

NEWSLETTER



O.I.C. RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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EDITORIAL

This issue of the Newsletter covers mainly the recently concluded international symposium which was the first in a series to be held by the Centre on the important subjects of Islamic history, art and culture. This is a statutory requirement as well as the decision of the first meeting of the Governing Council. The international symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts" was indeed the biggest event in the short life of the Centre.

It also synchronised with the 'Islamic Arts Exhibition' of the Turkish Government which added further to the event.

The Symposium, with the grace of Allah, proved a great success. In all, 44 participants presented

their papers. The Symposium was also well represented from geographical viewpoint. There were 17 scholars from the Arab world, 13 from the non-Arab Muslim world including Turkey, and 14 from Europe and North America. A measure of the success of the Symposium can be judged from the number of appreciative letters we received. Some extracts from these letters are given in the Newsletter under the caption of "Views and Reviews."

The papers will be published in a book form which will be a valuable addition to the literature on the subject. In this issue of the Newsletter, we are carrying a brief report on all the Working Sessions. We have restricted ourselves to giving the names of the speakers, their topics and the country of origin.

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A list of the participants and delegates is given at the end. A total number of 115 distinguished scholars and delegates attended the Symposium.

This issue also carries reports on the opening ceremonies of the Symposium as well as the 'Islamic Arts Exhibition' of the Turkish Government. A separate article captioned "Sidelights" is also being published in addition to the "Proposals and Recommendations" and "The Istanbul Declaration."

The 2nd meeting of the Governing Council was held on 16-17 April 1983. The first meeting of The International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage took place on 21st April 1983. Brief reports on these two important events are also being given in this issue.

The important visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to the Centre has been dealt with in a separate article highlighting Malaysia's contribution to the Islamic Culture. The last article carries a few Centre news which are given in brief.

It can be seen from the extraordinary size of this issue that the by-gone half-yearly period has been full of intensive activity and important events. That is also why many regular, permanent features could not find place in this issue. It is hoped that all this material will make interesting reading and we shall look forward to your views and comments.

May Allah guide us to the right path. Amin !

Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Editor-in-Chief

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "THE COMMON PRINCIPLES, FORMS AND THEMES OF ISLAMIC ART" 18 - 22 APRIL 1983

THE OPENING CEREMONY



H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., delivering his opening speech.

The holding of seminars, conferences and symposia on the subjects of Islamic history, art and culture is a requirement written in the establishment statute of the Center. The first meeting of the Governing Council also called upon the Center to organise a seminar on Islamic Art. It was said in the report (Clause 6[a]):

"The Center will take the opportunity of the exposition on Islamic Art which will be organised by the Turkish Government in Istanbul on the occasion of the celebration of the 15th. Century of Hijra, to organise a meeting on "The Philosophy of Islamic Art" or "The Influence of Islamic Art on The Other Arts."

The Symposium was organised between 18-22 April 1983. The opening ceremony was held in the impressive hall of the Atatürk

Cultural Centre where the stage was decorated with the flags of Turkey and O.I.C. countries, and banners carrying the subject of the Symposium were hung on each corner. H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs of the OIC and Islamic Solidarity Fund, H.E.Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism and Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre were present when the ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

In his opening speech H.E. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to Turkish Government and Turkish people for hosting the symposium in Istanbul, "A fine and venerable city which may be regarded as one of the impregnable bastions of Islamic civilization whose splendour has shown all over the world."

Giving the precise reason which prompted the O.I.C. in deciding the celebration of the 15th Century Hijra, he remarked :

"Expressing the desire of entire Islamic Ummah, the O.I.C. wanted to make the beginning of the new Century of the Hijra a great occasion not only for celebrating the start of a century but also for inducing Muslims first of all to study the reasons for their painful underdevelopment, then to analyse the factors of their awakening and accordingly to work together in a spirit of Islamic Solidarity for the renaissance of their eternal heritage, their resplendent civilization and their glorious and radiant history". He praised the coordination of efforts between the Turkish Government and the Centre in celebrating the 15th Century Hijra and cited the simultaneous opening of the Symposium and Islamic Art Exhibition as an example of the scientific endeavours of the Centre and said : "In conclusion, I must commend the zeal of the Research Centre of Islamic History, Art and Culture and its accomplishments over the past three years under the guidance of its Director General, Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu to whom I wish continued success."

