to protect and revive Arab-Islamic calligraphic arts and cultural heritage. I believe the important activities of those working here are worthy of support and assistance and wish them success and progress."



H.E.Sheikh Abdul Wahab Ahmed Abdul Wasi, Minister of Awqaf and Hajj of Saudi Arabia

H.E.Dr. Mohammed Mukhtar Ould Bah, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Social and Cultural Affairs and the Solidarity Fund, visited IRCICA on 18 and 23 October 1985. The Assistant Secretary General was in Istanbul in order to participate at the Coordinating Conference on Technology organised in Istanbul (see "Spotlight on Cultural News" section in this issue). During his visits at the Centre, he was briefed on research projects and other activities undertaken here and saw the library and word-processing sections. The Assistant Secretary General of OIC recorded his impressions on the



H.E. Dr. Mohammed Mukhtar Ould Bah, Assistant Secretary General of OIC Centre's Visitors Book, as follows:

"Making a visit to the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture is in fact an excursion in the history of civilisation. It gives great pleasure to the visitor, happiness and satisfaction to students and researchers, and inspiration to the Muslim tied to the Islamic culture and heritage. With the successful work it has undertaken, this Centre gives confidence that Islamic heritage will be preserved and developed. Congratulating those who work here, I wish them all the success."

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, first astronaut of the Muslim world, visited the Centre on 21 October 1985.

Prince Sultan bin Selman received his higher education in Mass Communications at the University of Denver (U.S.A.). He worked as a researcher at the Ministry of Information of Saudi Arabia from 1982 to 1984. He is now Acting Director of the Advertising Department of Saudi Arabian television, and Major in the Royal Airforce. H.R.H. the Prince was nominated by the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (ARABSAT) to board the Space Shuttle "Discovery" launched on 18 June 1985 for a space mission of 7 flight days.

The Prince was in Istanbul to participate at the "Coordinating Conference on Technology" organised jointly by IFSTAD (OIC) and TUBITAK (Turkey) (see "Spotlight on Cultural News" section). During his visit to the Centre, the Prince received information about the Centre's activities, saw its library and the results of its researches. He recorded his impressions on the Visitors' Book, as follows: "I am happy to visit today this Islamic institution working on our heritage and history. No doubt, the future should be based on heritage from the past, and it is our duty to protect this heritage. May God give success to those working here in this direction and help us to assist this institution. With sincere thanks, appreciation and best wishes."



H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman at the press conference (second from left)

Then, he gave a press conference at the Centre, answering the questions of representatives of the local and international press organs and agencies, mainly about his impressions and personal experiences during the space mission, international communication technologies, etc. The Consul General of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul Mr. Muhammed Al-Tarabulsi and Dr. M.Ali Kettani, Director General of IFSTAD were also present at the press conference.

In July 1985, congratulating H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman, the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada had complimented him for having earned "the distinction of being the first Muslim astronaut" and said that Prince Sultan's participation at the space programme would "inspire and encourage the young scientists in the Islamic world to acquire greater and deeper scientific and technological knowledge and experience".

Impressions of other distinguished visitors

"I would like to commend and thank this Islamic cultural Centre for its efforts to protect the heritage of our nation and to pass it to future generations. May God help them and give them success.

Dr. Saud Ibrahim Al-Gammaz,
Deputy Minister of Education of
Saudi Arabia (Technical Affairs)
18 October 1985

"... I am happy to visit this Centre today for the first time, to meet those working here and observe the activities. I had heard much about this Centre before. The message this Centre aims to give and its objectives are very important. The history, art and culture of the Islamic nation deserve great efforts and this Centre paves the way for this ..."

Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Rasheed
Director General, Arab Bureau of
Education for the Gulf States
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 18.10.1985

"We are happy to visit this Centre which undertakes researches in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture. ... We observed that here, all necessary facilities exist for Islamic studies, and we saw the Centre's library comprising the basic sources needed by researchers ... We commend all those who helped this Centre. We wish success to the Centre and hope that it will develop even more and increase its activities in the service of Muslims".

