



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue
presented to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Prime Minister of Turkey
2 February 2007

Visit of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the
Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) to IRCICA
2 February 2007

H.H. Sheikh Nassir M. A. al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait visited IRCICA
5 April 2007

Visit of H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınc,
Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, to IRCICA
28 April 2007

"Isfahan Cultural Week" at IRCICA
organised jointly with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRCICA Activities

Results of the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition in the name
of calligrapher Hashim al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 H./1917-1973)

Forthcoming congresses

Lectures at IRCICA

Cultural Events

Book Survey

Newsletter



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

January-April 2007, No. 72

The Newsletter is published quarterly: three issues
in the official languages of the OIC (English, French,
Arabic) and one in Turkish

Publisher

Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture
(IRCICA), Organisation of the Islamic Conference

Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal
Mohammed Tamimi
Semiramis Çavuşoğlu
Mihir Lugal

Address

Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü
Barbaros Bulvarı,
Beşiktaş 34349
Istanbul, Turkey

Tel. (90 212) 259 17 42

Fax (90 212) 258 43 65

e-mail ircica@ircica.org

website <http://ircica.org>

Graphic Design

Seiahaddin Uygur

In this issue

2

IRCICA Award for Patronage of
Inter-Cultural Dialogue presented to
H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan,
Prime Minister of Turkey
2 February 2007

5

Visit of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev,
President of the Republic of Tatarstan
(Russian Federation) to IRCICA
2 February 2007

8

H.H. Sheikh Nassir M. A. al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait,
visited IRCICA
5 April 2007

10

Visit of H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç,
Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, to IRCICA
28 April 2007

11

"Isfahan Cultural Week" at IRCICA
organised jointly with the Ministry of Culture and
Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran

14

IRCICA Activities

Results of the Seventh International
Calligraphy Competition in the name of calligrapher
Hashim al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 H./1917-1973)

Forthcoming congresses

Lectures at IRCICA

24

Cultural Events

26

Book Survey

Editorial

At our Centre, the past three months were full of memorable events: H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, has kindly accepted the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, an award expressing our gratitude to H.E. the Prime Minister for His seminal initiatives contributing to inter-cultural dialogue on global scale and His patronage of IRCICA's various activities aimed at contributing to such dialogue. This award has been newly instituted and presented for the first time. As known, IRCICA was conducting the Award for Excellence in Research, presented on four occasions since 1990, and the Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship, presented twice since 2000. The IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue reflects one of the priorities of the Centre: we have devoted a large number of activities to the study of the inter-cultural exchanges, civilisations' borrowings from each other in various fields of knowledge and production, and the ways and means of promoting a permanent and fruitful dialogue between them; these activities are carried out under the different research programs and projects comprised in our work plans.

During the same period, we were most honoured by the visits of two other heads of state and government to our premises. On 2 February 2007, the President of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev paid a visit to IRCICA. During the ceremony held on this occasion, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA, formalizing the cultural cooperation going on in various areas.

More recently, on 5 April 2007, His Highness Sheikh Nassir al-Mohammed al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, visited our Centre, together with a delegation comprising Advisors to the Prime Ministry. It was another memorable day in the history of our Centre and an excellent occasion for an appraisal of the achievements made in the cooperation between the governmental authorities, cultural and art circles of Kuwait on one hand and IRCICA on the other since the early 1980s.

And on 28 April 2007, H.E. Bülent Arınç, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, visited IRCICA. This first visit of Mr. Bülent Arınç to our Centre gave us the occasion to brief him on the activities of our Centre and our library and documentation services to researchers interested in Islamic history, art and culture.

As was reflected in our previous issues, IRCICA had organised the first International Congress on Islamic Archeology in April 2005, under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. Among the follow-up activities held within this

framework, we had organised a Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week last Summer which underscored mainly the archeological riches of Kyrgyzstan. Recently IRCICA housed another event within this framework, devoted this time to the city of Isfahan, a historical city in the Islamic Republic of Iran well known for its architectural riches and Islamic cultural heritage. The musical concerts, the exhibitions of traditional handicrafts, documents and illustrations on the archeological and the architectural heritage of Isfahan drew great interest from press and public. IRCICA shall continue to organise cultural weeks jointly with the OIC member countries. These events also revive the spirit that were created by the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, the wide-scope cultural festival that had marked the 25th anniversary of IRCICA, back in November 2005. Meanwhile, we shall soon begin preparations towards the second congress on Islamic archeology, in accordance with the decision taken by the first congress instituting it as a triennial academic event.

We are receiving applications for the First International Congress on Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia to be held in Kazakhstan next September. It will be followed by the congress on Egypt in the Ottoman Era, to take place in Egypt in November 2007. Also, we are pleased to announce in greater detail in this issue the themes and modalities of the International Congress which will mark the 100th anniversary of the Second Constitution which was proclaimed by the Ottoman State in 1908. The congress will take place in May 2008.

Another main headline in the present issue of the Newsletter is the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition which is now finalized. The results of the competition were announced to the interested circles at a press conference held at IRCICA on 7 April 2007. 1616 works were received for this competition by 916 participants from 38 countries. The country-wise distribution of award winners is diversified, and this diversity can be observed under each of the style categories – the fourteen most widespread styles. Following IRCICA's tradition of dedicating each competition to a well-known master of classical calligraphy, in order to commemorate his achievements and make them known to the present generations of calligraphers, the competition was dedicated this time to the memory of the Iraqi calligrapher Hashim al-Baghdadi, whose biography is included in the present issue. As was done after each of the previous competitions, a catalogue of the winners' works will soon be published by IRCICA.

As usual, you will find summaries of the texts of the lectures delivered at IRCICA by specialists from various fields of Islamic studies. Thank you for your interest.

Dr. Halit Eren

An expression of gratitude: IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue presented to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey

H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, was presented with the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, on 2 February 2007. The award was presented to Prime Minister Erdoğan in gratitude for His seminal initiatives and outstanding contributions to inter-cultural dialogue on global scale, and the continuous patronage and close support extended by the Government of Turkey, particularly by H.E. the Prime Minister, to the Centre's activities. This patronage and this support have helped the Centre to expand and diversify the dimensions of its activities, thus widen the bases and grounds of its dialogue and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental institutions around the world. The presentation ceremony was held in presence of: H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation), who visited IRCICA the same day, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul, Ministers from the Turkish Government, deputies from the Turkish Grand National Assembly; the Consul Generals of the OIC Member States accredited in Turkey, faculty members from various universities of Istanbul and representatives of the press and media. Two other scholarly meetings involving the Islamic countries preceded the Award presentation ceremony the same morning, in Istanbul: namely, the meeting on the theme of "Islamophobia" convened at IRCICA under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of OIC, and the international meeting on the "Strategic Vision for Cooperation between Russia and the Islamic World" held in the presence of the President of Tatarstan. The participants in

these meetings, who came from political, cultural and media circles in the Muslim countries and the Russian Federation, attended the ceremony held in honour of the Prime Minister of Turkey as invitees.

The ceremony started with the welcoming address of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, in which the Director General pointed out that the importance of culture in promoting understanding among peoples grows day by day and cultural considerations acquire prominence in international relations. Taking this fact into consideration, IRCICA conducts programs of research and symposiums focusing on relations and exchanges between cultures and civilisations, in historical and contemporary perspectives. He said with these activities IRCICA tries to highlight the elements that have contributed in the past and are likely to contribute in future to the objective of dialogue. He pointed out that cultural relations and dialogue were at the very axis of this award and this ceremony. The Director General said "Promotion of inter-cultural dialogue is among the foremost objectives of the Centre. The support of the Member States, in particular the host country the Republic of Turkey, has been an indispensable ingredient in the success of these efforts. In fulfilling our objectives, the high-level patronage and the close support extended by His Excellency Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to IRCICA's activities on various occasions, starting from the periods of His earlier missions and increasingly in the present period, have been a source of strength and encouragement for us. Furthermore, the Prime Minister emphasized the themes relating to



The award certificate was presented to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan by the Secretary General of OIC Prof. E. İhsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General H. Eren



The Prime Minister gave a comprehensive address

culture and civilisation in the context of international relations, as a requirement of our time. This is evident in the leading initiatives taken by the Prime Minister in the realm of relations between the Muslim world and Europe, by which He carried the inter-cultural dialogue to inter-cultural agreement. At the same time, He deployed multi-dimensional efforts to strengthen relations among the Muslim countries." Dr. Eren reiterated his gratitude to the Prime Minister.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, referred to the facts and trends that brought the issues of cultural contacts and dialogue to the fore in international relations in real life as well as in the fields of studies on international relations. These developments were taken into consideration by the OIC and IRCICA respectively in the formulation of their vision and the planning of their activities. Then, the plaque symbolizing the award was presented to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan by the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. The citation expressed gratitude to H.E. Erdoğan for "His inspired leadership in strengthening Turkey's role in the OIC; His seminal initiatives contributing to cultural affinities among nations within and outside the Muslim world; His support of scholarly studies on Islamic civilisation and institutional endeavours in this regard at national, regional and international levels, and particularly of the activities of OIC and IRCICA towards building inter-cultural dialogues on global scale."

The Prime Minister expressed his thanks, to the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren in the first place, and each and everyone, for the award. In his comprehensive address the Prime Minister pointed to the problems of various kinds such as poverty, epidemics, and violence which prevent mankind from looking forward to the future with hope, and the disagreements between countries, which sometimes turn into armed conflicts, the continuing existence of weapons of mass destruction as factors of threat, and the expansion of terrorism as an organized crime which altogether further darken this picture. He said that under these circumstances humanity's joint efforts are needed more than ever to combat all these problems, since proponents of extremism who try to take advantage from exploiting cultural and religious differences between peoples have brought the international community to the threshold of a new division. The Prime Minister said that dialogue would constitute the best response to such efforts to divide humanity along artificial lines, and recalled the "Alliance of Civilisations" He and Spanish Prime Minister Mr. Zapatero had jointly launched recently. He invited the international bodies, business circles, opinion-builders and non-governmental organizations to contribute in this effort. The Prime Minister underlined, in this regard, the activities of IRCICA which contribute in making better known the Islamic civilisation. He expressed his pleasure that "these activities, carried out previously with the important contributions of the distinguished Prof. İhsanoğlu, continue to be realised with success in well-qualified hands today. I have no doubt that these activities will contribute in strengthening dialogue and understanding between cultures and civilisations." The Prime Minister assured the Centre of the Turkish Government's continuous support.

The President of the Republic of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, who was present at the ceremony, congratulated Prime Minister Erdoğan. The President expressed his appreciation of the excellent relations between Turkey and Tatarstan. He commended the fruitful cooperation between Tatarstan on one hand and the OIC and IRCICA on the other. Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. İhsanoğlu and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Eren congratulated President Shaimiev on His 70th birthday, which coincided with the period of His visit to Turkey.



The ceremony was attended by the President of Tatarstan H.E. Shaimiev, Ambassadors from OIC Member States and Ministers from Turkey

IRCICA AWARDS

IRCICA's awards aim to acknowledge outstanding efforts and contributions by individuals and institutions from around the world to advancements in fields of studies corresponding to those of IRCICA. In its capacity as the centre for scholarly research and cultural cooperation of the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Centre underscores the primary importance of patronage on one hand, and the search for excellence on the other, as the two interactive guiding forces necessary for development in all fields, including culture, learning, international cooperation and the preservation of cultural heritage. In its first stage initiated in 1990 under the name of *IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research*, continuously in application, the program consists of presenting plaques of appreciation to select scholars and researchers having contributed to Islamic studies in significant ways. The program was enlarged on the occasion of IRCICA's twentieth anniversary commemorated in 2000, with the institution of another award category, under the name of *IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship*. Since then the latter it is being presented simultaneously with the *IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research*.

1990

The first award, the *IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research*, was presented during the tenth anniversary commemoration ceremony on 10 October 1990, to the following scholars:

- * Prof. Annemarie Schimmel (Germany): history of Islamic culture, mysticism and literature;
- * Prof. Stanford Shaw (USA and Turkey): history of the Middle East, based on the Ottoman archives;
- * Prof. Oktay Aslanapa (Turkey): Islamic arts and architecture;
- * Prof. Roshdi Rashed (Egypt, France): history of science;
- * Prof. Izzet Hasan (Morocco): Arabic literature;
- * Prof. Muhammed Hamidullah (India, Paris): Islamic studies;
- * Hakeem Mohammed Said (Pakistan), President of Hamdard Foundation and "Madinat Al-Hikmat", Karachi, Pakistan.