H.E. Mr İlhan Evliyaoglu, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, welcomed H.E. Mr.Habib Chatty, participants and members of the press, to the city of Istanbul and Turkey. He underlined the importance of Hijra of the Holy Prophet and expressed the opinion that Islamic Art was the product of synthesis. Local and regional cultures were supplemented not supplanted. The motivating force behind all the creative activity was derived from the Islamic faith and its principles of unity, equality and fraternity.

Talking about fostering unity in the ranks of muslims, he said : "Today, the first and foremost problem of the Islamic World is to live in solidarity, helping each other without any distinction of language, race or nation. It is our deep hope that this Symposium, held in the year of 1403 of the Hijra, will be instrumental in opening an era of unification and integration for the Islamic World, through the pursuance of faith and scientific activities." He praised the role of Istanbul Research Centre in the promotion and dissemination of Islamic Culture and expressed the hope of Turkish Government for greater collaboration within the Islamic World in order to strengthen the spiritual, artistic and cultural ties.

Mr. M. Aziza, a UNESCO representative, conveyed the apology of the Secretary General of UNESCO for his inability to attend this important Symposium due to his other commitments. He expressed UNESCO's appreciation of the important theme of the Symposium. He dwelled upon the diversity and complexity of Islamic Art from Timbuktoo in Mali to "Taj Mahal" in India but at the same time characterised by a deep unity as regards its spirit and aim. He said the Symposium interested UNESCO for two reasons :

"Firstly because it is taking place within the framework of the celebrations of the 15th Century Hijra, to which the UNESCO has also contributed positively. Secondly because the title of the Symposium is significant and reminds us not only of the unifying character of the Islamic art and civilization but also the unity of the Islamic Community as a whole

SYMPOSIUM

"The Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art"



Inaugural Session of the Symposium: Seated from left to right are: H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs of the O.I.C. and the Islamic Solidarity Fund, H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre.

Mr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO, also spoke on the occasion. While making a detailed comparison between Islamic art and other pre-Islamic arts such as Hellenic art, Pagan art or Roman art, he thought that the Islamic art was very near to nature and everyday life. In his opinion, mosque architecture is the true transmitter of Islamic Art. He spoke comprehensively about assimilative character of Islamic art and its eventual integration with Persian, African and Hellenic Arts but only after the infusion of its own spirit. He praised the success of the Symposium.

Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, welcomed the distinguished guests to the Symposium. He recounted the positive results achieved by the Centre within a short span of three years. Among others, these included, attaining its diplomatic status, publication of books such as "Ottoman Yearbooks", "The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine", "Addresses of Cultural Institutions in the O.I.C. Countries" and the "Newsletter". He also sought the assistance of the participants with regard to ongoing research projects especially in the

preparation of a "World Bibliography of the Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Quran" and the "World Guide-Book of Islamic Cultural Institutions". He informed the audience that the present Symposium, is the first in a series that will take place covering other important themes in the domain of Islamic history, art and culture. At the end, he thanked H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame and others in the Secretariat for their active support without which the Symposium could not have been materialised. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of the Organising Committee for their expert advice. He expressed his utmost thanks and deep appreciation to the Turkish Government especially in the person of H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their unfailing support since the establishment of the Centre.

At the end of the opening Ceremony, two documentaries on Islamic Arts prepared by the Centre were shown. The first related to the art of Calligraphy and the great Calligrapher, the late Mr. Hamid Aytac. The second was about "gilding" and "illumination", the arts of the book and other Islamic decorations.

