

O.I.C.

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY,
ART AND CULTURE



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EDITORIAL

The plight of the Bosnian people which is going from bad to worse is witnessed with anguish and bleeding hearts all over the world. These people are subjected to the most cruel and barbaric treatment history ever recorded. It is hoped that the international community will soon translate its growing consciousness into action and implement the appropriate measures to stop the Serbian aggression, save the lives and properties of the Bosnian people and safeguard their sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity. The article on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina which was published in the previous issue of the Newsletter contained a list of the monuments and places of worship destroyed under Serbian attacks. The article aimed to draw the attention of the world opinion to the alarming dimensions of the Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Our Centre also undertook other activities with the same objective, in the field of its mandate. A multi-media exhibition is planned to be held soon, to include audio-visual documentation of the dreadful treatment the Bosnian people are subjected and the destruction of its cultural and historical heritage; a documentary film is also being prepared. The Governing Council of IRCICA during its ninth session that was held recently, encouraged the Centre to continue its cultural activities in support of the Bosnian people.

Unfortunately, hopes for global peace and harmony diminished further in the face of another act of vandalism, committed recently in another part of the world. The destruction of Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists on December 6, 1992 set another example of intolerance, hatred and enmity based on religious and cultural differences among peoples living side by side. This issue includes an article which underlines the importance of Babri mosque as an asset of the cultural and religious heritage and summarises the unfounded arguments and planned events which led to its destruction. The event and its dramatic consequences carry dangerous implications for the future of the Muslim community in India. Hindu extremists' threat to demolish thousands of other mosques in India arouses the fear that such attacks on the religion and the beliefs of the Muslims of India will continue. Recalling that 1992 was the 500th year of the fall of Granada and the Diaspora which is a blemish on history, let us hope that the fate of the Bosnians and the Muslims of India will not resemble those who escaped from Spain.

With this thirtieth issue, the Newsletter completes the first decade of its publication. In the beginning, the Newsletter served mainly to disseminate information about the Centre's studies and activities. As the years passed, the emphasis shifted to news on the various academic, cultural and artistic activities taking place in the world related to the history, culture, arts and cultural heritage of the Muslim peoples. Some regular features were included, to introduce various institutions, announce new publications and give briefs of conferences, seminars and similar events concerning these subjects. This broader outlook of the Newsletter is appreciated by its readers. The readership too has increased over the years. The Newsletter is distributed to a growing number of research centres, academic establishments, museums and libraries as well as to scholars, researchers and students. Furthermore, many readers contributed to this publication by sending news on events and activities taking place in their country. We thank them and hope their contribution and cooperation will continue.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu

BABRI MOSQUE IN AYODHYA, INDIA DESTROYED BY HINDU MILITANTS

On December 6, 1992, Hindu fanatic militants destroyed and reduced to rubble the historical Babri (Baburshah) Mosque located in Ayodhya, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, India. The mosque, built by the Mughal Emperor Babur in the year 1528, is a significant monument representing the religious and cultural heritage of over 100 million Muslims of India. Muslims throughout the world and all those who are respectful of the human values and heritage grew indignant at the deliberate destruction and desecration of the mosque.

H.E.Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference made a Press Statement on December 7, 1992 and strongly condemned the destruction by Hindu militants of the historic Babri Mosque which had come to signify the religious and architectural heritage of the Muslims of India. Recalling that the Organisation of Islamic Conference had made several appeals to the Government of India to prevent any act of profanation of the mosque, but regrettably to no avail, the Secretary General pointed out that the destruction of the mosque had fractured the facade of India's secularism and revealed the recrudescence of militant hindu fundamentalism bent on liquidating the religious and cultural heritage of the Muslims of India. The Secretary General called upon the Government of India to ensure that the life and property of the Muslims of India are fully protected and their religious and cultural rights respected. In the light of the Secretary General's statement, the Governing Council of IRCICA at its

ninth session on December 20, 1992 re-affirmed the high value and significance that the Babri Mosque carries as a monument of the Islamic heritage. The Council made an appeal for the inclusion of this historical mosque in the inventory list of world cultural heritage properties and emphasized that the Government of India must be urged to take the necessary measures for the reconstruction of the mosque.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque was not an isolated event. It resulted from a well-organised campaign to build the Ram Temple on the site of the mosque. This campaign, spearheaded by two Hindu organisations, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the National Volunteer Corps (Rashtrya Sevak Sangha, RSS), was supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which, for many years, actively aroused anti-Muslim feelings among Hindus. In 1989, the party started a mass campaign to build a temple on the site of Babri Mosque. The VHP, for its part, had already declared its intentions to reclaim mosque sites which, according to it, had been temples demolished by Muslims and replaced with mosques. The case made out by the RSS-VHP-BJP axis for the destruction of the Babri Mosque and the construction of a Ram temple in its place rests on the following two false claims: that "the Babri mosque is located on the exact birth site of the Hindu god Rama" and that "a Ram temple was demolished by Babur to build the Babri Mosque in its place". These claims have been examined by some Indian scholars and historians and no supportive evidence has been

found. In addition to the undisputed fact that Rama is a mythological character whose existence cannot be proved, there is no evidence of the construction or existence of this mythical temple either. Furthermore, there was no claim as to Rama's birth on the exact location of the Babri Mosque and the existence of a temple there, by any Hindu scholar or institution, until the clandestine placement of an idol of Rama in the Babri Mosque on the night of December 22-23, 1949. Muslims' protest of this desecration of the mosque was disregarded by the Government and the mosque was closed for prayers, on the grounds that the location was a disputed area; however, Hindus were allowed to worship their idols in the compound of the mosque. Muslims' petitions in the courts, from 1950 onwards, failed to give any result. The mosque was kept closed for prayers. In 1986, it was opened to allow worship by Hindus inside the building. In 1989, the BJP embarked on some active demonstrations and processions across the country to win support for the construction of a temple on the disputed land. In 1991, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh issued a notification acquiring the major part of the land; thereafter, the VHP began excavations under the protection of the State Government and without any intervention by the Central Government. The State Government also signed a lease deed with the VHP, handing over an area of 42 acres behind the mosque, free of cost and on a perpetual basis. In July 1992, construction of the temple started on this plot of land, but the mosque was untouched. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao asked a three months' halt in the construction to resolve the conflict. The deadline passed with no agreement; the Supreme Court of India enjoined the authorities to protect the Babri Mosque and to stop the

construction of a temple in its vicinity. However, on December 6, 1992, nearly 200,000 Hindu extremists gathered in the area; an enraged mob of nearly 4000 attacked the mosque and demolished it with iron rods and with their hands. A Hindu shrine was erected in its place. Clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Uttar Pradesh and other States caused hundreds of casualties. Prime Minister Rao made a statement promising to rebuild the mosque.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque in the framework of a pre-planned campaign against Muslims' religious and cultural properties violates the international norms of freedom of belief and practice and protection of minorities set forth in various international agreements including the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights". The attack on the mosque also violates the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" and the "Recommendations concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas" which were adopted by the Unesco General Conference and ratified by India.

Muslims' concern is increased further by the fact that Hindu extremists in India have threatened not only destruction of the Babri Mosque but also demolition of 3000 other mosques in India. The fate of Babri Mosque arouses a realistic fear that the extremists, if they are not stopped immediately, will continue their wider threat against the other Islamic places of worship; it also indicates the alarming implications that these acts carry for the future of the Muslim community of India.

The explosive situation prevailing in India comes concurrently with the tragic crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina as another focus of grave concern for the international community. Such ethnic and religious enmities are ominous of disaster for the future of mankind because they reduce the hopes for a peaceful global order which would accommodate people of different cultural, ethnic and religious bases. However, achieving such an ideal order is not impossible; history shows examples of states and societies where cultural, ethnic and religious diversities

were preserved in an environment of harmony and mutual respect. A significant example is the centuries-long Muslim rule in India and in other parts of the world, under which multiple religious and ethnic features co-existed peacefully. It is hoped that today, at the end of the 20th century, those peoples which were shown tolerance and understanding by Muslims will develop a similar consciousness and follow Muslims' example in their attitude towards people of different religions and ethnic origins.



Two hundred thousand Hindu extremists surrounded and destroyed the Babri Mosque on December 6, 1992

NEW MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Tajikistan and Zanzibar have recently joined the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The number of OIC Member States rose to 51.

The Sixth Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal in December 1991 welcomed the admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan as full member of the OIC, and the Republic of Albania as Observer. Later, the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, June 1992) welcomed the full membership of the Republic of Turkmenistan. The full membership of the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Tajikistan and Zanzibar was adopted by the Sixth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, December 1992).

