



# Newsletter



O.I.C. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture

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## Newsletter

Research Centre for Islamic  
History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)

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## *In this issue*

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would like, first of all, to extend my best wishes to our readers for Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Christmas and the New Year. The coincidence of these holidays adds to their significance, more so as the year 2000 marks the advent of a new century and a new millenium. This coincidence is also symbolic of a call for peoples of the world to keep a closer watch on current realities and join their forces to build a better, peaceful future for mankind. Unfortunately, wars, violence, poverty, injustice and many other dramatic crises of various kinds continue to befall peoples of the world. But some positive developments are there to augur trends for the better: one of them is an observable, growing consciousness of the need for solidarity between nations and dialogue between civilisations, as is manifested nowadays by governments, cultural institutions, international organisations and others, which brought the issue to the foreground of public attention.

The United Nations' proclaiming 2001 as the year of dialogue among civilisations and cultures was one expression of this consciousness. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference took a leading role on behalf of the Muslim world, following the initiative of H. E. Mohammad Khatami, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, in proposing that the OIC call for a dialogue among civilisations. The Eighth Summit (Tehran, December 1997) issued the Tehran Declaration on the Dialogue of Civilisations and the 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Ouagadougou, June-July 1999) decided to ratify it. A high-level group of governmental experts was set up to draft a universal declaration on dialogue among civilisations, in coordination with the UN and other relevant bodies. This work is presently carried on by groups of experts from the Member States, and its progress shall be reviewed by the 27<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next June.

The OIC's action in this field will certainly bring a fresh stimulus towards reinforcing solidarity between its Member States while, at the same time, building bridges of affinity with other nations and communities. Remarkably, this action gains pace at a time when the OIC prepares to commemorate, in 2000, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. The Organisation has already taken steps in consultation with its member states to add significance to this anniversary beyond its ceremonial and symbolic aspects, by making it an occasion to review and evaluate the OIC's past experience and envisage its future prospects. Thus, a debate on the OIC's accomplishments and challenges of the new era is thrown open this year to the various specialist forums of the Organisation. The debate will certainly underscore the OIC's expanding efforts aimed at promoting dialogue among civilisations.

As to IRCICA, the OIC's subsidiary in charge with cultural studies, it will assume new roles within the framework of this future action. In the coming period, IRCICA will be expected to endeavour actively in introducing the Islamic culture in all forums where cultures are represented through their international scholarly institutions. In view of this, we are putting more emphasis on our activities aimed at making the history, the arts, sciences and cultural heritage of the Islamic civilisation better known throughout the world and reinforcing awareness of these subjects in world opinion. IRCICA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, also to be commemorated within the year 2000, will give us the opportunity to announce our future programs and prospects to interested circles world-wide through a series of cultural activities. Issues of the Newsletter to appear during 2000 will cover the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and related events. In the meantime, the present issue gives news on recent activities of the Centre, in addition to outlines of cultural events and presentation of scholarly publications.

*Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu*

## THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION MINISTERS CONVENED IN TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers convened in Tehran on 1-2 December 1999, under the patronage of H. E. Seyed Mohamed Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference. Thirty-seven Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference participated in the session. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Kingdom of Thailand (as observers) and the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus also attended. The following OIC organs concerned were represented: IRCICA as a subsidiary of the OIC, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO) as specialised institutions. The previous, Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers was held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 28-30 November 1997 (see *Newsletter* no. 44, December 1997, pp. 18-19).

President Khatami delivered an address at the opening, underlining that the informatics revolution constitutes an important pillar of strength and international status in the context of the huge developments which take place in our time in various domains of life. President Khatami said that the imbalance related to the access of the different societies to communication networks and information systems has widened the gap between the developing and the industrialised countries and that this current has also involved the Muslim world. He stressed that the joint action in this field ought to take into consideration these new global essentials while activating the Islamic cultural heritage accumulated throughout history on bases of wisdom and planning.

President Khatami also touched upon the need to initiate an integrated dialogue with all civilisations and cultures to introduce to them the achievements of Islamic civilisation. He stressed dialogue among civilisations as a process full of the spirit of human compassion and understanding among the entire humanity, an idea which is internationally welcomed. Referring to the UN's decision to proclaim 2001 as the year of dialogue among civilisations and cultures, he drew the attention of the mass media of the Muslim world to the serious role which they must assume in making this dialogue successful. The president also stressed the need for Muslim countries to intensify their regional cooperation in the fields of culture and information and develop a group mentality which would facilitate their making use of the available capabilities of the media, communication systems and the computer.

H. E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC, stated that the OIC is looking forward to realising an information sector that would measure up to the level of the age and provide effective, well-organised and credible information. The Secretary General stressed the need to strengthen the OIC's institutions working in this field and pointed out that some member states have achieved tangible progress by training specialised manpower in this field; satellite channels in a limited number of member states have started to assume their place in cyberspace and to diversify their activities. Dr. Laraki maintained that joint action in this field reached a stage which requires that the Member States appraise the projects and programs they elaborated in order to lay the foundations for the future Islamic information they want.

The Ministers of Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Sierra Leone spoke on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African member states, respectively. H. E. Mr. Tahsin Ertugruloglu, representative of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus, also addressed the session and said that by effectively utilising and improving the information technology Muslim nations can improve upon the promotion of their countries and the issues confronting them in the international arena. Dr. Halit Eren, representative of IRCICA, delivered a statement in which he reviewed the main information activities of the Centre related to research, publishing, libraries, holding of symposia and conferences.

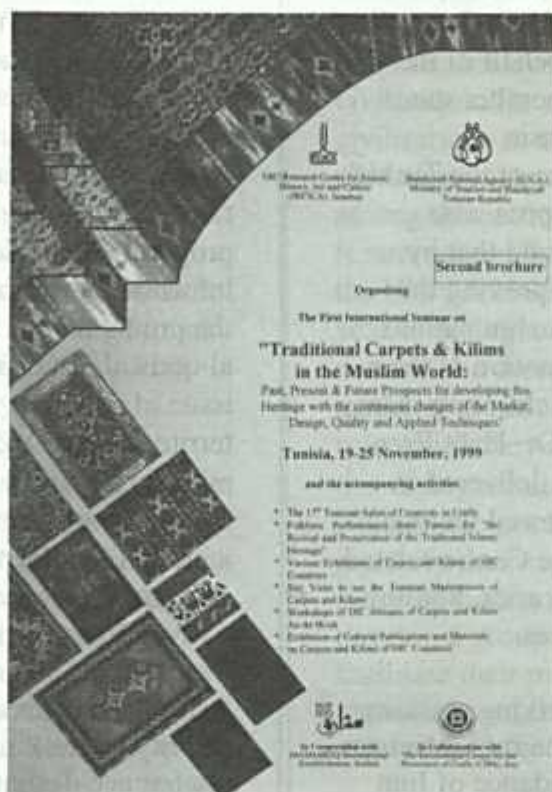
At the beginning of the working sessions, H. E. Seyed Attaullah Mohajrani, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran and Chairman of the fifth session delivered a speech, in which he pointed out that the weight of Muslim countries in the global communication does not yet match the significance of the Islamic culture and civilisation and stated that strengthening cooperation among news agencies, radio and television stations in the member countries and presentation of correct and objective news items will make it possible to close the gap and project to the world a more realistic image of the Muslim world.

The conference discussed and adopted resolutions on the following subjects: the implementation of the Islamic states information strategy, the Islamic information code of ethics, the information

plan and the problem of its funding, the Islamic information and cyberspace project, the expert committee on new technologies in radio and television, reducing the telecommunication tariffs applicable to the media and establishing an Islamic agreement in this field, the use of radio-electro-magnetic frequencies, the program for the development of information and communication (pidic), the production of a documentary film on al-Quds, the activities of isbo and iina, the issue of Palestine and the occupied territories, and the formation of a ministerial follow-up committee of the fifth session. With its resolution no. 3/5-icim on the information plan, the conference adopted the program which was derived from the information plan prepared by an expert committee and the related "list of activities and programs with priority status in implementation". The conference designated IRCICA as an implementation body to act together with the OIC general secretariat for realising subject item 6 on "symposia, research and publications" of that list. Referring to the report presented by IRCICA, the conference underlined the importance of the role of information and communication and stressed the need for providing the necessary materials to this sector "with the aim of enabling it to defend just Islamic causes and to highlight its true image as a faith of progress, tolerance, compassion and brotherhood."

The conference welcomed the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host its next session.

## Highlights of the First International Seminar on "Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World" Tunis, 19-25 November 1999



Within the framework of its "Crafts Development Program in the Muslim World", IRCICA co-organised, jointly with the Handicrafts National Agency (O.N.A.) of the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of the Republic of Tunisia, the First International Seminar on "Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World: past, present and future prospects for developing this heritage in the context of continuous changes in the market, design, quality and applied techniques", in cooperation with Mashareq International Establishment, Jeddah, and with the participation of the International Center for the Promotion of Crafts (CIPA), Fez. The seminar took place in Tunis on 19-25 November 1999.

The Seminar was placed under the patronage of H.E. President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, President of Tunisian Republic. Under the general theme, it addressed all aspects of the traditional carpets and kilims sector in different parts of the Muslim world, including the various schools, the designs, materials and techniques used, the current status of the sector and future prospects for its development, its importance as a cultural heritage, manpower, and preservation of its traditional authenticity.

The seminar underlined the following recommendations:

- To prepare a color catalogue of major masterpieces of traditional carpets and kilims documenting the styles and methods used in the countries of origin. Such a catalogue would be the first reference work in this field and would fill a gap in the library collections of the Islamic world.
- To assess the present state of the traditional carpets and kilims in the Muslim world and determine future frameworks for developing their economic, social and cultural aspects.
- To discuss possible measures to guard against the loss of Islamic values and traditions which characterise the crafts of traditional carpets and kilims and maintain their spiritual uniqueness.
- To develop a strategy for international cooperation in this field and the revival of the sector.
- To compile an academic document reflecting the papers presented for use by our specialised organs in the Member States need such a reference work book to serve as a guide for our experts and young craftsmen in their future research on those crafts.
- To prepare a documentary catalogue including photos of masterpieces of traditional carpets and kilims, and documenting the styles and methods used in the different countries. This guide would be the first reference work to fill the existing gap in this field in the Islamic world.

Papers were presented over a period of five days by researchers, carpet and kilim experts and specialists from the following countries: Azerbaijan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria, Malaysia, Tatarstan, Yemen, Turkey, Spain, France, Italy, Venezuela, United Kingdom, Germany, U.S.A., India, Mauritius, Netherlands, South Africa, and the host country Tunisia, in addition to experts and representatives of the following international organisations: UNESCO (Paris); International Trade Centre (Geneva); World Crafts Council; International Centre for the Promotion of Crafts (CIPA, Fez); the Secretariat of the World Crafts

Council, Kyoto; Heritage and Environment Trust, Cologne, Germany; Gereh International Carpet and Textile Review, Turin; *Hali* carpet magazine, London, along with various institutions, centres and organisations working in this field in the OIC Member States.

70 research papers were presented, covering the following issues:

- Traditional carpet and its development through history.
- The kilim in the Member States and its various schools (historical survey and development).
- Popularity of the traditional carpets and kilims in the world and their role in publicising some aspects of the Islamic cultural heritage.

#### Traditional Carpets and Heritage:

- Designs and styles in carpets and kilims - Revival and re-use of traditional patterns.
- Revival and development of the craft of restoring old pieces of carpets and kilims.
- Use of modern technology to obtain a wide variety of designs and colors.

#### Artisans' status and skill development:

- Profiles of the craft-worker and trade organisations.
- Education, training, technical cooperation and exchange of techniques to improve skills.

#### Raw Materials and Tools and their Effects on Product Quality:

- Materials used and their development through the ages: availability of raw materials and difficulty of acceding to them under certain circumstances.
- Traditional tools used in the carpets and kilims craft and their development.

#### Markets of Traditional Carpets and Kilims:

- Exploring new marketing opportunities, and assessing the size of commercial exchanges and of the labour force employed in this sector.
- Quality and market demands: Attending to clients' tastes while keeping traditional authenticity.
- Negative effects of modern technology due to competition of industrial mass production with hand-made products.

- Craft villages and experiences of Member States.

Distribution Channels:

- Organising the relationship between the producer (artisan and crafts institution) the intermediary and the trader in a fair manner and encouraging promotional institutions.

Product Development and Promotion:

- Economic and financial factors involved in the development of carpets and kilims in the Muslim world and role of the Government and sponsorship in this process.
- Availability and exchange of documentation on carpets and kilims in the Member States

At the opening of the seminar, Mr. Nazeih Maarouf, Head, Crafts Development, IRCICA, introduced the paper presenters and various delegates. He gave a background brief on the stages of designing, planning and implementing this event along with the other efforts made for associating the collaborating links with the other organising bodies, Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of Tunisia, O.N.A., Mashareq and CIPA. Mr. Karoui Chedly, President/Director General of O.N.A., introduced the key speakers at the

opening ceremony. He pointed out that O.N.A. is giving great attention to this seminar due to its future hopes for upgrading the existing systems of carpets and kilims in OIC Member States. He added that the participation of various experts and specialists from different places of the world proves that everybody is taking the raised topics very seriously.

In his inaugural address, H.E. Mr. Salah El-Din Mouaoui, the Minister of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of Tunisia, talked about the theme of the symposium as a part of the national priorities of the Tunisian Government. He stated that the traditional crafts sector, of which carpet-weaving represents a major constituent as one of the main pillars of Tunisian heritage, has been given continued care and special attention through periodic festivals and symposiums as well as through publicity in the world exhibitions and markets. He also pointed out that the richness of the Tunisian heritage and its abundance in the area of carpet-weaving constitute an immense civilisational capital which commands admiration. He concluded by extending sincere thanks to IRCICA for organizing this important event.