SYMPOSIUM: THE WORKING SESSIONS

(18 APRIL 1983)

Working Session 1

The opening session of the Symposium was followed by two working sessions in the evening. The first working session started with Princess Wijdan Ali in the chair. The following scholars read their papers in this session.

1. Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel: - The Religion And Creativity In Islamic Art (Ar.)
(Kuwait)
2. Dr. Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi: - The Development of Architecture In Islam (Fr.)
(Turkey)
3. Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa: - The Development of Konya Seljuk Carpets (Eng.)
(Turkey)
4. Dr. Emel Esin: - The Quranic Verses And the Hadith, as Sources of Inspiration In Islamic Art (Eng.)
(Turkey)

Discussion :

After the speakers read their papers, a brief discussion followed which mainly centered around a few debateable points raised in the paper of Dr. Emel Esin.

Working Session 2 :

This session started after the coffee break. Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel presided over this session. The following speakers read their papers.

1. Dr. Afif Bahnassi: - The stars In The Geometrical Arabesque (Ar.)
(Syria)
2. Dr. Safwan Tell: - The Principles Of Islamic Art (Ar.)
(Jordan)



H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. attending one of the working sessions. Sitting on his left : Dr. Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi, a famous Turkish architect.

3. Prof. Dr. Hamed Adjabbi: (Tunisia) - Islamic Art, Its Common Principles Themes And Forms (Ar.)
4. Dr. Abdulhadi Tazi: (Morocco) - Water Clock Of The 8th Century Hijra In The Tower Of al-Qarawiyn University In Morocco (Ar.)

Discussion :

The discussion which mainly revolved round the paper of Dr. Bahnassi and was mostly in the nature of seeking explanations.

Dr. Mohammad Sijelmassi from Morocco asked whether the speaker had excluded calligraphy from his study as it only explains the geometrical and floral designs. The speaker explained that he had not, in his paper, touched upon Calligraphy which, according to him, could be taken as a high example of creativity in Islamic Arts.

Mr. Bida Habib from Tunis wanted to know why the speaker had omitted the mention of the essential sources on which his hypothesis about the stars in Arabesque was based. The speaker explained that the reference to this effect existed in his detailed paper. Prof. Dr. Ismail Al-Faruqi remarked that it was important to know which parts of Islamic Arts had been borrowed from the previous civilization. Mr. Safwan Tell thought that the origin of the floral decorations could be traced back to previous civilizations such as Byzantine, Roman, Egyptian etc. He also opined that Islamic arts are not based on man or his achievements. Dr. Afif Bahnassi then explained the geometrical forms of stars. The chairman of the session emphasised the need for compilation of an Islamic Dictionary of Arts in order to effect coordination in the terminology.

4. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Oluş Arik: - An Essay On Form Determining Factors In Islamic Architecture (Eng.)
(Turkey)
5. Mr. Yousuf Natsheh: - The Architecture Of Islamic Jerusalem: Our Duties (Eng.)
(Jerusalem)

Discussion :

The papers presented in this session were very interesting. The audience were moved by the slides of monuments of occupied Jerusalem shown by Mr. Yousuf Natsheh, Director Of Department of Islamic Archaeology in Jerusalem, depicting the poor condition of the buildings. The chairman drew the attention of all Islamic Governments and international bodies such as UN and UNESCO to act before it was too late. "It is not only an Islamic heritage but a human heritage," he said, "and ways and means must be found to preserve it." He also agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Yousuf Natsheh that a photographic exhibition of the historical remains of Jerusalem may be arranged which should travel to all Muslim countries. Another scholar proposed the establishment of a Fund for the preservation of this heritage which is in danger.

Working Session 4 :

Prof. Dr. Bülent Özer chaired this session. The following speakers read their papers.