BRIEF INFORMATION

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Area	86,600 sq.km.
Population	7,029,000
Ethnic composition	
Azeris	78.1 %
Armenians	7.9 %
Russians	7.9 %
Others	6.1 % (Daghestanis and Tatars)
Population growth rate	1.6 % per year
Population density	81 per sq.km.
Climate	Continental climate, draught experienced frequently
Capital City	Baku (1,7 millions inhabitants)
Major cities	Gence, Şeki, Sumgait, Nahcivan, Ordabat

Administrative structure:

The Autonomous Republic of Nahcivan

Area	5,500 sq.km.
Population	295,000
Capital city	Nahcivan

The Autonomous Karabagh Area

Area	4,400 sq.km.
Population	188,000
Administrative centre	Hankenti (Stepanakert)

Political structure

President of the Republic	Ebulfez Elçibey
Prime Minister	Rahim Hüseynov
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Tevfik Kasımov
Chairman of the Parliament	İsa Kamberov

Independence process

Proclaimed sovereignty on 23 September 1989, and independence on 30 August 1991. Decision for independence legally promulgated by the Azerbaijan Parliament on 18 October 1991.

Economic indicators

Number of employed people	2,446,000
Sectoral distribution of employment	
Agriculture	27.1 %
Industry	18.6 %
Services	54.3 %
Net National Product	10.9 billion Rubles
Industrial production	12.2 billion Rubles
Agricultural production	3.9 billion Rubles
Average monthly salary	196.8 Rubles
Consumer goods per 1000 people	
TV sets	38
Refrigerators	170
Washing machines	94

Agriculture: Main agricultural products are cotton, wheat, rice, tea and citrus fruits. Animal husbandry and fishing on the shores of the Caspian Sea have an important share in the economy.

Mining: Produces petroleum, iron ore, cobalt, arsenic and marble. Oil is extracted from sea platforms on the Caspian Sea.

Industry: Major sectors are oil refining and natural gas industries, chemical, petrochemical, textile and construction materials industries.

Cultural life

Among major academies and institutions of higher learning are: the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences and the Resulzade State University of Azerbaijan. The Academy of Sciences has a Department of Social Sciences, with attached Institutes of manuscripts, history, economics, linguistics, literature, philosophy and law, architecture and arts. The Academy also has Departments of physical engineering and mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, earth sciences and biological sciences. The Resulzade University has Faculties of history, oriental studies, philology, journalism, law, library sciences, mechanics and mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology and geography. Other major universities are: the

Nerimanov State University of Medicine of Azerbaijan, the Nasreddin Tusi State Pedagogy University of Azerbaijan, the Neshedi Azizbeyov Industrial University of Azerbaijan, the Cengiz Yıldırım State Technical University of Azerbaijan, the Mirza Satali Akhundov Institute of Russian Language and Pedagogy, the Azerbaijan State Institute of Finance, the Azerbaijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, the Azerbaijan State University of Civil Engineering, the Azerbaijan State Petroleum University, the Azerbaijan State University of Fine Arts, the Azerbaijan State Conservatory. Below are the available statistics regarding the number of students enrolled at the secondary and third levels of education.

Enrolment at secondary and third level of education:

	Total	Day-time courses	Evening courses	Unregistered (special) students
Universities	73617	7709	12667	3271
Colleges(sec.level)	28128	16144	2708	9276
Art schools (sec. level)	62601	61250	409	-

THE REPUBLIC OF TURKMENISTAN

Area	488.100 sq.km. (90 % desertic)
Climate	Dry and desertic
Capital City	Aşkabad (398.000 inhabitants)
Major cities	Chardzhov, Nabit Dag, Krasnovodsk
Population	3 534 000 (1989)
Ethnic composition	
Turkmens	68.4 %
Russians	12.6 %
Ouzbeks	8.5 %
Others	10.5 % (Kazak, Tatar)

Demographic data

Population growth rate	2.7 % per year
Population density	7 per sq.km.
Urban-rural distribution of pop.	45 % urban
Life expectancy	64.8 years
Infant mortality rate	34 per 1000

Political structure

President of the Republic	Saparmurad Atayeviç Niyazov
Chairman of the Council of Ministers	Saparmurad Atayeviç Niyazov
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Halikberdi Atayev
Chairman of the Parliament	Şahap Muradov

Independence process

Turkmenistan declared its sovereignty on 22 August 1990, and its independence immediately after the referendum voted on 26 October 1991.

Economic indicators

Rate of employment	82 % of economically active population
Sectoral distribution of employment	
State enterprises	52 %
Collective establishments	19 %
Private enterprises	11 %
Consumer goods per 1000 people (1986)	
TV sets	179
Refrigerators	210
Washing machines	140

Agriculture and animal husbandry: The economy of Turkmenistan is essentially agro-based. Although most of the area is deserts, half a million hectares of land are irrigated; therefore, irrigated agriculture has an important place in the economy, e.g. cotton is one of the principal crops produced. Cotton production was 1.2 million tons in 1989, providing 10 % of the total production of ex-USSR. Main fruits produced are watermelons, melons and grapes. In addition, the country produces wheat, barley, corn and tobacco. Animal husbandry has a considerable share in rural production. The Karakul species of sheep are greatly demanded for their astrakhan fur. Bovine animals and poultry are also important. Camels are commonly raised in deserts areas. 41 % of the economically active population is occupied in agriculture and forestry.

Energy and mining: Turkmenistan is rich in natural resources. Natural gas, petroleum, mineral salts, potassium, sulfur, lead, calcium, chrome, iodine and sodium sulphate are the principal underground resources. 5 % of the natural gas production and 1 % of the oil production of ex-USSR comes from this country. Oil is extracted in the Çeleken peninsula, in Nabit Dag, Kum Dag and Okarem, and transferred by pipelines to the Krasnovodsk refinery. Natural gas extracted in Karakum and in the above regions is transferred to Bukhara and Ural. 80 % of the electricity power is produced from natural gas.

Industry: Relatively developed sectors are the textile industry and carpet-making, petroleum production and refining, natural gas extraction, chemical products, vegetal oil and fertilizer industries. Cotton, woolen and silk fabrics are produced in the textile factories in Aşkabad, Merv, Çarcou, Taşauz and Saya. There are also smaller-scale machinery and electromechanical industries in the regions of Bayram Ali, Taşauz, Aşkabad and Krasnovodsk. 21 % of total employment is in the industry and construction sectors. The transportation network depends on a limited number of major settlement areas. The total length of asphalted roads is 8700 kilometers.

Cultural life

Enrolment rate at university level	112 per 10000 people
Scientists and engineers	17 per 10000 people
Number of physicians	34.8 per 10000 people
Number of libraries	4.6 per 10000 people
Annual circulation of local newspapers	44 per head
Annual circulation of nation-wide newsp.	60 per head

Major academies and institutions of higher learning include, among others, the Academy of Sciences and the Makhtumkulu University in Ashkhabad. The Academy's Department of Social Sciences includes Institutes of history, manuscripts, linguistics and literature, economics, philosophy and law. The University has Faculties of philology, history and law, foreign languages, physics and mathematics, biology and geography, and economics.

Brief information shall be provided about the other new Member States in future issues of the Newsletter.

Cooperation between the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and its new Member States gained momentum after the visits of a high-level OIC delegation headed by H.E. the Secretary General to the Republics of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Albania.

H.E.Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the OIC, accompanied by high officials of the General Secretariat, the Director General of IRCICA and the Secretary General of the Islamic Jurisprudence Academy (Jeddah) made official visits to Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Albania from November 10 to 15, 1992. These visits were followed by working visits of the

Secretary General of the OIC to Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Zagreb (Croatia). The Secretary General and accompanying delegation were received by the Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Affairs Ministers of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Albania. The talks focused on the possible ways and modalities of strengthening cooperation between the OIC and its subsidiaries on one hand, and the relevant institutions of these member countries on the other, in different fields of activities. The meetings were an opportunity for IRCICA, in particular, to confirm and reinforce its existing relationship with academic and cultural institutions in these countries.