1997

The second group of the awardees for the *IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research* received their awards at a ceremony held in Istanbul on 3 November 1997:

- * Prof. Leila Sabbagh (Syria): social and cultural history of the Arab world;
- * Prof. Géza Fehérvári (Hungary): Islamic art and archeology;
- * Prof. Kemal H. Karpat (Turkey): social and cultural history of the Turkic world in the age of modernisation;
- * Prof. M. Taib Osman (Malaysia): Malay Studies;
- * Prof. Abdurrahman Badawi (Egypt): Islamic philosophy.

2000

IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research

The third group of awards, which were distributed on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Centre commemorated in 2000, were presented to the following scholars:

- * Prof. Dr. Syed Naquib Al-Attas (Malaysia), Chairman of the International Institute of Islamic Thought, Malaysia;
- * Prof. Iraj Afshar (Iran): library science and manuscripts;
- * Prof. William Graham (USA): history of religions;
- * Prof. Yusuf Ibish (Lebanon): history and political studies.

IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship

On the occasion of IRCICA's twentieth anniversary, the *IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship* was presented to the following four personalities:

- * H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah and member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates: for patronage of research on history and exchanges between civilisations and preservation of cultural heritage;
- * H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani (Saudi Arabia), Founder and Chairman of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, for patronage of restoration and conservation programs;
- * H.H. Sheikh Hussa Al-Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, Director of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiya (National Museum), Kuwait, for patronage of the conservation heritage;
- * Hakeem Abdul Hameed, Founder and Chairman of Hamdard University and Hamdard Foundation, India, as a posthumous tribute to his exemplary contributions to research and teaching on Islamic culture and civilisation.

The ceremony for the presentation of the third group of the *IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research* and the first group of the *IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship* was held on 25 October 2000.

2003

The *IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research* was presented for the fourth time at a ceremony held on 22 October 2003. The awardees were:

The IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research

- * Prof. Emeritus Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani (Pakistan), Honorary Director of Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad: archeology of Asian cultures;
- * Prof. Andreas Tietze (Austria): for his major works on comparative grammar and lexical studies on the Turkic languages;
- * Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Zouber (Mali), Advisor for Religious Affairs at the Presidency of the Republic of Mali since 2000: study and classification of the manuscript riches of Mali and its region, mainly at Ahmed Baba Centre for Documentation and Research in Timbuktu;
- * Prof. Emeritus Dr. André Raymond (France): social history and urban history;
- * Prof. Anas Baqi Khalidov (Tatarstan), posthumously, for his studies on Islamic manuscripts and medieval Arab culture in Russia and Eastern Europe.

The second group of awardees of the IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Research

- * Qadi Ismail bin Ali Al-Aqwa (Yemen), a promoter of culture and learning in Yemen and the Muslim world;
- * Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur);
- * El Legado Andalusi Museum (Granada, Spain);
- * Sadberk Hanım Museum (Istanbul);
- * Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Sabancı University (Istanbul).

Visit of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) to IRCICA

2 February 2007

Cooperation between the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation), its governmental and academic institutions on one hand, and IRCICA on the other, has progressed steadily for more than a decade now; various cultural activities were undertaken jointly. The President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev extended His close patronage, support and encouragement to these activities, in an outstanding example of state patronage of international cooperation in the fields of culture and scholarship. This cooperation helped to reinforce acquaintances between the OIC member countries and Tatarstan and contributed in strengthening the relations between the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Republic of Tatarstan. These activities aim, among others, at: exploring and reviving the historical bonds and cultural affinities between the Tatar nation and the nations of Volga-Ural region at large on one hand, and the member countries of the OIC on the other; and, promoting the study of the theme of Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region as a field of academic study. The visit of H.E. President Shaimiev to IRCICA was an excellent occasion to recapitulate and appraise the achievements made in this context.

An international ceremony was held at IRCICA's conference hall Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace, on the occasion of President Shaimiev's visit. The delegations from various Islamic countries, the Russian Federation, and Turkey who were participating at the meeting of the "Strategic Vision for Cooperation between Russia and the Islamic World" and the meeting on "Islamophobia" convened under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of OIC, as well as the representatives of various governmental and non-governmental institutions, were present at the ceremony.

During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA was signed, by the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan H.E. Mrs. Zilya Valeeva and Dr. Halit Eren, under the patronage of H.E. President Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, and H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC.

In his welcoming speech, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren said that President Shaimiev's visit was indeed another expression of the interest and attention the President had always extended to the activities of the Centre. The Director General pointed to the intersection of the themes of the four meetings that were held that day in Istanbul and involving the OIC member countries, namely, the ceremony of the presentation of the IRCICA Award to H.E. the Prime Minister of Turkey, the Russia-Islamic World meeting, the meeting on "Islamophobia" and the ceremony on the occasion of President Shaimiev's visit, which intersected in the following area: cooperation towards creating a correct and a better understanding of cultures of the world about each other by providing objective information based on research findings. He said that cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Islamic countries assumes special significance. "In particular, the Volga-Ural region and Tatarstan cultivated a Muslim culture from as early as the 10th century onwards, in coexistence with the Christian faith on the same land. The contribution of the Tatar nation to Islamic culture found remarkable expressions in recent history as well, after the cultural reforms implemented at the end of 19th century. Scholarship and authorship in all fields were given a great impulse, educational establishments



President Shaimiev saw an exhibition of books on Tatarstan selected from IRCICA's Library

were strengthened, a number of advanced centres of Islamic learning were set up in various cities, and the Djadidism current promoted eminent Muslim scholars and theologians. Their contributions added valuable inputs to the body of Islamic culture and learning. This body of culture and learning offers vast grounds and materials for research." Dr. Eren said that taking this fact into consideration, the cultural and academic institutions of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation on one hand and IRCICA on the other, have designed a number of scholarly projects that are implemented jointly, to study the Tatar culture and cultural history and make it better known in the Muslim world and the interested circles in the world academic community. IRCICA's contacts with these institutions, which were established starting almost a decade ago, already resulted in some major activities: the holding of two scholarly congresses on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region in 2001 and 2005 respectively, the ongoing project to publish a comprehensive history of the Tatar culture, among others, are large-scale projects. Dr. Eren expressed his gratitude to President Shaimiev for His patronage of these activities, and for visiting the Centre, a visit that is another milestone in the continuous progress of the traditionally good relations and cooperation between Tatarstan, the Volga-Ural region and the whole of the Russian Federation on one hand and the OIC and IRCICA representing the Muslim world, on the other.

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. E. İhsanoğlu addressed the audience, recounting his memories of the first initiatives leading to the academic and cultural cooperation between Tatarstan and IRCICA starting about a decade ago, his first visits to Kazan, expressing his gratitude for the constructive approach and the close interest with which the President had given his personal support to this cooperation. At a broader level, the Secretary General praised President Shaimiev's remarkable services to his nation, its cultural development, the revival and rehabilitation of its multicultural heritage, thanks to which the Muslim spirit of the Tatar nation is back,

Tatar society has its freedom; he expressed his belief that in due time its cultural and religious identity will develop in the same positive way their ancestors had but in the modern way, 21st century style. All this was done by President Shaimiev, the leading force behind the development of his country, and this had been recognized by the Muslim world as expressed by the presentation of the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam for 2007 to President Shaimiev, for which the Secretary General reiterated his warm congratulations on this occasion.



President Shaimiev addressed the ceremony

President Mintimer Shaimiev, addressing the audience, said he shared the same feelings as expressed by Prof. İhsanoğlu and spoke of the multi-religious social structure of his country, which enjoyed freedom now. He said it is most appropriate that the Centre is located in Istanbul, on the borders of the Islamic world and Europe, serving as a bridge, and that it also developed a dialogue with organisations around the world. President Shaimiev said his country gives importance to developing relations with the OIC and that this is now facilitated by the Russian Federation's observer status with the OIC.





Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA Director General, under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan and Secretary General of OIC

The ceremony continued with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA. The memorandum covers activities of research to lead to publications on the history and culture of Tatarstan and its region, increased participation of researchers and artists from Tatarstan to IRCICA's activities. Addressing the audience, the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan Mrs. Zilya Valeeva underlined the importance of activities leading to understanding and dialogue such as those covered by the fields addressed jointly.

The cooperation agreements which were signed previously between the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences and IRCICA and the Municipality of Kazan and IRCICA are in effect. Within the framework of the activities implemented under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan, two symposiums were organised, in June 2001 and June 2005 respectively, on the theme of "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region". The first symposium (8-11 June 2001) was organised jointly the following academic institutions in cooperation with IRCICA: the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences (Kazan); the State University of Kazan; the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow); the Union of Orientalists of the Russian Federation (St. Petersburg); the Foundation for Research on Islamic History, Art and Culture (Istanbul). Thirty-seven papers were presented; over sixty scholars, researchers, authors and representatives of cultural and academic journals participated in the symposium, from various countries in Asia, Europe and the U.S.A. and the region itself. The symposium was held at the National Cultural Centre "Kazan". The second symposium (24-26 June 2005) was jointly organized with the Municipality of Kazan, and the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences' Institute of History, at the National Cultural Centre in Kazan. It was placed within the framework of the celebration of the 1000th

anniversary of Kazan City, which gave the symposium added significance and at the same time, contributed a scholarly/historical dimension to the anniversary commemoration. Around 55 scholars and specialists participated in the second symposium, from France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkey and the USA. These symposiums highlighted the processes of introduction and development of Islamic civilisation in the Volga-Ural region, the history of the coexistence of cultures and religions, relations between Islam and other religions in intellectual context, the Islamic and the multicultural heritage of the region in various fields of science and learning, and the various contemporary expressions and implications of this historical legacy. Treatment of these subjects opened new avenues in social science research on the region and contributed in disseminating the existing studies to the interested circles.

Among the other results of the cooperation between Tatarstan and IRCICA, the following can be recalled: the copy of the Quran known as the "Kazan Mushaf", dated in 1801 (the first to be printed in the Muslim world) was reprinted by the Municipality of Kazan, Tatarstan, on the millennium of Kazan City, in 2005. IRCICA was most pleased to contribute to this edition by providing for its technical revision before printing. Furthermore, a project is being carried out in cooperation with scholars from the Tatarstan Academy of Science and Kazan State University, to lead to a comprehensive book on Tatar Culture and Civilisation which will be the first reference book on this theme to be published in the English language. Volga-Ural region, where Tatarstan is located, is the northernmost region comprising countries with a considerable Muslim population.

Visit of His Highness Sheikh Nasser M. A. al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, to IRCICA

5 April 2007

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) was most honoured by the visit of His Highness Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, to its headquarters, on 5 April 2007, during the period of the Prime Minister's official visit to Turkey. The Prime Minister, and the high-level delegation of Advisors to the Prime Ministry, were accompanied by the Minister of Finance of Turkey H.E. Mr. Kemal Unakıtan. OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu met with the guests and addressed the ceremony marking the occasion. His Highness' visit was an excellent opportunity to recapitulate the achievements in the cooperation and working relations between the State of Kuwait, Kuwaiti cultural and academic institutions, and IRCICA. The Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah received information on the various research programs of the Centre, its congresses held in various countries, and its activities contributing to the dialogue of cultures. The reception ceremony at Çit Qasr, opened by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, underscored the fruitful cooperation established between the Government and the cultural and academic institutions of Kuwait on one hand and IRCICA on the other since the earliest years of IRCICA's activities. He said that the State of Kuwait is one of the Member States with which IRCICA's contacts and relations progressed and strengthened the fastest and most fruitfully starting from the establishment of the Centre in 1980. In this regard, the Director General highlighted the participation of researchers, artisans, painters, and other interested parties from Kuwait in symposia, competitions and other international events organised by IRCICA, joint publications, and the various occasions

expressing the patronage and the support extended by the State of Kuwait to the Centre. He expressed his gratitude, adding that this collaboration provided at the same time an input to the joint Islamic cultural action aiming, within the overall OIC framework, at creating a correct understanding and awareness of the history and the civilisation of Islam around the world. The Director General also announced with pleasure that a calligrapher from Kuwait had won an award in the Seventh Calligraphy Competition which was finalised the day before.

OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu welcomed the Prime Minister, and recalled that throughout the first 25 years of his functions at the head of IRCICA he had seen, through hundreds of activities and occasions, that Kuwait was one of the countries which always upheld culture, scientific research, cultural advancement and Islamic heritage, and that IRCICA had greatly benefited from this. Evoking the hard times undergone by Kuwait during the aggression on its territory, the Secretary General recalled the many meetings that were organised jointly in Istanbul at that time to help explain the situation to public opinion. He said that what was been done by Kuwait, under the able leadership of His Highness the Emir, and before, under the able leadership of the late Emir, have always been in the memory of all people who appreciate Kuwait and its peaceful policy.

H.H. Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah kindly received a plaque of IRCICA expressing the Centre's gratitude to the state of Kuwait which was presented by OIC Secretary General and IRCICA Director General.



His Highness Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed al-Ahmed al-Sabah saw an exhibition of publications by IRCICA



H.H. the Prime Minister addressed the audience

H.H. Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah expressed His pleasure to be at IRCICA, which He qualified a famous Islamic centre, a holder of books, manuscripts, a conductor of research, and His happiness to see it working so well. He assured the Centre of the continual support of Kuwait. The Prime Minister wrote His impressions in the Centre's Visitors Book, as follows: "I would like to thank my brothers the Secretary General of the OIC and the Director General of IRCICA for the warm welcome and care they extended to me. I would also like to congratulate my brothers at the Centre for all the manuscripts and the works, written in 138 languages, that we have seen. May God bless our brothers for the magnificent work they accomplished in this noble Islamic historical centre. ...

The visit of H.H. the Prime Minister of Kuwait to IRCICA was an excellent opportunity for an appraisal of the achievements made in the activities involving cooperation between the State of Kuwait, its authorities and its institutions on one hand, and IRCICA on the other. This cooperation developed steadily since the first years of the Centre's operations, at both the institutional level and as regards the activities per se. The State of Kuwait has been a member of the Governing Board of IRCICA since 1986, represented during successive terms by Sheikha Husna al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, Sheikh Selman Daud al-Selman al-Sabah, Mr. Khalid S. al-Otaibi, and currently by Mr. Walid al-Padil, Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The Tenth Session of the Governing Board was held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, in 1993. It was also recalled with appreciation that several cultural institutions, researchers, artists, etc. from

Kuwait participated in the congresses and other events of IRCICA, starting from the very first symposium it organised, on "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts" (Istanbul, 1983), continuing with the International Seminar on "Research in Islamic Civilisation: Problems and Prospects", 1988; the International Seminar on "Crafts in Traditional Islamic Architecture with special focus on Mushrabiyya and Stucco Coloured Glass", Cairo, 1995; the International Seminar on "Arabesque in Crafts of OIC Countries" Damascus, 1997; the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Caucasia" (Baku, 1998) organised with the collaboration of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait and the Commission for Asian Muslims of the Kuwait Charity Society; the International Seminar on "Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World", Tunis, 1999; the International Congress on "Islamic Arts and Crafts", Isfahan, 2002; the Second International Congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region", Kazan, 2005; the Cultural Festival entitled "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" organised with the cooperation of the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of IRCICA, 2005, in which Kuwait participated with exhibitions of Paintings, Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications, Concerts and Lectures; the International Congress on "Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era", Damascus, 2005; the International Congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts", awards and exhibitions, organised with the cooperation of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Riyadh, 2006, in which Sheikha Altaf al-Sabah, Head and Patron of the Al Sadu Weaving Cooperative, Kuwait, presented a paper, and the Kuwaiti delegation of artisans took part in the exhibitions. The following Kuwaiti artisans won awards at the International Award for Creativity in Crafts: Aba'b al Azimi (Sadu and kilim); Abdul Karim Sa'd al-Galaf (handmade models: traditional ships); Ali al-Suleiman, Jasim al-Abasi (traditional costumes). Furthermore, a painting exhibition by the Kuwaiti artist Mr. Farid Ali was held at IRCICA, in 2001. Exhibitions of works of calligraphy were held in Kuwait on various occasions. Most recently, IRCICA participated in the International Congress and Exhibition of Islamic Arts organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait, in Kuwait City on 10-19 December 2006, with an exhibition of calligraphy and documentary materials introducing its activities and publications.



H.H. the Prime Minister and the other distinguished guests saw a short film on IRCICA's activities

**Visit of H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç,
Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, to IRCICA
28 April 2007**

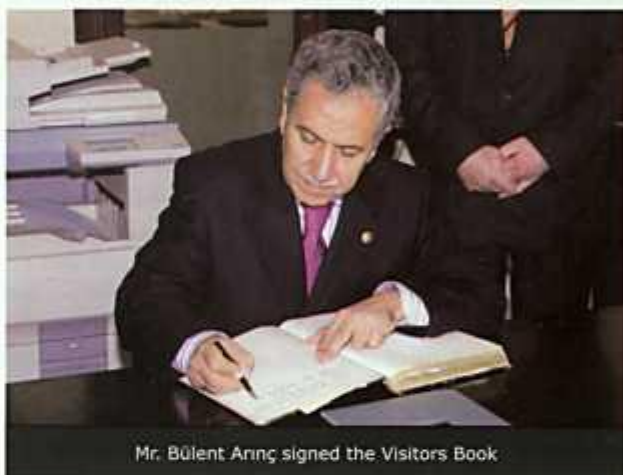
IRCICA had the honour of receiving H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, to its headquarters, on 28 April 2007. The visit took place within the framework of Mr. Arınç's official contacts in Istanbul on that day. The visit at IRCICA began with the meeting of H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç and Dr. Halit Eren, in the office of the Director General, whereby recent progress in the Centre's activities was highlighted; then, Mr. Arınç was guided to the various departments of the Centre, where he received information on the research projects and the various funds of references used in the researches, including the archives of historical photographs which include the Yıldız Photograph Albums dating from the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century. The Director General then guided Mr. Bülent Arınç to the library. Mr. Arınç also saw a short documentary film outlining the Centre's activities since its establishment in 1980.

The Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Mr. Bülent Arınç recorded his impressions in the Centre's Visitors Book, as follows:

"I am very much pleased to be visiting the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture. I received information from Director General Dr. Halit Eren. I know that IRCICA is a very important cultural and research centre. It also has many valuable publications. This is also a very important centre within the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. I sincerely congratulate IRCICA and its officials, and wish them continual success."



H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç saw the Centre's publications



Mr. Bülent Arınç signed the Visitors Book



Mr. Bülent Arınç, accompanied by Dr. Cemal Öztaş, Head of the Department of National Palaces in Turkey, meets with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

"Isfahan Cultural Week"

held at IRCICA

12-18 January 2007

Jointly with the Ministry of Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an "Isfahan Cultural Week" was organized at IRCICA on 12-18 January 2007.

The program of the Week comprised a number of activities highlighting the cultural and artistic treasures and traditions of the city of Isfahan, which has been one of the main cores of the civilization of Islam: a concert of classical music, exhibitions of the traditional arts and crafts, a scholarly panel conference.

The inauguration took place in Silahhane Building of Yıldız Palace, in the presence of the representatives of diplomatic and consular missions, members of art faculties of the universities of Istanbul and a large interested audience. An exhibition of the handicrafts of Isfahan was organized in Çit Qasr building of IRCICA including live displays of artisans-at-work which altogether formed an outstanding feature of the Cultural Week.

The following artists participated in the handicrafts exhibition:

1. Mr. Hamed Ameri, Head of the Delegation;
2. Mr. Rajabali Raei, artist of the "Kalam" (engraving with a pen)
3. Mr. Tachi Kamran, presenting the brochures of Isfahan, CDs, posters and photographs exhibition;
4. Mr. Asadollah Shahmiveh Esfahani, presenting handicrafts and antiques of Isfahan;
5. Mr. Mehrdad Sadri Shahrezaei, miniature artist;
6. Ali Reza Botlani Yadegar, master of the Calico (printed textiles) art;
7. Mr. Mehdi Jafarzadeh Jazi, presenting the traditional tea service.

Right after the inauguration, the well-known ensemble Rudaki Music Group gave a concert with the theme of "Music from Isfahan" in Çit Qasr.

The same concert was repeated on 15 January 2007 in Altunizade Cultural Center, on the Asian side of Istanbul. The music group consisted of:

1. Seyyed Abdolhosein Mokhtabad, singer,
2. Mr. Mahyar Firoozbakht (Kemençe - small violin),
3. Mr. Alireza Firoozbakht (Gijeq - string instrument played with a bow),
4. Mr. Ali Tahriri (Santoor - hammered dulcimer),
5. Mr. Behzad Khodarahmi (Tar - string instrument covered with a skin and played with a pick),
6. Mr. Camal Cahanshad (Ud - string instrument played with a pick),
7. Mr. Said Mohammadnabi Roodbari (Darbuka - drum).

The group was accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Piri, Head of the group, and Mr. Babak Ghanbarzadeh, translator.

The panel conference drew a wide interested audience. Opening the conference, Director General Dr. Halit Eren expressed his happiness that IRCICA was the venue for such outstanding exhibits of artifacts and performances of the musical heritage of Isfahan. He recalled that IRCICA previously organized the cultural week of Kyrgyzstan (26 June-1 July 2007) and it was also planning to organize the cultural week of Uzbekistan.

He said that with the aim of better introducing the cultures and cultural traditions of the Member States to each other's peoples, the Centre will continue to promote activities such as the Isfahan Cultural Week. The Director General



Concert of "Music from Isfahan" by Rudaki Music Group



enumerated some events and activities that had been organized by IRCICA jointly with the Ministries and the cultural institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the studies of the Centre relating to Iran. Among the former, the largest event was the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts which was held in Isfahan in October 2002. The papers in Persian were printed and those in English and Arabic are under preparation for publication. Of the latter, one volume of the World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form will be devoted to translations in Persian language. The Director General recalled that Isfahan was declared as the City of Culture last year. He thanked the Consulate General, Directorate of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their valuable cooperative efforts.

Next, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Mr. Sayid Kamal Yasini took the floor. He underlined the historical and cultural importance of the city of Isfahan. He stated that further research is needed on aspects such as the historical periods (both pre-Islamic and Islamic eras) which the city underwent, the views of Orientalists and other writers about different aspects of Isfahan such as industry and commerce, tourism, geographical location, historical legacy, traditions and the artists who flourished there. The Consul General suggested that Istanbul and Isfahan be declared sister cities and underlined various common characteristics of both cities.

The next speaker was Prof. Dr. Mehmet Kanar from the University of Istanbul, Faculty of Letters, Department of Eastern Languages and Literature. He presented a paper on "The travels of Sadık Hidayet in Iran". He pointed out that as an author with multiple interests, Sadık Hidayet introduced modern Persian literature to Turkey in the 20th century. He is well-known for his contribution to modern Persian literature. He is also known for his stories and plays. The famous Turkish poet late Behçet Necatigil translated his novel titled "Blind Owl". Prof. Mehmet Kanar translated his book of travels. In this book, published in 1932, he describes the buildings, miniatures and paintings that he has seen as a historian of art. He also analyzes the social and anthropological structure in Isfahan. He then moves from Tehran to the city of Qom and describes the Chehel Sutun. Prof. Kanar's Turkish translation of the travelogue was published by Yapı Kredi Publications under the name of Hidayetname.

Dr. Hasan Bolkhari, member of the Iranian Academy of Art, talked about the Isfahan school of art, focusing particularly on "The philosophy of architecture: reconstitution of the universe based on sacred geometry". He stated that Isfahan was the capital city of the Safavid Dynasty for 150 years. It was not only a city, but at the same time a school of art and philosophy.

Mulla Sadra Shirazi was the most important representative of this school of philosophy. His philosophy synthesizes the views of Ibn Sina, Farabi and Mevlana Jalaladdin Rumi. Mir Damad and Sheikh Bahai were among the famous representatives of this school. Dr. Bolkhari pointed out that the architecture of Isfahan combines modern and traditional structures. The second part of Dr. Bolkhari's talk focused on the arts of decoration and geometric design in the architecture of Isfahan. He pointed out that sacred architecture symbolizes the universe in Persian, Indian and Greek philosophy.

The next speaker, Prof. Örcün Barışta from the University of Marmara, spoke on "The gifts of Isfahan to the world of art". She made a chronological presentation of different branches of Islamic art in Iran particularly during the Safavid period accompanied by the slides of various objects kept in museums. Among them were weapons, metalwork, textiles, embroideries, woodwork, glasswork, laquerwork, etc. She stated that although the period of Shah Tahmasp was rather stagnant, Shah Abbas was more open both to the East and the

West. Prof. Barišta also introduced the important monuments in Isfahan such as Masjid-i Juma, Masjid-i Shah and Chehel Sutun. She stated that Shah Ismail established a workshop in the palace for producing textiles. She also showed some rare samples of Persian carpets and medals from the Kajar period.