*IRCICA Director General presenting the plaque of the Centre to H. E. Mr. Salah El-Din Mouaoui, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of the Republic of Tunisia*

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director-General of IRCICA, commended the patronage of H.E. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic over this international event. He expressed his gratitude for the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts and for the Handicraft

National Agency for welcoming the offer of hosting this event in Tunisia. He praised with thanks the contribution of MASHAREQ International Establishment for joining hands with IRCICA to implement this project. He pointed out that IRCICA, gave emphasis to the development of crafts in Member States and undertook a comprehensive program to encourage their revival, preservation and development. He added that through this program which is enhanced in collaboration with the ministries and other authorities concerned in the Member States along with regional and international organisations,

IRCICA became a focal point and a meeting place for artisans, crafts institutions and specialists working in this field. Finally he pointed out that IRCICA is also cooperating with UNESCO, UNIDO, International Trade Center (ITC), and other concerned authorities and institutions for implementing certain projects and activities aiming to promote the crafts sector. He mentioned that within the context of UN-OIC Cooperation, IRCICA was assigned the role of being the focal point of OIC for a new UN/OIC priority area entitled: "Development of arts and crafts and promotion of heritage".



*IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu delivers the Centre's Welcoming Address at the Opening Ceremony*

Then, Eng. Ziad Al-Abid, representing Sheikh Abdul Aziz Kamel, the Chairman of Mashareq International Establishment, expressed his gratitude for having Mashareq as an associate to this Conference. He pointed out that Mashareq was founded to be a place for providing a training facility to artisans in various fields of Islamic traditional arts and crafts. He commended the efforts of the organizing bodies and said that Mashareq will continue supporting the activities of IRCICA in the field of Crafts Development. Mr. Indrasen Vencatachellum, representative of UNESCO, addressed the seminar by bringing the warm greetings of the new Director General, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, together with

his best wishes for the success of the seminar. He added that as the Director-General of UNESCO recently declared in taking the oath of office, "Cultural diversity but also cultural exchange are in fact twin and inseparable notions. In the light of today's globalisation, it is becoming increasingly important for peoples to protect their cultural identity and heritage, including intangible cultural treasures". He also assured the meeting that the results of the deliberations will be of great interest for UNESCO as it is on the eve of preparing a Plan of Action for Crafts Development in the coming years. Mrs. Maria Mercedes Sala, representative of the International Trade Centre (ITC), gave in her address

the warm greetings of the ITC Executive Director, Mr. Jean Denis Belisle, and expressed acknowledgments of the unsparing efforts deployed by all the collaborating agencies, and in particular, IRCICA, with which ITC entered into a formal agreement of cooperation for trade promotion and development of artisanal products.

Mr. Omar Amine Benabdallah, President of World Craft Council, gave on behalf of the Council, his gratitude for being given the opportunity to participate in this important event, which he among others were expecting after the conclusion of the Arabesque Seminar of Damascus held in 1997. He mentioned that all specialists working in this field, are expecting to see a craft topic every year to be put under focus by IRCICA in a planned seminar. Mr. Ahmad Ben Yehia, Director of the International Centre for the Promotion of Crafts (CIPA, Fez), expressed his pleasure for attending this seminar which will discuss a topic that deserve every concern from CIPA - Carpets and Kilims Development. He gave a brief introduction on the establishment of CIPA and the progress made since 1996.

During the period of the seminar, IRCICA Director General Prof. Ihsanoğlu and Mr. Nazeih Maarouf, Head of Crafts Development Program, were received by President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, who commended the efforts of IRCICA in this field.

The seminar were accompanied with the following major exhibitions:

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> Tunisian Salon of Creativity in Crafts:

Two hundred and fifty exhibitors and creators from different Tunisian districts participated in this exhibition. Nearly seventy five thousand visitors came to see the stands of this Salon. The various activities of the Salon aimed at developing all the traditional products of the districts. The Salon became a meeting place of creators, craftspeople and customers.

2. International Exhibition of Traditional Carpet and Kilim Masterpieces:

The activities of the seminar included an exhibition of masterpieces in traditional carpets and kilims which were displayed,

presenting the different types, designs and styles applied in various regions of OIC countries. Artisans displayed also workshops of their products showing tools and applied techniques.

3. Site Visits to the Workshops of Artisans of Traditional Carpets and Kilims:

Site visits to see master artisans of traditional carpets and kilims were also arranged visiting the Carpets Museum at KAIROUAN city and KAN Village for artisans in Bouficha.

4. Exhibition of Publications and Materials:

The activities of the seminar included also the display of publications, audio and video films, and relevant materials on carpets and kilims from the Member States.

5. Folkloric Performance from Tunisia:

During the seminar, two folklore performances were presented to the delegates showing various Tunisian Traditional Costumes and folklore.

At the Closing Ceremony, Mr. Nazeih Maarouf as the reporter of the seminar, presented the report and the recommendations of the seminar, and Mrs. Faika Uwaida, Director of Arab Establishment for Arts and Culture, Beirut, presented the Tunis Declaration. Afterwards, addresses were given by the following representatives of participating delegations and organisations:

Ms. Sabah Husain, Managing Director of SUNJAN institution, Lahore, Pakistan, on behalf of the Asian Group, Mr. Achmat Soni, researcher, artisan and founder of the South African Islamic Art Foundation, Cape Town, for the African Group, and Dr. Asad Arabi, artist, graphic designer and researcher, for the Arab Group; Architect John Vedel-Rieper, Secretary of the Danish Arts, Crafts and Design, Denmark, on behalf of international organisations; Prof. Dr. Selçuk Mülayim, art historian at the Marmara University, Istanbul, on behalf of the participants. Engineer Ziad al-Abed presented the address of Mashareq International Establishment, and Mr Indrasen Vencatathellum, Chief of the UNESCO Unit for Crafts and Design, Division of Creativity, Cultural Industries and Copyright, the address of UNESCO. Mrs. Maria Mercedes Sala, the

representative of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), evoked the exceptional variety of expertise shared, experience exchanged and knowledge gained by all participants. Finally, Mr. Chedly Karoui, President/Director General, Handicraft National Agency (O.N.A.), addressed the closing ceremony by saying that Tunisia shall always feel proud of this meeting which gathered eminent specialists and experts from various places of the world. He added that the seminar met all the aimed approaches as were planned and this can be noticed through the recommendations taken which plan for the future development of the sector. Mr. Karoui concluded that Tunisia shall be more than pleased to host the working sessions of the follow-up committee and the recommended training centre on carpets and kilims.

The Seminar took the following recommendations, among others:

*Traditional Carpets and Kilims as a Priority Area in the Development Policies of Member States:*

The participants emphasised in their deliberations the fact that carpet making is an important developmental sector. It represents a mechanism for improving national income, increasing the purchasing power of families, and creating job opportunities without resort to big capital outlays. In addition, the sector promotes tourism, increases foreign currency income and creates new market opportunities. The seminar also stressed the need for our societies and our governments to realise the importance of the sector in terms of economic, developmental, touristic and cultural returns, and the necessity of including it as a priority area in the development process especially as it yields steady returns.

The seminar indicated that, at a time when developing countries are striving, through persistent efforts, to motivate and rehabilitate their manpower in order to promote economic effectiveness and to improve the percentage of their working population which remains below 30 per cent in a number of countries, the carpet and kilim sector assumes, like some of the other crafts, a privileged role in motivating female labor. Indeed, women constitute a sizeable

percentage of the overall working population in any country especially in rural and remote areas where other job opportunities are non-existent.

*Obstacles*

The seminar touched on the subject of obstacles, which stand in the way to promoting the sector and enabling it to assume its role in the development process. It emphasised the need to address and study them from a realistic standpoint, in order to surmount the difficulties impeding development efforts in the sector.

The Seminar identified some of these obstacles which are attributed to: a decline in the demand for carpets in local and international markets; the formidable competition of machine-made carpets; and the changing patterns of traditional life which seek to adapt to modern city life and its simplicity even in the area of home furnishings. The seminar noted that these and many other factors have contributed to stagnation at the points reached since we started promoting the sector. These factors were addressed and their solution is proposed by the seminar through the criteria contained in the following recommendations.

*Total Lack of Awareness as to the Importance of the Sector:*

This lack of awareness is one of the major obstacles to the development of the sector.

*Design and Transfer of this Craft into Europe:*

From a historical standpoint, the seminar research papers established the fact that Islamic Carpets are one of the aspects of the influence exerted by Islamic Art on Europe as attested by their appearance in Italy and other European countries, during the Renaissance. The presence of Islamic carpets in paintings of that period shows the world-wide appreciation of these art objects. The impact of the Islamic Carpet in Europe was not confined to painting. It also involved attempts by European countries to imitate its designs and ornaments. The seminar seized this opportunity to invite the distinguished experts to reach a consensus on the date and place at discovery of the first carpet on the basis of available scientific and historical sources.

As regards current designs in this sector, the seminar noted a state of stagnation and lack of innovation and adaptability to the requirements of modern life, which hampers the sector's efforts to compete with other products on the international market. The seminar noted that the decline of the sector is also due to the present relationship between the customer and the producer, and the ongoing design modifications aimed at increasing the market share, with focus on changing the designs of traditional carpets and kilims of a particular type by borrowing new designs from carpets and kilims of other countries.

*Quality and Search for Opportunities to Provide Raw Materials Locally:*

The participants indicated that quality in hand-woven carpets and kilims is the main factor in marketing the product.

*The Raw Materials Used are the Most Important Single Factor that Impacts the Craft whether Positively or Negatively:*

The Seminar noted that there is a similar inertia in the search for opportunities to provide raw materials locally so as to free the sector from dependence on imports and related hard currency expenses which have to be borne by the craft-worker, the authority sponsoring the sector and ultimately the producer. The high production cost is necessarily reflected in the sale price. The Seminar urged that consumer and market needs should be met through product development by means of studies on the aesthetics of the product and focus on heritage as a source of inspiration, research and innovation. The participants stressed the need to develop the traditional product through application of the criteria of quality control, printing the trademark, and using good packaging in keeping with market competitiveness in order to win consumer satisfaction which is one of the priorities for corporations nowadays to penetrate new markets.

*Consumer Education:*

The seminar underscored another point, namely the need to create awareness of the importance of the sector, which requires the craft-worker and the authorities working in this field to educate the

consumer about the uniqueness of each and every carpet or kilim.

*Using Successful Experiences:*

On the other hand, the seminar noted the existence of a number of successful experiences, which raise some hope for the future. Indeed, some of the carpets and kilims produced today are the result of private and public initiatives aimed at reviving lost traditions. The seminar stressed the need to make the most of such experiences through exchange of expertise among Member States and craftsmen in this field. In this context, the seminar commended the experience of the Tunisian Handicrafts National Agency and the set of measures it has taken to monitor the carpet-weaving sector. These measures include significant changes in work organisation, production techniques, improvement of wool quality and processing methods, development of rudimentary looms, and introduction of technical parameters for production and systematic training. As a result, the Tunisia carpet has reached a very good level of quality due to the fact that cottage industry and other means of production are required, with the assistance of public authorities, to print the trademark which is affixed to the back of the carpet and bears the necessary indications of quality, fineness, measurements, model and date of manufacture. The seminar also commended the Turkish DOBEG project, which involved the export of 20,000 carpets of an average size of 2 square meters. The distinctive characteristics of these carpets are natural dyes and excellent weaving production quality. The exports were made to Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia. The restoration of natural dyes has proved its effectiveness in rehabilitating the market of hand-woven carpets. This is due to the existence of an increasing number of customers wishing to acquire natural products - such as carpets with natural dyes. They are prompted by the fact that such products are destined to live longer and might assume great artistic value in the future. This is reflected in the purchase. This is reflected in the purchase of DOBEG project carpets by several museums in the world. The first order of this kind was placed by the British Museum in 1989.

*Educational Programs:*

The seminar stressed the need for greater attention to be focused on the educational aspect. Accordingly, the craft-worker should be linked with an educational institution - or the trade workshop with an educational service - involving gradual stages to offer craftsmen an opportunity to acquire general knowledge about their trade as well as some basics of design, skill development, product quality improvement, marketing methods, and contacts with the consumers. All these questions contribute to enhancing the aptitudes and qualifications of the craft-workers, thus providing a favourable climate for innovation and creativity.

*Training Requirement Raising Qualifications Standards and Increasing Technical Exchanges:*

To compensate for the lack of qualified cadre in this field, the seminar urged the development of programs involving integrated training and scientific curricula in co-ordination with all concerned parties, and using all possible training methods. These are essential elements for the craft-workers to keep abreast of developments in their trade, and to adapt themselves to new technologies in the areas of raw materials, design, information, work tools, pricing, cost - accounting, tax matters, etc... so many contributory factors in the development and promotion of the specific products of the sector. The seminar called for the creation of centres for the exchange of expertise for the benefit of the craft-workers. It recommended that an International Centre of the Traditional Carpet and Kilim in the Muslim World be established in Tunis for the training of craft-workers from Member States in the various ways and means used in this field throughout the Islamic World. The centre should include a sort of clinic for the restoration of carpets and kilims by specialists in this field. Training courses should be organised by the centre for the craft-workers from Member States on the techniques applied in the sector.

*New Ideas:*

The seminar indicated that, for the sector to take a front seat in all fields of human living development it is necessary to propose a number of criteria and steps based essentially on new ideas involving competitive factors.

*Planning:*

The participants dealt at length with this item, indicating the qualities that the craft-workers

should have in order to deal with future challenges, including preparedness to learn and benefit from information opportunities in the area of new technologies.

*Innovation:*

The seminar considered this aspect as essential for continued development and adaptability to the changing ways of life factors, which, in turn, are crucial for promoting the loyalty of the consumer. They also spur the craft-workers into experimenting new designs, and making decisions on new working methods that would further motivate them to improve the quality of the product, the marketing process, or the preparation of promotional literature. In this context, the seminar called for the launching of private projects aimed at promoting the carpet sector and boosting creativity and production on the one hand, and training generations, on the other.