**NINTH SESSION OF IRCICA GOVERNING COUNCIL
HELD IN ISTANBUL, 20 December 1992**



The Ninth Session of the Governing Council of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) was held on Sunday, 20 December 1992 at the Centre's premises, under the Chairmanship of H.E.Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sharif, Secretary General of the International Call to Islam Society (Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Mohsin, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs, Organisation of Islamic Conference representing H.E.Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of OIC. The meeting was attended by the following members: Sheikha Hussa Al-Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah (Kuwait), Raja Fuziah bte Raja Tun Uda (Malaysia), Prof.Dr. Ihsan Doğramacı (Turkey), Prof. Ahmed Mohammed Issa (Vice Chairman, Egypt), Dr. Abdullah Hassan

Masry (Saudi Arabia), Ambassador Dr. Omar Jah (Gambia), Prof.Dr. Afif Bahnassi (Syria), Prof. Dr. Gulzar Haidar (Pakistan), Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu (IRCICA Director General). Council member Dr. Mohammed Sharif Ahmed could not attend the meeting. Some members of IRCICA's Executive Board were also present during the session.

Following the welcome address by IRCICA Director General, the session was opened by Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sharif, Chairman of the Governing Council. Then, H.E.Ambassador Mohammed Mohsin, Assistant Secretary General of OIC underlined the importance of this session which was the first to be held in the second decade of the Centre, after the Tenth Anniversary celebrations which took place in October 1990 under the

patronage and in the presence of the President of the Republic of Turkey, with the participation of the Prime Minister and leaders of Turkey and the high-level representatives of the OIC Member States. He requested the Director General of the Centre to convey the OIC's gratitude and appreciation to the Turkish Government and leadership, for the patronage and assistance given to the protection of culture and heritage in general, and to the Centre's activities in particular.

The Governing Council then reviewed and adopted the report presented by the Director General, on the Centre's activities in the course of last year and its work programme for 1992-93. The Council commended the progress achieved in the period since its last session, regarding research and publication and the promotion of scholarly studies in the field of culture. It took note of the fact that the Centre had laid strong bases for a steady progress and become a leading institution which possesses the knowledge and experience required in order to meet the needs of the Member States in this field. Taking into account the recent expansion of the OIC's membership, the Council observed that the scope of the Centre's activities was increasing continuously. Council members discussed and made recommendations on the various projects of the Centre which will lead to the organisation of symposia and the publication of books.

The Governing Council agreed unanimously to add two items to the proposed agenda: the first one on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the second, on the destruction of Babri Mosque in India. Deliberating upon the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the plight of the Bosnian people, the Council recorded its deep concern with

the merciless Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Council members recalled that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference had assumed a leading role in condemning the aggression from the very beginning. It also recognised the positive response of the Member States and the efforts they made in order to increase the public consciousness on this subject. The Council welcomed the activities that the Centre had already planned and undertaken in this field, including the organisation of a large-scale photograph exhibition and the production of a short documentary film to highlight the atrocities committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the destruction of Islamic monuments and human heritage assets. The Council made recommendations on other activities which could be envisaged for the benefit of the Bosnian people. Council members also pointed out that steps must be taken to mobilise artists, writers and intellectuals towards promoting the awareness of the world opinion on the issue and sending an international appeal in the name of humanity.

Regarding the destruction of Babri Mosque in India by Hindu militants, the Council recommended that steps be taken for the inclusion of this historical monument in the inventory list of world cultural heritage properties. Council members deliberated on the action which could be taken in order to emphasize the importance of the mosque.

Upon the kind invitation of Sheikha Hussa Al-Sabah, the Council decided to hold its next session in the State of Kuwait. The meeting adjourned with a closing speech delivered by Dr. Afif Bahnassi on behalf of the Council members.

Kazakistan National Academy of Science organises an international symposium on "Philosopher Ahmet Yesevi and the Eastern World"

The Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Science, Kazakistan has announced that an international symposium on "Philosopher Ahmet Yesevi and the Eastern World; philosophy, culture, religion and politics" will be held on 1-3 October 1993 in Alma-Ata. Topics proposed for discussion are:

- * The philosophy of Yesevi and the sources of Islamic philosophy
- * Islam: religion and philosophy
- * Islamic civilisation in the past and in the present
- * East-West philosophic dialogue
- * The Islamic world and its arts
- * The Kazak nation: ethnogenesis, thought and philosophy, diaspora and issues of the new independent State.

The symposium steering committee is chaired by Professor Abdulmalik Nysanbayev, Director of the Institute of Philosophy and correspondent member of the National Academy of Science; the academic secretariat is run by Dr. Skandarbek Abuyev. Specialists and researchers concerned with these subjects are invited to participate in the symposium. Applicants will be provided with complementary information about the meeting. Texts of the papers are expected by February 15, 1993. The address for correspondence is as follows: *Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Science, Kurmangazi Str., No. 29, Alma-Ata 480021, Kazakistan. Telephone: (8-3272) 69 59 11, 69 58 06; Fax: (8-3272) 60 12 50.*

Announcement: 27th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association to be held in November 1993

The Middle East Studies Association (MESA) will hold its 27th annual meeting in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, November 11-14, 1993, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center. The meeting will be hosted by The Triangle Universities, National Humanities Center, and SERMEISS. The meeting place is located between Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill and minutes from the Raleigh-Durham Airport.

Those who wish to submit a paper proposal are kindly requested to call the MESA Office for a "Call for Papers" form. The deadline to submit is February 15, 1993. The registration fees for 1993 will be the same as 1992: full or associate \$52; student or retired \$26. The hotel rate will be \$55 single or double. All panel and workshop participants must be members of MESA. Membership dues are: full or associate \$60, student or retired \$30. Prospective participants are invited to contact: Elizabeth Noll, MESA, 1232 N. Cherry Avenue, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; Telephone: 602/621-5850; Fax: 602/321-7752.

The restoration of old manuscripts found in Sana'a continues

The vast collection of old Islamic manuscripts found in the Great Mosque of Sana'a, Yemen, is being restored by German specialists. The collection was discovered during the reconstruction of the west wall of the mosque which

started in 1972, in a hidden room between the roof and the ceiling. There are approximately 15000 texts written on parchment, dating from the first five centuries of Islam. The majority are Quranic texts written in Kufic script; there are also some texts in the Hijazi style which was the oldest form of Arabic writing and others in Nakshi, a style developed later. The historical value of the collection is immeasurable.

On the other hand, the texts are incomplete and none of them bears the name of the writer or the date. Based on these indications, specialists argue that this was a storage area where incomplete and non-usable Quranic texts were kept. To preserve the collection, a special project has been implemented by the Government of Yemen with German sponsorship, starting from 1980. Accordingly, the manuscripts are being restored, classified and catalogued. The conservation workshop is at Dar al-Makhtutat (Manuscripts House) in Sana'a. A German scholar and a curator were appointed to share the work with Yemeni specialists from the General Organisation for Antiquities and Libraries: An article by Dr. Ursula Dreibholz who is in charge of the project from the German side gives detailed information about the restoration work: "Der Fund von Sanaa, Frühislamische Handschriften auf Pergament", *Pergament, Geschichte-Struktur-Restaurierung*, Sigmaringen 1991, Jan Thorbecke Verlag, p.299-313.

Symposium on the "Protection of Yemeni Manuscripts" held in Sana'a

An international symposium on the "Protection of Yemeni Manuscripts" was

held on 7-9 September 1992 at Dar ul Makhtutat in Sana'a. The symposium was held under the patronage of H.E. Ali Abdullah Salah, President of the Republic of Yemen. It was organised jointly by the General Organisation for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts (Ministry of Culture and Tourism) headed by Director General Dr. Mohammed Abdulkader Bafaqih, and the National Committee for Education, Science and Culture, Unesco. A great number of scholars, specialists and representatives of national and international institutions attended the symposium.

The symposium aimed at discussing and drawing guidelines for the protection, preservation and dissemination of the historical manuscripts of Yemen located in the country and abroad. The working sessions addressed the following topics: ways and means of preserving the manuscripts, restoration techniques, methods of collecting and cataloguing the manuscripts, promoting awareness regarding the importance of manuscripts and the necessity of preserving them, issues related to the accessibility of manuscripts, editing and publication of the manuscripts. Some of the papers were: "Survival and renewal of the heritage" by Dr. Hussein al-Amri (Yemen), "Contributions to the study of the international documents in Yemen" by Dr. Abdelhadi Tazi (Morocco), "The history of the preservation of Yemeni manuscripts" by Dr. Ahmed Issa (Egypt), "Means of preparing a descriptive bibliography" by Prof. Adnan Dervish (Syria). The paper presentations were followed by extensive discussions; IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu was among the discussants at the

second working session of the symposium. The participants made recommendations for the preservation and cataloguing of the manuscripts; they emphasized the need to provide the appropriate skills, know-how, technical facilities and equipment to the Dar ul Makhtutat, to keep the manuscripts in safe and limited-access areas, to draw inventories of the manuscripts which are located in Yemen and in other countries, to collect all the catalogues of Yemeni manuscripts found all over the world and publish a comprehensive series which would include previously uncatalogued manuscripts as well, and to organise training programs in order to encourage studies and publications on the Yemeni manuscripts. The meeting also recommended the publication of a periodical to include information on the methods and problems involved in the study and preservation of the manuscripts. Participants at the symposium saw samples from the collection of historical manuscripts discovered in the Great Mosque of Sana'a and visited the city of Shuman which houses other valuable collections.