In his talk titled "Reflections of the Isfahan School of Miniature", Dr. Mahran Hasanzadeh gave a description of the main schools of miniature in Isfahan. He stated that the artist reflects the beauties in the world and the presence of God in his miniatures. He also pointed out that the aspects of color and drawing are essential in miniature painting. The oldest miniatures in Iran go back to the 13th century. Manichaeism also influenced this art. The followers of Mani tried to spread their belief through their paintings. Dr. Hasanzadeh then focused on the various schools of miniature painting in Iran. These were the Baghdad or Seljukid school (Books such as *Ajaib-i Mahlukat* and *Kelile wa Dimna* were produced in this school); Mongol school (12th and 13th centuries) in which the influence of Chinese art was seen; Herat School, established by Shahruh, the son of Timur (a famous representative of this school was Bahzad, who flourished in the court of Sultan Husayn Bayqara) and Bukhara School which was short-lived. He also enumerated the main schools of the Safavid period. These were the schools of Tabriz, Kazwin and Isfahan.

The final speaker, Dr. Akoochekian Ahmed, gave a speech on "A review of Isfahan Civilization Heritage (School) based on an interaction of knowledge based development". He interpreted the school of Isfahan as a school of civilization and enumerated the essentials of civilization as national



A miniature painting by Mr. Mehrdad Sadri Shahrezaei

identity, religion and modernity. All of these elements lead to progress. They lay at the basis of the civilization of Isfahan, Herat, other centers of Islamic civilization and modernism in Europe.

Dr. Akoochekian stated that this civilisation discourse consisted of the following layers: 1. Thought school, 2. Educational school, 3. Social development school, 4. Artistic school. He enumerated the main figures who flourished between the second and the fourth century. The lecture also included a comparison of the western trends of thought with the Isfahan school. Mulla Sadra Shirazi and Sheikh Bahai were among the main philosophers of this school. He pointed out that this school was renewed during the period of the Constitution and the Islamic Revolution.



IRCICA Activities

The Seventh International Calligraphy Competition in the name of calligrapher Hashim Al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 H./1917-1973)

The results of the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition dedicated to the renowned master of calligraphy the late Hashim Muhammad al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 H./1917-1973) were announced to the interested circles on 7 April 2007. A ceremony was held at IRCICA, in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC and Honorary Chairman of the Competition Jury.

The Jury of the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition met from 28 March – 6 April 2007 at the headquarters of IRCICA, in Yıldız Palace, Istanbul, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Chairman of the Organising Committee of the competition.

The competition jury was composed of the following recognized specialists of calligraphy:

1. Mr. Ahmed Ziya Ibrahim, Professor of Calligraphy, Saudi Arabia (Chairman of Jury);
2. Mr. Mus'ad Khudair Al-Borsaidi, Head of General Egyptian Calligraphy Association, Egypt;
3. Mr. Ubaida Muhammad Al-Banki, Professor of Calligraphy, Syria;
4. Prof. Mustafa Uğur Derman, Expert of Calligraphy, IRCICA;
5. Mr. Hasan Çelebi, Master of Calligraphy, Turkey;
6. Mr. Rasheed Butt, Professor of Calligraphy, Pakistan;
7. Mr. Belaid Hamidi, Professor of Calligraphy, Morocco.

The Competition Secretary Mr. Mohammed Tamimi and Assistant Secretary Mr. Said Kasimoğlu also participated.

Dr. Halit Eren opened the Jury meeting by outlining the activities which were undertaken by the Centre in the field of calligraphic arts during the three years that had passed since the sixth competition and recalling the objectives, main principles and modalities of the competition.

The seventh calligraphy competition was organized in fourteen major styles of calligraphy that are well-known in the Muslim world, namely jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh, jaly taliq, taliq, jaly diwani, diwani, qufi, muhaqqaq, reyhani, riq'a' (ijaza), riq'a, maghribi and hurd e ta'lik.

1616 works were submitted to the competition by 916 participants from 38 countries. The Jury examined and evaluated the entries, proceeding by stages in accordance with the conditions and regulations of the competition and bearing in mind a minimum quality standard that would be required in an international competition of this scale. It kept the best works in hand at each stage discarding the others until the very best were selected corresponding to the number of prizes allocated in each category according to the list herewith.

The Jury gave special importance to precision in writing and made its judgments independently from the rules and practices of any particular school. It took into consideration the following criteria, among others: conformity with the rules of calligraphy, creativity in the composition, and observance of the conditions of the competition, disregarding unintentionally small deficiencies which were noticed in some of the distinguished works.

The Jury noticed that the best entries in the jaly taliq and taliq styles were almost of equal level. Consequently, it decided that the first, second and third awards in these two styles be shared. Concerning the kufi style, the Jury decided to divide the awards for the three mentions between six works.

Having completed its work, the jury noted that some entries were received from countries where the art of calligraphy has just started to flourish and agreed that the artists of these countries deserved to be encouraged. Therefore, the jury recommended to allocate some incentive awards to raise the level of calligraphy in these countries. The Jury also noted that the rate of participation of women had increased and some of the female participants won awards. Thus, it decided to give some additional incentives awards to reward their efforts and encourage them.

Moreover, the Jury recommended to give incentive awards to some works which remained under consideration until the final stages of the selection process but were finally discarded due to obvious mistakes they contained or their failure in



The Jury at work



Announcement of the results at a press conference held in the presence of the OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

conforming to the rules of this art in general and the rules of the competition in particular, including the requirements related to the width of the pen. The Jury also took into consideration that some calligraphers who had participated in previous competitions had improved their performance, and recommended to give them incentive awards.

As shown in the list, 21 awards, 74 mentions and 42 incentive prizes (137 in total) were distributed to 119 calligraphers from 25 countries, amounting to US\$ 91.000 in total.

IRCICA will display the winners' works in exhibitions to be held on different occasions. It will also publish a catalogue of their reproductions accompanied by short biographies of the artists. Certificates will be presented to the prize winners, and letters of appreciation to those participants who did not win awards but entered praiseworthy calligraphies. IRCICA seizes this opportunity to congratulate the winners and wish success to all the participants in furthering their knowledge and skills in performance of this art.

A biography of

Hashim M. al-Baghdadi (1335-1393/1917-1973)

Abu Raqim Hashim b. Muhammad b. Hajj Dirbas al-Qaysi al-Baghdadi was born in 1335/1917 in the Khan Lawand Quarter in Baghdad. He started to learn calligraphy from Mulla 'Arif al-Shaykhli and then under 'Ali Sabir. He began practicing under the supervision of Shaykh Mulla 'Ali al-Fadli, who gave him an ijazet ("certificate" of calligraphy) in 1363/1943. In 1364/1944, Hashim went to Egypt, where he was admitted into the Calligraphy Institute in Cairo. The instructors there were highly impressed with his work and allowed him to sit immediately for the final examination of the senior class; he obtained first-class honors. He was given a second ijazet by the Egyptian calligrapher Sayyid Ibrahim (1315/1897 - 1414/1994), and another by the calligrapher Muhammad Husni in 1364/1944. The Institute asked him to stay in Egypt and teach, but he returned to Baghdad and opened a calligrapher's shop in 1365/1946. He later went to Istanbul, where he became acquainted with the Turkish calligraphers, especially Hamid Aytac, who gave him two certificates of appreciation in lieu of an ijazet, one in 1370/1950 and another in 1372/1952. For four years, as of 1375/1955, he studied with Macit Ayril who had come from Baghdad to Istanbul and greatly benefited from working with him. Hashim served as a calligrapher in the Surveyors' Department in Baghdad from 1380/1960 until he was transferred to the Ministry of Education, where he was appointed head of the Department of Decoration and Calligraphy in the Institute of Fine Arts.

Hashim was deeply influenced by the Turkish calligraphers. He greatly admired the work of Hafiz Osman; Mehmed Şevki; Hacı Ahmed Kamil Akdik; and Hamid Aytac. His admiration for Mustafa Rakim was so great that he named his son after him and began calling himself Abu Rakim, or Rakim's father. In Istanbul, he used to visit Necmeddin Okyay, who owned a distinguished collection of calligraphic works. With the aim of making this art known, Hashim issued a collection of calligraphic pieces in riq'ah and another in a variety of scripts. He also supervised the publication of Muşhaf al-Awqaf, which was published for the first time by the Surveyors' Department. This is a splendid Quran copy calligraphed in 1236/1821 by the Turkish calligrapher Mehmed Emin er-Rüşdi (thirteenth/nineteenth century). The copy was presented by Pertevniyal, mother of Sultan Abdulaziz, to the Mosque of the Great Imam al-Nu'man b. Thabit, known as Abu Hanifah. Hashim illuminated the beginning of the mushaf anew, numbered its verses, wrote the titles of the surahs, and the numbers of the hizbs, juzes, and sajdahs in a manner acceptable to Arab taste. Hashim also calligraphed decorative friezes in mosques and other buildings in Baghdad and other cities; these were done on faience or marble, mostly in jali thuluth. The rarest of his works are in kufi script, as in the 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani Mosque and the Hajj Mahmud Mosque. Hashim al-Baghdadi died on 27 Rabi'l 1393/30 April 1973 in Baghdad and was buried in the Khayzurani Cemetery.

AWARDS

1-JALY THULUTH

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st	4.000 \$	M. Farouk Hadad	U.A.E.	Syrian
2nd	2.500 \$	Monep Obradovitch	Egypt	Bosnian
3rd	1.500 \$	Omer Faruk Ozogul	Turkey	Turkish

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Hakem Gannam	Iraq	Iraqi
Mohammad D. Jalloul	Syria	Syrian
Sabah Bapeer	U. K.	English
Nurullah Ozdem	Turkey	Turkish
Abdurrahman Depeler	Turkey	Turkish
Jasoem M. Meraj	Kuwait	Kuwaiti
Sherin Abd el-Halim	Egypt	Egyptian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Ahmed Nafez	Palestine	Palestinian
M. Zannun Yunus	Iraq	Iraqi
Ahmed Ibrahim	Egypt	Egyptian
Husam Ali Matar	Syria	Syrian
Ali al-Sabit	Tunisia	Tunisian
M. Elahi Bakhsh Mutee	Pakistan	Pakistani
Muhammed Ali Zahid	Pakistan	Pakistani
Ahmad Ali Bhutta	Pakistan	Pakistani
Abdul Baki Bin Abu Bakar	Malaysia	Malay
H. Mahmud Basri	Indonesia	Indonesian

2-THULUTH

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st	4.000 \$	M. Farouk Hadad	U.A.E.	Syrian
2nd	2.500 \$	Ahmed F. Awadallah	Egypt	Egyptian
3rd	1.500 \$	R. Abdullah B. Isa	Syria	Syrian

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
M. Zannun Yunus	Iraq	Iraqi
Ayman Abdullah Hasan	Kuwait	Syrian
Nuh al-Hamed	Syria	Syrian
Sherin Abd el-Halim	Egypt	Egyptian
Adnan M. Al-Kazzaz	Syria	Syrian
Nuria Garcia, Masip	Almanya	Spanish
Hub al-Husayn Najafi	Iran	Iraqi

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Nasr al-Meymun	S. Arabia	S. Arabian
Habib A. Kazim	Iraq	Iraqi
Matin Javdat Ali	Iraq	Iraqi
Isa B. Yahya Bututha	Algeria	Algerian
Gulsum Aydin	Turkey	Turkish
Samiye Aksan	Turkey	Turkish
Eitay Toktobekulu	Kyrgyzia	Kyrgyz
Romil Abuzarov	Turkey	Russian

3-NASKH

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st	3.500 \$	Juma M. Hamaher	Syria	Syrian
2nd	2.000 \$	Hail O. Dabbe	Syria	Syrian
3rd	1.500 \$	Sabah Bapeer	U. K.	English

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Yaqub I. Suleyman	Jordan	Jordanian
Amahmed Safarbatl	Algeria	Algerian
M. Zannun Yunus	Iraq	Iraqi
Bijar Arbilly	Germany	German
Ayten Tiryaki	Turkey	Turkish
Mahmoud al-Ban	Syria	Syrian
Abdurrahman al-Abdy	Syria	Syrian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Adnan M. Al-Kazzaz	Syria	Syrian
Ahmed Majid Hamdi	Iraq	Iraqi
Muhammad Bahsiti	Syria	Syrian
Saheer Nasir Saadeddin	Palestine	Palestinian
Fatma Zehra Ulker	Turkey	Turkish
Deniz Oktan Bektash	Turkey	Turkish
Sare Cizmecioglu	Turkey	Turkish