*Preservation of Authenticity and Heritage:*

The seminar stressed the fact that modernity in non-way conflicts with Islamic heritage, which constitutes a major parameter and a great source of inspiration and creativity. It also stressed the need to safeguard the authenticity and unique historical personality of each traditional carpet or kilim in the Islamic world, which have contributed to the excellent world renown they have won through the ages.

*Competition, Time Factor, and Discharge of the Commitments Made:*

The seminar stressed the importance of the time factor especially in a context of increasing competition in the form of new products and services that appear from time to time to meet the changing needs of man in modern times. As these times are characterised by speed, the craft-worker is compelled to interact with this reality through diligence in meeting obligations, and swift action in responding to market demand. The seminar indicated that new competitive products do not come from a vacuum, and new marketing ideas are not generated by sheer chance". It is therefore essential to plan for innovation by setting objectives in order to promote reflection within policies that motivate craft-workers to further innovate, including encouragement of research and study.

*Improving the Craftsman's Dialogue with the Consumer and the Market:*

The seminar called for the drawing up of a clear-cut plan to train the craft-workers in the area of interaction with the market and the consumer, especially the communication aspect which is the life blood of their trade. This is achieved by upgrading their dialogue with competent authorities, professional workers, marketing officers, buyers, banks, companies, etc... regarding subjects that require their interaction. These include the exchange of information on ideas, plans and designs, mechanisms and rules, the elaboration of contracts and agreements, and the participation in trade fairs, which are so many occasions that require a great ability to talk to, and persuade, people.

*Documentation and Studies:*

The seminar called for an inventory of old manuscripts and studies which dealt with the carpet in particular, and the traditional crafts in general and for documenting their contents with a view to greater historical accuracy.

The seminar urged the participants to use the computer system for documenting all aspects of carpet and kilim production, including types, techniques, and quantities, as well as acquisitions made by museums and showrooms in the Islamic world and rich collections of carpets and kilims acquired in the Islamic world and currently held by, or exhibited in, European and North American museums. The seminar called for the documentation of available information and data, in the form of bibliographies, slides and video films on the various art collections in and outside the Islamic world, and for encouraging the printing activity in this field. The seminar stressed the necessity of constantly stating - in the studies on the one hand, and the carpet industry on the other - that new designs are inseparable from those handed down through the ages, and that they all reflect a sense of belonging to the Islamic - Arab civilisation. They also urged attention to be paid to the aesthetic aspect of the carpet and to the study of the constituents of this aspect in a scientific manner.

*Information Unit:*

In line with the foregoing paragraph, the seminar stressed the need to make an inventory of all the old precious collections of traditional carpets and kilims from the Islamic world, which exist in museums and showrooms all over the world. It also called for the preparation of data on all publications in this field, as part of an information unit to be set up. The purpose would be to encourage scientific research and studies in this field, and to promote the frameworks of co-operation and exchange among concerned institutions and craftsmen with a view to establishing a library in Tunis specialising in the crafts of carpet and kilim making and including on its shelves all past and future publications on the subject to serve as reference material for researchers and craftsmen. The seminar urges competent authorities to compile atlases on carpets and its constituent materials, as these are useful for determining the location and development of carpets and their possible links with imported carpets.

*Guidebook to Craft Establishments:*

The seminar called for the publication of a guide containing the addresses of craftsmen's shops and types of products including work methods, and measurements to facilitate the identification of products by architects and designers for possible use of carpets and kilims in their projects and also for use by other concerned and interested parties. The seminar emphasised the importance of establishing professional unions of craft-workers to enable them to face up to monopolists.

*Guidebook to Raw Materials and Spinning and Weaving Items for the Purpose of Exchanges among Member States:*

The seminar also urged the publication of a guide of raw materials and spinning and weaving products for the purpose of exchanges among OIC Member States. This guide should include sale prices, and costs of shipping for import and export. The seminar further recommended the compilation of a unified dictionary of the technical terms used in the spinning and weaving crafts together with an explanation of current abbreviations.

*Use of Communication Technology:*

The integration of the technological methods of distance and information communications has become a must for all countries, which are today inter-linked geographically and within a simple global market. It is also essential for the carpet sector to benefit from the advantages resulting from the information revolution. The seminar therefore calls for the development of a CD-ROM and a Web site on the Internet to provide further information on the various aspects of manufacture and restoration of carpets. The seminar avails itself of this opportunity to commend the experience presented by young researchers in this field. It calls for further support and sponsorship to be given to such efforts which assume great importance in research and field surveys which, moreover, needs to be supervised by experts in this area.

*Financing:*

The participants noted that the availability of, and access to, financing are major problems, which trouble the sector in the absence of a clear policy, and should be considered as obstacles to the promotion and expansion of the sector's activities. As an illustration, it is obvious that, when import authorities impose conditions that exceed the potentialities and resources of the craft-workers, the development and training project runs the risk of losing a marketing opportunity in the absence of financial support. Naturally, this requires a motivational approach aimed at mobilising all efforts as well as available and potential resources including those of the private sector. Indeed, this sector should be spurred to play a key role in this field by sensitising it to the considerable returns to be derived. This motivation will, in turn, enable non-governmental agencies and professional projects as well as associations and financial institutions to play a vital role.

*Role of Governments and Sponsors, Greater Attention and Care:*

The seminar urged greater attention and care to be devoted to carpet craft-workers, indicating that these aspects are lacking in some cases, especially in respect of those unable to meet the basic needs of their work in the absence of a mechanism to enable their access to raw materials, to design facilities to keep abreast of new designs, to training and development opportunities, and to marketing methods that

would enable them to identify the necessary mechanisms for interaction with the market, and to find a niche within competing groups. The deliberations highlighted the hopes of all parties concerned with this craft that the competent authorities in the sector's leading countries would find effective solutions to the problem of decline and general recession troubling them. They look forward to the establishment of an institution to co-ordinate all efforts aimed at preventing this decline and reversing it into positive development.

The seminar presentations show that the international outlook at the end of this century reflect and increasing interest in the sector. This outlook is expected to be enhanced in view of the important role to be played by small-scale establishments and projects in supporting the economies of countries that strive to develop their national and international markets.

The seminar defined the key role to be played by the efforts of the sponsors and the governments, considering that government contributions in support of these aspects through provision of opportunities for training, skill development, financing, marketing, protection of patents, availability of raw materials, participation in exhibitions and seminars provision of communication channels for marketing etc. All these factors combined assume paramount importance and need to be clearly specified.

*Participation in International Trade Fairs:*

The participants urged the intensification of efforts to promote participation in international trade fairs considering the opportunities they offer for interaction with specialists in this field. The importance of such fairs lies in the fact that they provide an opportunity for the producers to assess the size of the competition and thus determine market trends and the course to be followed in their future plans. In addition, the circulation of data and information by the supervision authorities will enable craftsmen to follow the sector's activities and fairs thereby motivating them to participate in, and establish contacts with, such areas. The seminar has therefore called for a reduction in travel costs, and promotional rates for craftsmen, to participate in such fairs, as well as for exemptions from customs duties.

In this regard, the seminar called for the organisation of a touring international exhibition to travel international exhibition to travel to major regions in the world in order to exhibit selected masterpieces of carpets and kilims from the Islamic world. This would directly publicise the unique features of excellence of those products. The seminar urged the utilisation of the Internet through a Web site to exhibit some of the master pieces so as to ensure global publicity for the sector.

#### *Exploring New Market Opportunities:*

One of the major topics that the seminar demand to be a pressing issue, which requires a realistic research effort, is marketing. The seminar notes certain stagnation and lack of innovation in this area especially as regards the exploration of new market opportunities. Continuing stagnation was also noted in the methods followed in the area of publicity followed in the area of publicity and advertising in which modern technology has attained high levels of sophistication. Through these means as well as through a number of products and multinational corporations, the advertised products can reach every home.

The seminar presentations indicated that the traditional carpet and kilim craft often accounts for the major part of traditional craft exports. It is therefore natural that any negative impact on world carpet trade will give cause for concern to much carpet exporting countries, especially the fluctuations in global market demand.

Through intensive deliberations on this topic, a number of obstacles to the development of marketing methods were identified. They include the non-existence of specific studies and researches as well as the absence of a general and comprehensive study into the development of customer's preferences, supply and demand at international level, pricing structures and distribution channels at global level.

The participants noted the non-existence of co-operation among countries producing and exporting traditional carpets especially OIC Member States - as well as the non-existence of information exchanges among them. This is found to compound the problem of competition with various foreign brokers.

The seminar urged the establishment of actual co-ordination of efforts, exchange of expertise among Member States, and the development of a strategy for future international co-operation in this field, through joint qualitative and quantitative and quantitative studies aimed at identifying the development of supply and demand and the changes in consumer preferences on the world market.

The seminar indicated that the opening of new marketing prospects are dependent upon new ideas off the beaten track, ideas that perform a new service to meet a specific need since success in the final analysis, is for the new product.

#### *Tourist Market and Creation of Crafts Villages:*

The seminar considered that the linking of the tourist sector with the craft sector constitutes an effective means to revitalise the sector. It stressed the importance of creating crafts villages that could be linked with the tourist sector thereby encouraging the inclusion of a new item on the schedule of trips for tourist groups, namely a visit to the craft villages. This would, in turn, lead to interaction between the craftsman and the tourist. Such contacts would offer the latter an opportunity to acquire an authentic carpet or kilim hand-made by the craftsman. At the same times they would make the craftsman feel constantly that his products are in demand. In other words, this would amount to permanent publicity and continued marketing of his products, which would dispel the feeling of stagnation and motivation the craftsman to continuously innovate in order to meet the demand of the market and of the buyers visiting him. Moreover, such a step would make the tourists feel that a new program is offered to them during their visit which would please them and dispel the feeling of boredom they may have as a result of the usual routine visits to museums and markets.

#### *Publicity:*

In addition to the foregoing issues, the seminar noted that publicity is an essential factor in the marketing process. In this effort, the craft establishment publicises its products to keep abreast of market response in respect of specific products. This requires the use of various advertising methods including new technological ones such as the Internet, etc.

*Improving the Craft Image and Developing Sales:*

The seminar addressed the increasing difficulty facing the sector represented by the persistent decline in prices, due to deteriorating quality and falling exports. This leads to marring the good reputation of the hand-woven carpet. The participants noted that, in view of the decreasing development of the market in this field, it is imperative to look into this adverse situation and to study its causes. This requires a survey all effects and an identification of effective ways to introduce the required improvements. The seminar revealed the concern of all participating delegations and operators in this sector's trade over the danger of falling prices and continuing deterioration of the reputation of the hand-woven carpet.

*Legal Protection:*

In its consideration of the future perspectives of the sector, the seminar noted that the new century's global trade environment might bring new opportunities as it may also bring new stakes and challenges as a result of globalisation and fierce competition on foreign markets. This states of affairs requires an effort to surmount the existing obstacles inherent in the deterioration of quality, the old marketing techniques, the unrealistic expectations, and the non-existence of co-operation among carpet producing countries.

The seminar emphasised that future prospects for the development of the sector will improve through renowned dependence on natural dyeing processes, the development of new designs, and direct marketing to domestic architects and designers. In spite of an expected increase in the demand for machine-made carpets, future

craftsmen are required not to engage in competition with that market, but should develop the opportunities for competition in the area of hand-made carpets and kilims.

*Paying Tribute to International Organisations and Participants:*

The seminar is pleased to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for the active participation, keen interest and valuable contributions of all experts and representatives of international organisations who enhanced by their presence the proceedings of the seminar, in particular, the representatives of UNESCO, Paris, ITC, Geneva, and the World Crafts Council. They also greatly appreciate the participation of the International Handicrafts Development Centre (CIPA), Fez, Morocco, the W.C.C. Secretariat, Kyoto, Japan, the Heritage and Environment Agency (Cologne, Germany), the Gereh international review specialising in the affairs of carpets and kilims (Turin, Italy) as well as the *Hali* international review, London. The seminar highly commends the presence and participation of the speakers and other participants. They mentioned especially the agencies, institutions and centres involved in this sector within the framework of the OIC, namely, the representatives of the following Member States: Azerbaijan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Malaysia, Tatarstan, Yemen, Turkey, as well as the delegates from Spain, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, the United States of America, Venezuela, India, Mauritius, South Africa and the host country, Tunisia.

## THE TUNIS DECLARATION

On the occasion of the First International Seminar on Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World held in Tunis on 19-25 November 1999, the experts, researchers, guests, exhibitors and journalists attending this event express their deep appreciation to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his high patronage of the seminar and for his gracious acceptance to receive a delegation representing the participants. They express their deep gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure Activities and Traditional Handicrafts in the Republic of Tunisia for the generous hospitality extended to them. They appreciate the efforts made by the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul, and the Handicrafts National Agency in Tunisia in preparing this event which brought together a distinguished elite of experts. They commend the high professional standard of the Tunisian Creations Exhibition, which has coincided with the seminar. The countries attending the seminar also participated in the Exhibition whose opening was graced by the presence of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The seminar participants.

Having reviewed the orientations resulting from the final report which dealt with future perspectives of the heritage relating to carpets, textile furnishings and tapestries, the variables affecting this craft in terms of design, manufacturing techniques and marketing, and the dangers threatening it in the absence of supervisory structures to preserve its creative authenticity while at the same time adapting to new tastes and market trends ;

Having taken cognizance of Tunisia's pioneering experience in the area of innovation and creation as advocated by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the participants commend the Tunisian plan and recommend its adoption as an example to be followed.

