



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

The OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action
and IRCICA's part in its implementation

Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary
Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)
held in Istanbul

IRCICA Activities

- * IRCICA launched the 7th International Calligraphy Competition in April 2006, during the Second Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy
- * "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage": Competition in progress
 - * The First International Congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" to be held in Riyadh, in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006

Cultural Events

- * Commemoration of "Aleppo as the Capital of Islamic Culture" 2006
 - * The 23rd Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair
- * Conference on "Commentary Manuscripts" held at Alexandria Library, Egypt

Book Survey

Newsletter



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

April 2006, No. 69

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

Mihin Lugal

Salih Sadawi

Address

P.O. Box 24, Beşiktaş 34354

Istanbul, Turkey

or

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

Selahaddin Uygur

In this issue

2

The OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action
and IRCICA's part in its implementation

3

Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary
Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)
held in Istanbul

6

IRCICA Activities

* IRCICA launched the 7th International Calligraphy
Competition in April 2006, during the Second Sharjah
Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy

* "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of
Islamic Architectural Heritage": Competition in progress

* The First International Congress on "Tourism and
Traditional Crafts" to be held in Riyadh, in cooperation
with the Supreme Commission for Tourism,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006

18

Cultural Events

* Commemoration of "Aleppo as the Capital
of Islamic Culture" 2006

* The 23rd Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair

* Conference on "Commentary Manuscripts" held at
the Alexandria Library, Egypt

22

Book Survey

Editorial

IRCICA's activities continue to grow at an increasing pace with new forms of assistance to researchers, congresses, architectural and art competitions. In recent months, particularly since the holding of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary which was highlighted in the December 2005 issue of the Newsletter, the Centre participated in numerous forums in the Member States and elsewhere, received guests at its headquarters including ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors from the Member States and from Europe, representatives of the press and faculty members from various universities. These were excellent opportunities to brief them on our activities and also to note, through their views and observations, the impact and image created by the Centre's work, the readership its publications reach, the needs arising, if any, in the Centre's areas of interest which it can take into consideration in planning its activities. Besides these own dynamics of the Centre, stimulus has come through the activities of the OIC General Secretariat: the new international action programs that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference is implementing in the present period already gave a new impulse to the activities of the Organisation in general and IRCICA, its cultural subsidiary, in particular. The Third Extraordinary Summit Conference of the OIC Member States which was held in Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7-8 December 2005, adopted a Ten-Year Programme of Action for the Muslim World, as reported in no. 68 of the Newsletter (December 2005). The Programme redefines the areas of concern of the OIC in the present world environment taking into consideration the challenges facing the Muslim world in the 21st century. Following its adoption by the Summit Conference, the OIC General Secretariat launched the process related to its implementation. We begin this issue with an outline of the framework drawn for the purpose, focusing on the tasks expected from IRCICA most of which are already included in IRCICA's mandate and work plans.

In this issue you will find information on the seventh international calligraphy competition which is now launched. The competition was announced to the interested circles on a memorable occasion: on 11 April 2006, during the Second Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy which was held under the patronage and in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, U.A.E. Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The announcement ceremony was another manifestation of the

support, interest and patronage extended by His Highness to the art of calligraphy. The Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who is the Honorary Chairman of the competition jury, was present at the ceremony. Calligraphers from around the world are expected to participate in this competition, as before.

We also present some recent publications by IRCICA. Among them is the two-volume publication entitled *History of Natural and Applied Science Literature during the Ottoman Period*, which is the sixth book in IRCICA's series of bibliographies on the scientific literature produced in various fields of sciences in the Muslim world from the 13th century until the early 20th century. Previous volumes in this series covered the scientific literature on astronomy, mathematics, geography, music, military arts and science. The next publication will cover the literature on medicine, dentistry and pharmacology. With the researches it undertook since the 1980s, IRCICA is now known in the history of science circles as a focal point on the history of science in Islam. Its reference books contribute to the development of studies in this field; its researches on previously unexplored aspects of this history help to fill gaps in existing literature. IRCICA's studies on the history of science were instituted under the direction of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Secretary General of the OIC, a historian of science himself, during his functions as the Director General of IRCICA. These studies will continue to be planned in the light of needs observed and requests received from academic communities in the OIC member countries and around the world.

Another new publication, resulting from another project, is the *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans*. It contains the papers presented during the symposium held in Tirana, Albania, in 2003. I believe it will be a useful reference for researchers of the field. This book is no. 12 in IRCICA's series Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilisation most of which are collections of papers from the congresses IRCICA organises in various countries within and outside the Muslim world, dealing with the history and the cultural heritage of their respective regions. On this occasion I wish to announce that our next symposium on the history of Islamic civilisation in the Balkans will take place at the University of Bucharest, Romania, on 1-5 November 2006. We shall highlight this and other forthcoming congresses in our next issue.

Halit Eren

The OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit (Mecca, Dec. 2005) and IRCICA's part in its implementation

The Heads of State and Government of the OIC Member States held an Extraordinary Summit Conference in Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-8 December 2005. The Summit Conference adopted, among other documents, a "Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century". The Programme of Action was meant to be a blueprint for confronting the challenges the Muslim world faces in various fields. It has provisions concerning: good governance, respect of human rights, elimination of illiteracy, poverty and diseases, combating terrorism, propagating moderation and tolerance, solidarity in the face of natural disasters, support to development and poverty alleviation, higher education, science and technology, rights of women, youth, children and the family.

With a view to defining the role and tasks of each OIC institution and launching a mechanism of consultation and institutional cooperation for the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, the Secretary General called a coordination meeting of the subsidiary organs, the specialized and the affiliated institutions of the OIC on 5 March 2006. The following institutions attended the meeting: the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art & Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic Ship-owners' Association (OISA), and the representatives of the coordination offices of the three Standing Committees of the OIC: the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), the Standing Committee for Science and Technology (COMSTECH) and the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC).

The meeting adopted a draft framework for the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action engaging the participation of each OIC institution within the fields of their respective mandates. The meeting also pointed out the necessity to cooperate with other inter-governmental organizations: the UN, the African Union, the Arab League, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation for Development (OECD), among others.

In the chapter "Solidarity and Joint Islamic Action" of the implementation plan, the meeting affirmed commitment to Islamic solidarity among the OIC Member States vi-a-vi the challenges faced or experienced by the Muslim world in the present time. It called for effective participation and coordination in all regional and international forums and decided that a general framework of action be developed in consultation with the Member States. IRCICA will contribute in these areas by organising cultural forums and taking part in regional and international activities relevant in this regard.

The meeting underlined the necessity of correctly making known Islam, its characteristics, its civilization to peoples within and outside the Muslim world; the need to spread

correct ideas about Islam as a religion of moderation and tolerance, in order to fortify Muslims against extremism and narrow-mindedness. The task incumbent upon IRCICA in this regard is to underscore the values of Islam in its publications, its various cultural activities, and through its participation in international forums.

Among other cultural issues addressed in the Programme of Action, the meeting formulated the objective of promoting inter-religious dialogue and highlighting the common values and denominators of the major religions. It was recorded that for many years IRCICA has contributed towards this objective through the congresses it organises, its research and publications. On another subject of concern, namely "the teaching of Islamic education, culture, civilisation, and the jurisprudence and literature of difference", the meeting called on Member States to cooperate amongst themselves in order to develop balanced educational curricula that promote values of tolerance, human rights, openness, and understanding of other religions and cultures. On the other hand, it underlined the need to examine the history textbooks used in the schools of various countries with a view to correcting the texts and expressions about Islam and the Muslim world. In this field, IRCICA was requested to coordinate, and participate in international collaborative projects envisaged to be undertaken jointly by institutions of Europe and the Muslim world with a view to examine the European textbooks with regard to their treatment of the histories of the Muslim nations.

A subject of central importance for the Muslim world, Al-Quds and Palestine, calls for different kinds and levels of cooperation from several institutions, including the COMSTECH, IRCICA, IDB and ISESCO. In this field, the meeting noted that IRCICA will convene a series of workshops focusing on the architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine through its "Al-Quds 2015" program aiming to record, study and preserve the cultural heritage and identity of Al-Quds and Palestine and underline its aspect as a symbol of solidarity and the meeting point of the divine religions. IRCICA will also build and maintain a data-bank of archeological sites and architectural monuments of Al-Quds and Palestine.

In the field of Cultural and Information Exchange among Member States, the OIC coordination meeting underlined the need that the information channels and mass media in the Muslim countries deal with international mass media effectively in order to enable the Muslim world to express its perspective on international events. A number of policies were recommended for more intense and productive cultural exchanges among the Member States, including the Observer States, such as policies to develop translations between their languages. In the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action the OIC will continue to give care and attention to information and cultural issues relating to its Member States.

The procedures and progress on the Road Map for the implementation of the OIC's Ten-Year Programme will be reviewed by the 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which will be held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 19-21 June 2006.

Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) held in Istanbul

The Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12-13 April 2006, preceded by the Eighth Session of the Council of the Parliamentary Union and the 14th Session of the Executive Committee. 436 delegates from 47 countries, 161 journalists, including 48 foreigners, and the representatives of ten international and regional organisations, participated in the conference. H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, delivered the keynote address inaugurating the conference. The President said that intensified exchanges of information and experience among parliaments, stipulated as one of the fundamental objectives of the Union, will help unite the member nations and countries around modern values. The promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms, the rule of law, a responsible, accountable and transparent administrative structure are what all nations aspire at. Pointing to the major issues of common concern for the Muslim world and on global scale, President Sezer said that global challenges threatening humanity in our day involve intolerance and conflict between cultures, terrorism, change of climate; hunger and poverty are the most pressing ones that rarely find their deserved place in global agenda. One of the main reasons behind poverty is that some countries cannot get their fair share from international trade: the OIC countries for their part constitute one-fifth of the world population and get only one twentieth of global income. The President expressed his belief that the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States can make an important contribution to regional and global development and to the alleviation of poverty.

H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, also addressed the inaugural ceremony. Pointing to the threat posed by terrorism and the frequency of terrorist acts indicating that terrorism does not recognize any national, geographical or regional borders, Mr. Arınç indicated that nevertheless, it is indispensable to give a definition to terrorism by international consensus. Elaborating upon the subject of inter-cultural relations and civilisational dialogue, Mr. Arınç said that peoples cannot live together peacefully by imposing their values to each other, destroying, insulting others' values: truths, sacred values and human rights are to be found in the whole world, not in a single civilization which calls civilisations to respect each other. Turkish Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül also attended the conference. The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, in his address to the conference, expressed his views on some important recent developments of interest to the Muslim world. He noted that the threats faced by the Muslim world can be overcome with cooperation; that peace, security and welfare depend

on Muslim countries' collective response to the challenges. Pointing out that the OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action, which was prepared to meet all these challenges and adopted at the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Mecca last December, contains many provisions entrusted to the OIC Member States to implement, the Secretary General said that the Union's role in encouraging and enhancing the implementation of the OIC's Ten Year Programme of Action, through adopting measures or enacting legislations, is of crucial importance.

The conference addressed mainly: political issues, economic affairs, and cultural and social affairs. It discussed the causes of Al-Quds, Palestine and other occupied territories in Syria and Lebanon. It also considered the situation in Iraq, combating terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations, and support for efforts to establish permanent dialogue between Islamic and Western parliaments. On economic affairs, the conference dealt particularly with the impact of globalization on the economies of developing countries in the Islamic world. Cultural and social affairs discussed included resistance to desecration of holy Islamic values, the situation of dialogue among civilizations in the light of various attempts to undermine Islamic values, and issues relating to democracy, human rights and humanitarian international law.

The conference issued the Istanbul Declaration and the Bosphorus Declaration. It adopted resolutions on subjects including: "Dialogue of Civilisations and Focus on the Confrontation of Western Campaigns against Islamic Values", "Inclusion in School Syllabuses of Values of Democracy, Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law and Promulgation of National Legislation of Relevance"; "Desecration of the Holy Quran at the Guantanamo Prison and Confrontation of Defamation Campaigns against Prophet Mohammed". In its resolution on the situation in Cyprus, the conference decided to replace the name of the "Turkish Muslim People of Cyprus" with "Turkish Cypriot State" under the observer status; welcomed the statements and calls made by the UN Secretary-General, international organisations and states, as well as decisions taken by various international organizations, for ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, and called upon the international community to take immediate concrete steps to that end. The conference took resolutions on the situation in Al-Quds and Palestine, the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, the situation of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace, affirming its commitment to the Muslim minorities living in non-member States; on the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria under consideration by the International Court of Justice, etc. Excerpts from the texts of the Istanbul Declaration and the Bosphorus Declaration are given below.

ISTANBUL DECLARATION

The OIC Parliamentary Union (PUIC),

* Expresses its support to the ongoing reforms in the member states and stresses that this process which must be in conformity with national values and principals of each state will enhance the freedoms and prosperity within the Muslim world.