4-JALY TALIQ

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st: (Shared)	1.250 \$	Arda Cakmak	Turkey	Turkish
	1.250 \$	Ma'mun Yagmur	Syria	Syrian
2nd: (Shared)	750 \$	Mustafa Parildar	Turkey	Turkish
	750 \$	Hub al-Husayn Najafi	Iran	Iraqi
3rd: (Shared)	500 \$	Alireza Taljangani	Iran	Iranian
	500 \$	Mehdi Foorozandh	Iran	Iranian

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Anwar A. Al-Halwany	Syria	Syrian
Majid Daneshmandian	Iran	Iranian
G. Memarzade Ghaffari	Iran	Iranian
Abdunnasser al-Badrani	S. Arabia	Syrian
Muhammed Qna	Syria	Syrian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Mayumi Kobayashi	Japan	Japanese

5-TALIQ (NASTALIQ)

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st (Shared)	1.250 \$	Arda Cakmak	Turkey	Turkish
	1.250 \$	M. Reza Rahimpour	Iran	Iranian
2nd (Shared)	750 \$	Ahmed Shamta	Syria	Syrian
	750 \$	Mustafa Parildar	Turkey	Turkish
3rd (Shared)	500 \$	Hamid Reza Ebrahimi	Iran	Iranian
	500 \$	M. Fateh Saed Natanze	Iran	Iranian

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Aireza Tajangani	Iran	Iranian
Usame M. Al-Hamzawy	Syria	Syrian
Badii Ismail Al- Battah	Syria	Syrian
Ma'mun Yagmur	Syria	Syrian
Mehdi Atrian	Iran	Iranian

6-JALY DIWANI

		Name, Surname	Country	Country of origin
1st	2.000 \$	Khaled al-Saai	U.A.E.	Syrian
2nd	1.500 \$	M. Farouk Hadad	U.A.E.	Syrian
3rd	1.000 \$	A.Razaq Karakash	Syria	Syrian

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Jamal Mahmoud M. Afify	Egypt	Egyptian
Abdunnasser al-Hasan	Syria	Syrian
Huseyin Husnu Turkmen	Turkey	Turkish
Bessam Adnan M. Haydari	Iraq	Iraqi
Mouhanned al-Saai	Syria	Syrian
Muhammed Qina	Syria	Syrian
Adel F. A. Odeh	Paletsine	Paletinian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
M.Al-Noori	U.A.E.	Iraqi
Melha Teparic	Bosnia Herzegovina	Bosnian
Homoud Saleh Al-Banna	Yemen	Yemeni
Yasin Karem	China	Chinese

7-DIWANI

		Winner	Country	Country of origin
1st	1500 \$	Mohammad D. Jaloul	Syria	Syrian
2nd	1000 \$	A.Razaq Karakash	Syria	Syrian
3rd	7500 \$	Hussain Ali Shaqolah	Syria	Syrian

Mentions (500 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
A.Razaq Mahmoud	U.A.E.	Syrian
Nasr al-Meymun	S. Arabia	S. Arabian
Majed M. Rajab	Syria	Syrian
Anwar A. Al-Halwany	Syria	Syrian
Mohammed Abdurrahman	Syria	Syrian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Fatima Mahdi Saeed	U.A.E.	U.A.E.
Osman M. Hussain	Egypt	Egyptian
Ihab Ibrahim Sabit	Palestine	Palestinian
Abdul Rahman Y. Abdah	Yemen	Yemeni
Isep Misbah	Indonesia	Indonesian
Hafiz Anjum Mehmood	Pakistan	Pakistan
Maryam Yumi Tominaga	Japan	Japanese
Takako Akino	Japan	Japanese

8-KUFI

Mentions (750 \$ - Shared, 375 \$ for each)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Isam Abdulfattah S.Ahmad	Egypt	Egyptian
Hussam Husain Al-Husain	Syria	Syrian
M. Ashraf Heera	Pakistan	Pakistani
Iman Gelshani	Egypt	Egyptian
Salah M. Abdulkhaleq	Egypt	Egyptian
Amer bin Jaddo	Tunisia	Tunisian

9-MUHAQQAQ
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
M. Kashani Azad	Iran	Iranian
Awmy Adel Nakkash	Iraq	Iraqi
Aziz Abdullah Barzanjy	Iraq	Iraqi

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Haitham Hamadah	Syria	Syrian
Jamal Naja	Lebanon	Lebanese

10-REYHANI
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Osamah M. Hamzawi	Syria	Syrian
M. Kashani Azad	Iraq	Iraqi
Juma M. Hamaher	Syria	Syrian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Nawzad Raza	Sweden	Iraqi
Hali O. Dabbe	Syria	Syrian

11-IIAZA
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Juma M. Hamaher	Syria	Syrian
Yaqoub I. Süleyman	Jordan	Jordanian
Aziz Abdullah Barzanjy	Iraq	Iraqi

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Amahmed Safarbatl	Algeria	Algerian
Lokman M.Y.M. Zadeh	Iraq	Iraqi
Mohammed Osmanen	Algeria	Algerian

12-RIQA
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Mahmoud A. Lateef Dosho	Syria	Syrian
Juma Ibrahim	Syria	Syrian
Mohammed Hasan Ala	Egypt	Egyptian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Muhammad Bahsi	Syria	Syrian
Mohamed M. Alsyofi	Syria	Syrian
Munir el-Sabit	Syria	Syrian

13-MAGHRIBI
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Mohyeddin Khsharem	Tunisia	Tunisian
Ali Benayech	Morocco	Moroccan
Salim Hamidi	Morocco	Moroccan

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Tafrent Mohammad	Morocco	Moroccan
Noriko Sugiyama	Japan	Japanese

14-KHURDE TALIQ
Mentions (750 \$)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
M. Reza Rahimpour	Iran	Iranian
Mehdi Foorozandhi	Iran	Iranian
Ali Mogharen Askary	Iran	Iranian

Incentive Prizes (\$ 250)

Winner	Country	Country of origin
Ahmad Ahmady Haydari	Iran	Iranian
Badeei Ismael Al-Battah	Syria	Syrian

An obituary notice

Calligrapher Abdarridha Jassim Al-Qirimli passed away

The world of calligraphy has lost one of its esteemed members: Iraqi calligrapher Abdarridha Jassim Al-Qirimli, whom IRCICA first came to know for his success in the First International Calligraphy Competition held in 1986, and then through his participation in several meetings and events relating to this art. His office on Sadoun Street, a good location at the centre of Baghdad, was functioning like a liaison office for calligraphers and lovers of this art from other countries or other provinces visiting Baghdad. His hospitality and generosity were unlimited. He was equally generous in sharing his knowledge, experiences and skills; he was a friendly person loved by everybody.

Al-Qirimli started his artistic career in Maysan Governorate, where he was born (1947) and worked there as a teacher in the Handicrafts Centre. In the early 1980s he moved to Baghdad with his family; he used to come to this city before from time to time to learn from senior lecturers such as Prof. Mahdi Al-Jabouri, Dr. Salman Ibrahim and Mr. Yusuf Dhanun.



Al-Qirimli visited IRCICA for the first time in August 1982. He wanted to hold an exhibition in IRCICA jointly with his colleague Dr. Abdarridha Bahia (Rawdhan), presently professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Chairman of the Association of Iraqi Calligraphers. However, the tragic events befalling his country prevented it. He could not participate either in the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition, which is devoted to a leading master calligrapher in his country, the late Hashim Mohammed Al-Baghdadi. He had regularly participated in the preceding six competitions in which he obtained many awards in the various styles of calligraphy. Al-Qirimli passed away on 14 November 2006. May God bless his soul.

International congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" to be held in Kazakhstan

Since the mid-1980s, IRCICA coordinates congresses in partnership with governments and universities, to promote studies on regional aspects of Islamic history and civilization around the world. Two congresses were held in this series in 2006, focusing on Southern Africa (congress held in Johannesburg, Sept. 2006) the Balkans (third congress, Nov. 2006). The next congress in this series is titled "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia". The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, Republic of Kazakhstan, is IRCICA's partner in this event. It will take place on 4-7 September 2007, in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The congress will address all subjects including the facts and developments in the political and administrative fields, the scientific, artistic, architectural and other products of Central Asian civilization, its interactions with other civilisations in and around the region, inter-cultural exchanges; the main stages and trends in the history of the region, the formation and present state of Islamic cultural heritage in the form of material (written, architectural and tangible assets) and spiritual culture (beliefs, oral traditions, performing arts and intangible expressions). Prospective participants are invited to send their abstracts to IRCICA or the Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Sciences, Republic of Kazakhstan, the earliest possible. The addresses are: IRCICA, Fax: +90 212 2584365; e-mail: congress@ircica.org; the Institute: Fax: +7 3272 614600; e-mail: investok@nursat.kz.

"Egypt in the Ottoman Era" Congress

IRCICA and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Culture, Egypt, are jointly organising a congress on "Egypt in the Ottoman Era", to be held on 26-30 November 2007, in Cairo.

The congress is expected to cover all aspects of Egypt during the Ottoman era, including facts and developments in the political, economic, scientific, literary, artistic spheres, cultural life, modernisation, education, press and publishing, urban/rural life, architecture, social fabric, etc.; Egypt's interactions with the surrounding regions; particular periods within this era; and also, the state of research, sources and methodological issues in the study of the subjects involved. The languages of the congress will be Arabic, English and Turkish. Paper presentations will be allowed 20 minutes each. The congress program will include visits to museums, exhibitions, and a sightseeing tour in Cairo. Following the congress, a selection of papers will be published in a volume.

Those interested in this congress may send the abstracts of their proposed papers until 30 June 2007 to IRCICA: Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü, Barbaros Bulvarı, 80700 Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Turkey; Fax: 90 2122584365, Tel: 90212 2591742; e-mail: congress@ircica.org; ircica@gmail.com

ICongress to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1908 Constitution of the Ottoman State

IRCICA is organising an international congress on "The Second Constitution/Meşrutiyet on its Centenary", to be held in İstanbul on 7-10 May 2008. The Second Constitution/Meşrutiyet, proclaimed by the Ottoman State in 1908, was one of the turning points in the history of the Ottoman State and marked the beginning of the dynamic processes that shaped the geo-political picture of the Middle East and the Balkans today. In this congress, the Second Constitution and ensuing processes will be analysed from inter-disciplinary perspectives, with regard to the historical background of the Second Constitution, the intellectual, cultural, literary, artistic etc. developments, and its repercussions – its immediate and continuing impacts observed in the Muslim world and in the countries with which the Ottoman State held relations. The resulting administrative and political transformations will be highlighted, the results of the ideological and intellectual dynamics involved will be evaluated. The main themes are:

I) Dynamics leading to the Second Constitution

1. Formation of the idea of the Constitution in the Muslim world (ideational currents in the Ottoman Empire, Iran and other regions)
2. Ideational currents and political movements (e.g. Ottomanism, Islamism, Westernism, Turkism; New Ottomans, Young Turks, on centralization/decentralization)
3. Attempts at reform and renewal

II) The Young Turks Revolution and declaration of the Second Constitution

1. The 1908 Constitution and the reforms
2. The impact of the 1908 Constitution on Ottoman State and society
3. The international impact of the 1908 Constitution

III) Repercussions of the 1908 Constitution in the Muslim world

1. The Balkans
2. The Middle East
3. Central Asia
4. North Africa

IV) Ideological and political developments in the aftermath of World War I

1. Movements of nationalism and independence (in the Muslim world, Turkistan, India, etc.)
2. The ascendancy of ideologies in the Muslim world (e.g. Socialism, Liberalism, Nationalism)
3. Democratisation processes and political parties
4. Legal developments, rights and liberties.