Believing in the importance of governmental and non-governmental institutions in providing the necessary cadres and financing for the preservation and development of this heritage;

- 1- Call on Member States, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and international institutions to take the necessary measures and decisions for the support of this activity and all its aspects.
- 2- To draw up action - oriented plans for the promotion of the craft of weaving carpets, tapestries and all necessary types of furnishing upholstery and decorative materials.
- 3- To draw up action - oriented plans for the advancement of weaving craftsmen and the upgrading of their educational and social level.
- 4- To draw up action - oriented plans for curbing the phenomenon of child labour in this field and providing incomes commensurate with work.
- 5- To draw up an urgent and highly developed plan for assisting craftsmen with the marketing of their products and involving them in the marketing and promotion process ;
- 6- To invite all the media to publicise the heritage represented by the traditional carpets and kilims and to highlight the role of the craftsmen in preserving and perpetuating it
- 7- To urge support for the efforts of contemporary vocational training and academic instruction through adoption of new technologies and modern teaching and communication methods ;
- 8- To spur innovation and creativity through establishment of local, regional and world prizes for creative craftsmen and active institutions in this field.
- 9- To call for the establishment, in Tunis, of a centre of the traditional carpet, for studies, research, documentation and training, to be concerned, among others, with the exchange of expertise in the area of training and publication of documents and studies in the Islamic world.



*Nazeih Maarouf (in the middle), reporter of the seminar, presenting the report.  
On the right is Mr. Karoui Chedly, Director General of the Handicraft National Agency (O.N.A.), Tunis,  
and on the left, Mr. Indrasen Vencatuchellum, UNESCO representative*

## THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT H. E. MR. AMR MOUSSA VISITED IRCICA 17 NOVEMBER 1999

The Centre was most honoured to receive H. E. Mr. Amr Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, at its headquarters on 17 November 1999. Director General Prof. Ihsanoğlu guided the Minister and his entourage – composed of H. E. Mr. Mohammed Mahdi Fathallah, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs; H. E. Mr. Fathi Shadhli, Ambassador of Egypt in Ankara, and H. E. Mr. Mohammed Nureddine Nusrat, Consul General of Egypt in Istanbul - to the departments where they were briefed on the Centre's activities and presented with samples of the publications. H. E. Mr. Amr Moussa wrote his impressions on the Visitors' Book, as follows (original in Arabic):



*The distinguished guests received information on the Centre's photograph collections*



*H. E. Mr. Amr Moussa signed the Visitors' Book*

"It has been a great pleasure to visit this Centre which revives the heritage and compiles the history of Islamic culture by means of books, photographs, manuscripts and documents. I was also delighted that the Centre and its documents took me back to the centuries of the glory of Islam, of Muslims' contributions and their individual and collective intellectual products. Thank you, and may God guide the Centre, as well as its functionaries, as all are rendering a valuable service to Islam and Muslims."  
*Amr Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Arab Republic of Egypt, 17 November 1999*

## THE VISIT OF H. E. DR. ABDULBAKI HERMASI, MINISTER OF CULTURE OF TUNISIA 5 JANUARY 2000

IRCICA also had the honour to receive H. E. Dr. Abdulbaki Hermasi, Minister of Culture of Tunisia, on 5 January 2000. The Minister, accompanied by a delegation including Tunisia's ambassador to Ankara Mr. Hatem ben Salem and well-known painters Mr. Hedi Turki and Ms. N. ben Romdhand, received information on the Centre's activities. Following are the Minister's impressions on the centre recorded on the Visitors' Book:



*The Minister and his delegation were briefed on activities related to Bosnia and Herzegovina*



*H. E. Dr. Abdulbaki Hermasi wrote his impressions*

"I would like to salute and to express all my appreciation to this institution and to Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu for the work accomplished in favor of Moslem history and to the benefit of humanity. As Minister of Culture of the Tunisian Republic I bring all my support and my esteem." *Dr. Abdelbaki Hermasi, Minister of Culture of Tunisia, 5 January 2000*

## INSTITUTIONS

*This section introduces two institutions which render service to researchers in Islamic studies: the Manuscripts and Islamic Libraries Department of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, State of Kuwait, and, the Centre of Islamic Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The information below was extracted from their introductory publications.*

### THE MANUSCRIPTS AND ISLAMIC LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

The Manuscripts and Islamic Libraries Department affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf (foundations) and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait is the central unit of a series of valuable archive collections comprising more than 1400 original historical manuscripts. The Department has the following objectives:

1. To devise plans and implement programs with the aim of collecting rare manuscripts on subjects related to *fiqh* (jurisprudence) and other religious sciences.
2. To determine regulations and take measures to protect, preserve and restore these manuscripts.
3. To produce copies of the manuscripts.
4. To establish relations with institutions in the country and abroad which have collections of manuscripts and encourage the exchange of microfilm copies of manuscripts.

5. To take all necessary measures to highlight and make known their importance and provide for their optimum utilisation.
6. To set up a system which would encourage the inflow of donations of original manuscripts or their microfilm copies.

The department renders various services to interested institutions and researchers, including the provision of microfilm copies, supply of information on the manuscripts available at the department and the sources related to these manuscripts, such as journals, studies, etc., restoration of damaged/worn out manuscripts by means of modern methods and techniques, and offering computerised facilities for the reading of microfilms and search for documents.

The various libraries attached to the manuscripts and Islamic libraries department include the following:

\* the Rawza Public Library: this library was first established in 1960 to serve exclusively the research needs of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, but it developed very fast to acquire the character of a public library in 1966. A great number of users benefit from the various services offered by this library, as well as from the lectures and other cultural activities it organises. The library is named after the district where it is located.

\* the Public Library of the Grand Mosque: this library was inaugurated in 1996 to meet the cultural and educational needs of the people. It offers all kinds of library services.

\* the Library of the Fiqhiya Encyclopaedia: with a collection specialised in religious sciences in general and jurisprudence in particular, this library meets the needs of researchers working in the Fiqhiya Encyclopaedia institution.

\* a number of libraries annexed to mosques.

In addition to the above, four new public libraries are being built under the supervision of the department, as well as new headquarters to house the Department's collection of manuscripts.



*The Mosque of Sheikh Abdallah al-Mubarak al-Sabah and its library*

## THE CENTRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES, SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, U.K.

The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London is the largest European research centre for Asia and Africa. The Centre of Islamic Studies was established to function as a research and teaching institution within the framework of SOAS.

The teaching program of the Centre of Islamic Studies is based on the masters degree in Islamic studies. The recently-introduced MA in Islamic Studies is open to graduates with a BA in Arabic and Islamic studies or related subjects. This innovative course focuses on the main sources of Islam, namely the Quran and the Hadith. By combining traditional and modern methods of study and research, acquainting the students with the language, style and content of these sources of religious knowledge, and encouraging a deeper understanding of their semantic and linguistic contexts, the courses aim to prepare scholars and researchers to study a wide range of subjects in the broader field of Islamic studies. Students also take courses in Islamic texts and Islamic ethics among others. A unique feature of the ma is the translation project, enabling students to develop practical translation skills, while addressing the need to edit and render into English the massive, and often yet unpublished, corpus of Islamic literature

in Arabic. In addition to the core courses taught within the Centre, a wide range of courses on literature, law, history, art, music, and area studies are available. The program is directed by an expert and long-established team of staff headed by Professor Muhammad Abdel Haleem.

A one-year foundation course is provided in the English language, as well as part-time courses for students who require training in academic English. Language courses also take place in the Summer before the academic year begins. An MA course at the University of London provides an excellent research training, and it is a useful qualification for those who wish to progress to the higher postgraduate degrees of M. Phil. and PhD. Students benefit from a variety of facilities, including the world-famous library at SOAS, prayer facilities for Muslim students in the Brunei gallery, an exciting schedule of seminars and cultural activities, as well as access to the academic resources of the University of London and the British Library.

SOAS is situated in the centre of London, close to the British Museum, the British Library and other cultural and academic resources. Approximately 45% of the students at SOAS are from over one hundred different countries around the world outside Europe.

The Centre has an active research program aiming to create a supportive research environment: doctorate and masters students who are enrolled in the teaching program benefit from the competence and experience of the Centre's staff. Theses recently completed or in their final stages cover such subjects as the following: rhetoric in Quranic exegesis, contemporary Islamic thought, religious orthodoxy, the formation of the Arabic linguistic tradition, and studies on Islamic manuscripts.

The Centre has a series of weekly seminars dealing with various subjects in Islamic studies, the Muslim world and its relations with the west, past and present. Titles of the seminars organised so far included the following: western perceptions of Islam in the 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Islam in the British media, Adam and Eve in the Quran and the Bible, Islam in Russia and Central Asia, the origins of Sufism, gender equality or difference, among others. Recently, three special seminars concentrated on aspects of research methodology and collaborative research projects, focusing on the *Encyclopedia of Islam, Index Islamicus* and information sources for Islamic studies.

The Centre organises conferences and symposia. Among them was a symposium on criminal judicial procedures in Islamic law which was held in October 1997. Scholars, researchers and practicing advocates presented papers, and discussions

centered on many previously ignored aspects of Islamic law. By means of these activities, the Centre aims to encourage research into and discussion of subjects that have up to now been relegated to the margins of orientalist research.

Last year, the Centre of Islamic Studies launched a journal titled the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*. The journal is aimed at: filling the gaps of scholarly periodical publications dedicated to Quranic studies, encouraging the growth of studies in this field as a focus of research in its own right, and support a growth "outwards" of the discipline in addition to its coverage within Arabic and Islamic studies by existing journals.

For information about the Centre's teaching program and other activities, please contact: Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdel Haleem, Centre of Islamic Studies (SOAS), University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC 1H 0XG; tel: 0171-323 6297, fax: 0171-436 9391, e-mail: ha4@soas.ac.uk

## CULTURAL DATA ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

*This section presents summary information reflecting some aspects of cultural life in the OIC member countries. Sets of information drawn from the Centre's data files of statistical indicators and directories of cultural institutions are published here as brief country surveys. The purpose is to disseminate part of the data that is being collected in the framework of the Centre's projects leading to the InterNational Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions and Studies on the Cultural Dimensions of Development in the OIC Member States. The statistical institutions of the countries concerned are invited to assist the Centre in updating the information published here. Below are summary statistics on the Republic of Lebanon and a list of cultural institutions.*

### LEBANON

#### Summary information\*

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Area                              | 10,452 sq. Km.   |
| Population                        | 3,200,000  |
| Av. annual pop. Growth            | 2%   |
| Share of urban population         | 88 %   |
| Population density                | 306 inhabitants per sq. km.  |
| Share of Muslim population        | 73 %   |
| Capital city                      | Beirut   |
| Major cities                      | Tripoli, Jouneh, Saïda   |
| Language                          | Arabic, English and French widely spoken   |
| Adult literacy rate               | Male: 92 %<br>Average: 91 %  |
| School enrolment ratios (1996)    | First level: gross, average: 100%;<br>Second level: gross, average 81%                     |
| Number of periodical publications | Newspapers: 39<br>Other periodicals: over fifty periodicals<br>of different frequencies    |
| Libraries                         | National Library, Beirut; 11 University<br>libraries; 11 libraries of various institutions |

#### Cultural institutions

##### ACADEMIES

Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts  
P.O. Box 55251, Sin-el-Fil, Beirut  
Lebanon

##### LEARNED SOCIETIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Arab Cultural Club  
Abdullatiz st., Yared bld.  
P.O. Box 11-8446, Beirut  
Lebanon

Arab Institute for Research  
Carlton Tower bldg., Saqiat el-Janzeer  
3rd floor, P.O.Box 11-5460, Beirut  
Lebanon

Association Libanaise des  
Sciences Juridiques  
Université st. Joseph, B.P. 293, Beirut  
Lebanon

Centre for Arab Unity Studies  
Safat tower bldg., 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
Lyon st., P.O.Box 113-6001, Beirut  
Lebanon

Centre Culturel de Saïda  
Av. Riad Solh, immeuble Hillon  
B.P. 82, Saïda  
Lebanon

Centre Culturel de Zahlé  
Rue du Brésil, Zahlé  
Lebanon

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches  
Sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain  
Rue de Damas, B.P. 2691, Beirut  
Lebanon

Centre for Strategic Studies Research &  
Documentation  
Bi'r Hasan, Shari al-Safarat  
Binaye Tabet  
P.O. Box 5668/113  
Beirut  
Lebanon

Institut Culturel Français de Beyrouth  
Rue de Damas  
B.P. 1931, Beirut  
Lebanon

Institut Allemand des  
Recherches Orientales  
P.O. Box 14-5862, Beirut  
Lebanon

Institut Culturel de Tripoli  
Rue Jemmeizat, Immeuble Meskaoui  
Tripoli  
Lebanon

**Institut Français d'Archéologie  
du Proche Orient**  
Rue de Damas, P.O. Box 1114, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Institut des Sciences Sociales**  
Al-Qobah, Tripoli  
Lebanon

**Institute for Palestine Studies**  
Naouli-Verdun st., P.O.Box 11-7164  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Islamic Centre for Education**  
P.O.Box 14-5355, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Islamic Cultural Centre**  
Sadaar st., Al-Hamra, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Islamic Institution for Culture  
and Higher Education**  
Jezine rd., Saida  
Lebanon

**Lebanese Library Association**  
C/o National Library, Place de  
L'Etoile, B.P. 945, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Maison du Futur**  
Centre de Documentation et de Recherches  
B.P. 70285, Naccache,  
Beirut (Autélias)  
Lebanon

(al-Maqassid Philanthropic Islamic  
Association) **Higher Institute of  
Islamic Studies**  
Othman ibn Affan st., P.O.Box 136250  
Beirut -Lebanon

**Orient-Institut der Deutschen  
Morgenländischen Gesellschaft**  
Rue Hussein Beyhum, Zokak al-Bilat  
P.O.Box 2988, Beirut -Lebanon