Workshop on Bibliographic Control of Sources for the History of Science held in Trento, Italy

The University of Trento hosted the Workshop on Bibliographic Control of Sources for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine: New Directions and Opportunities, on 23-25 September 1992. The workshops came under the series of annual meetings of the Bibliographic Commission of the International Union for the History of

Philosophy and Science. The meeting was attended by historians of science, data bank experts from libraries and archival institutions and specialists involved in bibliographic data management in universities' history of science departments, from Europe, the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico India and Turkey; Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General and Chairman of the Turkish Society for the History of Science participated in the meeting. The objective of the debate is to achieve an optimum degree of standardisation and harmonisation in the bibliographies of sources on the history of science, technology and medicine. The participants contributed to the determination of guidelines by communicating their experiences and proposing sets of principles regarding subject-wise, chronological and geographical classifications applied in the preparation of the bibliographies. Bibliometric analyses of citations and bibliographies on the history of science, and the presentation of available data bases on the history of medicine and other scientific disciplines contributed in increasing the specialists' awareness on the resource centers dealing with different history of science disciplines and in different languages distributed around the world. A common format for data exchange between bibliographies was also proposed and discussed.

The Sixth Tehran International Book Fair to be held in May 1993

The Publications and Printing Organisation of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, will organise the Sixth Tehran International Book Fair on May 4-14,

1993, The fair will take place at the permanent Tehran International Trade Fair Site on Chamran Expressway. Participants at the fair include publishers, cultural and international research institutes, information system and service centers, producers and suppliers of equipment and materials related to book production. A catalogue of the fair will be available, as well as lists of the books exhibited. The address of the Secretariat of the Sixth Tehran International Book Fair is: No. 19, Sarafraz St., Dr.Beheshti Ave., P.O.Box 15875-3894, Tehran, Iran; Telefax: 543986, 6008939. Last year's fair, the Fifth Tehran International Book Fair held in May 1992, was attended by 565 publishers from twenty-seven countries. 47000 titles of books in English, Arabic, French and German were exhibited. In the section of Iranian publishers, 17600 titles of books in Farsi language were presented by 430 publishers.

A humanitarian message through arts: Malaysian painter Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri's "Bosnia" exhibition

Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri's ten-day exhibition on "Bosnia" set an outstanding example of the artist's contribution in stressing the universal human values. It was an exhibition of twenty-eight ink and brush works done in the Chinese brush style on rice and cotton paper. Aljeffri has been the first Malay artist to paint in the Chinese brush style. The exhibition, sponsored by the leading Malay language newspaper the Utusan Melayu Malaysia Group, was opened by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Minister of Finance on December 22, 1992 at the Istana Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. All proceeds from the sale of her works go to the Bosnia Fund.

Using the two letters Ha Mim which are the opening line of Surahs 40-46 of the Holy Quran, Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri expressed her sadness, anger, fears and frustrations over the tragedy ongoing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She explained "I turned to the Quran and found Surah 40 which, according to Abdullah Yusuf Ali, deals with the relationship between faith and unfaith, revelation and rejection, truth and falsehood. It seemed to me that this symbolised what is happening not only in Bosnia, but also elsewhere - that man without faith will do terrible things because he has rejected goodness, inner strength and feelings. In fact it is a cycle that recurs throughout history that man turns away from

God. Human beings must listen to God's guidance. I am not just talking about Islam and Muslims, to me these are universal values - we are all children of God and must respect and somehow understand each other."

Art critics described her works as "impressive"; "in a single month artist Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri has accomplished what most artists strive to do over the years"; "Faith colours Zuriah's works"; "The paintings - a fascinating combination of Arabic script and Chinese brush technique on rice and cotton paper - all reveal this with their swirling Arabic characters, sharp slashes and vivid colour"; "Birds, barbed wire, blood, and the recurring colour red against a stark calligraphic form, provides a very disturbing scenario" ...

The Editorial Board thanks Raja Fuziah bte Raja Tun Uda, member of IRCICA Governing Council, for the information given about the exhibition.



*Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri, Bosnia 9, 1992
Water colour/Chinese brush (48 cm x 106 cm)*

* Kortepeter, Carl Max, **The Ottoman Turks: Nomad Kingdom to World Empire**, The Isis Press, Istanbul, 1991; *Analecta Isisiana* II, 320 p.

This is a collection of excellent studies by Carl Max Kortepeter, scholar of Turkish history and specialist in the history of the Ottoman Empire, the Balkans and Caucasia. It comprises fifteen articles by the author, which were published in different scholarly journals, with an Introduction by Professor Halil İnalçık. The articles deal with different aspects of Ottoman policy and administrative system and in particular, with the relations between the Ottoman Empire and peoples on its borderlands.

Each of Kortepeter's in-depth studies contribute to the exploration and understanding of the dynamics which led to the emergence and expansion of the Ottoman Empire, a process that he very comprehensively reviews in the first article titled "The Origins and Nature of Turkish Power". In his analyses, Kortepeter has given due emphasis to such aspects of Ottoman history as the Islamic-Ottoman social and administrative structure, the Ottoman imperial policy, the economic system, culture, literary sources for the history of the Empire, military reforms, the relationship between Atatürk's reforms and the tradition of Ottoman reform. Among the other topics covered are the political relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Khanate of Crimea, the Habsburgs, Ottoman-Hejazi relations according to the *Seyahatname* of Evliya Çelebi and the accession of King Abdulaziz bin Saud to the Saudi throne during the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II (1876-1909). The book contains two articles on the encounters between the United States and the Middle East in the late Ottoman period. They focus on the relationship between the North African Emirates and the U.S. Navy (1783-1830) and the establishment of Robert College and the American University of Beirut, respectively. The review article in the book is a detailed presentation and

evaluation of the work titled *Osmanlı İlmî ve Meslekî Cemiyetleri* (Ottoman Scientific and Professional Societies), Papers presented to the First National Symposium on the History of Science in Turkey (April 3-5, 1987), edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Faculty of Letters Publishing House (Istanbul, 1987), that Kortepeter describes as a major contribution to the study of science and technology in the late Ottoman Empire.

* **The Significance of Islamic Manuscripts**, Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (30th November-1st December 1991), General Editor: John Cooper, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, 1992, 181 p.

This book is an important contribution to studies on Islamic manuscripts and the preservation of Islamic scientific and cultural heritage. It is a collection of the papers which were presented at the Inaugural Conference of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, by scholars from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Europe and America. The papers communicate the findings of surveys on Islamic manuscripts conducted in various parts of the world. On the whole, they provide an overview of studies and activities undertaken in this field. The book is divided into three sections: the first section contains the papers concerning general topics and the Islamic manuscript tradition as a whole; the second section includes area studies concerning collections in certain geographical locations (countries, etc.); and, the third section contains the papers on subject studies in some scientific disciplines.