The languages of the congress are English, French, Arabic and Turkish. The papers to be presented will be published as a book. Prospective participants are kindly requested to send the titles of their papers by 30 September 2007 and their abstracts by 30 November 2007 to the Congress Secretariat at: IRCICA, Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü, Barbaros Bulvarı, Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Turkey; email: congress@ircica.org; ircica@gmail.com

IRCICA hosts public lectures on Saturdays twice a month, from September to June inclusive, and occasionally at other times. These lectures are delivered by scholars, authors and researchers from Turkey and abroad on various subjects corresponding to the Centre's fields of activities, with emphasis on the history of Muslim countries and peoples, art, architecture, history of art, history of science, language, literature, etc. The lectures are recorded on cassettes and kept as reference materials. The titles of the lectures scheduled to be held from 10 March to May 2007 are listed below:

- * "Books and Libraries" by Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, 10 March 2007
- * "The late Muhsin Demironat on the Centennial of his birth" by Prof. Dr. Çiçek Derman, 17 March 2007
- * "The architecture of Semerkand" by Prof. Dr. Amir Pašić, 13 April 2007
- * "Medreses during the Timurid period: their role in Islamic Civilization and History of Science" by Kishimjan Eshenkulova, 13 April 2007
- * "Religion and Psychology" by Dr. Ali Ayten, 28 April 2007
- * "Books and Libraries" by Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, 10 March 2007

In his lecture, Prof. Ramazan Şeşen, Head of the Department of Bibliographies at IRCICA gave a historical overview of the libraries in the Islamic world. At first, Prof. Şeşen indicated the importance given to books in Islamic society from its earliest times onwards. He stated that libraries were called *hizanat al-kutub* (treasury of books). In early times of Islamic history, the books kept in the libraries were sacred books, namely the Bible and the Old Testament. There was also a written literature in Syriac, Greek and Hebrew. The first library in Islamic history was founded by the Umayyad caliph Muawiya in his palace. Muslims began to get acquainted with pre-Islamic cultures through translations from Greek and Roman languages during the Abbasid period. Prof. Şeşen also underlined the importance of institutions such as Jundishapur (today within the borders of Iran) in Iraq and *Bayt al-Hikma* in Baghdad which both contained libraries and functioned as academies. Gradually, the *Bayt al-Hikmas*

disappeared and were replaced by the *dar al-ilm*s. The first one was established in Mosul during the Fatimid period. These institutions included rich libraries. There were also important libraries in cities such as Damascus, Aleppo and Diyarbakır. The Mustansiriya medrese which was built by the Caliph Mustansir contained 10.000-12.000 volumes of books. The chief physician of Salah al-Din Ayyubi had a library of 10.000 volumes and he had two copyists. Prof. Şeşen pointed out that some of the above-mentioned libraries reached the present day while others were transferred to other buildings, burnt or lost as a result of wars or pillage. Prof. Şeşen also focused on the libraries during the period of the Anatolian Seljuks and the Ottomans. We know that the great mystics and scholars Ibn Arabi and Sadreddin Konevi had libraries. Several libraries were established during the Ottoman period. Books spread rapidly by many means such as wars, trade and pilgrimage. Many scholars and book lovers had their own copyists of books. Some books were sold for very high prices.

- * "The late Muhsin Demironat on the Centennial of his birth" by Prof. Çiçek Derman, 17 March 2007

Prof. Çiçek Derman talked about the life and works of her teacher Muhsin Demironat. She pointed out that the late Demironat devoted his life to the art of illumination and trained many students. He was born in 1907 in İnebolu. He graduated from the Teacher's School in Istanbul in 1928. With the encouragement of İsmail Hakkı Altunbezer (1873-1946), who was a calligraphy teacher in this school, he enrolled in the Calligrapher's School (*Medresetü'l-Hattatin*) and started to study the art of illumination. He graduated from the Department of Oriental Arts of Illumination, State Academy of Fine Arts in 1936. He was appointed Director of the Yıldız Porcelain Factory in 1966 where he had a very fruitful career. Muhsin Demironat passed away on June 23 1983. For Muhsin Demironat, the necessary conditions for becoming a good artist were: having a good teacher, and then, a sharp vision, a strong wrist, patience and finally, talent. His illuminations can be seen on calligraphic plates and lacquered covers which are splendid examples of the Turkish art of illumination.



Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen



Prof. Dr. Çiçek Derman

**“Semerkand: Architecture and Urban Development”
lecture and exhibition by Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić**



A comprehensive lecture was given by Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić, Head of IRCICA's Department of Architectural Studies, on “Semerkand: Architecture and Urban Development”. The lecture, given on 13 April, was accompanied by an exhibition of illustrations and drawings of the architectural monuments and city plans of Semerkand.

Professor Pašić first described the historical evolution of the city of Semerkand from the period of the ruler Timur (end of the 14th century) onwards.

This was followed by outlines of the evolution, detailed descriptions, and technical analyses of key parts of the city, with focuses on the following sites and monuments:

1. “Registan”: Registan square was the centre of Semerkand for centuries. The world-famous Ulugh Bey Medrese, Sher Dor Medrese, and Tilla-Kari Medrese, are the three historical monuments surrounding the square.
2. Bibi Khanim Mosque built for the wife of Timur.
3. Gur Emir Mausoleum, where Timur is buried.
4. Shakhi-Zinda Memorial Complex.

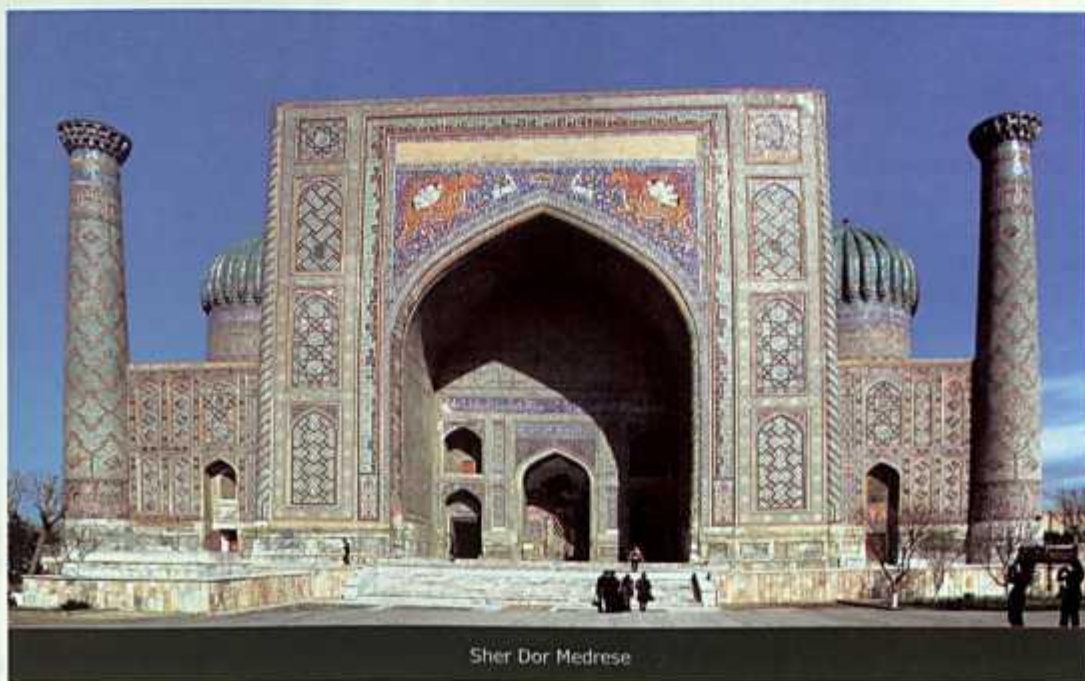


Bibi Khanim Mosque

While explaining the characteristics of these monuments with respect to architectural design and construction, the lecturer also pointed to their respective positions within the city structure. Semerkand is well-known for the remarkable ideas and applications of city-building.

Then, the lecturer analysed the functional structures and uses of these sites and monuments, such as education, hospital, etc.

In the last part of his lecture, Prof. Pašić made proposals regarding the preservation of the sites and monuments and development of the old city.



Sher Dor Medrese

* "Religion and Psychology", Dr. Ali Ayten, 28 April 2007

The relationship between "psychology" and "religion" has been the subject of myriad studies till the present day. The lecturer, Dr. Ali Ayten from the Faculty of Theology of Marmara University, Istanbul, gave an interesting lecture on the subject. Dr. Ayten outlined the views of some influential psychologists, who opened new horizons throughout history, regarding the understanding of religion from within the discipline of psychology. The great figures in psychology which constituted the topic of his lecture are Sigmund Freud, Swiss psychiatrist and the founder of analytic psychology Carl G. Jung; American psychoanalyst and sociologist Erich Fromm, Russian psychologist Abraham Maslow and Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl.

Dr. Ayten pointed out that although Freud denies all kinds of religious authority, he accepts the role of religion in helping the individuals to overcome their fears and pain in life. According to Jung, religion is an undeniable factor in human life. It occupied the human mind since early periods of history. Fromm also underlined the need of human beings for a belief system and stated that, in this way, they are able to overcome their problems and face the questions regarding their existence. The Russian psychologist Maslow sees religion as the natural need of human nature. Finally, Dr. Ali Ayten pointed out that according to Frankl, the worst tragedy for a human being starts when he loses his faith in God. The lecturer gave an overview of the thought and literature on religion from the perspective of psychology.

* "Medreses during the Timurid period: Their role in Islamic Civilization and History of Science" by Kishimjan Eshenkulova, 13 April 2007

In her lecture, Miss Kishimjan Eshenkulova, a historian of science from Kyrgyzstan, focused on the importance and functions of the *medreses* in the Timurid Empire (1370-1507).

She pointed out that after establishing political unity, the ruler Timur assembled scholars in his capital city, Semerkand, where he built various educational and cultural institutions, including *medreses*. Some of the principal *medreses* of Semerkand in this period were Bibi Hanim Complex, Ulugh Bey *medrese*, Shah Melik *medrese* and Qutb al-Din Sadr *medrese*. We do not have extensive information about the curricula or the professors of these institutions. However, we know that in line with the classical Islamic *medrese* education, besides religious sciences such as *fikh* and *tafsir*, the sciences known as *ulum al-awail* (mathematics, astronomy, etc.) were also taught, and that Timur's grandson Ulugh Bey was directly involved in these sciences. Miss Eshenkulova then informed the audience about Ulugh Bey's *medrese*: particularly natural and mathematical sciences were taught in this *medrese*. Great scholars such as Kadizade Rumi, Ali Kuşçu, Gayyath

al-Din Jamshid and Muin al-Din were associated with this institution. At the end of her lecture she pointed out that the scholars who flourished in this period contributed greatly to the development of science in Khorasan, India and the Ottoman world. Thus, the *medreses* of this period played an important role in Islamic history of science.

Books on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans"

IRCICA published the papers which were presented during the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" (Tirana, Albania, 4-7 December 2003). The first volume published in 2006 comprised the thirteen papers presented in English. The papers which were presented in Albanian and in Turkish have been published in a second and third volume, respectively.

The symposium was jointly organized by IRCICA, the Academy of Sciences of Albania, the General Directorate of Archives (Albania), the University of Tirana, and ISAR Foundation of Istanbul. It brought together a number of participants from universities, international organizations, cultural and academic institutions from all countries.

The volume in Albanian contains thirty papers contributed by scholars and researchers of various origins and from various countries. It is titled as follows: *Punimet e Simpoziumit të dytë Ndërkombëtar Qytetërimi Islam në Ballkan*, Tiranë, Shqipëri, 4-7 dhjetor 2003. The volume in Turkish, comprising twenty-eight papers, is titled *Balkanlarda İslâm Medeniyeti II. Milletlerarası Sempozyumu Tebliğleri*, Tiran, Arnavutluk, 4-7 Aralık 2003.



Distinguished guests

* On 12 January 2007 IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Elhassan Ahmed Elhaj, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan in Ankara. This was the second visit of Ambassador Elhaj, following his visit on 21 February 2006, and an excellent occasion to review the steps completed in the implementation of the joint projects that are being carried out and those considered for the future. Of particular interest at this stage is the book, titled, tentatively, *Sudan in the Ottoman period in the light of documents*, which is being prepared in cooperation with the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul. The book describes and outlines the collections of archive documents dating from the Ottoman empire and relating to the lands corresponding to present-day Sudan.



H.E. Ambassador Elhaj presented a plaque of appreciation to IRCICA Director General for the Centre's studies

* IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Dr. Ziyad al-Din al-Ayyubi, Minister of Waqfs of Syria, to its headquarters on 18 April 2007. The Minister and the accompanying delegation were visiting Turkey on the occasion of the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey towards launching the restoration of Suleymaniye Complex in Syria. At IRCICA, the Minister and his

colleagues received information on the research programs, the congresses, etc.; the talks centered particularly on the activities which were organised jointly by the government, universities and various institutions of Syria on one hand, and IRCICA on the other.