**Society for the Protection of the Historical  
Monuments in Tripoli**  
P.O. Box 782  
Tripoli  
Lebanon

**UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the  
Arab States**  
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## LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

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Place de l'Etoile B.P. 945, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Centre des Archives Nationales**  
Rue Hamra imm. Picadilly, 6ème étage  
B.P. 2343, Beirut  
Lebanon

**American University, Library**  
P.O. Box 236, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Beirut Arab University, Library**  
P.O.Box 115020, tarik el-jadid, Beirut - Lebanon

**Bibliothèque de l'Ecole  
Supérieure des Lettres**  
Rue de Damas, P.O. Box 1931, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Bibliothèque Orientale**  
Rue de l'Université st. Joseph  
P.O.Box 293, Beirut - Lebanon

**College for Women, Library**  
P.O.Box 4080, Beirut - Lebanon

**Documentation Center  
Forbibliographic Information  
on Islam and the Muslim World**  
Imam ouzai College  
of Islamic Studies,  
P.O.Box 14-5355, Beirut - Lebanon

**Jafet Library**  
American University of Beirut  
Bliss st., Ras Beirut - Lebanon

**St. Joseph University, Library**  
B.P. 175-208 Gémayzé  
Beirut - Lebanon

**Université Libanaise, Bibliothèque**  
Unesco bldg., Place du Musée, Beirut  
Lebanon

## MUSEUMS

**Musée National**  
Rue de Damas, Beirut - Lebanon

**Archaeology Museum,**  
American University of Beirut  
Bliss st., P.O.Box 0236/9, Beirut - Lebanon

**Daheshite Museum and Library**  
P.O.Box 202, Beirut - Lebanon

**Musée des Beaux Arts**  
P.O.Box 3939, Beirut - Lebanon

**Musée Khalil Gibran**  
Besharre - Lebanon

## UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**American University of Beirut**  
Division of Education and  
Extension Programs  
P.O.Box 236, Beirut - Lebanon

**American University of Beirut**  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
P.O.Box 236, Beirut - Lebanon

**Beirut arab University,**  
Faculty of arts  
P.O.Box 5020, Tarik el-Jadid, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Beirut University**  
Faculty of Arts  
P.O.Box 115020, Beirut - Lebanon

**Beirut University College (BUC)**  
Quraytem st., Ras Beirut  
P.O.Box 13-5053, Beirut - Lebanon

**Ecole Supérieure des Lettres  
de Beyrouth, College des lettres**  
B.P. 1931, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Imam Ouzai College  
of Islamic Studies**  
P.O.Box 14-5355, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Lebanese University**  
Faculty of Education  
Place du Musée, UNESCO bldg,  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Lebanese University**  
Faculty of Literature  
And Humanities  
Place du Musée, UNESCO bldg,  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Lebanese University**  
Institute of Fine Arts  
Place du Musée, UNESCO bldg,  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Lebanese University**  
Institute of Social Sciences  
Place du Musée, UNESCO bldg,  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Middle East Collège of Kouane**  
B.P. 1111/70  
Beirut  
Lebanon

**Near East School of Theology**  
P.O.Box 13-5780 Chouran, Beirut  
Lebanon

**Saint Joseph University**  
Centre d'Etudes pour le  
Monde Arabe Moderne  
B.P. 175-208, Gémayzé - Beirut  
Lebanon

**Saint Joseph University**  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
B.P. 175-208, Gémayzé - Beirut  
Lebanon

**Saint Joseph University**  
Faculty of Theology  
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**Saint Joseph University**  
Higher Institute of  
Religious Studies  
B.P. 175-208, Gémayzé - Beirut  
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**Saint Joseph University**  
Institut des Lettres Orientales  
Dept. des Lettres Arabes  
B.P. 175-208, Gémayzé - Beirut  
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**Saint Joseph University**  
Institute of Islamic/christian  
Studies  
B.P. 175-208, Gémayzé - Beirut  
Lebanon

## IRCICA ACTIVITIES

### Public lectures

IRCICA organises scheduled lectures on Saturdays twice a month, from September to May inclusive, and occasionally at other times. These lectures are given by guest speakers from Turkey and abroad, on various subjects within the Centre's fields of activities. They are planned on semester basis and announced ahead of time in newspapers, to universities and other interested institutions. All of them are recorded on cassettes and kept at the Centre's library and documentation unit for reference. Hundreds of lectures have been stored until now. A first selection of lectures dealing with various aspects of relations between different cultures and civilisations was published in 1999 under the title *The West and Islam. Towards a Dialogue*.

Following is a list of lectures which were given at IRCICA by specialists of the respective fields, from September to December 1999.

- Dr. Tuba Çavdar Karatepe from Istanbul University spoke of "The Yıldız Palace Library" at a lecture on 18 September 1999. In Ottoman times, Çit Qasr, which now houses IRCICA's library and conference hall, used to be the reception hall for foreign ambassadors and visitors. The library was established by Sultan Abdulhamid II in the 1870s (the sources give different dates), and transferred to the *Darulfünun* (which became the University of Istanbul) after Abdulhamid's death.
- Prof. Dr. Atilla Bir, a scholar of engineering and history of engineering, gave a lecture entitled "The Ottomans' use of the Sundial" on 2 October 1999. The sundial, a crucial instrument in use since ancient civilisations, has a special importance in history of science studies. The measurement of time started with the Sumerians in Mesopotamia, and it was related with the sun in ancient Egypt. The lecturer referred to the various methods used throughout history to measure time: water clocks, hourglasses, pendulums, etc., the oldest being the sundial. He described the latter's mechanism, which is based on observations of the length of shadows, its various forms and shapes, and its utilisation in Ottoman Istanbul.
- A group of scholars and specialists – Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Hatemi, Prof. Dr. Ali Alparşlan, Mr. Muammer Ülker and Mr. Hasan Ali Göksoy - came together on 16 October to commemorate the late Abdülbaki Gölpınarlı, a distinguished researcher and author on the history of Sufism and its illustrious figures such as Mawlana Jalal al-Din al-Rumi and Yunus Emre. Research in this field made remarkable progress thanks to Gölpınarlı's valuable contributions. The first reliable records of Yunus Emre's poems were published through his efforts. Furthermore, it is Gölpınarlı who reproduced Mawlana's works in a compendium rendering them in modern Turkish.
- A meeting was held at IRCICA on 13 November to commemorate Yahya Kemal Beyatlı, one of the most famous 20<sup>th</sup> century poets and authors in Turkey. His poems opened a new era in modern Turkish poetry. He also authored valuable prose. The speakers at the meeting were poets, authors and/or specialists in Turkish literature: Mr. Yavuz Bülent Bakiler (Chairman), Prof. Dr. Birol Emil, Mr. Bekir Sıtkı Erdoğan and Mr. Beşir Ayyazoğlu, while a group of poets - Mehmet Zeki Akdağ, Fahri Kaya, İlhami Emin, Sabit Yusuf and Raif Kirkul – read their poems which follow the same literary school. Yahya Kemal Beyatlı was originally from Skopia. The meeting was organised jointly by the Cultural and Solidarity Association of Rumelian Turks and IRCICA.

- Photographer Mr. Kazım Zaim's lecture and slide presentation entitled "Post-war Kosovo" on 27 November drew a large audience and received media attention. Born in Prizren, Kosovo, in 1948, Zaim immigrated in Turkey with his family at the age of ten. His focus is on man, the environment and the threatened cultural heritage. One of his published albums is entitled "Bosnia and Herzegovina". That day, he presented the pictures he took of the crimes and destruction committed in Kosovo.
- Prof. h.c. Uğur Derman, IRCICA's advisor for calligraphy, gave a lecture on 6 November to commemorate two masters of calligraphy: Yeserizade on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and Muhsinzade Abdullah on the centennial of his death. The lecturer gave detailed information on the lives and works of the two artists with an emphasis on their role and place in the development of calligraphy.
- A meeting was held on 20 November to commemorate the late Prof. Dr. Bekir Kütükoğlu, an accomplished scholar in history known especially for his studies on the Turkish sources related to ottoman history, in particular the *vekayinames* (chronicles). The speakers, Professors Abdulkadir Özcan, Feridun Emecen, Mehmet İpşirli and Mübahat Kütükoğlu, all of them historians, highlighted Prof. Kütükoğlu's contributions to studies in history in general, through his research, publications, teaching and supervising of a number of post-graduate theses, and on the said chronicles in particular.
- A learned audience attended Prof. Dr. Hüsrev Hatemi's lecture dealing with "Turkish civilisation as a sub-group of Mediterranean civilisation" on 4 December. The lecturer said that today's Western civilisation, other civilisations neighbouring it and their sub-groups and components are all rooted in a Mediterranean civilisation which flourished from at least the year 3000 BC and that therefore, any one of these civilisations would be neither right nor wrong in claiming to be totally distinct from others in its own right. None of these civilisations or their sub-groups belongs exclusively to any particular nation, any ethnic, religious, racial or other community. This precludes the plausibility of attempts made by authors from different backgrounds to associate particular civilisations with particular nations, communities or groups. Each civilisation displays a diversity in itself because it shelters a multitude of beliefs, views, life styles, etc. which are all in a state of flux. The lecturer then traced the history of the Turks and said that they became part of Mediterranean civilisation when they embraced Islam, one of the religions of the Mediterranean civilisation, before they conquered Anatolia. He described the contributions made by the various religions and cultures to the development of Mediterranean civilisation and each one's understanding and description of the origins and affiliations of the others as reflected in their respective fundamental sources.

## Exhibitions

**“The traditional art of the woodwork”**

Mehmet Şükrü Baysal’s exhibition of woodworks was opened at IRCICA on 15 October, for a period of two weeks. His framed wood carvings and calligraphy applied on wood were in the traditional style. Speaking at the opening, the artist said that this art had an important place in the history of all Muslim nations. In Asia, it lived its golden age through the 9<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the hands of Seljuk and Ottoman artists who carved imported wood along with the local harvest to produce functional objects and interior decorations. Baysal displayed his works at many personal and joint exhibitions since 1990.

**“Silver meets calligraphy” exhibition by Erhan Şimşek**

Mr. Erhan Şimşek exhibited a remarkable collection of 100 framed silver panels and plates and 150 pieces of silver jewelry selected from among his works, from 19 November to 4 December 1999. Though skilled in almost all branches of traditional Islamic arts, including the marbled paper and wood carving, Mr. Şimşek gives priority to silver work, where he applies his own technique using simple tools such as chisels, scissors, files, etc. to reproduce calligraphy on silver and sculpt jewelry. His works were exhibited on many occasions in the past. He aims to teach his technique to young artists and hopes to enlist institutional support for that purpose.



## BOOK SURVEY

Selections from IRCICA library's acquisitions

\* Из Сбирките на Османските Библиотеки в България XVIII-XIX Век / From the Collections of Ottoman Libraries in Bulgaria during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Catalogue of the Exhibition of Manuscripts and Old Printed Books, Sofia, May 1998, Compilers: Stoyanka Kenderova & Zorka Ivanova, St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Centre for Manuscripts and Archives, Oriental Department, Sofia, 1999, 144 p. (in Russian and English)

This catalogue is highly important for researchers interested in the political, cultural and economic history of Bulgaria, the Balkans, Anatolia and the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It refers to an exhibition of the national library in Sofia, Bulgaria, which was prepared on the occasion of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library and opened during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of MELCOM International, the European Association of Middle East Librarians (U.K.) on 25-27 May 1998. The National Library has one of the richest collections in the world of documents in Ottoman Turkish and Arabic, comprising around 3800 volumes of manuscripts and 2000 volumes of old printed books. Most of these

documents belonged to the libraries of *waqfs* (foundations) which were set up by the Ottoman elite in the country during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries to function as public libraries.

The catalogue contains a total of 65 plates which are reproductions from four old printed books and 55 manuscripts. Eight of them are Persian literature, 24 are works in Ottoman Turkish, and the remaining, works in Arabic. The reproductions are classified according to the libraries they came from and accompanied with information on the subject and characteristics of each one. One of the merits of the catalogue is that it also gives ample information on each library and its collections. These are the *waqf* libraries of the following towns: Shumen, Vidin, Samokov, Kyustendil, and some mosque libraries which existed in other towns. Their past existence can be traced from the sources. In the Introduction, editors Stoyanka Kenderova and Zorka Ivanova express their concern that despite the National Library's increasing preventive measures, this valuable historical collection, in particular the manuscripts, are threatened by destruction. A national program is already under way for the preservation of library collections in Bulgaria, but more assistance is needed to help preserve this part of the world's written heritage. This collection is already known by

the scholarly circles concerned, as it was first exhibited in 1995 and presented in a catalogue titled *The Holy Qu'ran Through the Centuries. A catalogue of the exhibition of manuscripts and printed editions preserved in St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Sofia* sponsored by Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (London).

The present catalogue, and the exhibition, were sponsored by the International Center for Minority Studies and International Relations, Sofia, Open Society Foundation, and the Cultural Representation of Iran in Sofia. Completed with indexes of titles, authors, commentators and translators, copyists, founders of *waqfs* and geographical names, this catalogue is a useful reference for all the researchers concerned.

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\* **Civil Society, Democracy and the Muslim World.** Papers Read at a Conference Held at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, 28-30 October 1996, edited by Elisabeth Özdalga and Sune Persson, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul Transactions series, Istanbul, 1997, 143 p.