* Calls upon member states to further advance their reform efforts which emanate from within the Muslim world itself and act with a refreshed vision in which good governance, effective political monitoring, transparency and accountability will reign, fundamental rights and freedoms will be ensured, and gender equality will be upheld.

* Expresses serious concern over the growing instigation for Islamophobia and defamation of Islam around the globe, which became evident once again with the widespread publication of cartoons insulting the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

* Deplores the association of Islam with violence and underlines the obligation of all Governments to make a strong commitment to tackling instigation for Islamophobia at local, regional and international levels.

* Also emphasizes the responsibility of the international community, both at the institutional and civil society levels, to ensure respect for all religions and combat their defamation by applying relevant legislation equally to attack on all religious beliefs and convictions.

* Recognizes the serious implications of the lack of dialogue among different cultures and religions for global peace and stability and urged the international community to take the necessary steps to promote dialogue, understanding and mutual respect without delay.

* Expresses its firm support to the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, co-sponsored by Turkey and Spain under the

aegis of the UN Secretary General, as well as Dialogue among Civilizations considered as effective mechanisms in this direction.

* Welcomes the free, fair and democratic elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council held on 25 January 2006, confirms that the results of the elections won by the Hamas Movement by parliamentary majority, reflect the will of the Palestinian people. It also asserts that the new government that won the confidence of the Legislative Council is the government of the Palestinian people; therefore the meeting rejects any blackmailing, boycotts or blockades to be practiced with regard to the Palestinian people's government.

.....

* Stresses that terrorism cannot be fought effectively in the absence of international solidarity and cooperation, thus reaffirmed that the international community should adopt a common and uniform approach in identifying, defining, condemning, isolating and punishing all terrorists and those who support them.

* Reminds that the United Nations is the main forum to promote international cooperation against terrorism and that full compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions on fight against terrorism is vitally important. Clear distinction must be defined between the legitimate right of peoples to resist aggression and foreign occupation and the criminal acts of terrorism. It calls on the United Nations to seek determination of conceptions and criteria in this context.

* Is convinced that terrorism could not be fought only by security and military means, but also by realizing peaceful and just solutions to the real root causes of terrorism.

.....

The Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)

The Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) was established in 1999 with its headquarters in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. It has 47 member parliaments and ten regional/international observers. The Secretary General of PUIC is H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Auf.

The Union aims, among others, at providing a framework for comprehensive and fruitful cooperation and coordination among parliaments of OIC members in international fora and organizations; promoting meeting and dialogue among parliaments of OIC members and their deputies; discussing economic, cultural, social and political issues of interest to the OIC members; strengthening contacts, cooperation and coordination with other parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental organizations,

with the aim of advancing common objectives; fostering coordination among peoples of the world in order to respect and defend human rights and humanitarian principles and establishment of peace, based on justice.

The Conference of the parliamentary Union is composed of the speakers of Member-Parliaments of the Union or their representatives, and a maximum of four parliamentarians from each member parliament. The conference convenes once every two years. Its previous three sessions were on the following dates and places: The Founding Conference in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in 1999, the Second Conference in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, in 2001, and the Third Conference in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in 2004.

BOSPHORUS DECLARATION

The world is faced with grave problems. Globalization offers both great challenges and unique opportunities. The new means of communication are bringing different cultures and religious traditions together in ways that were unimaginable before.

Globalization is also creating new divisions and disparities. The economic consequences of globalization pose serious cultural and political challenges. They are felt throughout the world and seen as a threat to national identity.

Our shrinking world has to work harder to bring about peace and stability. All societies of the world are faced with such grave problems as poverty, illiteracy, child mortality, wars, terrorism, torture, human, drug trafficking, economic inequality, corruption and discrimination. To address these urgent problems, we need strong values on the one hand, and efficient mechanisms on the other.

No values can maintain their meaning and relevance without efficient mechanisms and no mechanisms can produce results without being grounded in values. As members of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States representing the Muslim countries of the world, we believe that we have these values and can work together to create mechanisms to make them relevant for our lives.

A democratic, free and equal society can be built only when the legitimate concerns and needs of the people are answered through legitimate means. Parliaments have been created to meet the legitimate concerns of the people. They are responsible for bringing together values and effective mechanisms.

They are also the most important institutions of representation between the rulers and the ruled. The societal will which the Parliaments represent are indispensable for peace and order in the society.

We believe that the core values of Islam are also universal values. Justice, peace, equality, respect for the other, rule of law, accountability, and moral and family values are shared by all societies regardless of their culture and religion. The shared destiny of humanity will thrive on these common values. A world which is indifferent to human values cannot claim to represent civilization and progress. A world which is not guided by these universal values can only be a place of chaos, hopelessness, injustice, violence and terror.

All peoples of the world must stand united to build a world based on universal human values. The religious, historical and political differences across the societies should not be a basis for clash and confrontation. A democratic world is not a world in which everybody thinks and lives the same way. Democracy is the regime of different ideas living together. A democratic, free and just world system is possible when different cultures and societies demonstrate the will of living together in peace and harmony. We believe in the possibility of living together while maintaining our differences.

Together with its universal values, rich historical legacy, young population, dynamic social structure and natural resources, the Muslim world is faced with enormous challenges and opportunities. Muslim countries must strive towards the establishment of a just world system. Muslim societies must be the dynamic and constructive actors of

history, not maintain passive and reaction attitudes.

The Islamic traditions have established the principles of a just, equal and virtuous society and guaranteed the continuity of participatory and representative governance. It was in the light of these principles that Muslim societies have developed a rich experience of just rule and multiculturalism. It is this experience that has enabled them to live with different cultural and religious traditions in peace and harmony.

Today Muslim societies and leaders have to mobilize their spiritual and material resources to overcome such urgent problems as poverty, corruption, illiteracy, epidemics, inequality, violence and terrorism. These problems are caused and nurtured by a number of internal and external factors. It is, however, the responsibility of Muslim societies to deal with them. Blaming others, acting with a sense of victimization or resorting to violence does not help with any of these problems.

As members of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, we believe that the Muslim world has the energy and the resources to solve its own problems. To do this, we must bring together our universal values with efficient mechanisms. This is a responsibility shared by all. We believe that we must increase cooperation and tolerance, not clash and confrontation among different cultures and civilizations. If different cultures are to live together in peace and harmony, they must be recognized as equals. It is also everyone's responsibility to respect the religious and cultural differences of other societies.

We call upon all civil society institutions and effective political actors to raise their voice of conscience against the rising tide of Islamophobia. Just like anti-Semitism and racism, Islamophobia must be rejected as a crime against humanity. It is against human values to discriminate against a community based on their religion and culture and to belittle and mock their sacred values. We can overcome the problems of cultural differences, migration, integration, violence and terrorism only when we have genuine understanding and comprehensive cooperation between equal partners. To that end, political leadership and the general public bear a major responsibility.

The leaders of both Muslim and Western societies must take concrete steps to prevent conflict and ensure peace and stability. To do this, the Euro-centric ideas of history and politics must be revised, the religious and cultural sensitivities of Muslim societies must be respected, and their legitimate political demands must be met.

Regardless of religion, language, culture or race, all of us must work together to address the grave problems we are faced with. The shared values of humanity will have a future together with the joint efforts and contributions of all of us striving for the common good. Representing the civilian and legitimate concerns of their respective societies, the Parliaments have a vital role in creating this common good.

We, members of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States, call upon all peoples of the world to work for an alliance of civilizations to restore and rebuild world peace.

IRCICA Activities

IRCICA launched the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition

The seventh international calligraphy competition organised by IRCICA has been launched. The announcement to the world's art circles was made at a ceremony organised on 11 April 2006, during the Second Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy which was held under the patronage and in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, U.A.E. Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Taking into consideration the support and the personal interest extended by His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah to the art of calligraphy and the calligraphers, and his continuous patronage of cultural activities, the announcement was placed within the framework of the biennale, which also gave IRCICA the opportunity to distribute the booklet of the competition to the participating calligraphers.

The Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who is the Honorary Chairman of the competition jury, was present at the ceremony. In his address, the Secretary General expressed his gratitude for the patronage and support H.H. the Ruler of Sharjah has been extending to this art and the artists. He outlined the phases of development this triennial competition went through since it was started in 1985 at the initiative of Prof. İhsanoğlu, who was the Director General of IRCICA from 1980 to December 2004.

Then, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, expressed his deep gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Dr. Al-Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah, for his support of the development of cultural and artistic activities in the Muslim world. He said that the launching of the

competition within the framework of the Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy was an eloquent manifestation of the close cooperation established between Sharjah and the United Arab Emirates in one hand and IRCICA on the other.

Following IRCICA's established tradition to dedicate each competition to one of the leading masters of classical calligraphy, the present competition is dedicated to the illustrious 20th century Iraqi master of calligraphy Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973). In the spirit to encourage young artists to emulate the examples of the great masters of calligraphy and, at the same time, to commemorate their achievements, the Centre organised the first international competition (1986) in the name of Hamid Al-Amidi (1891-1982), the second competition (1989) in the name of Yaqut el-Mustasimi (?-698/1298), the third competition (1992) in the name of Ibn el-Bewwab (?-413/1022), on the occasion of the millennium of his death, the fourth calligraphy competition (1997) in the name of Sheikh Hamdullah (833/1429-926/1520), the fifth competition (2000) in the name of Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994), and the sixth competition (2003) in the name of Mir Imad al-Haseni (961-1024/1554-1615) on the 400th year Hijra of his death. The Centre is pleased to dedicate the seventh competition to the memory of Hashim Mohammed al-Baghdadi (1335-1393/1917-1973).

The competition covers the various styles in use, arranged under the following categories: Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Jaly Taliq, Taliq (Nastaliq), Jaly Diwani, Diwani, and other calligraphic styles: Kufi, Muhaqqaq, Reyhani, Riq'a (Ijaza), Riqaa, Maghribi and Khurde Taliq.



H.H. the Ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi visiting the exhibitions together with the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren.

The Jury of the Seventh Calligraphy Competition is composed of:

- H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, Honorary Chairman;
 - Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, Chairman of Organising Committee;
 - Mr. A. Ziya Ibrahim, Jury Chairman, Saudi Arabia;
 - Mr. Hasan Çelebi, Master of Calligraphy, Turkey;
 - Prof. M. Uğur Derman, Lecturer, Expert of Calligraphy, IRCICA;
 - Mr. M. Khudair Al-Borsaidi, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Egypt;
 - Mr. İ. İbrahim Edhem, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Iraq;
 - Eng. Mr. Ubayda M. S. al-Banki, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Syria;
 - Mr. Rasheed Butt, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Pakistan;
 - Mr. Hamidi Belaid, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Morocco.
- Consultant to the Jury: Prof. Mohammed Cherifi, Lecturer of Calligraphy, Algeria; Competition Coordinator, IRCICA: Mr. Mohammed Tamimi.
- To apply for the competition, please write to: International Calligraphy Competition Secretariat, IRCICA, P.O. Box 234, 80693 Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey; Tel.: (212) 259 17 42, Fax: (212) 258 43 65, e-mail: calligraphy@ircica.org

Awards totaling US\$ 74.000.- are allocated for the competition, to be distributed as follows:

Style	1st Award	2nd Award	3rd Award	Total
a. Jaly Thuluth	4.000	2.500	1.500	8.000
b. Thuluth	4.000	2.500	1.500	8.000
c. Naskh	3.500	2.000	1.500	7.000
d. Jaly Ta'liq	2.500	1.500	1.000	5.000
e. Ta'liq	2.500	1.500	1.000	5.000
f. Taly Diwani	2.000	1.500	1.000	4.500
g. Diwani	1.500	1.000	750	3.250
Total:	20.000	12.500	8.250	40.750

Three awards of US\$ 750.- shall be given in each of the styles other than the above (i.e. in Kufi, Muhaqqaq, Reyhani, İjaze, Riq'a, Maghribi and Khurde Ta'lik), to entries showing excellence; thus, awards totaling (7x3x750)=US\$ 15.750.- shall be distributed for these calligraphic styles. To encourage the participants, the 5 best calligraphies to follow after the first three award-winning works will receive incentive prizes of US\$ 500 each (7x5x500= US\$ 17.500). Thus, the total number of awards and incentive prizes will be 77.