Prof.Dr. Mustapha Ahmed Al-Zarka,
Dr. Zekeriya Al-Berri, Dr. Abdulsettar Abu-Gudde, Dr. Hasan Abdullah Al-Amin, Dr. Mustafa Sabri Erdoğdu, 26.9.1985

OBITUARY

Late Prof.Dr. Shukri Faisal



The Islamic world of literature lost one of its best representatives. Prof.Dr. Shukri Faisal, eminent writer and thinker, passed away in September 1985.

After graduating from the Department of Arabic language of Damascus University, Prof.Dr. Shukri Faisal had obtained a B.A. degree in law from the same university and a diploma in oriental languages from the Institute of High Arabic Studies affiliated to the Arab League. Then, he had obtained his M.A. degree with his work titled "Methodology in Literary Studies", and his PhD, with his thesis titled "Islamic Societies" submitted to the Cairo University (named Fuad Ist University at that time). Immediately after this work, he wrote a book entitled "The Movement of Islamic Conquests (Fath)".

Prof.Dr. Shukri Faisal had taken part in the work of the Commission for Education and Teaching in

Damascus for the planning of curricula and inspection of textbooks. Then, he had become a professor at the Faculty of Letters of Damascus University and the Institute of High Studies in Cairo. He had worked as a member of the Association of Arabic Language in Damascus and later, as the Association's Secretary. Prof.Dr. Shukri Faisal had given courses at the University of Lebanon, the University Mohammed V in Morocco, the University of Algiers and the Islamic University in Medina. He had given many conferences in Western countries such as France, Germany, Spain and Yugoslavia, about Arabic and Islamic literature, thought and culture. He was the author of numerous articles, research papers and books. To cite some of his books: "Evolution of Lyric Poems between the Pre-Islamic and Islamic Periods", "Literary Arts", "Assets of Arabic Literature" (together with Dr. Khaldun Kerani and poet Anwar Al-Attar) and many textbooks. May God bless his soul.

IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

CATALOGUE OF ISLAMIC MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS

First volume of the "Series of Studies and Sources on the History of Science", this catalogue gives bibliographic descriptions of approximately 5000 Islamic medical manuscripts existing in the collections of 129 major libraries of Turkey. These works are either originals or copies of approximately 1000 medical manuscripts and their summaries, translations and commentaries.

625 pp./US\$ 30.-

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

This Directory gives the addresses of 3579 Islamic cultural institutions in 106 countries, grouped according to their nature: academies, learned societies and research centres, libraries and archives, museums, universities and educational institutions.

350 pp./US\$ 10.-

L'ENSEIGNEMENT ARABO- ISLAMIQUE AU SENEGAL

by Dr.Mamadou Ndiaye

One of the tasks of IRCICA is to promote researches on subjects related to its fields of activity and contribute to their publication. Within this framework, the

Centre selected and published the PhD thesis of Dr.Mamadou Ndiaye from Senegal. The book gives a sound and detailed analysis of the process of introduction of Arab-Islamic education in Senegal and institutionalisation of the teaching of the Quran and the Arabic language, despite all obstacles encountered in the colonial period. Based on first-hand reference sources, including the official archives of Senegal which were previously unknown to the Islamic world, the work is an important contribution in this field, since it is the first study made on this subject in the Islamic world (French, with Preface in English and Arabic).

260 pp./US\$ 10.-

VIDEO CASSETTES

The two documentary films prepared by the Centre are available now in a single cassette priced US\$ 30.-. The films entitled "Life and Works of the Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytac) and Calligraphic Arts" and "Arts of Illumination and Gilding" are in Arabic, English text given with the cassette. Diffusion system if PAL. Orders should be addressed to the Secretariat of IRCICA, specifying cassette type (VHS/BETAMAX).