Dr. al-Ayyubi wrote his impressions in the Visitors' Book: "I was fascinated by this Centre where one recalls a long and glorious past, a time we long for. Thus, if treaties separated us, may this culture unite us, the Arabs and the Muslims."

H.E. Dr. al-Ayyubi (at left) saw samples of the Centre's publications

Cultural Events

Tashkent declared "Capital of Islamic Culture 2007"

Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, has been declared the "Capital of Islamic Culture 2007" by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The OIC's annual program of "Capital of Islamic Culture" is coordinated by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO).

As IRCICA was informed by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Ankara, the President of Uzbekistan H.E. Islam Karimov pointed out, in an interview granted to Turkistan Press, that a number of historical and cultural factors contributed to the selection of Tashkent as cultural capital, but of particular importance were the city's wealth of experience and traditions during its centuries-long Islamic history and the scientific, intellectual and spiritual heritage of Islam embodied in this city. Equally relevant was the importance given by Uzbekistan to the preservation and the study of this heritage, creation of an awareness of it among the younger generations, and making it known in the world. During the period of the Soviet Republic, old manuscripts that constitute the written part of this heritage were preserved in foundations' libraries and studied by interested experts for academic purposes. A larger usage is made today of these sources, and importance is given to the restoration and conservation of the written as well as the built heritage in various cities of Uzbekistan such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Hiva and Shehrisabz.

Restoration programs on some large-scale monuments, started 15 to 20 years ago, continue. In Samarkand, Shah-i Zinde complex, the tombs of Imam Bukhari and Imam Maturidi; in Bukhara, the complexes of Abdellhaliq Gijduwani, Bahaeddin Naqshbend, Masjid al-Kalan, Minaret al-Kalan, The complex of Ahmed Farghani and Buhaneddin Marjilani in Farghana, Hakim Termizi and Imam Termizi complexes in Surhanderya, the Itchan Kala in Hiva, Dar el-tilawa in Shehrisabz, the tomb of Sheikh Qasim in Karman, among others, all well-known sites of Islamic heritage, are restored on the basis of specialized studies and with utmost care to preserve what remains from the original and the oldest including the various components of their gardens and courtyards. The President of Uzbekistan pointed to the need to undertake a large-scale restoration and conservation work in the complex of the Hazrati Imam Mosque which houses the copy of the Quran that is attributed to the period of Caliph Othman, and known as the Tashkent copy.

The various cultural heritage preservation programs carried out by the Government of Uzbekistan will be highlighted during 2007. A number of international cultural events are planned within the framework of the "Capital of Islamic Culture" programs, including a scholarly conference on "Islam and Tolerance" to be held in Tashkent. The programs will no doubt contribute in creating awareness and increasing world peoples' knowledge on the deep-rooted cultural history

and heritage of Tashkent, and Uzbekistan at large, which have constituted one of the oldest and most productive cores of scientific and architectural production in Islamic history.

Competition for writing the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar" finalised

At the instructions of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, a competition was launched to select the calligraphers to be entrusted with copying the Quran in a new copy to be published under the name of the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar". The Ministry of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar and IRCICA jointly assumed the coordination of the competition, to select the best calligraphers of the naskh style. A jury was set up, chaired by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, then Director General of IRCICA, and comprised of the following calligraphy experts: Prof. Mohammad bin Said Sharifi (professor, Higher School of Fine Arts, Algeria), Dr. M. Uğur Derman (professor of calligraphy, Istanbul), calligrapher Hasan Çelebi, who taught the thuluth and naskh styles to calligraphers from around the world, and Mr. Mohammed Tamimi (IRCICA) as the rapporteur.

Calligraphers known for their excellence in the naskh style and prize-winners of the competitions organised by IRCICA were invited to participate in the competition. The jury met for the first time in Doha, Qatar, on 20-22 May 2002 to examine the first 5-page samples of writing which were submitted by the candidates in what was a first stage of the competition. Seven calligraphers from four countries were selected. Then these calligraphers were requested to write two sections from the Quran each, in what would constitute the second stage of the competition. Those to be commissioned to copy the entire Quranic text in one and half years were to be chosen from among them. This second stage was finalised during a second meeting of the jury, which was held at IRCICA, in Istanbul, on 18-21 October 2002. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah al-Mirri, then Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar, was present at the meeting. After examining the trial texts submitted by six calligraphers from four countries, the jury selected the following two calligraphers, who were then commissioned by the Ministry to copy the entire Quran: Mr. Ubayda Mohammad Salih al-Banki (Syrian) and Mr. Sabah Magdid al-Arbili (British).

The Jury held its final meeting in Doha, Qatar, on 17-20 January 2007, under the chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. Dr. Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kawari, Chairman of the Qatari Committee overseeing the project, participated in the meetings. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the first and the second of the above

two calligraphers on basis of technical criteria, taking into account such factors as precision and beauty in writing, stability of the calligrapher's hand, consistency of the writing in all pages, non-overlapping of the words, spelling, equality of the spaces, in addition to stylistic considerations. The Jury selected Mr. Ubayda Mohammad Salih al-Banki as the winner of the first prize (\$ 100.000) and Mr. Sabah Magdid al-Arbili as the winner of the second prize (\$ 50.000). The results were announced at a press conference on 20 January 2007. Prof. Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC and Chairman of the Jury, underlined that this event taking place in Qatar was the first of its kind on the subject. He recalled the beginnings of the project with the initiative of the State of Qatar to have a copy of the Quran produced and bear its name, and consequently, the efforts of IRCICA, the idea to choose the best calligraphers to participate in the competition; although their number was at first estimated at about twenty, 120 calligraphers submitted their works; the best seven of whom were selected. Finally, the process was reduced to the selection of two calligraphers. Dr. Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kawari said that the Mushaf would be completed in one year's time, following a scholarly review of the winning copy. After the event, the two copies were presented to H.E. Mr. Faisal bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs, together with the gilding and illumination works which were prepared by three gilders in Istanbul for consideration for use in printing the copy.

The Fourth Session of the Dubai International Exhibition of Arab Calligraphy held in February 2007

Under the auspices of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai, the Fourth Session of the Dubai International Exhibition of Arab Calligraphy was organised by the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, Dubai, with the cooperation of IRCICA. The exhibition was opened by H.E. Mr. Khalid bin Sulaim, Director General of the Department of Tourism and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, on 22 February 2007, at the new headquarters of the Cultural and Scientific Association in Al-Mamzer. High officials and dignitaries from the United Arab Emirates attended the event.

Twenty one calligraphers from nine countries (Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A.) participated in this exhibition. About 70 works were displayed, in various styles of calligraphy, including thuluth, naskh, diwani and kufi. Several workshops were held during the period of the exhibition. Lectures were delivered on the following topics: "Arab Calligraphy: Word and Form" by Dr. Venetia Porter, "IRCICA's Generation of Calligraphers and the Experience of Mehmet Özçay" by Mohammed Tamimi and calligrapher Mehmet Özçay, "The Expressive Role of Arab Calligraphy" by Dr. Rawdhan Bahiyah, "The Six Styles

of Calligraphy and their Evolution through the Ages" by Dr. Uğur Derman, and "Technical Terms on Arab Calligraphy" by Dr. Idham Hanash.

A closing ceremony was held on the last day of the exhibition, during which the contributions of some calligraphy specialists were acknowledged: thus, the Department of Tourism presented to calligrapher Hasan Çelebi the "Award of Distinguished Contributions in Calligraphy", an award created this year, in recognition of his outstanding services, especially his training a large number of calligraphers who are known in the present day. The Department also expressed gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Al-Oweis, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, for his patronage of calligraphy and calligraphers, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Murr, Chairman of Dubai Cultural Council and member of IRCICA Governing Board, for his continuous support of activities related to the art of calligraphy; the Department presented certificates of appreciation to Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and the supervisors and participants of the exhibition. This was the first time the exhibition was held in the newly opened Cultural and Scientific Association. Its building, endowed with a library, a theater and multi-purpose halls has become a landmark of the heritage of Dubai.



Opening by Mr. Khalid bin Sulaim, Director General, Department of Tourism, Dubai and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development of the U.A.E. Mr. A. Al-Oweis (in the middle) met with the calligraphers

The 24th Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair held in Tunis

The National Office for Handicrafts (ONA), Tunisia, organized the 24th Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair during the period from 16 to 25 March 2007. The fair attracted about 700 national exhibitors in the commercial section and 200 in the creativity section. For ten days, the 24 governorates of Tunisia presented theme-based exhibitions and workshops where artisans gave demonstrations highlighting the special regional qualities of crafts and products. The fair took place at the Karam Exhibition Hall in Tunis along with a symposium aiming to establish the Arab Union of Traditional Industries. A variety of innovative handicrafts were presented, such as copper, mosaics, carpets, tapestry, textiles, weaving, wrought iron and cane furniture, wood and wooden furniture, silverware, blown-glass, among others. The events related to the fair included the Awards of Creativity for Artisans, the Award of Creativity for Arts Students, the Award for the Best Stand – Commercial Space, the Award of the "Golden Khomsa" for daywear. ONA has been organizing this fair since 1982 in order to safeguard and promote the traditional handicrafts and the know-how embodied in them.

Dr. Nazeih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program, IRCICA, represented IRCICA during the fair and related events; a set of working sessions were held between ONA and IRCICA whereby modalities were set for preparing an international congress that would deal with a topic needing study, namely, the use of traditional industries in the framework of architectural projects.

25-16
Mars ٢٠٠٧
2007
تونس المنعاش بالكرم

صالون الابتكار في
الصناعات التقليدية
Salon de la création artisanale

المصنف: شركة معرض تونس الدولي
الطابق: 1
البريد: 1001
الهاتف: 79 79 111 - 79 71 111
www.tunisiacrafts.com

البريد الإلكتروني: info@tunisiacrafts.com
الهاتف: 79 79 111
www.tunisiacrafts.com

Book Survey

Books selected from IRCICA Library

Studies in Islamic civilisation

Wisdom of Islamic Civilization – A Miscellany of Islamic Quotations (1-803 AH/622-1400 CE), translated from the classical Arabic literature, edited and compiled with an Introduction by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Jabbar Beg, Cambridge, 2006, 132 p.

This valuable book is a collection of quotations compiled from Islamic literature - both the fundamental sources and works of literary and intellectual creation. It is a renewed and enlarged edition of the book after its first four editions published through 1977-1986. The quotations, relating to a wide range of significant themes, depict the teachings, concepts and practices that shape the spirit emerging from Islamic civilization: its wisdom. Every civilisation is distinct from the others in its wisdom, which defines its identity. In this respect, the wisdom of the ancient Greeks was crystallised in philosophy, says the author, while the Romans excelled in the Law; as to the wisdom of Islamic civilization, it emerges from the Islamic literature, which is vast and varied in scope. The author classifies the main sources of the quotations into four groups, i.e. literary, historical, religious and proverbial (folk-loristic). In fourteen chapters, the book gathers the components and formative concepts of wisdom from nearly all areas, including the quest for wisdom and knowledge, science in Islam, Prophetic medicine, traits such as patience, silence, trust, rejection of falsehood, generosity and miserliness, justice and injustice, greed, honoring parents and elders; the use and abuse of language; the origin and varieties of writing/calligraphy; the virtues of intellect (*aql*) and knowledge/science (*ilm*); scholars (men of learning); the role of women in Islamic civilization; various virtues and frailties of human beings; the religious outlook; Islamic political and economic wisdom; the origins of Arab traditions; the impressions of Arabs about other nations and civilizations. The book also contains biographical notes on the main contributors and authors of Islamic quotations.

The Image of Islamic Civilization (A compendium of interpretations of the civilization of Islam during the last Islamic century, 1330-1400 AH/1882-1980 CE), edited and compiled, with an Introduction, by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Jabbar Beg, Cambridge, 2006. x+ 134 p.

The purpose of this book is to portray the image characteristic of Islam and its civilisation. Its first edition was published in commemoration of the 14th century Hijra/1979-80 AD; this new edition includes three new chapters on religious art of Islamic civilization, social welfare in Islam, and the image of Muslim women. Besides the editor's own chapters, writings by some other scholars are included in this book; among them, Muhammad Asad ("A Modern Theory of the Birth of Islamic Civilization", "Shari'ah and Islamic Civilization"),

H.A.R. Gibb and Costi K. Zurayk ("The Matrices of Islamic Civilisation"), W.H. McNeil and T. Izutsu et al. ("Islam: The Hallmark of A Civilisation"), Zeki Velidi Togan ("Al-Qur'an and its Influence"), Richard Ettinghausen and M.A.J. Beg et al. ("Islamic Art and Civilisation") with excerpts from Seyyed Hussein Nasr, Thomas Irving, Arnold J. Toynbee, among others. This highly instructive book is further enriched by discussions of some topics seldom treated elsewhere, such as "race and colour in Islam", together with overviews of the development of the city, arts, sciences, etc. in Islamic civilisation.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Jabbar Beg, **Essays on the Origins of Islamic Civilization**, Cambridge, 2006, vii + 312 p.