Abu Raqim Hashim b. Mohammad b. Hajj Dirbas al-Qaysi al-Baghdadi was born in 1335 H/1917 AD in the Khan Lawand Quarter in Baghdad. From early childhood, he was strongly attracted to calligraphy, studying briefly under Mulla Arif al-Shaykhli and then under Ali Sabir. Eventually he began practicing calligraphy under the supervision and guidance of Shaykh Mulla Ali al-Faali, 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 and administrators 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 well-known Egyptian calligrapher Sayyid Ibrahim (1315/1897 - 1414/1994), and another by the calligrapher Mohammad Husni in 1364/1944. The Institute's administrators 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 Aytaç, 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 Ayrıl who had come from Baghdad to Istanbul. 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 Hafız Osman, Mehmed Şevki, Kamil Akdik, and Hamid Aytaç. His admiration for Mustafa Rakım was so great that he named his son after him and began calling himself Abu Raqim (Raqim's father). In Istanbul, he used to visit Necmeddin Okyay, who owned a distinguished collection of calligraphic works. In the hope of popularizing this art, Hashim issued a collection of calligraphic pieces in *riqah* and another in a variety of scripts. He also supervised the publication of *Mushaf al-Awqaf*, which was published for the first time by the Surveyors' Department. This is a splendid copy of the Quran calligraphed in 1236/1821 by the Turkish calligrapher Mehmed Emin el-Rushdi (13th H/19th century). The copy was presented by Pertevniyal, mother of Sultan Abdulaziz, to the Mosque of the Great Imam al-Numan b. Thabit, known as Abu Hanifah. Hashim illuminated the beginning of the copy anew, numbered its verses, wrote the titles of the *surahs*, and the numbers of the chapters and other parts in a manner suitable to Arab taste. Hashim calligraphed decorative friezes in mosques and other buildings in Baghdad and other cities; these were done on faience or marble, mostly in *jali thuluth* style. 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 30 April 1973 in Baghdad.

"Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage": Competition in progress

The competition for the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural heritage, which was launched by IRCICA in June 2005, continues. Awards will be given to the best restoration projects of Islamic structures, to be selected by an international jury of architects and specialists of restoration. The purpose of the competition is to support the revival of Islamic heritage - preservation of monuments in order to give them vital functions, either historical or contemporary. The competition is open to projects completed in the last five years and representing a remarkable contribution to the preservation of architectural heritage. Projects have been received until April 2006 from India, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

The competition is dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. Prince Faisal was the Chairman of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), an ad-hoc subsidiary body of the OIC which operated from 1983 until 2000 with IRCICA as its Executive Secretariat. The Commission was merged with IRCICA in 2000, following the demise of its Chairman, and its activities were integrated into the work plans of IRCICA. In response to the requests of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences held since 2000, asking that IRCICA dedicates a special activity to the memory of Prince Faisal bin Fahd, the Centre planned to organise a series of competitions entitled "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage", the first cycle to be devoted to the theme "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage". The project was approved by the Member States of the OIC during the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, Yemen Republic, on 28-30 June 2005. The "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage" will be organised every three years. Subsequent competitions will be on other themes relating to heritage preservation.

In this competition, a total of \$ 30.000 US will be awarded as three equal prizes. Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups, and organisations, the Jury will apportion prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients, and institutions - whom it considers most responsible for the success of each project. An exhibition of the participating projects will be held and a catalogue of this exhibition may be published. The submission of documentation for the entries is expected to be completed by the end of October 2006. The Master Jury will conduct on line work during February - September 2007 and have its final meeting in October 2007.

"Tourism and Traditional Crafts" Congress, to be held jointly with the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The creative genius of artisans continues to refine and perfect the sets of skills, techniques and compositions that were handed to them from earlier generations whose impact reached far beyond their places of origin. However, the modern world has yet to develop a real understanding of these arts, an awareness of the importance of the preservation of this heritage, and an engagement in promoting the artisans. The Supreme Commission of Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) are jointly organizing the first International Congress on Tourism and Traditional Handicrafts under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General. The Congress will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006. It will be accompanied with various activities, such as a handicrafts exhibition with country stands. These stands will form a craft village of the Muslim world that will display not only the craft items but artisans as at work with their tools and techniques. The associated activities can be grouped as follows:

- *An exhibition of masterpieces of traditional crafts from all over the Muslim world,
- *Exhibition of publications, albums and photographs of traditional handicrafts,
- *A traditional handicraft bazaar of the participating countries accompanied by performances of artisans as at work,
- *International Award for craft innovators in the Muslim world.

This congress is the first of its kind; it will discuss tourism, cultural, and heritage aspects of the theme. It will also discuss the ways and means of making better use of the traditional handicrafts sector in the tourism field, and explore the potential revenues that can be obtained by connecting the tourism sector to the traditional heritage and handicrafts. The idea of the congress partially focuses on the possibility of restoring some heritage sites and reviving them as specialized handicraft villages, to provide artisans with suitable display areas. This is to connect tourism with handicrafts by giving life to the architectural monuments through the artisans who will produce and display their traditional masterpieces to the tourist and the local customer. Such a progress will ensure a continual development process and benefit different sectors of economy and society. The congress will also study the experiences of some countries which successfully restored their heritage buildings and made of them attractive must-see places for tourists. All issues related to the development of the tourism and handicrafts sectors will be discussed, with due focus on the present state of traditional handicrafts in the Muslim world and the various styles, designs, raw materials, techniques, etc. in use, and the influences of Islamic traditional designs on European art.

Experts in traditional handicrafts, tourism, and marketing will be invited to the congress, in addition to concerned research specialists, centers and organisations from around the world.

The objectives of the congress are:

- Activating the tourism and heritage sector by opening the doors for visitors and participants to be more aware of the real beauty and characteristics of traditional crafts from all over the Muslim world,
- Studying means of enhancing the economic role of traditional handicrafts in the Muslim world,
- Studying means of providing job opportunities for local people in the traditional handicrafts sector,
- Developing an updated database of the current situation of the traditional handicrafts sector in the Muslim world through field studies to be submitted by specialists from various countries. It is expected that such studies would include data on design, marketing, size of the tourism market, exchange of technology, education and training opportunities, the availability of raw materials, and other basic indicators of the state of the field,
- Establishing a specialized library containing all publications in the field of traditional handicrafts. The publications to be displayed in the Book Fair will constitute the nucleus of the library,
- Organizing competitive programs for young artisans in order to encourage creativity and innovation in traditional handicrafts,
- Evaluating the current situation of traditional handicrafts in the Muslim world, integrating the sector with the tourism field, and determining frameworks for the economic, cultural and social development of handicrafts,
- Discussing the procedures that could be put to use to prevent the loss of Islamic and traditional values that characterize traditional handicrafts, in an effort to preserve the Islamic heritage,
- Publishing the proceedings of the congress as a tangible outcome of the meeting. The book can serve as a reference for specialists and researchers, as it will document the traditional handicrafts of a large part of the Muslim world,
- Developing a strategy for international cooperation in order to establish craft villages and benefit from them in the tourism sector.

The main topics of the congress will be:

The Cultural, Heritage and Economic Approach to Traditional Handicrafts and Tourism:

- 1-General Issue: The connection between traditional handicrafts and tourism from the cultural, heritage and economic viewpoints - general introduction of the sector in the Muslim world,
- 2-The artistic value of traditional handicrafts in the Islamic cultural heritage,
- 3-The strong connection between traditional handicrafts and the values and traditions,
- 4-Promoting the re-use of handicrafts for the society that tells the future generations the story of the sector.

Economic and Financial Aspects:

- 5-The economic and financial aspects of developing traditional handicrafts in the Islamic world,
- 6-The size of investments in the traditional handicrafts sector,
- 7-The role of traditional handicrafts and tourism in contributing to the national income of OIC member countries,
- 8-The role of traditional handicrafts in promoting the female labor force especially in remote villages,
- 9-The importance of periodical exhibitions in promoting traditional handicraft products and using them for attracting tourists,
- 10-Determining the budget allocations for exhibitions, promotion, and advertisement.

Marketing and Seeking New Opportunities:

- 11-The importance of periodical meetings between tourism experts and the officials of handicrafts sector, designers, funding specialists, and marketers, in an effort to consult each other and to set joint policies regarding these issues,
- 12-The studies done to determine competitiveness and market trends,
- 13-The importance of the tourism market - studying the revenues and job opportunities provided by the sector,
- 14-The means to integrate visits to traditional handicrafts villages within the programs of tourists' visits,
- 15-Trade and technology; dealing with modern electronic technology such as the Internet to market traditional handicrafts; taking into consideration consumer tastes and preferences while preserving the traditional roots.

Quality and the Encouragement of Research Activities that Seek Creativity, Innovation, and Experimenting New Ideas and Designs:

- 16-The role of artisans' competitive schemes in activating innovation and creativity, and experimenting new ideas and designs for improving quality in products.

Education, Training, and Upgrading Artisans' Qualifications:

- 17-Training, and upgrading the qualifications of the artisans working in craft villages in a way to enable them to comply with a world rushing for speed competition to meet the growing international standards,
- 18-Creating awareness among the new generations on the importance of traditional handicrafts through specialized educational programs for schools, to include basic introduction to heritage and field trips to traditional handicraft villages.

Patronage and Governmental Efforts:

- 19-Role of patronage and governmental efforts in promoting tourism activities and developing traditional handicrafts.

Promotion and Good Employment of the Sector, and Media Efforts:

20-Experience of the OIC member countries in establishing craft villages as a heritage platform and tourism monuments,

21-Studying the experience of certain countries which succeeded in utilizing heritage and handicrafts within the tourism sector,

22-Role of traditional handicrafts in the tourism sector and in introducing images of the cultural heritage,

23-A comparative analysis of the sites that are frequently visited by tourists,

24-The media's role in organizing public awareness campaigns about the importance of traditional handicrafts and tourism sector.

The participants will be: official paper presenters, representatives of the OIC member countries, representatives of international organizations and authorities working in the field, international specialists active in traditional handicrafts and tourism, artisans, traders and specialists of craft design and marketing. The congress languages are Arabic and English.

The accompanying activities:

1- Exhibition of masterpieces of traditional crafts from all over the Muslim world

Each participating country will be invited to send samples of its traditional masterpieces to be displayed in the country pavilion. The country representatives will

be expected to provide information about the tools, techniques, raw material, colors and designs of each piece. Private collectors are also welcome to display any of their collections.

2- Exhibition of publications, albums and photos of traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world

Each participating country shall be invited to send copies of its craft albums, catalogues, books and documents. The countries are also invited to send posters, film slides, pictures, and brochures for display. These publications shall constitute the first materials to form the nucleus of the specialized craft library of the Muslim world.

3- A traditional handicraft bazaar of the participating countries accompanied by live performances of artisans at work

This exhibition will be organized as a craft village; it will display traditional handicrafts from all Muslim countries including the host country, Saudi Arabia. This bazaar will aim at introducing the characteristics of the crafts of every participating country which will promote and activate indirectly the tourism and commercial movement among countries. It will be an opportunity for all related companies and organizations to conduct business deals with producers and consumers. These companies and organisations will cover their own accommodation and transport expenses.

4- International Award for the craft innovators in the Muslim World

This award aims at encouraging innovation in traditional handicrafts, so as to boost competitiveness in this field. That is by offering prizes for creative artisans from all over the Islamic world in order to encourage and promote their efforts. The main aim is to insure sustainability in this important sector, which represents a cultural, economical, tourism, and heritage resource for member countries. This prize also aims at introducing masterpieces from all over the Islamic world, to provide the artisans with opportunities of cooperation and exchange of experiences and techniques.

For further information, please contact the Coordinators: International Coordinator, Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, P. O. Box 24, Beşiktaş 80692, Istanbul, Turkey; Fax: 00-90-212-2584365, Tel: 00-90-212-2591742, email: nazeihmaarouf@yahoo.com;

National Coordinator, Engineer Saeed Awad al-Qahtani, Supervisor, Handicrafts Program, Supreme Commission for Tourism, P. O. Box 66680, Riyadh 11586, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Fax: 00966 1 4804693, Tel: 00966 1 4808855, email: saqsct@yahoo.com

OIC-Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture

Supreme Commission | اللجنة العليا للسياحة والتراث
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**The First International Congress on
Tourism and Traditional Crafts**

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
16-21 Shawwal 1427 H / 7-14 November 2006

Accompanying Activities

- * Exhibition of Masterpieces of Traditional Crafts from all over the Muslim World
- * Exhibition of Publications, Albums and Photos of Traditional Handicrafts of the Muslim World
- * A traditional Handicraft Bazaar of the Participating Countries Accompanied by Live Performances of Artisans at Work
- * International Award for the Craft Innovators in the Muslim World

Lectures

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 held recently are listed below:

- * "Jamaluddin Afghani" by Serdar Bekar, 1 October 2005
- * "Islam in Africa" by Dr. Ahmet Kavaz, 19 November 2005
- * "Ottoman Monuments in Northern Greece: History, Architectural Values and Problems of Protection and Restoration" by Prof. Machiel Kiel, 17 December 2005
- * "Yıldız Palace after the period of Abdulhamid II" by Dr. Murat Candemir, 18 March 2006
- * "Çanakkale" (the Dardanelles) by Dr. Mehmet Niyazi, 1 April 2006
- * "The Ottoman Archives" by Dr. Önder Bayır, 15 April 2006

Some of the lectures are outlined below.