The first paper by Wilferd Madelung describes the requirements and difficulties involved in the work of the editor and the researcher who deals with manuscripts. Taking the example of a text by the thirteenth-century philosopher and scholar Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, the author addresses such problems as having access to different

copies of the works, tackling with the differences between these copies, etc. The second paper by Seyyed Hossein Nasr deals with the Islamic manuscript heritage as a whole and stresses the importance of cataloguing, conserving, archiving and editing. He points out that compared to the manuscript traditions of Western Europe, the extensive and rich Islamic tradition has been relatively neglected until now. Most of the collections are at hazard due to natural predations, human neglect and lack of funds to catalogue and conserve them. Iraj Afshar, author of the first paper in the second section, focuses on Persian manuscripts, but at the same time discusses the general matters such as training specialists in the cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts, compiling a union catalogue of Persian manuscripts and preparing a curriculum for a graduate course in manuscript cataloguing. Anas Khalidov's paper gives a thorough survey of the Islamic manuscript collections in the former Soviet Union. Angelo Michele Piemontese's paper deals with the Islamic manuscripts in the West, particularly in Italy. Then, Ramazan Şeşen (Head of the Department of Studies on Manuscripts, IRCICA), gives an overview of Islamic manuscripts in Turkish and Turkic languages with special reference to the history of their cataloguing. The final section of the book contains individual subject papers. Muhammad al-Habib al-Hillah's paper deals with manuscripts concerning a particular area of Islamic law, the *nawazil*, and written in Andalusia and Northwest Africa between the fifth and the ninth centuries Hijra. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu's paper presents the latest findings of IRCICA's research project on translations of the Holy Qur'an in manuscript form, which covers over 4000 copies of manuscript translations in thirty languages; the paper provides an overview of these manuscripts with respect to the places of origin, the present locations and the languages. Hamad al-Jasir's paper examines the manuscript treasures

contained in the libraries of Mecca and Medina. David King's paper gives a thorough survey of the Islamic scientific instruments and scientific manuscripts. As to Mehdi Mohaghhegh, he emphasizes the importance of the work that needs to be done regarding Islamic philosophical manuscripts. Finally, Abdul Aziz Ahmed al-Rifai's paper examines the rare literary manuscripts in the private library of 'Abd al-Qadir al-Baghdadi (1621-1682).

*** World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts, Vol. 1: Afghanistan-Iran, General Editor: Geoffrey Roper, Published by Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, 1992, Distributed by E.J.Brill, Leiden, 569 p.**

This book is another contribution by Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation to the assessment and study of the Islamic manuscripts collections around the world. The Foundation was set up in 1988, to contribute to the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage and to facilitate the access of researchers and the interested public to this heritage. To achieve these objectives, the Foundation gave priority to studies on Islamic manuscripts. It undertook an extensive survey of Islamic manuscripts all over the world, in order to produce catalogues of formerly uncatalogued collections of Islamic manuscripts and to compile a comprehensive visual record of these manuscripts.

This is the first volume of a series of collective bibliographies to result from the survey. The volumes will be divided following the English names of the countries, in alphabetic order. Accordingly, the first volume covers countries from Afghanistan to Iran. It was published in June 1992; the subsequent volumes are planned to appear in Spring 1993 and Autumn 1993 respectively. Some countries such as Albania, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Japan, Kenya, Sierra Leone, the Philippines,

Thailand and others will have been surveyed for the first time; the newly established States are also included. The survey aims to fill the gaps left by previous bibliographic works and at the same time, to assemble and update the information contained in them. It will cover private and public collections, previously uncatalogued collections as well as those cited in previous publications. It will also provide the reader with a guide to the collections of Islamic manuscripts, regarding access to these collections and their holdings as well as information on manuscripts of particular significance. It is the first attempt to cover manuscripts in all languages of the Islamic world, found in over 90 countries.

The book has a Foreword by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Chairman of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, an Introduction by Hadi Sharifi, Secretary-General and an Editorial Preface by the General Editor Geoffrey Roper. It covers the manuscripts located in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia and Iran. There is an index of languages

(excluding Arabic, Persian and Turkish) and an index of names.

* **Lexicon der Islamischen Welt** (Lexicon of the Islamic World), Klaus Kreiser and Rotraud Wielandt (eds.), complete revised new edition, Kohlhammer Verlag, Stuttgart 1992, 289 p. (in German)

This book aims to provide precise and reliable information about the culture of the Muslim world to the general public, laymen and students. It is a collection of nearly two hundred articles by fifty-four specialists, about religion, law, philosophy, art, architecture, music, mathematics and sciences in the Muslim world, in history and in the present time. The editors are Prof. Dr. Klaus Kreiser, Head of the Department of Turkish Language, History and Culture, University of Bamberg (Germany) and Prof. Dr. Rotraud Wielandt, specialist of Islamic and Arab culture in the same Department. The first edition of the lexicon was published in 1974. The revised edition is larger and more comprehensive with respect to the topics covered; it puts greater emphasis on the cultural aspects of the Muslim world. When necessary, the articles also refer to pre-Islamic cultures as well as to the civilisations which co-existed with Islam.

* Nurhan Atasoy, **Splendors of the Ottoman Sultans** (edited and translated by Tülay Artan; presented by Wonders: The Memphis International Cultural Series, a division of the City of Memphis, Tennessee, and the Directorate General of Monuments and Museums, Ministry of Culture, Republic of Turkey); Lithograph Publishing Company, 1992, 270 p.

This is the catalogue of an extensive exhibition titled "Splendors of the Ottoman Sultans", held at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center, Los Angeles, California between September 16-December 16, 1992. It presented over 280 priceless court objects from the Topkapı Palace and other museums of Turkey as well as items which were used in daily Turkish life during the past 500 years. The book contains a statement from Memphis Mayor W. W. Herenton; messages from the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey and the Curator; Turkish Honorary and Organizing Committees; Memphis Honorary Committee; Wonders Staff; Contributors and Major Sponsors. The principal sections are: A Brief History of the Ottoman Empire; The Ottoman Empire through the Centuries; Chronology of the Ottoman Empire, Reigns of the Sultans in the Ottoman Dynasty; Catalogue of the Exhibition: Sultan as Statesman; Sultan as Military Leader; Sultan as Patron of the Arts; Life at the Court; Inside the Topkapı Palace; Bibliography. Among the objects which were exhibited are a wooden throne, jeweled and enameled gold turban ornaments, ceremonial shields, ceremonial kaftans, tent, gold and leather bookbindings with gems, jeweled jugs, porcelain dishes and

ewers, celadon dishes and bowls, copper, silver and gold coins, *tuğras*, gold seals, sword of Mehmed II, Byzantine chains, the Divân of İlhâmî (Sultan Selim III), Şehinşahname (poetry of Murad III), embroidered leather binding (Koran), two folios from the Divân of Muhibbî (Süleyman I), shears, knives for cutting reed pens, gilded, jeweled and gold-plated pen-cases, İznik Ceramic Dishes, embroidered carpet, Kaftan belonging to Süleyman I, bowls, spoons, silver and leather trays, prayer rugs, musical instruments. The last part of the book briefly explains the main sections of the Topkapı Palace Museum and gives its plan as well. This book of deluxe printing with colored photographs and miniatures is attractive not only for art historians, but for interested readers as well.

* **Qur'an-i Madjid ki Teradjim, Djanubi Hindi ki Zabanun Min** (Translations of the Holy Quran), by Mazhar Mumtaz Quraishi, Karachi, Bahadır Yar Jang Academy, 1990, 160 p. (in Urdu)

This is bibliography of the translations of the Holy Quran in some languages spoken in the South of India. The book has a Foreword by Prof. Dr. Mohammed Hamidullah, and a scholarly introduction by the author. Chapters in the beginning of the book give an overview of Quranic studies and the history of translations of the Quran, where reference is made to the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran* published by IRCICA. The bibliography part covers translations of the Holy Quran published in six different languages. This work is a valuable addition to bibliographic studies on translations of the Holy Quran especially with respect to its geographical coverage.

**THE CENTRE OF ARAB AND MEDITERRANEAN MUSIC
Sidi Bou Saïd - TUNISIA**

This artistic and cultural centre has newly been inaugurated in the "Ennejma Ezzahra" palace in Sidi Bou Saïd (suburb of Tunis). Ceremonies and cultural activities took place on 7 to 13 November 1992 to celebrate the inauguration.

Under the patronage of H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, the Centre of Arab and Mediterranean Music will undertake varied activities in different fields of music, at the national and international levels. The aim of the Centre is to preserve the Arab musical heritage and strengthen links between Arab and Mediterranean music.

A beautiful and informative brochure has been published on the occasion of the centre's inauguration. It recounts that the palace which houses the centre was the residence of the Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger (1872-1932), a talented painter, a scholar of music and the author of a remarkable work on Arab music. Rodolphe d'Erlanger had a deep sense of the importance of human relations and cultural interactions. This residence he built in the neo-Andalusian style at the beginning of the century soon became a magnet for musicians, painters, learned people from Tunisia and other countries. In 1991, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took the decision to preserve the building as part of the national heritage and to dedicate it to music in its Tunisian, Arab and international dimensions. The idea is to consolidate the cultural vocation of Sidi Bou Saïd and to pay a tribute to the role of the Baron, who contributed to the promotion of Arab music in general and Tunisian music in particular, and instigated the 1932 Cairo conference on oriental music.