The essays in this book formed part of the author's introductory lectures on Islamic Civilization at the National University of Malaysia from 1977 onward. The author first critically evaluates the view that Islam had its origins in Judaism and Christianity. He also focuses on the origins of the Islamic state with particular reference to the constitution of Madinah. The book also treats the following topics: an evaluation of social gradation or stratification in early Islamic society; the role of women during the first Islamic century (their functions in warfare, economy and as propagators of traditions, etc.); labour and craftsmanship in early Islamic society; the establishment of garrison towns and its contribution to the foundation of new places of worship; the origins of Islamic art and architecture, the origins of Islamic science. Under each theme the author refers to the pertinent debates and literature, thus depicting the state of the art and providing bibliographical information. This is another valuable book in the series of well-chosen, well-documented themes edited by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Jabbar Beg on Islam, Islamic civilization and the Muslim world.

Arts

Fine Arts of Islamic Civilization (A Collection of Essays by Art Historians), Edited with and Introduction by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Jabbar Beg, Cambridge 2006, v+180 p.

This collection of articles is not only a rich reference on the fine arts and architecture in Islam, but it also discusses extensively and presents ample materials on issues of particular relevance in the study of Islamic arts such as the controversy on portraiture (*taswir*, representation). Topics covered include Al-Ghazzali's perception of beauty mainly as reflected in his work *Kimiya-i Sa'adat* (Alchemy of Happiness); different kinds of religious music in Islam as seen in the "reading" of the Qur'an, the *adhan* (call to prayer) and the music of the Sufi orders; architecture in Islam, the concept of space, fine arts in architecture, etc.; an examination of Islamic motifs in Spanish and Latin-American architecture; religious arts of Islam such as arabesque, geometric art and calligraphy. Wherever possible and relevant, the author draws comparisons with Christian and Jewish perspectives on the issues covered.

Abdallah Attiya, **Al-Athar wa'l funun al-Islamiya** (Islamic artifacts and arts), el-Nahda el-Misriya, Cairo, 2007 (in Arabic)

This book traces the evolution of Islamic arts from the early centuries of Islam onwards in with reference to major Islamic cities, architectural structures and complexes such as medreses, hospitals, baths, fountains, mosques and citadels; applied arts; urban development; the different epochs and styles such as the Omeyyad, the Timurid, the Seljukid, the Ottoman periods, Iranian arts and architecture, etc. all based on descriptions of representative monuments. Maps, plans and photographs enrich the book. The author has completed his postgraduate studies in art history at Istanbul University.

Abdallah Attiya, **Dirasat fi al-fen al-Turki** (Studies in Turkish art), el-Nahda el-Misriya, Cairo, 2007 (in Arabic, introduction in Turkish)

The first part of this book is a comprehensive overview of the arts of ornamented tiles, metal works, carpets, textiles and woodwork within the context of Turkish arts, particularly during the period of the Seljuk and Ottoman states. The second part studies selected monuments dating from the Ottoman period in Turkey and Egypt with regard to their decorations and other artistic elements: Yeşil Türbe (Green Tomb) in Bursa, Sirçali Medrese in Konya. In this part, the author also examines examples of structures built in Istanbul by some Ottoman governors of Egypt such as Koca Sinan Pasha, Mehmet Mesih Pasha, Husrev Pasha some of which reflect the influence of Mamluk art. Other sections in the book are related to: early Ottoman mosques in Istanbul, European influences on Istanbul mosques of the 18th and 19th centuries, and finally, Sidi Mihriz Mosque in Tunis, which, the author indicates, is the only mosque of Tunis built in the Ottoman style, during the Ottoman period; its qibla wall is covered with tiles produced in Tunis on the example of Ottoman tiles.

History of science and technology

Salim Ayduz, **Tophâne-i Âmire ve Top Döküm Teknolojisi** (The Imperial Cannon Foundry and the technology of cannon casting), published by the Turkish Historical Society, Ankara, 2006, xxiii+559 p.

On the basis of original sources, the author examines the Ottoman contributions in the field of firearms and military technology. The book covers the period starting from the establishment of the Imperial Cannon Foundry (*Tophane-i Âmire*) until the end of the 16th century when the Ottoman armies began to weaken in the face of powerful European armies. This scholarly work is an expanded and revised version of the Ph D dissertation prepared by the author under the supervision of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in 1998. It was completed within the framework of the scientific projects on Ottoman contacts with Western technology which were carried out with the cooperation of IRCICA and

History of Science Department of the University of Istanbul. Recently, there is an increasing interest in the history of Ottoman science and military technology. An important work in this field, titled *Osmanlı Askerlik Literatürü Tarihi* (History of Military Art and Science Literature during the Ottoman Period) was published by IRCICA in 2004. It was prepared by R. Şeşen, S. Bekar, and G. Gündüz and edited by E. İhsanoğlu. The book of Salim Aydın is yet another valuable contribution to the field.

In this work, the author classifies for the first time the large-scale firearms that the Ottomans used. The introduction gives an account of the main sources on Ottoman military institution, Imperial Cannon Foundry and the weapons that the Ottomans used. These sources are some Ottoman chronicles, the works of contemporary Ottoman and European authors and archival sources on casting cannons and the foundry. These archival documents mainly consist of the accounting *defters* (registers) of the Imperial Cannon Foundry. Besides them, there are the records of the imperial council (*mühimme defters*) and those of the finance administration (*ahkâm defters*). This introductory section is particularly important for the researchers in this field since it familiarises them with the main sources. The book mainly deals with the following topics: Mobile foundries, foundries which were established before the imperial cannon foundry (those in Bursa and Edirne), the foundries constructed outside of Istanbul after the imperial cannon foundry was established; the construction, various buildings and personnel of the *Tophane-i Âmire*, such as technical staff (*topçubaşı* and *dökücübaşı*), civil functionaries and cannon casting craftsmen and ironsmiths; cannon casting technology and the necessary materials for casting cannons; the classification of various kinds of cannons and their functions. The author also questions the recent claim that the imperial cannon foundry was originally a Byzantine institution since the Ottomans had also established foundries outside of Istanbul.

Sources for studies in Islamic history

Nachrichten über die Osmanen und ihre Vorfahren in Reise- und Kriegsberichten, Analytische Bibliographie mit Standortnachweisen 1095-1600 (Information about the Ottomans and their ancestors in travelogues and war reports, analytical bibliography with information on location), prepared by Irmgard Leder, edited by György Hazai, Akademiai Kiado [Bibliotheca Orientalis Hungarica XLIX], Budapest, 2005 (in German)

With this bibliography of the travelogues and war reports relating to the Turkish lands during the period from 1095 to 1600, Dr. Leder, a scholar in librarianship, offers a highly useful reference, a bibliographic thesaurus, for researchers on the Seljukid and Ottoman periods in Anatolia. Travelogues and war reports have a prominent place among the abundant sources relating to these periods.

The travelogues are cited in chronological order according to the dates of the travels. If more than one travel account exists for the same year, alphabetical order is observed according to the names of the travelers/narrators. Each bibliographic entry is followed by indications on the library(ies) where the publication can be found. The date and place of the first printing is given. Some of the entries are supplemented by a photograph of the cover or the title page of the book. The bibliography has two parts: the first part covers the reports relating to the 1095-1500 period: the Crusades, pilgrimage, reports of diplomats, the conquest of Istanbul, etc.; the second part covers subjects such as the relations between the Ottoman Empire and West Europe during the 1500-1600 period, reports of the ambassadors of the Republic of Venice and the Roman Empire, maritime and land wars between European countries and the Ottomans, treaties, the memoirs of pilgrims, merchants, travelers interested in geography and natural sciences, among others. At the end of the book we find fifty-six illustrations and indexes of the travelers, the publishers and translators of the travelogues and the titles of anonymous works.

Ali Emiri Efendi and his World: fermans, berats, calligraphies, books; a selection from the Millet Manuscript Library, Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation, Pera Museum Publication 16, Istanbul, 2007, ill.

Ali Emiri Efendi (1857-1924), a man of culture of the late Ottoman period, served as finance inspector for thirty years in various regions of the empire. During this period he collected thousands of books and documents acquiring them all by his own means and selectively: he collected rare books. For those who could not purchase books, he himself copied by hand the texts they needed. Authorities of his time wanted to gather the books he copied in a library bearing his name: Ali Emiri said that possessions of the nation must be kept in a library to be called the nation's library. He donated his collection of fifteen thousand books to establish the Millet (nation) Library in Istanbul which is attached to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. The present book is the catalogue of an exhibition of Ali Emiri's valuable collection that Pera Museum and Istanbul Research Institute are hosting until the end of July 2007. The exhibition includes, among others, imperial edicts, manuscript books, as well as personal belongings, all materials of inestimable value.

Ali Emiri Efendi's most remarkable service to the world of learning was that in 1910 he found the world-renowned major work *Divan-ı Lügat-it Türk*, written by Kashgarli Mahmud (during 1072-1074) and dedicated to the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad; this first encyclopedic dictionary of the Turkish language was known by its title but no copy of it was available. Ali Emiri recognised it among a pile of books being sold in the book market in Istanbul and immediately bought it; later, he published it.

IRCICA Publications

Sultan II. Abdülhamid Arşivi İstanbul Fotoğrafları/ Photographs of Istanbul from the Archives of Sultan Abdülhamid II, published by the Greater Municipality of Istanbul Kültür A.Ş. and IRCICA, March 2007, 679 p.



This album has been prepared and published by the Municipality of Greater Istanbul, through its cultural institution "Kültür AŞ", and IRCICA. It contains 576 photographs of Istanbul taken at the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century and showing districts, buildings, scenes of social life and economic activity. These photographs were selected from the Yıldız Photograph Albums, which comprise a total of around 35000 photographs taken all over the Ottoman empire at the time. Their reproductions were made, classified and annotated by IRCICA. The album is supplemented with an introduction on the history of photography, information on the photographers having worked in various parts of the Ottoman empire and photograph studios, and an index arranged according to the photographers.

The book has forewords by: Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, and IRCICA Director General Halit Eren.

The photographs are grouped by their subject, under the following headings: landscapes, palaces (mansions, waterside residences, residences, pavilions), mosques, tombs, fountains (public fountains, cisterns, aqueducts), monuments, barracks (police stations), hospitals, schools, public buildings, museums, ceremonies and processions, foreign officials, factories, social life, city walls, sports, the 1894 earthquake.

Sumiyo Okumura, **The Influence of Turkic Culture on Mamluk Carpets**, Islamic Art Series No. 11, IRCICA, 2007, 277 p., ill.

Carpets and rugs represent an important branch of the traditional arts and handicrafts of the Muslim world. Their study is included in various programs of IRCICA relating to arts, handicrafts and history of arts. Within the framework of IRCICA's Craft Development Program, "Carpets and kilims" constitute one of the main categories of the awards for handicrafts of the Muslim world. Furthermore, IRCICA devoted one of its scholarly meetings to this theme exclusively: an international symposium was organized under the title "Traditional carpets and kilims in the Muslim world" jointly with the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of Tunisia, in 1999, and its papers were published by IRCICA as a book. The theme is also covered within the framework of the congresses IRCICA organises on arts and the history of arts, with respect to the diverse artistic, aesthetical and functional characteristics carpets acquired in different periods, at different places. As part of this history, the carpets used by the nomadic Turks in Central Asia were, beyond their functional usage, an art which they carried with them in their journey to different lands where they ruled from the tenth and eleventh centuries onwards. They influenced the Mamluk carpets, which constitute the theme of this book. The latter were renowned and most valued until the sixteenth century.

This book by Dr. Sumiyo Okumura, a historian of art from Japan, is published by IRCICA. It is an extensive study of Mamluk carpets, their unique features and their evolution, with due regard to cross-cultural influences observable in this process. The author's technical analysis of twenty pieces out of to seventy-seven Mamluk carpets she included in the catalogue section of the book will be highly useful for researchers in the field. The study comes in an amply illustrated beautiful edition.