* **Serdar Bekar, "Jamaluddin Afghani"**: This lecture focused on the life and activities of the illustrious Muslim scholar Jamaladdin Afghani (1838-1897).

Born in Afghanistan, Jamaluddin Afghani received his higher education in India, where he developed his ideas against British colonialism. He was exiled to Egypt. He educated numerous thinkers there, including Muhammed Abduh (1849-1905). Afghani then traveled to France where he issued the newspaper titled *al-Urwat al-Wuska* which opened new intellectual horizons in the whole Islamic world. Besides traveling in Iran and the Ottoman Empire, he also traveled in France, England, Russia and the United States where he struggled for the intellectual and political independence of Muslim countries. Afghani settled in Istanbul in 1896 upon the invitation of Sultan Abdulhamid II and died there.

Mr. Bekar stated that Afghani's ideas were quite advanced considering his period. In fact he was a reformist, considered by some as "new traditionalist", because he adopted a moderate view of Islam. He was an advocate of Muslim unity, of pan-Islamism. Abundant literature is available in English on Jamaluddin Afghani.

* **Dr. Ahmet Kavaz, "Islam in Africa"**: Dr. Ahmet Kavaz works as a research fellow at the Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM) attached to the Turkish Foundation for Religion. Africa is one of the continents where Islam spreads rapidly and extensively. In his lecture on Islam in Africa, Dr. Kavaz focused on this spread which started from Egypt and reached what is today Morocco in half a century. Islam spread in the settlements starting from the Red Sea to East Africa, the islands in the west of the Indian Ocean as far as the Cape of Good Hope and these settlements became Islamic cities. During the period of fifteen centuries, numerous independent emirates and sultanates were established such as the Fatimids, Ayyubids, Marabouts, Muwahhids, Hafsids, Mamluks, the sultanate of Mali, etc. Dr. Kavaz pointed out that the Ottoman State began to penetrate into North Africa in 1510s and for nearly four centuries the African Muslims lived in peace. Thanks to the peaceful Ottoman rule, they were also protected from the effects of European colonialism. The religious orders (*tarikats*) such as the Shazeli, Kadiri, Tijani and Sanusi orders had an important role in the formation of the Muslim identity and the resistance to European colonialism in Africa.

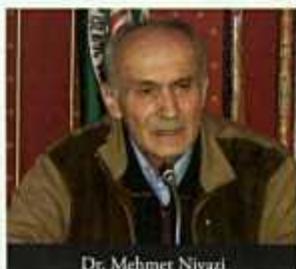


* **Prof. Machiel Kiel, "Ottoman Monuments in Northern Greece: History, Architectural Values and Problems of Protection and Restoration"**: Prof. Kiel's lecture focused on Northern Greece, an area which as a result of the Balkan Wars (1912) became part of Greece. The lecturer said that Northern Greece has some of the oldest and most monumental buildings of the Balkans, some standing from the 1370s. In the pre-Ottoman period the land was divided in more than a dozen political units, mostly at war with each other. Pre-Ottoman Greece was much better urbanized than most of the Slavic Balkan interior. However, except Thessaloniki and Serres, the towns were small, covering only a few hectares and having 1000 or 1500 inhabitants. The lecturer first turned to Western Thrace. From 1353 onward the Ottomans were slowly expanding in the Balkans. In the 1360s Western Thrace is supposed to have fallen in Ottoman hands, but the chronology is far from being secure. Following the Battle of Maritsa (1371) the Ottoman expansion in the Balkans was consolidated and it was safe enough for them to invest in building. From that date onward some of the earliest works of their architecture, still standing today, were



built. In 1383 the Ottomans conquered the key-fortress of Macedonia, the town of Serres/Siroz, previously a Serbian princely residence. Serres today still has four monuments of Ottoman architecture of outstanding value. The lecturer explained their architectural characteristics and current state. The most important monument of the town, and of all of Greek Macedonia is the great Imaret-Mosque of Gedik Ahmedpaşaoğlu Mehmed Bey from 1492. He stated that another great Ottoman monument in Serres is the Bedesten in the central square of the town. It was also built during the last decade of the 15th century, by the Vizier Ibrahim Pasha of the well-known Çandarlı family. The Zincirli Mosque in Serres is another first class example of Ottoman architecture in the Balkans. It has no inscription and no name of the founder has been handed down. The last important Ottoman building of Serres is the Mosque of Mustafa Bey, or Pasha, built, according to the inscription, in 1519. Dr. Kiel also spoke of the monuments in the city of Thessaloniki. He stated that today the city has six outstanding monuments of Ottoman architecture. They are two fortress works, two mosques and two hamams, dating from 1431 to the early 17th century. At the end of his lecture, Dr. Kiel pointed to the need to restore and reconstruct this heritage. He also gave a list of the buildings in Northern Greece that urgently need intervention.

* **Dr. Mehmet Niyazi, "Çanakkale"** (the Dardanelles): This lecture described some major aspects of the Dardanelles war, which started on 3 November 1914 and ended on 9 January 1916. The sea battles took place between 3 November 1914 and 18 March 1915. Sea and land battles took place on 24 April 1915-9 January 1916. From time to time, the lecturer referred to first-hand accounts such as excerpts from the diaries of some well-known officials and the observations of Monsieur Valentin who was the correspondent of a newspaper issued in Paris. Mehmet



Dr. Mehmet Niyazi



Dr. Murat Candemir

Niyazi noted that the town of Çanakkale may be considered as the laboratory of Turkish history of the recent period and the foreword of the history of the Turkish Republic. In concluding his words, he stated that the results of the battles that took place in Çanakkale influenced the political panorama of the present day. Dr. Mehmet Niyazi graduated from the Faculty of Law of Istanbul University and completed his PhD studies in Germany. He writes newspaper articles, stories and novels.

* **Dr. Önder Bayır, "The Ottoman Archives"**: The Department of Ottoman Archives, attached to the Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives, has a significant place among the world's archives. This importance is due both to the number and the scholarly and cultural value of the documents. In his lecture, Dr. Önder Bayır, who is Head of the Department of Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives, since May 2004, stated that there are approximately one hundred and fifty million documents and about 365.000 *defters* (registers) in the Ottoman Archives. These archives also contain information



and documents about the history of nearly 40 countries in Europe, North Africa and several countries in Asia. Dr. Bayır also stated that one can find archival documents that shed light on the recent history of almost every bureaucratic institution of the Turkish Republic. Dr. Önder Bayır also spoke of the classification of the documents in the Ottoman archives which started with the establishment of "Hazine-i Evrak" (treasury of documents) on 8 November 1846 and continued from the early years of the Republic onwards. At present, 80% of the present documents have been classified. Thanks to the system of automation, researchers are able to reach the lists of documents through the web site and obtain digital photographs of documents on CDs. Dr. Bayır pointed out that the Department of Ottoman Archives also has various publications.



Exhibitions

"From the Tradition to Future: Kuşoğlu Family Exhibition" by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Zeki Kuşoğlu and Sevinç Kuşoğlu, 7-22 April 2006

As Professor Kuşoğlu indicated in his speech during the inauguration of the exhibition, it is of vital importance for an artist to carry on his craft from one generation to the other, namely to his children and grandchildren. The Kuşoğlu Family exhibition was an exemplary activity in this regard. One was able to see the works of a family in one exhibition. It was an opportunity to view Professor Kuşoğlu's delicate mother-of-pearl and silver inlay works, gold engravings and gravures; his wife Mrs. Sevinç Kuşoğlu's beautiful paintings of fish, butterflies and bugs, as well as their daughter Ashhan Kuşoğlu's paintings and a drawing of her father's portrait which was the beginning point of the exhibition.



Opening of the exhibition: the artists with Dr. Halit Eren

Zeki Kuşoğlu was born in 1943 in Gaziantep and graduated from the State Higher School of Applied Fine Arts (The University of Marmara, Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1964. The scholarship he received from the Ministry of Education enabled him to study at Kassel State Academy of Fine Arts (1965-1969) and earn his M.A. degree from this academy. Since 1970 he conducted researches on Turkish arts related to woodwork, stonework and metalwork. As a result of his studies, he wrote more than 100 articles and 20 books. Prof. Kuşoğlu presented more than 15 papers at scholarly meetings. He gave 50 conferences on culture and art at various venues and organised 70 exhibitions. 15 of them were opened with the purpose of introducing

Turkish art abroad in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture of Turkey and the Cultural Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He won numerous awards. Prof. Kuşoğlu has more than 100 works in private collections and museums in Turkey and abroad. At present, he teaches at the University of Marmara, Atatürk Faculty of Education, Department of Painting attached to the branch of Graphic Design.

Mrs. Sevinç Kuşoğlu graduated from the Graphic Arts Department of the University of Marmara. She has works on graphic design as well as paintings. She exhibited her works in Turkey and Europe. One of her paintings entitled "Come, let us get acquainted" ("Gelin tanış olalım") after a verse by the poet was displayed at a mixed exhibition held in Holland during the "Yunus Emre Year of Love" in 1991. It was also chosen as the cover page of a book comprising the poems of the great mystic Yunus Emre. Their daughter, Ashhan Kuşoğlu studies at the University of Marmara, Department of Painting. Two of her stories titled "Kediler Parkı" (The park of cats) and "Umudun Doğduğu Gece" (The night when hope was born) won awards in 1992 and 2002, respectively.



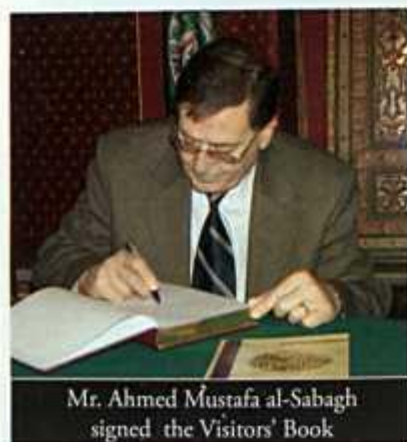
Distinguished visitors

* H.E. Mr. René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, visited IRCICA on 12 November 2005. Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed Mr. van der Linden on the objectives and activities of IRCICA in its capacity as the cultural research institution of the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Both parties expressed their interest in and commitment to promoting mutual understanding between peoples of different cultures and encouraging inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue through cooperation and exchanges in various fields. Mr. van der Linden visited the library of IRCICA, where he examined samples of books from around the Muslim world.



H.E. Mr. René van der Linden visited the Centre's Library

* A delegation of the Ministry of Awqaf (Foundations) of the Syrian Arab Republic chaired by Mr. Ahmed Mustafa al-Sabagh, Undersecretary of the Ministry, visited IRCICA on 9 February. The distinguished guests met with Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The talks were centered on the areas of cooperation between the cultural authorities and institutions of the Syrian Arab



Mr. Ahmed Mustafa al-Sabagh signed the Visitors' Book

Republic. The Director General recalled with gratitude the multifarious contributions of the Government of Syria to the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, which was organised on 22-28 November 2006 in Istanbul

on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of IRCICA, underlining their participation in all the events of the Week, with a concert of classical music, exhibitions of paintings, and the stand of handicrafts. The continuing cooperation will develop further, among others through the participation of scholars, researchers, artists and artisans from Syria in events to be organised by IRCICA, and the latter's participation in cultural events in Syria. Dr. Eren was present at the opening ceremonies of the program Aleppo the Capital of Islamic Culture, 2006, which were held on 18 March 2006. Presently the Centre is participating in the program with an exhibition of "Historical Photographs of Aleppo".

* The Consul General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul Mr. Alexander Krivenko visited IRCICA (13 February). The meeting with IRCICA's Director General was an occasion for both sides to express their appreciation of the academic cooperation which exists between the universities of Russia and IRCICA which resulted, among others, in the publication of Russian editions of some of IRCICA's books (including the *History of Ottoman State and Civilisation*, *The West and Islam: Towards A Dialogue*). This cooperation has been increasing steadily. A few months ago, a medal, signed by H.E. President Mintimier Shaimiev of the Republic of Tatarstan on behalf of the Russian President H.E. Vladimir Putin, was awarded to Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, for the successful organisation of the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural" (Kazan, June 2005) and for his contributions to the cooperation between IRCICA on one hand and the academic and cultural institutions of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation at large on the other: the medal presentation ceremony was held at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation on 15 December 2005. This cooperation promises to develop further, taking into consideration that the Russian Federation was granted the observer status with the OIC by decision the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, Yemen Republic, in June 2005.