This book results from an inspiring scholarly debate on the "civil society", with regard to the process of its emergence, its tendencies and conditions

conducive to individual liberties and democratic organisations, and the relationship between democratisation and a civil society based on individual liberties. Though it originated in the West, the concept of civil society gained currency in the Middle East in recent decades, in response to an expressed need for an intermediary level of society to act as an agent between the state and the individual towards securing individual freedoms and liberties. The conference, organised by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Göteborg, Sweden, and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (28-30 October 1996), took up the subject from both theoretical and practical points of view, under three main aspects: the first two papers, "Explaining Democratisation: Notes on the Concept of Civil Society" by Björn Beckman and "Civil Society and Islam" by Ilkay Sunar, present perspectives on the concept itself, while the following papers deal with civil society, democracy and Islam: "Is Islam Secularizable?" by Sadik J. al-Azm, "The Cultural Underpinning of Civil Society in Islamic Civilisation: Islam and Democracy – Bridges Between the Civilisations" by Bassam Tibi, "From Taliban to Erbakan: the Case of Islam, Civil Society and Democracy" by Saad Eddin Ibrahim, and "Prospects for Civil Society in the Middle East: an Analysis of Cultural Impediments" by Mahmood Sarioghalam. The remaining papers were of

regional focus: "Beyond Civil Society: Democratic Experiences and their Relevance to the 'Middle East'" by Gören Therborn, "National Identity and State Legitimacy: Contradictions of Turkey's Democratic Experience" by Levent Köker, "Civil Society and its Enemies: Reflections on a Debate in the Light of Recent Developments within the Islamic Student Movement in Turkey" by Elisabeth Özdalga, "Civil Society and Democratic Consolidation in Turkey" by Ergun Özbudun, "The European Union as a Democracy-Promoter" by Asa Lundgren, "Labour, Civil Society and Democratisation in North Africa" by Inga Brandell, and "Civil Society and Divisive Politicisation: Experiences from Popular Efforts at Democratisation in Indonesia" by Olle Törnquist. In the context of the conference, the "Middle East" referred to a broader region including parts of north Africa and Asia. This interdisciplinary debate involves sociologists, political scientists, specialists in law, public administration and others from a variety of countries.

The editors indicate in their Preface that the Istanbul conference was organised in accordance with the intentions of three earlier conferences. One of them was the Barcelona Conference held in November 1995, where the fifteen Member States of the European Union, eleven Mediterranean countries and the Palestinian Authority adopted the Barcelona Declaration aimed

at: creating long-term stability based on a dialogue that would emphasise human rights, providing economic and commercial incentives to create a free-trade zone to cover Europe and the Mediterranean countries by the year 2000, and establishing relations among peoples of the region to foster the values of civil society. It was decided to follow-up the declaration through meetings of scholars and specialists. Another one was the Euro-Islam Conference convened by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Stockholm, in June 1995, and a third one, the Euro-Islam Conference convened in Mafraq, Jordan, in June 1996.

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\* **Annals of Japan Association for Middle East Studies (AJAMES)**, no. 13, 1998, published by the Japan Association for Middle East Studies, Tokyo, 1998, 444 pp.

This journal is a valuable forum of exchange for researchers in Middle East studies, in particular for the Association's international membership. It includes papers, review articles and short communications in any language, accompanied by a summary in English or Japanese, and all introductory articles are in one of the latter. The journal has a wide interdisciplinary coverage. This volume contains the following articles: "Women and Land Tenure in the Sokoto Sultanate of Nigeria" by I. M. Jumare; "Rashid Rida's Thought on Islamic Reform – the Formative

Years (1898-1905)" by Seiichi Kobayashi; "Arab-Japan Relations: Cultural Dimensions in Comparative Perspective" by Yasumasa Kuroda; "Weapons Primacy: Understanding War and Peace in the Middle East" by J. C. De Boer; "Turkey's Changing Role in the New International System" by D. Ü. Arıboğan; "The Municipalities in the Occupied West Bank: an Analysis of Israeli Military Orders from the Perspective of International Law" by Masaaki Watanabe; "Son Devir Osmanlı İlimiye Teşkilatında Reform, 1826-1914" (Reform in the late Ottoman learned class organisation) by Jun Akiba; "The Zaydi Imam and the Tribes in Medieval Yemen" by Yasuyuki Kuriyama; "İkinci Dünya Savaşı Öncesindeki Türkiye'nin Dış Politikası: Abartılmış İtalyan Tehdidine Ait" (Turkey's foreign policy before the second world war: about the exaggerated Italian threat) by Takahisa Miyaoka; "The Usage of Arabic Personal Names with Special Reference to Children's Books" by Haruko Sakaedani; "The Consciousness of Vulgar Egyptian Arabic at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: the Eve of Language Nationalism in Egypt (1880-1900) by Saleh Adel Amin; "Jubran Khalil Jubran's Revolution of Arabic Poetry and His Criticism of Traditionalism" by Shintaro Mori; "Kabsa' and 'Mushahara': Folk Beliefs about Fertility among Egyptian Women" by Mio Furukawa; "A Study of the Nomadic Social Groups in Turkey: Examples from Winter and Summer Camps" by Eiko Suzuki; "At

'The Meeting of the Two Seas': an Introduction to Leo Schaya and His Writings" by Robert G. Margolis; "The Fertility of <external observations> or the Discourse of Armchair-Florists" by Miyoko Kuroda.

Japan Association for Middle East Studies (JAMES) became operational in 1985 with the objective of fostering Middle East studies within a framework of area studies, facilitating and encouraging communication and cooperation among the Association's members as well as among institutions and bodies concerned with Middle East studies inside and outside Japan. JAMES holds an annual general meeting and conference consisting of research presentations and panel discussions. It also organises lectures and discussion meetings. Membership is open to interested persons of all occupations and nationalities. All correspondence can be addressed to JAMES, c/o Prof. Kawatoko Mutsuo, The Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan, 3-10-31, Ohsawa, Mitaka, Tokyo, 181-0015 Japan; fax: 0422-31-9453.

**\* Annales de l'Université Islamique au Niger**, no. 4, 1419/1998, published by the Islamic University in Niger, Niamey, 1998 (English, Arabic, French)

The journal of the Islamic University in Niger aims to make known research papers and articles produced in various fields of scholarly research

including religion, civilisation, history, geography, culture, customs and habits, particularly in relation with the African continent. Specific themes of interest to the journal include aspects of social and economic life, the development of education and culture, the spread and teaching of Islamic culture and history in Arabic and in all languages of the African continent. Following are the contents of the 1998 issue: the first chapter on "Some scholars of the Islamic civilisation in West Africa and in the region south to the Sahara" has the following articles, among others: "Some aspects of the Moroccan influence on the reform movement of Sheikh Othman Dan Fodio" by Prof. Abdelali el-Oudghiri, "Abdalah Dan Fodio and his scientific life" by Dr. Mohammed Kabir Younes, "The contribution of Minister Juneyd bin Mohammed al-Boukhari in the dissemination of the Arab-Islamic culture" by Dr. Atiq el-Hadj Belarbi, "The movement initiated by el-Hadj Omar Fouti on basis of the two books 'Atyab ul-Khabar' and 'Aktar ar-Rghahibin fi'l Jihad' by Sheikh Moussa Kamara" by Dr. Khadim Mohammed Said M'backe. The second chapter devoted to "The Arab language and the Islamic civilisation in Africa" contains articles entitled "The contributions of trading caravans to the dissemination of the Arab language and the Islamic civilisation in the Sahel region of Africa" by Dr. Abderrahmane Omar el-Mahi and "The influence of Islam in the dissemination of the Arab

language in Africa" by Prof. Badri Mohammed Fahd. The third chapter is a report on the cultural activities of the university, covering reports, speeches, etc. which were prepared by the university staff on different occasions, and the fourth, an extensive report on the academic reports, papers, etc. produced by the faculty. All articles comprised in the fourth issue are in Arabic, but usually, the journal is trilingual - English, Arabic and French. Historians, economists, linguists, sociologists and other social scientists who are interested in the history, culture and languages of Africa, in particular West Africa, are invited to contribute papers to this journal.

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\* Juan b. Vilar, **Mapas, Planos y Fortificaciones Hispánicas de Libia / Hispanic Maps, Plans and Fortifications of Libya (1510-1911)**, the Arab and Islamic World Series: Cartography, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, Ministry of External Relations, Madrid, 1997, 479 p. (in Spanish and English)

This book is a catalogue and study of 734 Hispanic maps (557 items) and plans (177 items) of Libya which constitute important documents of interest to researchers in various branches of social sciences, particularly history and geography. It is latest in the series of volumes prepared by Juan b. Vilar (from the University of Murcia) and published by the Spanish

Agency for International Cooperation. The first volume, written by the author jointly with Mikel de Epalza and published in 1988, was about the Hispanic plans and maps of Algeria, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was followed by the volumes on the Hispanic maps, plans and fortresses of Tunisia (1991) and Morocco (1992). The present volume on Libya completes the historical cartographic review of the Maghreb. The author explains in the elaborate and instructive introduction that the book covers almost all existing European maps of Libya dating from before 1912, the year in which the Italian occupation started, following the withdrawal of the Ottomans. The material for the book was gathered from libraries and archive institutions in Spain and all over Europe, as well as the U.S.A.

The contents of this work go far beyond the standards of a compilation of reproductions and technical data, because it gives rich documentary and bibliographical information about the maps and plans, and sometimes a transcription of published or unpublished texts, which make of this work an extremely rich source of information.

The introduction has the following sections: justification of the work, geographical framework, Libya in modern Spanish cartography, structure of the book and methodology, information on the listed maps. The material is grouped into fifteen series based on

chronological and subject-wise criteria.

The main group titles consist of: general maps of Libya for the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; sector maps; subject-based maps (travelers' maps, routes of caravans between Libyan ports and the African heartland, explorations made from Libyan centres to major neighbouring regions, and other subject-based maps); plans of Tripoli (16<sup>th</sup> century, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and 1800-1911); plans of Bengazi, Derna, Cyrene, Bomba and Tobruk, and miscellaneous plans); and, addenda to the maps. The appendix of 546 maps contains mainly 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century portolans and navigational charts related to the extensive territory of Barqah. As a single item sometimes refers to a whole collection or an atlas, the actual number of maps and charts covered is in fact much higher.

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\* Esin Atıl, **Levni ve Surname. Bir Osmanlı Şenliğinin Öyküsü** (Levni and Surname. The tale of an Ottoman festival), published by Koçbank, Istanbul, 1999, 247 p. (in Turkish, also published in English)

This artistic and scholarly work by the art historian Dr. Esin Atıl was published under the sponsorship of Koçbank. It is an analysis and reproduction of parts of the 18<sup>th</sup> century manuscript titled *Surname*, or with its full title, *Surname-i Vehbi*, written by Sümbülzade

Vehbi and illustrated by Levni, the most important Ottoman miniature painter. His miniatures in this work are considered as his masterpiece.

The book is a full historical record of the festival which took place on the occasion of the circumcision of four sons of Sultan Ahmed III. This event lasted for fifteen days and nights. The miniatures of the work reflect the extraordinary cultural revival observed during the reign of Ahmed III which was known as the Tulip Period (1703-1730). In the first part of her work Dr. Atıl depicts the historical and cultural life of the age when the Ottoman artist Levni painted these miniatures.

She also analyses the miniatures in terms of their style. Then, Atıl deals with topics such as the artistic production of the Tulip Period (architecture, literature, the tradition of painting), Levni and his works, the tradition of *sur* (festival) and *surname* (book of festivals), the festival of 1720, the settings, activities and participants of this event as described in the miniatures. The second part contains facsimile editions of the miniatures in the *Surname*. Produced in a de luxe edition, this book is both a beautiful art work and a useful reference for researchers focusing on the period.

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\* Stefan Reichmuth,  
**Islamische Bildung und Soziale Integration in Ilorin (Nigeria) Seit ca. 1800**  
(Muslim education and social integration in Ilorin (Nigeria) since ca. 1800), Contribution to Research on Africa, 13, Münster: Lit, 1998, vi+430 pp., 5 maps (in German)

Produced originally as Dr. Reichmuth's thesis at Bayreuth University (Germany) within the framework of a research project on "Islam in Modern Nigeria", this valuable book examines the establishment and expansion of Islamic education in Nigeria and the process of social integration with special reference to the city of Ilorin. Located in Yoruba in the north of the country, Ilorin played an important role in the social history of Nigeria since the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century as the capital city of a highly populated Muslim emirate and at the same time a multi-ethnic city. It contributed to the spread of Islam and in shaping the political and cultural structures of the region of tensions which lays between northern and southern Nigeria. In this respect, Ilorin constitutes a representative case mirroring the various social factors, processes and inter-regional relationships which influenced the history of Nigeria since pre-colonial times.

Following the first chapter which looks into the history of Ilorin as an area of regional tensions, the second chapter examines education, ethics and

city culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and examines the schools, the literature, and the scholars. The third chapter alludes to the priority of ethical conduct over knowledge and new forms of Arabic-Islamic identity formation, while the fourth focuses on the role of reform and publicity and the expansion of Arabic education and Islamic solidarity during the period from 1960-1990. The appendix contains lists of the main Islamic schools and scholars in Ilorin, information about these schools (type, dates of establishment, number of classes, etc.), lists of Arabic manuscripts found in the libraries and private collections of scholars in and around Ilorin, a rich bibliography, and indexes of names and subjects in two parts: in European languages, Yoruba and Hausa, and in Arabic. The author also included maps of the region indicating the places of the schools. Dr. Reichmuth is a faculty member at Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany.

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\* **Tazkira-e-Khattateen**  
(Record of calligraphers), by Muhammad Rashid Shaikh, published by Idara-e-ilm-o-fun, Karachi, 1999, 254 p. (in Urdu)

This is a biographical and bibliographical work on eminent calligraphers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and their works. A number of books were published on the subject of Islamic calligraphy during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but still, there was a lack of a book on the life, achievements, and masterpieces

of great contemporary calligraphers. Muhammad Rashid, a civil engineer by profession, undertook this task and spent more than ten years to complete his *Tazkira-e-Khattateen*.