The Centre of Arab and Mediterranean Music will endeavour to promote musical scholarship and creativity through research in musicology and by organising musical

performances as well as colloquia, seminars and workshops in the different fields of specialisation. The centre will comprise a museum, a National Sound Archive, a musicology research department and another department to organise concerts and conferences. The respective tasks of these departments will be as follows:

The National Sound Archive

- collection and processing of products of the national musical heritage
- conservation
- acting as a legal deposit of recorded sound media
- field recordings
- distribution and publishing
- exchange

Artistic programming and activities

- organisation of musical programmes and activities
- promotion of encounters between composers, musicians and singers through the organisation of concerts, training sessions, courses and workshops

Museums

- the Baron d'Erlanger Museum (private living quarters of the Baron), with artifacts, manuscripts, paintings, etc.
- musical instruments exhibition

Research, studies, documentation and information

- research in musicology
- a multi-media library
- publishing and distribution

Instrument making workshop

- research on the construction of musical instruments.

Address: *Centre of Arab and Mediterranean Music, Baron d'Erlanger Palace, 8, Rue du 2 Mars 1934, 2026 Sidi Bou Saïd, Tunisia;*
phone: (216.1) 746051-283749;
fax: (216.1) 746490.

THE NEW ISLAMIC ART GALLERY IN THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM, U.S.A.

A permanent gallery dedicated to the arts of Near Eastern countries has opened recently in the Seattle Art Museum. With the inauguration of its new downtown building, the Museum for the first time in its history of almost sixty years, is displaying collections of Islamic artifacts. The gallery has considerable importance from the regional standpoint, because it is the only art gallery holding Islamic collections in the region west of Chicago and Toronto and north of San Francisco.

The gallery includes, most notably, collections of manuscripts, ceramics, metal work, miniature paintings and textiles, dating from the first centuries of Islam up to, roughly, the nineteenth century. There are also samples of calligraphy, images inspired by poetry, and implements illustrating the work of scholars and scientists. A large display case also features artifacts inspired by the theme of the Qibla and the prayer.

The collection represents the arts of Muslim countries over an area extending from North Africa in the West to Afghanistan and Central Asia in the East. Most notable is its reference to the geographic area encompassing today Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Though of modest size, the collection contains important pieces. For example, it includes sixty-five ceramic pieces and tiles representing this art from the ninth to the nineteenth century, including powerfully inscribed bowls and a variety of lustre glaze wares from various countries. There are also sixteen

examples of glass dating from the tenth to the eighteenth century, and seventeen metalwork pieces including excellent Seljuk examples. The twenty-eight miniature paintings and page illuminations in the collection are highlighted by a tenth-century painting of a bird, on vellum, from Fostat, Egypt, two miniatures by the seventeenth-century master Riza Abbasi and an illustrated manuscript of Firdewsi's *Shahnameh*, "Bahram Gur's Mount Trampling Azadeh".

The collection also includes numerous textiles, representing the Turkish and Persian weaving arts of the sixteenth to the nineteenth century; the oldest pieces in this part of the collection are three fragments from Fostat, Egypt, of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Dr. William J. Rathbun, Curator of Asian Art at the Seattle Art Museum, indicates that like the "arts-of-the scholar" theme linking the various collections of the gallery, textiles, too, link with other galleries as a medium of cross-cultural expression, and provide a social context for the art. The interested reader can refer to an article by Dr. Irene A. Bierman, guest curator of the gallery, published in *Arts of Asia* (1992, bi-monthly, Hong Kong), a specialist's study highlighting some of the important manuscripts, textiles and ceramics displayed in the gallery.

The Editorial Board thanks Dr. Nancy Micklewright, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History in Art, University of Victoria, Canada for providing information on the opening of the gallery.

IRCICA ACTIVITIES

Visit of an official delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran



Meeting with the Iranian delegation

An official delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, composed of H. E. Mr. Sabah Zangeneh, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the OIC (Jeddah), Mr. Mohsen Emadi from the Department of Islamic Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Asadollah Ahmadi, Vice Consul of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul, visited the Centre on 23-24 November 1992.

The delegation met with IRCICA Director General, saw the short documentary film about the Centre's activities, and visited the different departments to receive first-hand information from staff in charge with research projects. A joint meeting was held in the afternoon between the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

chaired by H.E. Mr. Sabah Zangeneh and officials of the Centre chaired by the Director General. Talks were held about the activities of the Centre in the past and at present, and especially its future programs, with a special emphasis on the studies concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran and its cultural heritage and on the cooperation between IRCICA and Iranian institutions. Joint activities were discussed, including the organisation of an international symposium on Islamic arts in Isfahan in the near future. At the end of the visit, H.E.Mr. Sabah Zangeneh wrote his impressions in the visitors' book, as follows (original: Arabic and Persian):

"God allowed me to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and to take note of its efficient activities, especially those in the service of the Holy Quran, the Islamic arts and the history of science, among others. All these works give us pleasure and satisfaction. I congratulate my brother and friend Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu for his efforts and his talent in directing this Centre, and I wish success to him and his colleagues in strengthening the links of Islamic fraternity and solidarity, which will enable Muslims, and in particular the neighbouring nations, to better know each other. May Islamic brotherhood and culture live forever."

*Ambassador Sabah Zangeneh
Permanent Representative of the Islamic
Republic of Iran in the Organisation of Islamic
Conference, Jeddah
Nov. 24., 1992*

Visit of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Gambia

Another distinguished visitor IRCICA was honoured to receive recently is H.E.Mr. Bakary Dalo, Minister of Finance of The Gambia. The Minister was briefed about activities carried out in the different departments of the Centre and projects envisaged for the near future, including, in particular, the international seminar on the history of Islamic civilisation in West Africa that the Centre plans to organise. H.E.Mr. Bakary Dalo wrote the following words on the Centre's book:

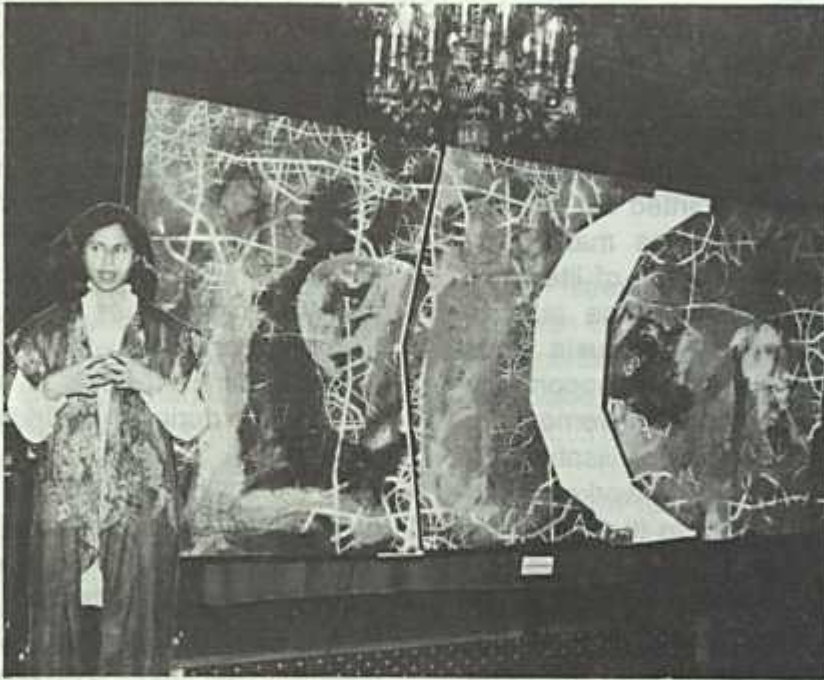
"Warm congratulations to the Director General of IRCICA and his able team. Within thirteen short years of its existence, the Centre is making a significant impact in establishing the reality and strength of Islamic cultural and artistic attainments in the past as well as in the present. There is still considerable ground to cover and I wish the Centre progress and further success."

*Bakary Dalo
Minister of Finance of The Gambia
Sept. 7, 1992*

Art exhibition**Halide Salam's paintings exhibited at IRCICA**

IRCICA welcomed Dr. Halide Salam, artist and scholar from Bangladesh and professor at the Department of Art, Radford University, Virginia, U.S.A., from October 26 to November 16, 1992. Her exhibition titled "From the Soul to the Heart" comprised works on canvas with geometric forms, symbolic expressions, colour harmonies, wave patterns and light vibrations which, according to the artist, represented the states of mind and heart in relation with the spiritual and physical world. The artist is also inspired by history as well as by main themes in the philosophy of life and knowledge.