The meeting with the Consul General of Russia

* IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Elhassan Ahmed Elhaj, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan in Ankara, at its headquarters, on 21 February. Ambassador Elhaj's meeting with



Director General Dr. Eren covered several themes of the ongoing cooperation between the cultural authorities and institutions of the Sudan on one hand and the Centre on the other; among them, a planned publication on the history of the Sudan during the Ottoman period, and further research on the Ottoman archive documents relating to the Sudan. On this occasion, the Director General of IRCICA expressed once more the Centre's gratitude to the Republic of Sudan for its active and extensive participation in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week which was held in Istanbul on 22-28 November 2005 on the occasion of the Centre's 25th anniversary. The stand of Sudan at the Exhibition of Paintings, Handicrafts and Publications, which was held in the Armoury Building of Yıldız Palace, comprised an Exhibition of Plastic Arts by Mr. Husain Jumaan, an Exhibition of Cultural Heritage by Ms. Bakhita Musa Bekar, and a Photography Exhibition by Mr. Mohammad Ali Haroun. Specialists from the Sudan are expected to participate in the International symposium on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" to be held in Riyadh in Nov. 2006.

* H.E. Mr. Nabil Marouf, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Ankara, Turkey, visited IRCICA on 1 March. The Ambassador congratulated Dr. Halit Eren for his taking office as Director General of IRCICA and wished



him success. Dr. Eren gave the Ambassador an overview of IRCICA's current and planned activities, focusing especially on the newly launched architectural and cultural program which will involve workshops to be organized on the subject of the preservation and development of the Islamic architecture of Al-Quds and Palestine.

H.E. Mrs. Ekenoğlu visited Dr. Zeki Kuşoğlu's exhibition

* The Ambassador of The Czech Republic in Ankara Mrs. Eva Filipi visited the Director General of IRCICA on 28 March. The Ambassador, herself a scholar and member of the Czech Academy of Sciences, received information from the Director General on the research programs of the Centre and its international academic cooperation, especially with European universities.



The Ambassador of the Czech Republic spoke of academic cooperation in Islamic studies, among other themes of international relations

* H.E. Mrs. Fatma Ekenoğlu, the Speaker of the Republican Parliament of the Turkish Cypriot State, visited IRCICA on 14 April. The distinguished guest was in Istanbul to attend the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) held on 12-13 April 2006. Mrs. Ekenoğlu met with H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, who was in Istanbul during this period. Mrs. Ekenoğlu received information from Director General Dr. Halit Eren on the information exchanges that IRCICA makes with the libraries, archives, universities and other cultural institutions of northern Cyprus since the 1980s, which enabled the Centre to gather information on the collections of manuscript works, archive documents and various references relevant for studies on history and culture that are preserved by these institutions.

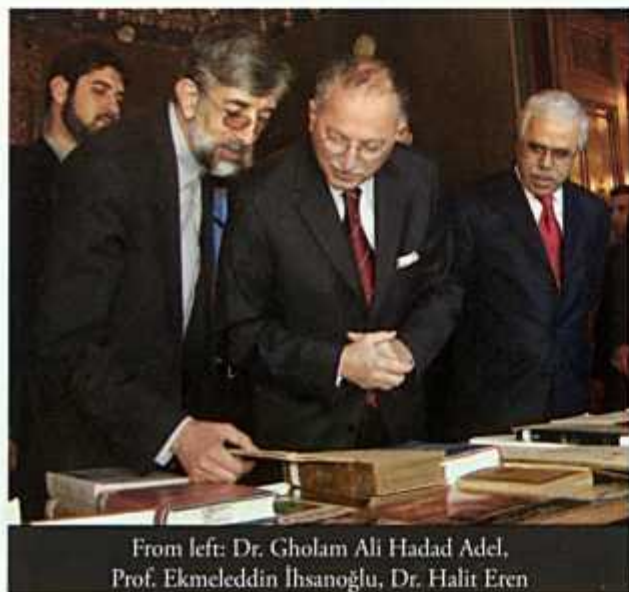


* H.E. Dr. Tamer Gazioglu, Ambassador of the Turkish State of Cyprus, visited IRCICA on 12 April. The distinguished guest was briefed by Dr. Eren on the research programs and activities.



It was pointed out that the bibliographical studies done by IRCICA since the 1980s covered the old manuscripts and other sources of Islamic culture and history that are preserved in the library collections of Cyprus. Exchanges of publications and information between IRCICA and the Libraries of northern Cyprus continue regularly. The Ambassador gave information to Dr. Eren on the scholarly studies carried out in the Turkish State of Cyprus in various fields of Islamic culture and arts.

* IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Dr. Gholam Ali Hadad Adel, speaker of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 14 April. The honourable guest met with H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, who was at the Centre on that occasion. IRCICA had communicated with Dr. Hadad years ago during the period when he was as the Director of the Islamic Encyclopedia of Iran. Director General Dr. Eren outlined the recent events and developments in the activities of the Centre. Dr. Hadad reaffirmed their support to IRCICA

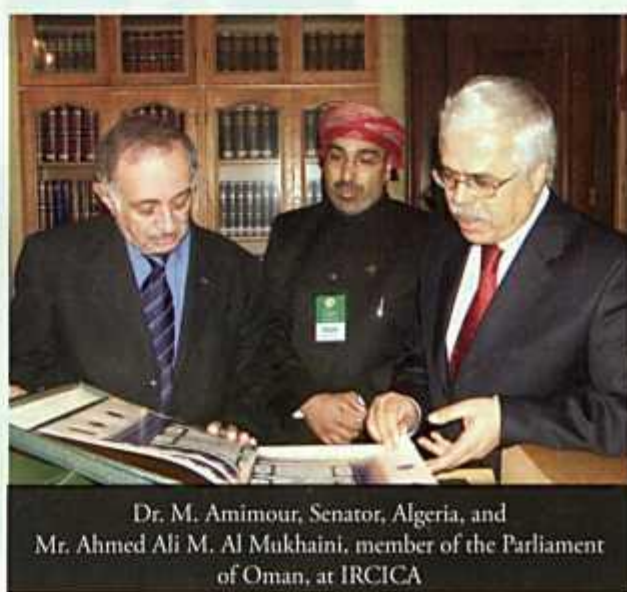


From left: Dr. Gholam Ali Hadad Adel, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Dr. Halit Eren

and their encouragement of the cooperation between the universities, the libraries and cultural institutions of Iran on one hand and IRCICA on the other. The distinguished guest was in Istanbul to attend the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) held on 12-13 April 2006.

* H.E. Dr. M. Amimour, Senator from the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, visited IRCICA on 14 April 2006. Dr. Eren briefed the distinguished visitor on the recent and future activities of the Centre, in particular the congresses on the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim nations organised in various countries. The talks centered on the areas where cooperation between the cultural authorities and institutions of Algeria and IRCICA is most needed besides the joint projects that are already under consideration.

* The Centre was honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ali M. Al Mukhaini, member of the Parliament of the Sultanate of Oman, on 14 April, during the period of the Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States being held in Istanbul. The distinguished guest received information from Dr. Halit Eren on the activities of the Centre, the congresses, competitions, etc. planned for the near future. The talks centered around the ways of enhancing the participation of academic and artistic circles of Oman in the Centre's activities and promoting cooperation between universities and cultural institutions of Oman and IRCICA.



Dr. M. Amimour, Senator, Algeria, and Mr. Ahmed Ali M. Al Mukhaini, member of the Parliament of Oman, at IRCICA

* H.E. Ambassador Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Auf, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), visited IRCICA on 15 April 2006. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Eren guided the distinguished guest to the various departments, the library, the photograph studio, outlining the objectives and products of each research project. Ambassador Mr. Auf showed a keen interest in the activities of the Centre. Having served as Assistant Secretary General for Information and Cultural and Social Affairs at the OIC in the 1990s, Ambassador Auf is already well acquainted with the Centre's programs and projects, and noted with appreciation the diversification and numerous results achieved since then in the activities of IRCICA.



Ambassador Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Auf, Secretary General, PUIC, saw the rare books in the library

* IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at its headquarters on 22 April 2006. The Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was present during the visit, which offered the occasion for an OIC-level meeting along with a visit to IRCICA, the OIC's subsidiary in the field of culture. H.E. the Minister was accompanied by Mr. Khurshid Anwar, Dep. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Khalil Mahmood, Advisor to the Minister; the Ambassador of Pakistan in Ankara H.E. Lt. General (Rtd.) Syed Iftikhar Hussein Shah; Mr. Amjad Majeed Abbasi, Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara, the Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul H.E. Mr. Mohammad Riaz; Mr. Abdul Majeed Niazi, Press Attache at the Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara; the Ambassador of Mr. Mansoor Israr, interpreter. The Ambassador



of Turkey to Islamabad H.E. Mr. Kemal Gür was accompanying H.E. the Minister on his visit to Turkey. Following the meeting with the Secretary General of OIC Prof. İhsanoğlu, H.E. the Minister and his entourage visited the library of the Centre to see a display of books and periodicals on Pakistan and/or published in Pakistan selected from the Centre's library collection, an exhibition of paintings, gold and mother-of-pearl inlays and incrustations by the scholar and artist Prof. Zeki Kuşoğlu, and a brief power point presentation on IRCICA's activities over the past 25 years.



The distinguished guests saw an exhibition of books on Pakistan selected from IRCICA library

Cultural Events

Commemoration of "Aleppo as the Capital of Islamic Culture 2006"

The city of Aleppo has been designated by the Organisation of Islamic Conference the "Capital of Islamic Culture" for 2006. The large-scale program comprising multifarious cultural events, organised by the Ministry of Culture of Syria and the Governorate of Aleppo, was inaugurated on 18 March 2006 with a high-profile ceremony. On behalf of H.E. President Dr. Bashar Asad, the Prime Minister of Syria H.E. Mr. M. Naji al-Otri officiated the inauguration of the program. The President's address was delivered by the Minister of Culture H.E. Mr. Riyadh Nassan Agha. The address of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC to the inaugural ceremony on 18 March was read by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The ceremony was also addressed by H.E. Dr. Eng. Tamer al-Hajj, Governor of Aleppo, as well as the Director General of ALECSO, the representative of ISESCO. The program will comprise, throughout 2006, eight scholarly symposiums; 150 public lectures; publication of more than a hundred books about Aleppo; renovation and putting to use for commemoration events of around 20 historical buildings; exhibitions of plastic arts, photographs, manuscripts, documents, costumes, traditional crafts, culinary arts, a large book fair; media activities with daily broadcasts of the programs and by the press; special issue of a magazine; competitions, medals, souvenirs, gifts and appreciation certificates in various fields of culture; visits to historical and touristic places; artistic activities: concerts, plays and films presentations.

The symposiums, some of which have already been held, are on the following themes:

Islam and Human Rights (Aleppo As an Example), 20-22 March 2006. Topics covered: A Historical Introduction to the Idea of Human Rights; The Concept of the Freedom of Individual and that of the Community in Islam; The Areas of Human Rights in Islam: Work, Woman, and Public Life; The sources of Human Rights in Islam; Islam - Christian Relations Across History (Aleppo As an Example). This symposium was sponsored by the Ministry of Endowments of Syria.

Aleppo and the Dialogue of Cultures, 25-27 April 2006. Topics covered: Historical Introduction: Aleppo as a Meeting Point for Continents, Peoples and Cultures;

Cultural, Religious and Ethnic Variation in the Context of Peaceful Co-existence; Sources of Cultures in Aleppo; The Influence of Economic Relations in Cultural Interaction; Christian-Islamic Dialogue in Arab History (Sufism, Language and Literature, Monotheism and Inspiration); Historic Icons in the Dialogue of Cultures: Ibn Arabi, Al-Sahrurdi, Al-Nasimi. The symposium was sponsored by the Aleppo City Council.

Intellectual and Literary life in the Court of Seif Ad-Dawla, 22-25 May 2006. Topics covered: Historical Introduction: Hamdaneia State in the Fourth Century Hijra; Philosophical Output in the Court of Seif Ad-Dawla (Al-Farabi and Others); Literary Debate in the Court of Seif Ad-Dawla (The Most Important Poets); Linguistic and Critical Movements in the Court of Seif Ad-Dawla; Scientific Life: Medical, Astronomical, Architectural, ... Output; The Image of Al-Mujahed in Poetry in the Age of Seif Ad-Dawla; The Characteristics of Political Thought in the Era. The symposium is sponsored by Aleppo University.

Scientific and Intellectual Output of Aleppo in the Islamic Era, 27-29 June 2006. Topics covered: Scientific Ingredients of the Development of Thought and Sciences in Aleppo; Intellectual Output: History, Travels, Geography, Philosophy, Languages; Scientific Output: Medicine, Astronomy, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry; Scientific and Encyclopedic Authorship in Theoretical and Applied Fields; The Best Known Men of Thought and Science (Scholars) in the History of Aleppo. The symposium is sponsored by the Aleppo Chamber of Industry.