The book covers twenty calligraphers of the Muslim world, from Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon and India. It contains more than 250 reproductions of calligraphies by these masters, some of them published here for the first time. A list and explanations of technical terms used in calligraphy are also included, in addition to a comprehensive bibliography of published and unpublished materials on the subject of Islamic calligraphy, covering materials in five languages: Urdu, Arabic, Turkish, Persian and English. Following are the master calligraphers included: Sami Efendi (Turkey), Ahmed Kamil Efendi (Turkey), Mirza Muhammad Hussain Saifi (Iran), Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Rifai (Turkey), Ismail Hakki Efendi (Turkey), Hamid Al-Amidi (Turkey), Muhammad Yousuf Dehlvi (Pakistan), Sayed Ibrahim (Egypt), Abdul Majeed Perveen Raqam (Pakistan), Kamil Al-Baba (Lebanon), Hashem Muhammad Baghdadi (Iraq), Muhammad Abdul Qadir Abdullah (Egypt), Abdul Majeed Dehlvi (Pakistan), Hafiz Muhammad Yousuf Sadidi (Pakistan), Muhammad Khaleeq Tonki (India), Syed Nafees-ul-Hussaini (Pakistan), Hasan Çelebi (Turkey), Gholam Hussain Amir Khani (Iran), Shafeeq-uz-Zaman Khan

(Pakistan), Davut Bektaş (Turkey). The book is distributed by Fazlee Book Super Market, Mama Parsi Building, Urdu Bazar, Karachi-74200; Tel.: 92-21-2629720-5; Fax: 92-21-2633887; e-mail: fazlee@cyber.net.pk.

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\* Hani A. Z. Yamani, **To Be A Saudi**, Janus Publishing Company, London, 1997, reprinted in 1998, 157 p.

This book represents an innovative attempt to depict Saudi Arabia, its people, its history and its outlook for the future. It looks into the present and future prospects of Saudi Arabia within the global political, economic and cultural context by taking into consideration its unique position in the Muslim world due to the presence of Mecca and Medina, the two holiest sites of Islam, and its crucial importance for the world economy as a major oil producer. It gives an objective, dynamic and precise image of the country based on the historical parameters which shaped its present and will affect its future, and points to the economic and social policies that can be adopted to enable it realise its full potential as a prospective contributor to world peace and stability. The identity of the author is particularly noteworthy: Mr. Hani Yamani is a remarkably educated leading Saudi business tycoon and son of Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the renowned ex-Minister of Petroleum of Saudi Arabia,

founder and Chairman of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (London). This unusual feature of the book adds to the attractiveness of its clear style and reader-friendly format, whereby such themes as state and society, human resources, oil policy, agriculture, industry, finance, foreign policy expectations and targets are grouped under four parts entitled "Why we are", "What we are", "What can we be" and "How can we be".

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\* **Women in Islam and the Middle East. A Reader**, edited by Ruth Roded, I. B. Tauris Publishers, London and New York, 1999, xiii+271 p.

This is a collection of readings excerpted from a wide range of sources in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, English and other languages dating from the beginning of Islam up to our time and reflecting the position and the role of women in Islam and Middle Eastern society in religious, cultural, legal and other contexts. The editor, a senior lecturer on the history of Islam and the Middle East at the Institute of African and Asian studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, translated the texts into English and added introductions explaining the background of each source. The selected texts depict some aspects of women's lives and also reflect the great variety of attitudes displayed on the subject of women in Islam at different times and places. Describing



Awards of the  
First International Islamic  
Calligraphy Competition



## INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICPICH)



### ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

#### Publication of calligraphy exercise books

The Commission is publishing a series of exercise books for calligraphy, selected from among the well-known books prepared by famous masters. By this, the Commission aims to make them available to trainees who wish to upgrade their skills in the various styles of writing. The idea was developed on basis of a recommendation of the Jury of the first calligraphy competition which was organised by ICPICH in 1986. Accordingly, the Commission Secretariat selected four exercise books in four well-known styles (thuluth and naskh, riq'a and diwani, jaly diwani, and ta'liq) and started preparations to publish them. The first one, the thuluth and naskh exercise book by Mehmed Şevki Efendi (1829-1887), has been published at the end of 1999. It will be followed by exercise books related to other styles of calligraphy.

### HERITAGE PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

#### The National Centre for Calligraphic Arts of Tunisia launched its second training program

The National Centre for Calligraphic Arts in Tunis launched its second training program on calligraphy on 1 December 1999. The program, to continue until the end of June 2000, has forty participants from various backgrounds, including medical doctors and school teachers in addition to students of the Higher Institute of Fine Arts. The first program was organised from April to June 1999, with forty-six trainees. This year, the courses are organised in evening sessions of four hours each held three days per week. The following styles of calligraphy are taught: Qufi, Naskh, Diwani and Thuluth. Certificates are delivered to the participants who successfully complete the program. Mr. Adel Haznaji, Director of the Centre, declared that they

organised, in January 1999, an exhibition of calligraphy to commemorate the late Muhammad Saleh Al-Khammasi, dean of the art of calligraphy in Tunisia. Among participating artists, there were: Monji Ammar, Nja Mahdaoui, Muhammad Hashimi Mahjoub, Omar Jumni, and Jilani Gharbi. Other activities of the Centre include the following: weekly workshops where new works of calligraphy and graphic arts are presented, monthly meetings, and lectures given by scholars and specialists from Tunisia and abroad. Among recent lecturers at the Centre, there were Prof. Muhammad Hussein Fantar and artist Nja Mahdaoui (Tunisia), Mehmet Özçay (Turkey), Prof. Dr. Afif Bahnassi (Syria), Muhammed Sharifi (Algeria), and Yusuf Zunnun (Iraq). The Centre plans to organise a large-scale event on calligraphy next April, where many Tunisian calligraphers will display their works which were not exhibited previously. The Higher Institute of Fine Arts attached to the Ministry of Higher Education cooperates with this Centre for a program whereby complementary university certificates will be delivered in the field of calligraphy to students of the Higher Institute. The Centre also plans to prepare a directory of Tunisian calligraphers.

The National Centre for Calligraphic Arts is located in Zawiya Sidi Shiha at Halfaouine, Tunis. It was inaugurated in February 1999 by Dr. Abdalbaki Hermasi, Minister of Culture of Tunisia, in the presence of Mr. Juma al-Majid, founder and Chairman of Juma al-Majid Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Centre was set up within the framework of the National Institute of Heritage affiliated to the Ministry of Culture. A historical building dating from 1852, known as the building of Sidi Shiha, in the district of Halfaouine, in the old part of Tunis, was restored and allocated as its premises on the instructions of H.E. Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia. Its objectives include the following: preserving the artistic styles and forms used in Arabic calligraphy; fostering and expanding the practice of these styles by cooperating with similar institutes in the Arab and Islamic world; training specialists of calligraphy; organising meetings and training programs; and, providing opportunities for such continuous activities of promotion as exhibitions.

## Awards of the First International Islamic Artisans-At-Work Festival

*LOK VIRSA-IRCICA Craft Awards, Islamabad, 1994*

*Edited by: Nazeih Maarouf, Prefaced by: Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu*

Price: US\$ 20,- post included

This album contains explanations, with photographs, on all the award-winning entries in the First International Islamic Artisans-At-Work Festival which was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 7-15 October 1994. The entries belong to craftspeople from Egypt, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Malaysia, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Morocco, Tataristan, China, Azerbaijan and Tunisia, along with those from Pakistan. It includes a set of colour photographs of the winning entries and the winners, in addition to a description of each product, its weight, the primary materials used, expressions and the message it conveys.

The album represents a selection of craft masterpieces chosen from among the craft innovations of 2000 craftspeople in the following categories: pottery and ceramics, coloured glasswork, miniature painting, carpets and kilims, textile weaving, embroidery, woodwork, leatherwork, metalwork and jewelry, and architectural crafts. Evaluations in each category were made according to the following four criteria: excellence, creative concept, design, and invention in traditional technique.

The selected craft products are considered to be the most innovative craft works made by contemporary craftspeople who exerted every effort to reach excellence in their works.



## NEW PUBLICATION BY IRCICA

Halil Sahillioğlu, **Studies on Ottoman Economic and Social History**, published by IRCICA, Istanbul, 1999, iv+221 pp. (in English)  
Price: US\$ 30,- post included

By Hidayet Y. Nuhoglu

Seven papers authored by the distinguished scholar Prof. Dr. Halil Sahillioğlu and related to various topics in Ottoman economic and social history have been published by IRCICA in a single volume. During the many years he was teaching as a professor of economic history, Sahillioğlu conducted extensive research in various areas of Ottoman history, particularly on monetary history. He won a well-deserved esteem in scholarly circles, particularly for his researches in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul.

As Prof. Sahillioğlu explains in the Preface, the majority of the articles included in the volume are papers presented at scholarly meetings. Most of them focus on periodically recurring phenomena closely related to the structure of the Ottoman economy and history of society, such as problems of money and circulation, techniques of coining money, the accumulation and composition of treasury revenues and expenditures, as well as economic and social aspects of the institution of slavery. The studies cover the whole or part of the period from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, inclusive; only one is related to more recent history and deals with the creation of a provincial centre at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. All papers are in English. The French translation of the first paper is also included.

The articles, previously published in various books and journals, were revised by the author for this publication. The first article entitled: "Sivîş Year Crisis in the Ottoman Empire" examines the different calendars used by the Ottoman State and the ensuing budgetary and financial problems. It explains in detail the *haraç* year (the period of collection of the *haraç* tax), the *sivîş* (uncounted) year and associated problems, and other technical particularities of these calendars. On basis of the historical study of these problems, the author establishes causal relationships between financial and social problems. The second article entitled "The Role of International Monetary and Metal Movement in Ottoman Empire" looks into the circulation of money in the Eastern Mediterranean from the establishment of the Ottoman State until mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. It explains the non-economic factors, such as road insecurity, which caused the Ottomans' isolation from world trade and transition from a bimetalist economy based on gold and silver currencies to a monometalist economy based on silver *akçes*, and later, their return to the bimetalist system after re-establishment of order during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II. The article goes on to examine the consequences of the abundance of various foreign currencies, the monetary crisis and high inflation faced during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the decrease and subsequent re-increase of Ottoman minting activity, and the trimetalist stage where gold, silver and copper coins were in circulation. The third article on "The Income and Expenditures of the Ottoman Treasury Between 1683 and 1740" studies, with the help of graphics, the processes of income accumulation and depletion in the Ottoman treasury. The author introduces the various treasury registers and explains the differences between figures of income and expenditure that are found in daily registers and the total in annual budgets. The fourth article on "The Introduction of Machinery in the Ottoman Mint" is a specialised study on the improvement of minting techniques following the indigenous invention, by Cerrah Mustafa (a convert from Venice) of new instruments. The fifth article entitled "Slaves in the Social and Economic Life in the Late 15<sup>th</sup> and Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century" looks into a subject which had not been studied on basis of facts and figures. This paper is based on a survey of thousands of court decisions and many volumes of inheritance documents. It analyses the purchase and sale of slaves, ways of emancipation, participation of the freed slaves in economic life, and the cash *waqfs* which performed as banks. This study is an important contribution, especially taking into consideration that the subject of cash *waqfs*, as well as matters related to the ownership of slaves, are practically unknown. The sixth article on "A Project for the Creation of Amman Vilayet" recounts the establishment of Amman as a provincial centre and Grand Vizier Kamil Pasha's expectations associated with it. The seventh article entitled "Ottoman Book Legacies" is particularly relevant for historians of science, culture and literature. Finally, the article entitled "Années Sivîş et Crises Monétaires dans l'Empire Ottoman" is the French version of the first article.

If each of these articles is a serious contribution to the literature in this field, their reproduction in one, handy volume is another. It is hoped that this effort to bring together individual articles of scholars such as Prof. Sahillioğlu, who spent years on research in the archives, will continue in future to lead to other such valuable publications.

## IRCICA PUBLICATION

### **HISTORY OF THE OTTOMAN STATE AND CIVILISATION, ARABIC EDITION: VOLUMES I AND II**

**History of the Ottoman State and Civilisation**, 2 volumes, prepared by a group of historians, edited and preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, translated into Arabic by Salih Sadawî Salih, Istanbul, 1999, Vol. I: xxviii+868 p., Vol. 2: xxxvi+849 p., photographs, maps, diagrams and tables  
Price: US\$ 40.- per volume, postage included



An Arabic edition of IRCICA's History of Ottoman State and Civilisation is now available: its first volume was published in April 1999, and its second volume, in December 1999. The original Turkish edition of the first volume had appeared in 1994, and that of the second volume, in 1998. This book, a joint publication by eminent scholars of the field, is a comprehensive study of various aspects of the six hundred-year old history of the Ottoman state and civilisation from the formation of the Ottoman principality until the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. It came out under a large-scale research project of IRCICA titled "History of Muslim Nations". It aims to give an objective account of the history of the Ottoman state and civilisation on the basis of the Ottoman archival sources, chronicles, and works published by contemporary scholars world-wide. The authors tried to depict the analytical connections between historical facts and developments instead of presenting them with a purely descriptive approach.

The first volume, on State and Society, comprises the following parts and chapters: Part I: Ottoman Political History: I. "From the Establishment until the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca" by Feridun Emecen, II. "From the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca until the Disintegration of the State" by Kemal Beydilli; Part II: Ottoman State Administration by Mehmet İpşirli: I. Palace administration, II. Central administration, III. Provincial administration, IV. The İlmîye career path; Part III: The Administrative System during and after the Tanzimat by İber Ortaylı; Part IV: Ottoman Military Organisation by Abdülkadir Özcan; Part V: Ottoman Legal System by M. Âkif Aydın; Part VI: Ottoman Society by Bahaeddin Yediyıldız; Part VII: Ottoman Economic Structure by Mübahat S. Kütükoğlu: I. Ottoman Financial System, II. Precious Metals, Monetary and Price Policy, III. Trade and Commerce, IV. Transport, Communication and the Postal Services, V. Industry.