Halide Salam obtained her Bachelor degree in fine arts at the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio (1972), her M.A. in painting and drawing at the Department of Art, New Mexico Highland University, Las Vegas (1973) and her PhD in



Dr. Halide Salam explains her art

fine arts at the College of Visual Arts, Texas Technological Institute and State University, Lubbock, Texas (1977). She is teaching contemporary arts and history of arts (Western and Eastern art, 19th century art, graduate research in art history); she directed workshops and courses, attended a number of symposia on arts and gave lectures in the United States of America, England, Poland and Bangladesh. She won several awards and honours for excellence in professional and academic achievement. Her works were exhibited on more than fifty occasions since 1971. Among her published articles, there is a study about the "Textile Art of Bangladesh" which appeared in the *Bangladesh Quarterly*, volumes 6 and 7 (1985, 1986, Department of Films and Publications, Dhaka).

Lectures at IRCICA

On the occasion of the 500th year of the fall of Granada, IRCICA devoted the first term of its Saturday lectures (17 October-19 December 1992) to the theme of Andalusia. As usual, the lectures were recorded on cassettes and kept for reference.

The first lecture was given by Dr. Tahsin Ömer Tahaoğlu from Bosphorus University, on the "Architecture of Andalusian palaces and the Alhambra Palace". The lecturer made an overview of the many architectural monuments built by Muslims during their eight-century rule in Andalusia, and said that most of them fell in ruins in later times. He said that the magnificent Alhambra Palace was included among the national treasures of Spain from 1870 onwards and underwent the largest restoration in 1915. He explained the architectural characteristics of the palace and gave excerpts from poems and proses which praise the beauties of the monument and its surroundings.

In her conference on "Andalusia in Turkish literature", Prof.Dr. İnci Enginün, Head of the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Marmara University pointed out that the post-Tanzimat period was marked by an increase in the volume of literature on the history of Islam. The authors emphatically dwelt on Andalusia since this subject gave them an opportunity to highlight the brilliant achievements in the history of Islamic civilisation. A variety of original works and translations ranging from the history of Andalusia to plays, stories, essays and poems were written on this topic. Prof. Dr. Enginün noted that none of the above works ever mentioned the Jews who, after being exiled from Spain, were welcomed by Muslims. It seems that, she added, the Ottomans did not want to boast of their patronage of the Jews which they fulfilled as a noble duty.

In his lecture on "Andalusian Muslims under Christian Rule and their relations with the Ottoman State", Dr. Mehmet Özdemir from the Faculty of Theology of the University of Ankara focused on the statute and conditions of Muslims in Andalusia, their forced conversion to Christianity, the situation of the Moriscos, the intolerant policy of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella against Muslims who were also subject to persecutions by the Catholic Church. He emphasized that the Ottomans patronized the Andalusian Muslims particularly during the reigns of Sultans Mehmed II, Bayezid II and Selim II.

Dr. Mustafa Aydın in his lecture titled "Some observations related to

Andalusian literature" reviewed the literary activities in Andalusia, poetry, its particular genres which flourished in Andalusia, Andalusian poets, the examples of some well-known authors who wrote prose, the subject of language and vocabulary, as well as translation activities through which Europe benefitted from the Arabic works in different fields of science and scholarship during the Middle Ages.

Prof. Dr. Salih Tuğ, Dean of the School of Theology of Marmara University gave a lecture about the "Influence of Muslim culture and civilisation on the Renaissance through Spain". The lecture was an overview of the contributions Muslims made to science and technology over a period of six centuries including the translation of books on medicine, astronomy, mathematics and chemistry into Arabic during the period of the Western Omeyyads. The lecturer also made a general comparative evaluation of Muslims' achievements in different scientific disciplines and activities.

The last lecture in December was given by Mr. Kamil Dürüst, researcher and photographer, who presented slides showing the monuments and cities of Andalusia, from his personal collection of hundreds of slides. It was a tour to the remnants of the Andalusian civilisation, through the villages to Gibraltar, across the ruins of citadels to the cities of Sevilla, Cordoba and Granada, with a visit to the Cordoba Mosque and the Alhambra Palace, as well as to the King Abdulaziz Al-Saud Mosque built in recent years, which is remarkable for its architecture and the beauty of its surroundings.



CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS IN QATAR AND KUWAIT
November-December 1992

The series of calligraphy and gilding exhibitions which were held by IRCICA- the Commission's Executive Secretariat in Muscat, Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi from February 2nd to March 4, 1992 (Newsletter no.28) and in Tunis in May 1992, had aroused interest and appreciation in the host countries. The exhibition included selected works of distinguished calligraphers of Turkey, as well as some of the winners' works in the first and second international calligraphy competitions organised by ICPICH. The objective of the exhibition

is to strengthen the cultural links between Islamic countries through arts. The travelling exhibition recently visited the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait. The exhibitions in Doha and Kuwait City were organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey through the Turkish diplomatic missions, and the Ministries of Information of Qatar and Kuwait, with the contribution of the Waqf for Research on Islamic History, Art and Culture established with the initiative of IRCICA.



Inauguration of the exhibition in Qatar: H.E. Mr. Mani A. Al-Hajiri, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture (in the middle), Mr. Erdoğan Aytun, Ambassador of Turkey and Mr. Musa Zeynel, Deputy Secretary for Culture and Arts (on the left)

H.E.Mr.Mani A. Al-Hajiri, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture of the State of Qatar inaugurated the exhibition in Doha Sheraton Hotel, on behalf of H.E.Dr. Hamad Abdulaziz Al-Qawwari, Minister of Information and Culture. Were present at the inauguration Mr. Erdoğan Aytun, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Doha, Mr. Musa Zeynel, Deputy Secretary for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Information and Culture of Qatar, Mr. Mubarek Al-Khalifa, Director of Culture and Arts, as well as the heads and representatives of diplomatic missions, specialists and lovers of arts and representatives of the press. H.E.Dr. Hamad Abdulaziz Al-Qawwari, Minister of Information and Culture, who was abroad on the day of the inauguration, visited the exhibition the following day, upon his return. The exhibition was also visited by high officials of the

Government of Qatar and authorities concerned, including H.E.Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Sibei, Minister of Education and H.E.Dr. Abdullah Juma Al-Qubeisi, Rector of Qatar University.

On display were 53 calligraphies by 13 well-known calligraphers, namely Prof. Dr. Ali Alpaslan, Hasan Çelebi, Hüseyin Kutlu, Dr. Hüseyin Öksüz, Dr. Savaş Çevik, Hüseyin Gündüz, Fuat Başar, Davut Bektaş, Mehmet Özçay, Osman Özçay, Ali Toy, Recep Şahin and Erol Dönmez. There were also samples of Salih Balakbabalar's works consisting of calligraphies inlaid on wood, metal and mother-of-pearl, Fuat Başar's marbled paper, and calligraphies selected from among award-winners' works at the first two calligraphy competitions. The exhibition in Doha, Qatar continued until November 22, 1992.

The exhibition in Kuwait was held under the patronage of H.E.Sheikh Suud Nassir Al-Sabah, Minister of Information of Kuwait and in cooperation with the Dar ul Athar Al-Islamiya headed by Sheikha Hussa Al-Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, member of IRCICA Governing Council and member of ICPICH. The exhibition was inaugurated on November 28 by H.E.Mr. Hamad Yusuf Al-Rumi, Deputy Minister of Information, at the Dar ul Athar Al-Islamiya at Kuwait National Museum.



H.E.Mr. Hamad Yusuf Al-Rumi, Deputy Minister of Information of the State of Kuwait and H.E. Sheikh Selman Daud Al-Sabah, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Information (right) with Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Mehmet Ezen and Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu (left) after the inauguration

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Sheikha Husna Al-Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah; H.E. Sheikh Selman Daud Al-Sabah, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Information; Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and Secretary of ICPICH. Ambassador of Turkey in Kuwait Mr. Mehmet Ezen as well as high officials of the State of Kuwait and representatives of the press were also present at the inauguration. The exhibition in Kuwait included a stand which displayed a collection of the works of Kuwaiti calligraphers Mr. Abdullah Osman, Mr. Ali A. Al-Bidah and Mr. Walid Al-Farroud. The exhibition continued until December 4, 1992.