Economic Life in Aleppo Across History, 5-7 September 2006. Topics covered: Strategic Location of Aleppo Between Continents; Location of Aleppo Between Mediterranean and Euphrates on International Trade Route; Aleppo's Commerce in Old Ages: Ammori, Hitite, Aramic, Roman; Aleppo and Its Strategic Position in Islamic Age; Aleppo's Commerce in Islamic Ages: Ayobi, Mamluki, and Ottoman; Consulates and Trade Missions in Aleppo; The Role of Khans and Markets, and the Most Significant Trades; Aleppo's Economy in Modern Times. The symposium is sponsored by the Aleppo Chamber of Commerce.

The Non-Materialistic Cultural Heritage of Aleppo in the Islamic Era, 17-19 September 2006. Topics covered: The Folklore of Aleppo: Forms, Fields, Characteristics;

Popular Proverbs and Their Social and Cultural Reference; Music and Its Development: Religious Music, Corners, Environmental Influences on Musical Movement; Costumes and their Relation to Cultures and the Environment; Aleppo Cuisine Across History; A Reading of Al-Asadi Encyclopedia. The symposium is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Syria. (To participate in the symposium, the last date for sending abstract of paper is 30/7/2006, and complete text of paper, 20/8/2006).

The Role of Aleppo in the Enlightenment Movement, 5-7 November 2006. Topics covered: Historical Introduction (Aleppo in the Early 19th Century); Printing, Journalism, Translation, Societies; The Concept of Enlightenment and Its Directions: Self-rule, Reform of Caliphate, Independence, Nationalist Movements; The Pioneers of Enlightenment and Their Relations to their Contemporaries: Al-Qawakibi, Al-Mrash, Gabriel Ad-Dallal, Bashir Al-Ghazzi, Kamel Al-Ghazzi; Interaction with Arab Enlightenment Movement in Egypt and Other Arab Countries, and the Islamic World; The Role of Literature in the Age of Enlightenment. The symposium is sponsored by the Technical Services Department and the Archbishopsrics. (To participate in the symposium, the last date for sending abstract of paper is 30/9/2006, and complete text of paper, 15/10/2006).

The Philosophy of Islamic Architecture, 20-23 November 2006. Topics covered: Historical and Architectural Development of Aleppo; Architectural Heritage in Aleppo; Religious Architecture: Mosques, Churches, and Corners; Defense Architecture: Citadel, Gates, and Fences; Civil Architecture; Focus on Significant Examples: Aleppo Citadel and Omayad Grand Mosque; Philosophy of Architecture and Its Relation to Place, Time, and Social Thought; Modern Architecture in Aleppo and Its Relation to Architectural Heritage; The Need for Preservation of Architectural Heritage in Aleppo. The symposium is sponsored by Aleppo University. (To participate in the symposium, the last date for sending abstract of paper is 10/10/2006, and complete text of paper, 25/10/2006).

For detailed information on the commemoration program of Aleppo as the Capital of Islamic Culture, and to apply to the symposiums: www.aleppo-cic.sy.

IRCICA participates in the commemoration program of Aleppo as the Capital of Islamic Culture with exhibitions of pictorial and artistic materials selected from its archives and documentary collections. The exhibition entitled "Aleppo in Historical Photographs" presents the reproductions of 60 photographs taken during 19th and

early 20th centuries, selected from the Yıldız Palace Albums that are part of IRCICA's archives today. The latter contain 1500 photographs of Syria, among them 240 photographs of Aleppo. Another exhibition by IRCICA will follow, to display the award-winner calligraphies by Syrian artists having participated in the six calligraphy competitions organised by IRCICA once every three years since 1986.

The Second Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy: April-June 2006

The Second Sharjah Biennale for Arabic Calligraphy was opened on 11 April, to continue for a period of two months until 11 June 2006. The biennale is organised by the Directorate of Arts of the Department of Culture and Information under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, U.A.E. Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

The biennale activities take place in the "Art Area" of Sharjah and the Museum for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy and Ornamentation. H.H. Sheikh Dr. Al-Qassimi was present at the inaugural ceremony of the biennale, together with Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al-Qassimi, a number of other dignitaries, H.E. Abdulrahman Oweis, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development of the U.A.E., and the interested public from art and cultural circles. The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was present at the inaugural ceremony, accompanied by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and Mr. Mohammed Tamimi from IRCICA. The seventh international calligraphy competition organised by IRCICA was launched and announced to the interested circles during the biennale's inauguration.

The biennale events include a symposium, solo and group exhibitions, competitions and workshops. About 150 calligraphers from the U.A.E. and abroad are participating in the events with a total of about 700 works. Four main trends of calligraphy are represented in these events: the classical, the modern, trends inspired from the Arabic letter, and calligraphy in letters other than Arabic. A number of awards were distributed to artists representing these main trends. The Ruler of Sharjah H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi presented the winners their awards and certificates.

The workshops and exhibitions display the various styles and applications of calligraphy, together with works of illumination and gilding. Besides, a series of Ebru (marbled paper) workshops, which were directed by Mr. Hikmet Barutçugil (Turkey) in the biennale area and at Sharjah University, drew interest.

Encouraging creativity in traditional handicrafts: the 23rd Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair held on 17-26 March 2006

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Tunisia, the National Office for Tunisian Handicrafts (ONA) launched last month the 23rd Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair which attracted about 700 exhibitors from all parts of Tunisia. The twenty-four governorates of Tunisia presented theme-based exhibitions and workshops where artisans displayed the regional characteristics of their products, with works of copper, mosaics, carpets, tapestry, textiles, weaving, wrought iron and cane furniture, wood and wooden furniture, silverware, blown-glass. Three workshops were held, on: "Priority of operation and mechanism of support and financing", "Traditional industries and new marketing opportunities", "Encouragement of consuming the traditional Tunisian product". One of the major features of the Tunisian Creative Crafts Fair was the "Golden Khomsa" (Tunisian dress) Competition. There were daily shows of women's and men's traditional dresses. The design competition was open to creative artisans and students of the fashion and design schools.

ONA has been organising this fair since 1982 in order to safeguard the crafts heritage and the important amount of know-how it embodies, while promoting hand-crafted products. The exhibition includes a commercial area for sale of handicraft products, raw materials and equipment. In conjunction with the Fair, a set of competitions were organised. They aimed, among others, at ensuring standards of creativity among artisans, art students, decorators and traders along with a new line for creativity in the Tunisian dress. The competition scheme included the following Awards: Awards of Creativity for Artisans, Award of Creativity for Arts Students, Award for the Best Stand – Commercial Space.

During the period of the Fair, Dr. Nazeih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program at IRCICA, held a series of working sessions with ONA to discuss the possibility of jointly organising an International Congress on Traditional Costumes of the Muslim world.

Conference on "Commentary Manuscripts" held at Alexandria Library, Egypt

The third international conference organized by the Manuscript Center of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, devoted to "Commentary Manuscripts" took place on 7-9 March 2006. Director of the Manuscript Center and Manuscript Museum Dr. Youssef Ziedan states the objective of the Center towards "establishing an academic tradition that aims at exploring unexplored, neglected areas in Arabic/Islamic heritage". The earlier two conferences were on: "Millenary Manuscripts" (2004) and "Signed Manuscripts" (2005). At the opening session of the conference, Gen. Abdul-Salam Al-Mahgoub, Governor of Alexandria, spoke of "Alexandria: City of Heritage". Prof. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, gave an address entitled: Arabic Heritage and the Production of Knowledge. Prof. Ziedan explained the concept of "Commentary Manuscripts" which not only invigorates researchers' perception of Arab/Islamic heritage, but also opens up new avenues of investigation, research and understanding of that heritage. The website www.manuscriptcenter.org/commentary gives detailed information on the technical aspects of the evaluation and treatment of the *ṣarḥ* (commentary) in manuscript studies, as well as the conference itself and papers presented. Historians of science and specialists of manuscripts from all continents contributed papers to the conference. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren participated in the conference as a session Moderator. During the period of the conference, Dr. Eren met with officials from several institutions on the subject of IRCICA's relations and cooperation, including the Director of Alexandria Library Prof. I. Serageldin, and the representatives of Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures which has its offices at Alexandria Library. In Cairo, Dr. Eren was received by the Minister of Awqaf (Foundations) of Egypt H.E. Dr. Mahmoud H. Zaqzouk. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views on issues of inter-cultural relations, international cultural cooperation and IRCICA's activities relating to these subjects. Dr. Eren also met with H.E. Jaber Asfour, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Culture attached to the Ministry of Culture. The main focus was on the scholarly congress on "Egypt during the Ottoman Era" to be organised jointly by the Supreme Council and IRCICA in 2007.

IRCICA has lost an esteemed friend and collaborator: Professor Ali Alparslan, a scholar in classical literature and calligraphic arts, passed away

Professor Ali Alparslan, a scholar in classical literature and calligraphy, passed away on 24 January 2006. Ali Alparslan wrote books and taught for many years in his two fields of specialty: literature and calligraphy. In his last years, he was teaching at the Department of Fine Arts of Mimar Sinan University and was at the same time a jury member in IRCICA's international calligraphy competitions.

He contributed remarkably to the preservation and development of the art of calligraphy. He won the love and respect of everyone for his many remarkable personal qualities: he was a loyal friend, an enjoyable speaker, a committed teacher who generously gave his knowledge to everybody and always tried to assist the less successful students. He was a special person.

Prof. Alparslan graduated from the departments of Persian Language and Literature and Turkish Language and Literature of Istanbul University in 1948. He was granted a scholarship by Tehran University, where he obtained his MA degree in 1952. He worked at the Directorate General of State Archives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and the Faculty of Theology

of Ankara University. He was appointed to Istanbul University in 1959, where he earned his PhD.

During 1963-1966 he taught in universities in London and Chicago. He was promoted to Professor in 1980. Alparslan's studies in literature were published by the Ministry of Culture of Turkey and leading publishers.



"Al Haq": a calligraphy by Ali Alparslan

As a university student he had taken courses from masters of calligraphy and obtained *ijaza* ("diploma" in calligraphy): in the *nestaliq* and *riq'a* styles from Necmeddin Okyay and in the *diwani* and *jaly diwani* styles from Halim Özyazıcı. Not only did he produce numerous calligraphic works – all the calligraphies in the album titled *Esma ul-Husna* are his – he wrote books, papers and encyclopedia articles on this art which contributed in making it known and appreciated in various circles. He trained and gave *ijaza* to calligraphers from various countries.

Ali Alparslan will always be remembered with esteem and gratitude. His memory will remain alive at IRCICA as well as in the minds and hearts of everyone who had the chance of knowing him.



Prof. Alparslan was a member of the calligraphy competitions jury.

Book Survey

A selection of recent acquisitions by IRCICA Library: books on arts and sciences in Islam

Majnun Kerimov, **The Azerbaijan Musical Instruments**, published by Yeni Nesil, with the support of UNOCAL76Khazar and Statoil, Baku, 2003, 183 pp. (in Azeri, English and Russian)

This scholarly book and beautiful album is the first comprehensive record of the classical musical instruments of Azerbaijan representing the country's rich history of musical culture. The author, Dr. Mejnun Kerimov is the Head of the Ancient Musical Instruments Ensemble of the State Museum of Azerbaijan Musical Culture and Head of the Old Musical Instruments Reconstruction and Improvement Research Laboratory, Baku Musical Academy. This musical scholar devoted his professional life to collecting information on the ancient musical instruments, reconstructing and reviving them. He drew the details from the works of medieval poets, miniature paintings, travelers' notes, archeological finds, illustrations and drawings on architectural monuments, as well as the observations of scholars in instrumentology: Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Afrasiyab Badalbeyli, Teymur Bunyadov, Mirali Seyidov and Saadat Abdullayeva. From 1975 onwards Dr. Kerimov recreated and built a number of instruments which had been forgotten for centuries. In this book he presents 28 musical instruments, ten of which were reintroduced to musical life as a result of his research and reconstruction efforts. One of the most important results of this research and reconstruction work has been the creation in 1988 of the Ancient Musical Instruments Ensemble, with the status of State Ensemble, consisting of thirteen musicians nine of which play instruments that had been forgotten. It represented Azerbaijan in international festivals of medieval music, gave concerts several times in Europe and during the Islamic Countries Cultural Week held in Istanbul (November 2005). *The Azerbaijan Musical Instruments* is an excellent source on the history of musical culture and musical traditions of

Islamic Art of India, by Dr. Nasim Akhtar et al., published by Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, 2002, 213 p.