The second volume, on Civilisation and Culture, is in four parts. Part I: Language and Literature: I. "Ottoman Turkish" by Nuri Yüce, II. "Turkish Literature in Anatolia" by Günay Kut, III. "Turkish Literature during the period of Westernisation" by Orhan Okay, IV. "Literature of the Muslim Peoples in Europe during the Ottoman Period" by Nimetullah Hafız, V. "Intellectual life in Arab provinces during the Ottoman period" by Leila Sabbagh; Part II: Religion and Thought: I. "Religion" by Ahmet Yaşar Ocak, II. "Intellectual Life" by Ahmet Yaşar Ocak, III. "A Study on Intellectual Life during the Period of Westernisation" by Orhan Okay; Part III: Education and Science by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu: I. "Ottoman Educational and Scientific Institutions", II. "Ottoman Scientific Literature"; Part IV: Art and Architecture: I. "Ottoman Art and Architecture" by Esin Atıl, II. "The art of calligraphy among the Ottomans" by M. Uğur Derman, III. "The art of illumination among the Ottomans" by Çiçek Derman, IV. "Ottoman Music" by Cınuçen Tanrıkorur.

The work includes photographs, a glossary, a chronology, a bibliography and a detailed index. It is expected to serve as a source of reference both for historians and for interested readers.

## NEW PUBLICATION

### A scholarly book on the history of ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN THE MALAY WORLD

**Islamic Civilization in the Malay World**, Edited by Mohd. Taib Osman; Prefaces by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General, IRCICA and Haji A. Aziz Deraman, Director General, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia, published jointly by IRCICA and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1997, xli+406 p.  
Price: US\$ 80.- postage included

This comprehensive book about the fascinating history of the spread and development of Islamic civilisation in the Malay world resulted from a joint international scholarly project of the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia, with IRCICA as the coordinating body. It is a highly informative, reliable and objective source for students of the subject and all interested readers. It reflects an indigenous intellectual and scholarly exercise by historians of the region to reappraise and reinterpret the history of the spread of Islam and its historical interplay with the distinct features of Malay culture. There are two Prefaces, by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and Regional Project Director, and Haji A. Aziz Deraman, Director General of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia and National Project Director.

The idea of the project which bore fruit in this publication was conceived in the early years of IRCICA's activities in the framework of the Centre's objective to create grounds and provide initiatives for the publication of reference works on the history of Muslim nations to be written by their own historians. The idea produced concrete cooperation between the countries concerned and IRCICA. The project's guidelines were agreed upon in 1985; Raja Fuziah Raja Tun Uda from Malaysia was appointed the Project Coordinator; the Regional Secretariat in Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka was carried out by Ms. Rohani Rustam (Head), Aizan Mohd. Ali and Zanariah Abdullah. Despite the challenges involved in the implementation of a project of such scale and stature, the commitment and efforts invested by all parties made it progress steadily. Three Regional Workshops were held from 1987 to 1990, followed by three Writers' Consultation meetings in 1993 and 1994. After the completion of the drafts the book was put together and finalised thanks to the valuable efforts of the Editor, Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman from Malaysia.

The Introduction by Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman defines the area known as the Malay world on basis of its geographical, linguistic, religious and other features and describes the process of the introduction and spread of Islam in the region. Though it was not a uniform or homogenous one, that process nevertheless involved features and tendencies which were commonly observed throughout the region. There are eight chapters in the book, written by Hussin Mutalib on "Islamic Malay Polity in Southeast Asia", Zainal Kling on "Social Structure: The Practices of Malay Religiosity", Shaharil Talib and Mohammad Raduan on "Economic Life: From Ruling the Waves to Tiling the Land", Azyumardi Azra on "Education, Law, Mysticism: Constructing Social Realities", Ismail Hamid on "Kitab Jawi: Intellectualizing Literary Tradition", Kamaruddin Mohd. Ali on "Architecture: Unity of the Sacred and the Profane", Raja Fuziah Raja Tun Uda and Abdul Rahman Al-Ahmadi on "Malay Arts and Crafts: Islamic Inspiration in Creativity", and Nasir Tamara on "The Ummah: Rising to the Challenges with Special Reference to Indonesia". The book contains fifty-one colour plates, ten maps, a glossary, a bibliography and an index. This high-quality publication is proudly presented to the world of learning and to interested readers worldwide.



*A mosque in Central Sumatra  
(illustration from Dr. Kamaruddin Mohd. Ali's chapter)*

## NEW PUBLICATION BY IRCICA

**The West and Islam, towards a dialogue**, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Guest Speakers at IRCICA: Hillary R. Clinton, Hajo Funke, Murad W. Hofmann, Ingmar Karlsson, Bassam Tibi, edited by Zeynep Durukal Abuhusayn and Muhammad Isa Waley, Lecture Series 1, Istanbul, 1999, vi+125+15 p.  
Price: US\$ 20.- postage included

This book contains the texts of selected lectures and addresses given by guest speakers at IRCICA at different times and papers presented by IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu on different occasions, about various subjects concerning relations between the Western world and the Muslim world.

The authors communicate their research findings and/or experiences in a particular field of interest or give a general assessment of the theme in the light of the developments of the 1990s. The papers by Ambassador Ingmar Karlsson (Swedish diplomat and specialist in international relations), Prof. Dr. Hajo Funke (Professor of political science, Berlin), and the first paper by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, address issues concerning relations between the Muslim nations and communities of Europe on one hand and European countries on the other. The address delivered by Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America, at the meeting on inter-religious dialogue which was held at IRCICA on the occasion of her visit (1996), as well as the papers by Prof. Dr. Bassam Tibi (Professor, international relations, Göttingen), Ambassador Dr. Murad Hofmann (German diplomat and scholar), and the five other papers by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, deal with various subjects concerning relations between the two worlds as two distinct cultures and value systems. The preface by Zeynep Durukal Abuhusayn draws the framework by outlining the dynamics of "globalisation versus fragmentation" which call for dialogue between cultures and civilisations, in particular between the Western and the Muslim worlds.

Dialogue between peoples from different cultures appears to be the most effective way towards building a peaceful multicultural global order. This is a highly challenging but vital task that already involves scholarly institutions, international organisations, political scientists and scholars throughout the world. The inter-cultural and inter-religious debates which are thus carried out in various forums constitute components of the dialogue process. So are the papers contained in this book. It is hoped they will add new insights to this dialogue.

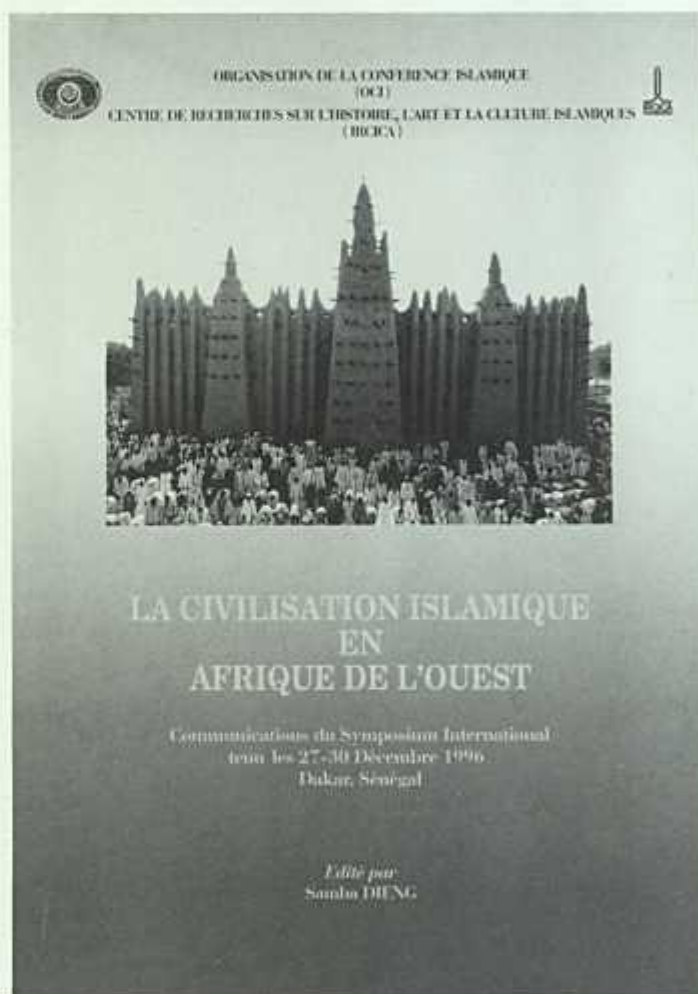


*Inter-religious dialogue at IRCICA: meeting of the leaders of the different faiths represented in Turkey held on the occasion of the visit of Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America, to IRCICA (28 March 1996). First row, from left: the Chaldean Archbishop Monsignor Paul Karatas; Monsignor Georges Marcovitch, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference in Turkey; the Patriarch of the Armenians in Turkey, Karekin II (passed away in 1998); the Grand Mufti of Istanbul Mr. Selahattin Kaya; Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, then member of Parliament and ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey; Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton*

## NEW PUBLICATION

**La Civilisation Islamique en Afrique de l'Ouest, Communications du Symposium International tenu les 27-30 Décembre 1996, Dakar, Sénégal.** Edited by Samba Dieng, preface by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 1999

This book contains the proceedings of the International Symposium on *Islamic Civilisation in West Africa* which was organised jointly by the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire Cheikh Anta Diop" (IFAN) and IRCICA in Dakar, Senegal, in 1996. IRCICA's initiative and involvement in this scholarly activity came within the framework of its research programs designated by the broad title "History of Muslim Nations". Activities carried out under this program comprise research, publishing, organisation of symposia and public lectures, and other scholarly activities. They are aimed at studying the history of Islam and of Muslim nations in various regions of the world and better introducing their history to scholarly circles and the interested public on a global level. The program was planned during the earliest years of the Centre and expanded progressively to cover the history of Islamic civilisation in the following regions until now, in addition to West Africa: Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Caucasus and the Balkans. A symposium on the history of Islamic civilisation in East Africa is planned for the near future. The idea to undertake studies related to West Africa was put forward at the very first meeting of the Governing Board of IRCICA held in November 1981. The Board adopted the idea and underlined the importance of the Centre's regional orientations aiming to highlight the history of Muslim nations in Africa which is not well known. This orientation was later translated into the project to organise the Dakar symposium. In the meantime, the Centre set up a collection of references, books and periodicals concerning historical and cultural studies on Africa within the framework of its library. It monitored research going on around the world in this field and published selected books authored by West African scholars and researchers.



The symposium has been a landmark scholarly event in African studies in general, and a major component of IRCICA's series of regional symposia. The patronage graciously extended by H. E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, greatly increased its significance. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture of Senegal extended their active support and contributions to the symposium. IFAN's cooperation was memorable. The symposium constituted an academic forum where specialists from African and other countries communicated results of their research on various aspects of the theme, exchanged information, views and experiences, and drew from this debate indicators of the present state and future prospects of research in this field. It is expected that this collection of thirty-four papers supplemented with a general introduction and the report of the seminar and enriched with Prof. Dr. Samba Dieng's excellent scholarly and editorial contributions will constitute a useful reference for all those interested.

## NEW PUBLICATION

**Proceedings of the International Seminar on Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World organised jointly by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Negara Brunei Darussalam and IRCICA, Bandar Seri Begawan, 1-5 June 1989**, Edited by Taufik Abdullah, Prefaces by Haji Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs, Negara Brunei Darussalam, and Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General, IRCICA, Istanbul, 1999

IRCICA is pleased to present the proceedings of the International Seminar on *Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World* which was organised under the patronage of His Majesty Sultan and Yang di Pertuan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, jointly with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Negara Brunei Darussalam, in the capital city Bandar Seri Begawan, on 1-5 June 1989. Despite the fact that collecting the papers' revised versions and completing the editorial work took a long time, the papers have preserved their pertinence and significance as the fruits of inter-disciplinary research delving into the multiple dimensions of the Islamic civilisational history of Malay nations.

IRCICA's initiative in co-organising this seminar was taken within the framework of its multi-dimensional research programs designated by the broad title "History of Muslim Nations". Activities carried out under this program consist of research, publishing, organisation of symposia and public lectures, and other scholarly activities, all aimed at studying the history of Islam and of Muslim nations in various regions of the world and better introducing their history to scholarly circles and the interested public. The program was planned during the earliest years of the Centre and expanded progressively to cover the history of Islamic civilisation in the following regions: Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Africa, Central Asia, Caucasia and the Balkans, and in the near future, East Africa. Studies on the history of Islamic civilisation in Southeast Asia were included within the planned scope of the project from the very beginning. Within this context, an international project was undertaken jointly with the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, with IRCICA as the research coordinator, to publish a comprehensive reference book on the history of Islam in the region. It resulted in a volume entitled *Islamic Civilization in the Malay World* jointly authored by scholars from the region itself. Meanwhile, preparations were undertaken to convene an international seminar to bring together specialists in this field. Thanks to the close support and cooperation extended by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the seminar was implemented successfully in 1989.

With respect to its theme, its organisational aspects and the high rate of international participation, this scholarly meeting was certainly the first of its kind to take place in Southeast Asia. Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), delivered an address at the inaugural ceremony, stating that the initiative in holding this seminar played a leading role in expanding the horizons of the OIC's cultural and scholarly activities on one hand, and in enhancing world-wide academic interest in the history and the cultural riches of the Malay world on the other. Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, gave an inspiring keynote address in which he highlighted the objectives and guidelines of research in this field. Throughout the working sessions, scholars and specialists from various countries and the host country, Brunei, presented their research findings.

The book will hopefully be a helpful reference for researchers and an instructive reading for anyone who wants to know more on the subject.