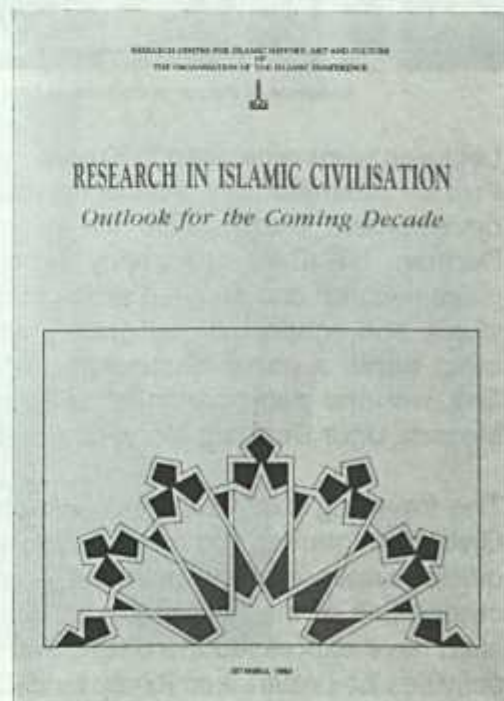
Audience at the panel discussion held in the exhibition hall at Dar ul Athar Al-Islamiya, Kuwait

Lectures were organised in Kuwait in conjunction with the exhibition, on November 29. Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu gave a lecture on "The art of calligraphy, its development prospects in the Islamic world and the role of IRCICA"; Mr. M.Uğur Derman, IRCICA's calligraphy expert, spoke on "The schools of calligraphy in the Islamic world" and showed slides of calligraphic works representing the various writing styles and schools of calligraphy which marked this art over the centuries. On the other hand, a panel discussion on "The art of calligraphy" took place on December 2nd, with the participation of calligraphers Abdullah Osman and Ali A. Al-Bidah, and Messrs. Uğur Derman, Mohammed Tamimi and Halit Eren from IRCICA and ICPICH.

The travelling exhibition of calligraphy and gilding has thus visited six cities in total. Given the interest and appreciation shown to this cultural and artistic activity by both official circles and the public, it is expected that similar exhibitions be organised in other cities of the Gulf region in future. Authorities of the host countries and visitors alike have expressed the desire that these exhibitions continue and that other, similar activities be undertaken jointly by IRCICA and the relevant local institutions, in order to better make known the arts of the book to young artists of the region.

RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC CIVILISATION, Outlook for the Coming Decade, Proceedings of the International Seminar held on 26-29 September 1988, Edited with Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Studies on Cultural Development no.2, 112+183 p. (in English and Arabic)
Price: US\$ 20,- postage included.

The International Seminar on *Research in Islamic Civilisation, Outlook for the Coming Decade* organised by IRCICA on 26-29 September 1989 had a wide scope, a broad field of investigation and a challenging purpose: looking into the present state and prospects of scholarly research in the fields of Islamic culture and civilisation and suggesting a development strategy for the future. The seminar was also an opportunity for the fifty Muslim scholars and specialists attending, to pave the way for durable connections and fruitful relations among themselves, with the objective of achieving excellence in research in the field of Islamic culture and civilisation. Four main topics were taken up during the seminar, because of their relevance for the development of research activities; namely, Research Methodology, Relevance of Data and Information, Research Programs, and Resources: Funding and Manpower Needs. The papers are grouped in this book according to the same subject-wise classification. The Report and Recommendations of the Seminar are also included; they reflect the opinions and suggestions of the participants, drawing on their experiences and expertise, about how to ameliorate the conditions of the research environment in the Muslim world and to improve and develop studies in Islamic civilisation. The Introduction is an appraisal of the state of research in this field, with a recapitulation of the seminar's debates and conclusions. The book includes thirteen papers published in their original language of presentation, i.e. either English or Arabic, and the opening and closing speeches of the seminar. It reflects a first evaluation of the problems and prospects of research in Islamic civilisation, by a group of scholars and researchers who are directly involved in this field. The book also provides guidelines for the debate and cooperative action which has been instigated with this seminar and which IRCICA will try to encourage further by organising other meetings and follow-up activities, with the aim of achieving the best progress, and ultimately excellence, in research.



NEW PUBLICATION

TRANSFER OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE MUSLIM WORLD, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (ed.), *Proceedings of the International Symposium on Modern Sciences and the Muslim World, "Science and Technology Transfer from the West to the Muslim World from the Renaissance to the Beginning of the XXth Century "* (Istanbul, 2-4 September 1987), Studies and Sources on the History of Science Series no. 5; 442 p. (in English).

Price: US\$ 30,- postage included.



Cover picture: the Imperial School for Military Engineering (Istanbul, 1795)

Cultural and scientific interactions between different civilisations have been an influential factor in the development of human knowledge throughout history. These interactions took place through complex and multidimensional processes, in different times and contexts. Among these, the transmission of knowledge between the Muslim and Western civilisations is one of the subjects where academic interest has yielded fruitful studies. But this interest was generally limited to the study of Muslims' scientific achievements in the early centuries of

Islam and the contributions of these sciences to the Western Renaissance. However, the knowledge dissemination cycle did not end after this transmission process. A reverse trend began a couple of centuries later, introducing modern Western sciences to the Muslim world. This aspect of the subject has not been studied thoroughly, although the said trend continues to be an important issue for the Muslim world in our time.

In order to promote academic studies on the various aspects of the transfer of modern Western sciences to the Muslim world, IRCICA devoted one of its international symposia on *Modern Science and the Muslim World* to the theme "Science and Technology Transfer from the West to the Muslim World from the Renaissance to the Beginning of the XXth Century".

The symposium, held on 2-4 September 1987 at IRCICA, aroused interest in academic circles and in the public opinion; twenty-three research papers were presented by eminent scholars and specialists. This book is a collection of the papers, with an Introduction by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

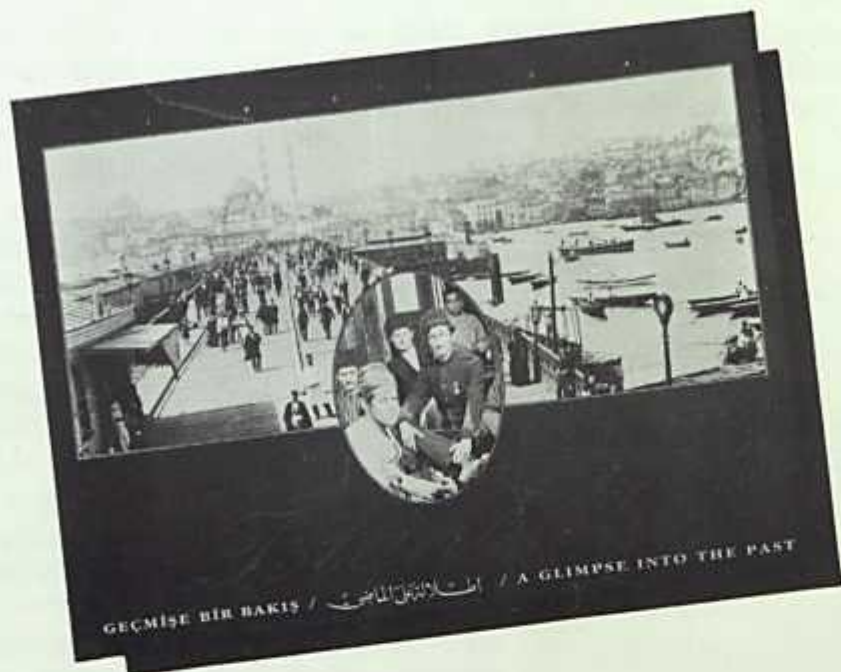
The Introduction is an overview of the recent studies on the subject; at the same time, it is an appraisal of the state of science in the classical period of the Ottoman Empire which then covered the greater part of the Muslim world, and an analysis of the first encounters with Western sciences and technology.

NEW PUBLICATION

IRCICA presents

ISTANBUL, A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

(Photograph album), Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (ed.), 2nd edition, IRCICA, 1992,
130 p., 124 photos, text in English, Arabic and Turkish
(Price: US\$ 25, postage included)



A visual documentation of Istanbul in the 19th century... A nostalgic visit to its palaces, mosques and fountains, a tour on the Bosphorus, a promenade on quayside places This album presents photographs of Istanbul selected from the Photograph Albums of Yıldız Palace. These albums comprise a collection of nearly 35000 photographs covering a period of approximately forty-five years, from 1865 to 1908. The whole collection was reproduced by IRCICA and formed the basis of its archives of historical photographs. In addition to preparing catalogues of these archives for the use of researchers, the Centre undertook the publication of thematic albums. This is the second, enlarged edition of the Istanbul album which was printed in 1987 under the same title. It provides cross sections of life in old Istanbul, views of monuments, streets and districts, accompanied by explanatory texts in three languages.