This richly illustrated work is the catalogue of the exhibition titled "Islamic Art of India" which was held at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia from 30 March-30 June 2002. The exhibition was organized by the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia in collaboration with the National Museum, New Delhi, India and the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur. This exhibition and catalogue was sponsored by Department of Culture, Government of India; Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism Malaysia and Yayasan Albukhary Foundation. The rich holdings of the Museum, covering more than 5000 years of cultural heritage, represents unity amidst diversity. The



Azerbaijan and the instruments of classical music - the percussion instruments, the wind instruments and the string instruments, ancient and contemporary, with detailed descriptions of their production technology, roles, performances, scales and other properties. The text is accompanied by pictures and drawings of the instruments and reproductions of colourful ancient miniature paintings. The book will be a valuable addition to library collections.

exhibition that comprised 174 objects reflected the height of Mughal Indian artistic achievement. Several pieces in this exhibition were being displayed outside India for the first time.

Islam first arrived in the Indian continent in the 700s. The first of the Delhi Sultanates was established at the turn of the 13th century. This was the beginning of over 300 years of Islamic rule in India. It was during the period of the Mughal Dynasty that Muslim rule became truly widespread in India and reached its height. The Introduction of the catalogue focuses on the spread of Islam in India during the periods of the numerous dynasties and sultanates.

It also gives an overview of Islamic art in India during the reigns of various rulers. The book introduces in separate chapters the different collections in the National Museum, New Delhi. They consist of manuscripts, Mughal paintings, specimens of calligraphy, objects of decorative arts (including those made of jade and ivory, specimens of glassware, metalwork and textiles), Mughal jewelry, Islamic arms and armour (bows, arrows and quivers, swords, daggers, body armour, shields, fire arms), and Mughal coins. The book reflects the multi-faceted and multi-cultural civilisation of India and the contribution of Islamic art to this civilisation. Highly instructive annotations accompany the illustrations.

The Iranian Academy of Art, **Mirror of Sight: The Works of the Second Biennial Exhibition of Islamic World Paintings**, published by the Printing and Publishing Organisation of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Tehran, 2003, 368 p. (in English and Persian)

This beautiful large-size publication comprises the reproductions of paintings selected from among the works exhibited at the 2nd Biennial of the Islamic World Paintings. The biennial was organised jointly by the Academy of Art and Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, on the Museum's premises, during the Autumn and Winter of 2002. 435 works by 221 artists from Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates were exhibited in the biennial after selection from among 3851 works submitted from 29 countries.

Ömer Turan, Mehmet Z. İbrahimgil, **Balkanlardaki Türk Mimari Eserlerinden Örnekler** (Samples of Turkish Architectural Monuments in the Balkans), TBMM Kültür, Sanat ve Yayın Kurulu Yayınları (Publications of the Cultural, Art and Publication Council of the Turkish Grand National Assembly), no. 97, Ankara, 2004

This richly illustrated publication resulted from years of research on the architectural structures dating from the Ottoman period in the Balkans. It gives information on the historical and architectural properties of 285 buildings and monuments selected from among the less than one thousand structures that remain from the over 16 thousand that were built during that period. The structures presented are located in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, and Yugoslavia. The selection has been made

with care with a view to balancing between the different types of buildings. The authors acknowledge the first comprehensive work on this subject, authored by Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi, to which they referred while preparing this book. The Introduction reviews the history of architecture in the Balkans, the different types of structures and their functional uses, with comparisons of the architectural features such as plan, scale, materials, technical and decorative elements that are observable in different parts of the region and in connection with the dates of construction, establishing similarities with contemporary buildings in Asia Minor. With their distinct characteristics the architectural structures in the Balkans constitute a valuable part of the common heritage of mankind. Some monuments that are damaged or destroyed are already included in the lists of restoration and preservation projects undertaken by international organisations. Each chapter begins with a brief history of the Ottoman period in that country, followed by information on the numbers of various types of structures, their characteristics and present states. Then come the beautifully illustrated entries for each monument. A list of the monuments by country, a list of place names, a bibliography and an index complete the book. It is an exemplary study and an indispensable reference for the researcher.

Mirror of Heritage (Ayene-ye Miras), New Series, vol. 3, issue no.1 (28), Spring 2005, Special edition topic: History of Science (2), Tehran, 2005

This high quality quarterly journal containing articles, book reviews and bibliographies is published by the Written Heritage Research Center. This Center was founded in 1994 in order to research, proofread and publish ancient Iranian writings. The Center has issued about one hundred ancient manuscripts in different fields such as history, geography, religious sciences, especially Islamic sciences, Persian and Arabic literature till now. It is a leading publisher of Persian and Arabic manuscripts. It has an extensive portfolio in science and technology, history and geography, literature, music, medicine, and theology. The Centre is interested in exchanging its publications and welcomes institutes that would like to cooperate in publishing and/or translating its books.

In Spring 2004, a special issue of *Ayene-ye Miras*, dedicated to the history of science, was published. Due to the high caliber of the articles, this issue received much appreciation in international scholarly circles. This second special issue of *Ayene-ye Miras* dedicated to history of science presents a selection of articles, written by historians of mathematics from around the world. The issue contains articles in English, French and Persian.

Contact address: Mr. Akbar Irani, Managing Director, The Written Heritage Research Center, Unit 9, No. 1304, Farvardin Building, Enqelab-e Islami Avenue, Post Box: 13158-569, Post Code: 1315693519, Tehran 13175, Islamic Republic of Iran; website: www.mirasmaktoob.ir

Ahmet Güner, **İslâm Tıbbı ve Hastahaneleri Tarihine Bir Katkı: Biyografilerle Adudî Hastahanesi Tarihi** (A contribution to the history of Islamic medicine and hospitals: history of the Adudî Hospital, with biographies), İzmir, 2005, 310 p. (in Turkish)

Adudî Hospital is among the best known hospitals in Islamic history. Together with al-Bimaristan al-Kebir, built after 1154 by Nureddin Zengi (1146-1174) in Damascus, and al-Bimaristan al-Mansuri, built in Cairo in 1283 by the Mamluk Sultan Kalawun (1280-1290), Adudî Hospital was considered to be among the first three largest and most developed hospitals of the Muslim world in medieval times. It was built in Baghdad in 978-982 by the powerful Buwayhîd ruler Adud ad-Dawla. This book is unique in its field in that it gives detailed information about this hospital which has been studied previously as part of general researches on history of medicine. The introduction of the book mainly focuses on the sources on this subject including the primary sources (mainly biographical works as well as books on the general history of Islam and the treatises written by

the physicians of this hospital and their students) and the various research works on this subject. In Chapter One the author gives the numbers of the physicians who worked in the hospital, and the biographies of fourteen about whom information was found and who were among the first to work in this hospital. Under a separate title he discusses whether the famous physician Abubakr al-Razi (925 or 934) was among the first physicians of this hospital. Chapter Two gives the biographies and works of physicians of Adudî Hospital during the period of the Seljukids (Great Seljuks and the Seljuks of Iraq) and the late Abbasid period. Adudî Hospital was an institution where patients were examined and treated and at the same time various branches of medicine were taught. The author communicates a number of important observations that indicate the objective spirit of science in Islam. Among others, the fact that the majority of the well-known physicians of the hospital were Christians shows that equal professional opportunities were offered to people of different faiths and science was pursued regardless of religious or ethnic considerations.

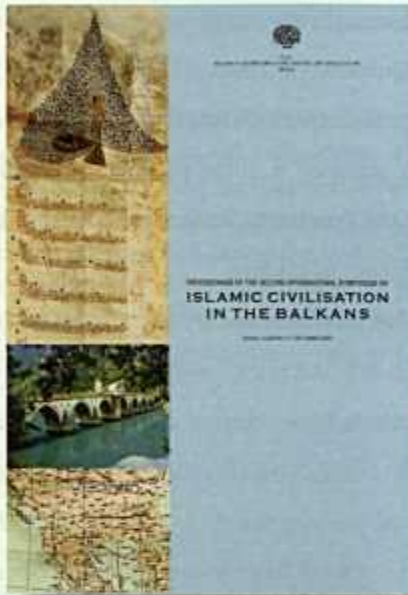
Turkish Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, Edited by Gürol Irzık and Güven Güzeldere, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Volume 244, Springer, Dordrecht, 2005 (xvii+308 pp.)

This is a survey of the current studies by Turkish scholars in the fields of philosophy and history of science. It has an interview with Maria Reichenbach, the wife of Hans Reichenbach, who came to Turkey in 1933 and began to teach in the Faculty of Letters at Istanbul University. As part of a much bigger movement of reforming Istanbul University, the Turkish government invited him to establish a modern philosophy department and appointed him as its first chairperson. One of the interviewers is David Kaplan, who was Reichenbach's student at UCLA, thus the interview gives the readers insight into Reichenbach's life both in Istanbul and Los Angeles. The articles are contributed by Murat Aydede, Samet Bağçe, Osman Bahadır, Günhan Danışman, Arda Denkeli, Sun Demirli, Berent Enç, David Grünberg, Teo Grünberg, İlhan İnan, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Berna Kılınc, Yalçın Koç, Erdinç Sayan, Karanfil Soyhun, Celal Şengör, Ümit Yalçın, Hüseyin Yılmaz. The fact that all of them pursued their graduate studies abroad adds a broader and more cosmopolitan dimension to this work. In fact, as Kostas Gavroglu notes in the preface, the renowned Turkish historian of science Aydın Sayılı completed his graduate work at Harvard University in the field of History of Science as the first graduate student of George Sarton. The articles in this volume prove that the conditions conducive to the conduct of research on history of science in Turkey have improved greatly since the time of Prof. Sayılı. The book is arranged in five parts that cover various aspects of philosophy and history of science. Part I focuses on the philosophy of logic and physics. Part II deals with epistemological and methodological issues in science, such as confirmation, objective evidence and relativism. Part III contains articles related to the philosophy of language and mind. Part IV deals with the subject of causality and causal relations with respect to analytical ontology and

action. Particularly the articles in the first four parts can also attract the interest of philosophers involved in epistemology, philosophy of mind and language, metaphysics, as well as physicists and linguists interested in philosophical issues. Part V focuses on Ottoman Science Studies. Berna Kılınc in her article titled "Ottoman Science Studies- A Review" gives an assessment of some recent historical studies of Ottoman science and technology. In a section on "historical epistemology" she discusses the views of E. İhsanoğlu on the *Marifetname* of İbrahim Hakki of Erzurum. This well-known mystic and scholar of the 18th century adopted both scientific and legendary approaches which are described as "contradictory ideas" by İhsanoğlu. Kılınc, however, evaluates İbrahim Hakki's literary style from the viewpoint of historical epistemology and asserts that the literary qualities of the text can be connected with its epistemological claims. In the section titled "Ottoman Science" Kılınc mentions Adnan Adıvar's work titled *Osmanlı Türklerinde İlim* in which the author claimed that the Ottoman intellectuals were on the whole indifferent to the Western traditions of science at least until the 19th century. She adds that some recent scholars, particularly İhsanoğlu, challenged this view in his works where he dealt with the introduction of Western science to the Ottoman world through translations of some major works of astronomy by Ottoman scholars. The article by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu informs the readers about the process through which the *medreses* were transformed from the personal teacher-disciple relationship to the institutional model during the pre-Ottoman and Ottoman era until the 16th century. İhsanoğlu also points out how the *medrese*, which was an institution 'indigenous' to Islam, gradually integrated the sciences that were not native in the culture such as the rational sciences. In their article, Recep Bahadır and Günhan Danışman discuss the center-periphery relationship in the dissemination of knowledge through their study on late Ottoman and Early Republican Science Periodicals.

New Publications by IRCICA

Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans, Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilisation Series no: 12, Vol. I IRCICA, Istanbul, 2006 (papers in English)



This volume contains the papers which were presented in the English language at the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans which was held in Tirana, Albania, on 4-7 December 2003. The symposium was jointly organised 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 distinguished scholars and researchers from universities, international organizations, cultural and academic institutions around the world (for information on the symposium, the opening ceremony and related scholarly activities, see *IRCICA Newsletter*, no. 62, December 2003). The papers in Turkish and in Albanian will be published in a second volume and a third volume, respectively. The first volume has thirteen articles.

In his Preface, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren points out that the Balkan region has been a meeting point of many nations and cultures throughout history: it is well known for its treasures of archeological, architectural and written heritage representing the various civilisations it hosted over millennia. It therefore also had a lively cultural and educational life. The Balkan region has an important place in the history of international relations of the Muslim world as well. Taking these facts into consideration, the symposium theme is approached from various angles, with focuses on the different periods of Balkan history, one of them its areas of intersection with Ottoman history.

Within the activity programs of IRCICA, this symposium was second in a series of meetings focusing on the history of Islamic civilisation in the Balkans after the first symposium held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2000. A third symposium in the series will take place in Bucharest, Romania, in November 2006.

Mostar 2004 Program 1994-2004 Final Report, compiled by Prof. Dr. Amir Pasic, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2005 (in English)



This is a cumulative report on the activities and results of IRCICA's ten-year program of architectural workshops entitled Mostar 2004. The workshops were organised during the Summer months, in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, except the first two, 1994 and 1995 workshops which were held in Istanbul, Turkey.

During each academic year between two workshops, the collaborating architectural faculties held studios and/or assigned theses relating to the subjects of the program, with special reference to Bosnia and Herzegovina: study, restoration, conservation of cities and buildings.

These activities brought together a large number of professionals and students from various countries, thus forming a network of people and institutions interested in and contributing to the preservation of heritage, and at the same time, support for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the aftermath of the 1992-95 war. The workshops involved 823 participants from 31 countries. The teachers and students came from 68 universities.

This comprehensive report gives the gist of the large volume of research, data and documents resulting from the program. It also reflects the experience acquired through the international collaborative effort which was invested in it: the importance of the scientific approach to issues of heritage preservation, of networking, of training local professionals for the conservation.

New Publications by IRCICA

Essays in honour of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Volume I: Societies, Cultures, Sciences: A Collection of Articles; Volume II: Biography, bibliography, and recollections about İhsanoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2005 (in English, articles in English, French, Turkish)

This is a Festschrift in honour of Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who was the Director General of IRCICA from 1980 to December 2004. It is an expression of gratitude for Prof. İhsanoğlu's scholarly endeavours that helped to promote research and international cooperation in many fields of studies relating to the Muslim world, and, from IRCICA's standpoint, for his inspired and foresighted leadership which contributed to the Centre's success since its establishment.

The initiative leading to this publication belong to a group of social scientists from IRCICA and from universities of Istanbul who collaborated with/under the direction

of Prof. İhsanoğlu for many years: Dr. Mustafa Kaçar (Istanbul University), Zeynep Durukal (IRCICA), Prof. Ali Akyıldız (Marmara University). The essays of the first volume are grouped in three parts: I. Ottoman History: the Centre, the Provinces, Studies and Sources; II. Cultural Life; III. History of science.

The first volume contains forty-five articles on the history, cultural life, arts and sciences of Muslim countries which were contributed by scholars from around the world. The second volume contains the views, impressions and souvenirs of persons from academic, diplomatic and cultural circles who have known and collaborated with İhsanoğlu, as well as his biography, and his bibliography.

Religious Values and the Rise of Science in Europe, edited by John Brooke and Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science no. 13, IRCICA; Istanbul, 2005, 258 p. (in English)

A collection of articles that examine the social and cultural environment surrounding scientific activity and its effects on the development of early modern science during the 16th and 17th centuries, in European and Islamic contexts. Most of the articles were presented at the workshop on the theme "Science and Human Values" which was organised by the European Science Foundation in cooperation with IRCICA and the Turkish Society for History of Science, on 6-7 October 2001, at IRCICA, Istanbul. The workshop was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who was then the Director General of IRCICA (1980-Dec. 2004), and Prof. Dr. John Hedley Brooke from Oxford University, Chairman of the European Science Foundation. İhsanoğlu and Brooke also cooperated in editing the book for publication by IRCICA.

To correctly and fully understand the course of scientific development, it is necessary to have a knowledge of the environment surrounding scientific activity. This environment, in turn, is determined by people's mentalities, beliefs and conceptions on matters relating to science. In other

words, scientific development cannot be evaluated accurately disregarding the socio-cultural environment in which it takes place. The research articles contained in the present book review some trends and developments of early modern science during the 16th and 17th centuries, and explore how various values affected them, either positively or negatively. Particular attention is devoted to values based on religion, with some of the articles' giving new insights into the relation between science and religion and suggesting the proper perspectives to be adopted in the analysis of this relation. Prof. John Brooke's comprehensive Introduction presents and discusses the theme and the articles' contributions to it. It is followed by ten articles, by John North; Peter Barker; Charlotte Methuen; Anne-Charlott Trepp; Kenneth Howell; Paolo Ponzio; Mariano Artigas, Rafael Martinez and William Shea; Robert Iliffe; Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; Sonja Brentjes. Some focus on European and others on Muslim societies, with comparative analyses. Prof. İhsanoğlu examines the social and cultural values and attitudes that surrounded the introduction of western science to the Muslim world with a case study on modern astronomy during the 1660-1860 period.

Sana'l Bark al-Shami by Kıvâmuddin al-Fath

b. Ali al-Bundari, Edited by Ramazan Şeşen,
introduced by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Istanbul, 2004,
XXXVII+464+III pages.

One of the main fields of activity of IRCICA is the publication of studies on valuable historical manuscripts. This book is one such publication. The author Kıvâmuddin al-Fath b. 'Ali al-Bundari al-İsfahani (d. 643/1245) was a historian and a scribe of the imperial council during the Ayyubid period. His work titled Sana'l-Bark al-Shami produced in 622/1225, is the abridgement of al-Bark al-Shami written by 'Imaduddin al-Kâtib al-İsfahani (d. 597/1201) which relates the historical events of Saladin al-Ayyubi's reign.

'Imaduddin al-Kâtib was a prominent historian and author who wrote the history of Saladin's period. He was for many years in the Divan al-Insha of Nuruddin Mahmud b. Zengi (d. 569/1174) and Saladin al-Ayyubi and served as a private secretary (kâtib al-sirr). He was personally present at most of the events of this period and closely witnessed and followed the activities of these two important personalities.

Even after Saladin passed away, 'Imaduddin was faithful to him and wrote his seven-volume work entitled al-Bark al-Shami between 594-595/1198-1199 to immortalize Saladin's memory and the history of his period. This valuable work on the history of the Zengids and the Ayyubids between the years 562-589/1167-1193 is the most important and most reliable source of the last years of Nuruddin and the period of Saladin. In addition to political and military events, this work contains 'Imaduddin's memoirs about these two great personalities and numerous diplomatic documents.

Al-Bundari's abridgement titled Sana'l-Bark al-Shami was not known until Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, Head of the Manuscripts Division of IRCICA, found a copy of its first volume (562-583) in 1967, among the manuscripts in the Esad Efendi collection at the Süleymaniye Library during his doctoral research. He prepared this copy for publication, comparing it with the existing two volumes of al-Bark al-Shami, with quotations from related sources and documents. Ramazan Şeşen revised the published and unpublished parts of his study and prepared the present book with the necessary corrections and additions.

Al-Bark al-Shami of 'Imaduddin al-Kâtib, a valuable historian and a famous writer, has both literary and political value besides its historical importance. It has complementary

elements with the work titled al-Fath al-Kudsi by the same author where 'Imaduddin relates the historical events between the years 583-589/1187-1193 during Saladin's reign. The extant volume of Sana'l-Bark al-Shami covers the historical events between the years 562-583/1167-1187 during the reigns of Nuruddin and Saladin. These two above-mentioned works written by 'Imaduddin constitute a complete history of Saladin's reign and cover the events of the year 583/1187, namely, the most significant period of Saladin's history, occasionally giving complementary information.

Koca Sinan Paşa'nın Telhisleri (The *Telhis* of Koca Sinan Pasha), prepared for publication by H. Sahillioğlu, preface by E. İhsanoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2004, xxxix+340 pp.

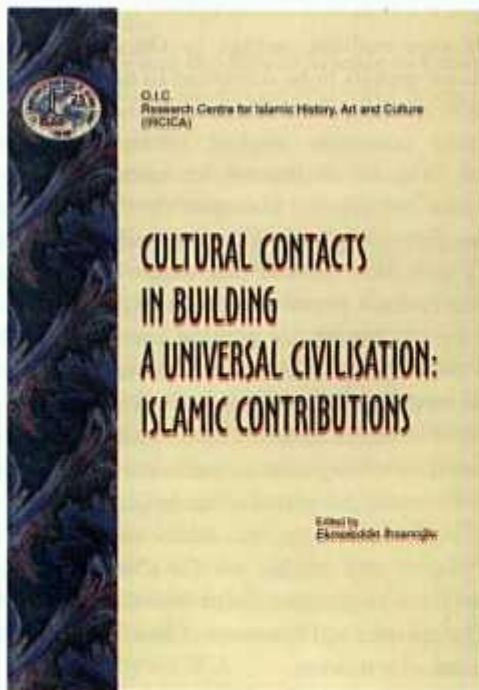
The *Telhis* were outlines, written by Ottoman viziers, of documents on matters to be submitted to the consideration and decision of the Sultan. These outlines are important because they constitute original references pertaining to various subjects of interest to researchers on the administrative and political history of the Ottoman period. The *Telhis* registers kept in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul comprise a collection of those that were written by Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha, a prominent figure of 16th century. He is known for his remarkable political career, having been appointed vizier five times over more than seven years. Also remarkable was his military career marked by successes - as the conqueror of Yemen and of Tunisia - and also by failures. He left numerous writings that are particularly important for historians who study the period of his functions.

Prof. Dr. Halil Sahillioğlu, an authoritative scholar in Ottoman history and studies on the Ottoman archives, has prepared for publication Sinan Pasha's *Telhis* that are found in the libraries and museums of Istanbul. The book is supplemented with indexes.

Cultural Contacts in Building A Universal Civilisation: Islamic Contributions,

edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, based on the proceedings of the international congress held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, on 17-19 January 2004, Studies and sources on the history of Islamic civilisation series, no. 11, IRCICA, 2005, x, 413 p.

Contacts between peoples of different cultures have been determining factors in the evolution of universal knowledge and civilisation. Islam played an active role in this process from its earliest centuries, by interacting constructively with other cultures within and outside its own realm in different fields of learning, science and arts. This book offers fresh multidisciplinary analyses of these interactions and highlights their contributions to the history of development of selected fields in humanities, sciences and arts. This analysis is followed by an evaluation of the existing and potential implications of these contacts for inter-cultural relations in our time.



The majority of the articles contained in this book were presented at the international congress on "Cultural Contacts in Building A Universal Civilisation: The Role of Islamic Contributions" which was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, and organised by IRCICA in conjunction with the American University of Sharjah (pls. see the Newsletter no. 63, April 2004).

The authors of the articles were invited to join in this collaborative effort on account of their authority in the fields under study. Their contributions are grouped under the following chapter titles: "humanities", "sciences", "arts". The last chapter, entitled "contemporary perspectives", discusses the implications of these contacts for inter-cultural relations in our time.

The articles of each chapter are arranged subject-wise or in the chronological order of their topics. The Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is followed by the contributions of (in the order of the articles) Abdulwahab Bouhdiba, Abdul-Hafez Helmy Mohammad, Enrico Berti, David Lea, William Gallois on contacts in various fields of humanities; Régis Morelon, Paul Kunitzsch, Irfan Shahîd, Roshdi Rashed, William R. Shea, Ahmad Y. al-Hassan on contacts in science and technology; Oleg Grabar, Géza Fehérvári, Wijdan Ali, Günsel Renda on contacts in arts, and Majid Fakhry on contemporary perspectives. The first two articles are in Arabic, accompanied by their abridged English versions. The other articles are in English.

New Publication by IRCICA

History of Natural and Applied Science Literature during the Ottoman Period,
prepared by E. İhsanoğlu, R. Şeşen, S. Bekar, G. Gündüz, V. Bulut, Editor: E. İhsanoğlu,
Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science No. 13, History of Ottoman Literature
of Science Series No. 6, 2 vols., IRCICA, İstanbul, 2006, CXLVIII+1562 pp.

This sixth book in the series titled *History of Ottoman Literature of Science* gives bibliographic information on the scientific works – books, treatises, articles, reports, legal documents, etc. - that were produced in the fields of natural and applied sciences during the Ottoman period (1299-1923) over the geographical area covered by the Ottoman state, together with biographical information on their authors. The branches of science covered in the book are: physics, chemistry, meteorology, botanic, zoology, geology, engineering, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, construction, gastronomy, precious stones.

A total of 3354 works are recorded. The authors of 2407 of them are known, while the authors of 926 works recorded are unknown. 15% of the works recorded are in the field of physics and applied physics; 20% on chemistry and applied chemistry, 0.8% on precious stones, minerals and geology, 29% on botanic and agriculture.

A considerable part of all works recorded are translations; in the early centuries most of the translations were done from works written originally in Arabic and Persian, but starting from the 17th-18th centuries translations were done from European languages - English, French, German, Italian and Latin, mostly from French. Following the establishment of European-style educational institutions in the Ottoman state during the 18th and 19th centuries, introducing the teaching of modern mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, zoology, botanic and technical subjects in higher education, a reform started and gained momentum with the translation of numerous works from European languages into Turkish and Arabic. From the 1880s onwards innovations made in Europe were followed closely by scientists of the Muslim world, especially in the fields of medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, forestry.



The techniques of photography, telephone, telegraph, electricity production, underwater exploration, medical research and techniques such as the works of Koch and Pasteur, the X-ray, as well as automobile and aircraft manufacturing, were soon transferred and put to application.

The books published previously in this series were on the scientific literature in astronomy, mathematics, geography, music, military arts and science. The next publication will cover the literature in medicine, dentistry and pharmacology.