1. Prof. Dr. Dominique Sourdél: - City Architecture In The Medieval Islamic World (Fr.)
(France)
2. Mr. Ali Louati: - Some reflections about the Aesthetic Unity Of Islamic Art (Ar.)
(Tunisia)
3. Arch. Dr. Turgut Cansever - The Basic Issues Of Islamic Architecture (Eng.)
(Turkey)
4. Dr. Peter Andrews: - The Culmination Of The Islamic Dome In India/Pakistan (Eng.)
(Germany)

Working Session 5 :

This session started after the lunch-break. Dr. M. Saleh El Mahdi was the chairman as well as one of the speakers. The following scholars read their papers:

1. Arch. Mr. Ayub Malik: - The Contemporary Muslim City (Eng.)
(England)



Another working session in progress. A view of the distinguished participants.

2. Dr. M. Saleh El Mahdi:
(Tunisia) - The Impact Of Turkish Music On Arabic Music (Ar.)
3. Dr. Mahmoud Guettat:
(Tunisia) - Reflections On The Common Elements In The Art Of Islamic Music (Fr.)
4. Mr. Ercümen Berker:
(Turkey) - The Reciprocal Influence Between The Turkish Music and Islam (Fr.)
5. Dr. Mohamed Sijelmassi:
(Morocco) - The Signs Of Tattooing : An Artistic Expression In The Popular Arts (Fr.)
6. Prof. Dr. Nurhan Atasoy:
(Turkey) - An Important Source For Researches In The Near East: The Photograph Albums Of The Yıldız Palace (Eng.)
7. Dr. Abdulaziz Dauletli:
(Tunisia) - Calligraphy: Essential Elements And History (Ar.)

It was one of the longest sessions as the number of speakers was quite large. Dr. M. Saleh El Mahdi, in elaborating the theme of his paper, sang some songs in Arabic which bear the imprint of Turkish music, which was liked as a welcome diversion and was a pleasant surprise.

Working Session 6 :

This was the last session of the day. Prof. Dr. Emin Bilgic from the University of Ankara ,presided over the session. Only three speakers were available to read their papers.

1. Mr. Yousuf Thannon:
(Iraq) - The Thuluth And Sources Of Islamic Art (Ar.)
2. Dr. Mohammad Cherifi:
(Algeria) - Arabic Script : Its Originality And Art (Ar.)
3. Dr. Bida Habib:
(Tunisia) - The Philosophical Dimensions And Beauty Of The Art Of Arabic Calligraphy (Ar.)

The session was interesting as new light was shed on the subject of calligraphy and its manifold dimensions. The speakers traced the beginning of the art of calligraphy, its sources, its essential features and the history of the development of this fascinating Islamic Art.

The appeal made by Dr. Mohammad Cherifi for the conservation of the art of calligraphy was very timely as it is becoming more and more extinct due to the lack of patronage. The paper of Dr. Bida Habib who termed calligraphy as the "Spiritual Architecture" also stressed the same fact when he asked the audience whether the story of this Islamic Art has finally come to an end.



Another view of the audience. Also seen in the picture (from left to right)First row: Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Prof.Dr. Janine Sourdél and Prof.Dr. Dominique Sourdél. 2nd row: Dr. Mahmoud Zouber.

21st April 1983

Working Session 7 :

The Symposium reconvened after a day's break. On 20th April 1983, the delegates participated in the Islamic Arts Exhibition opened by H.E. Bülend Ulusu, the Prime Minister of Turkey. The ceremony was held at the Ataturk Kultur Merkezi. Seven different exhibits relating to different branches of Islamic Arts were displayed at various places in Istanbul.

The 7th session started with Dr. Najmudine Bammate in the chair. The following scholars presented their papers.

1. Eng. Dr. Ludvig Kalus: - The Art Of The Islamic Coins (Fr.)
(France)
2. Prof. Dr. Cevat Erder: - The ICCROM: International Centre Of
(Italy) Study For The Conservation and the
Restoration of Cultural Heritage And
Its Concern for Islamic Countries And
The Conservation Of Their Works Of Art
(Fr.)
3. Dr. Süha Özkan: - Conception, Objectives And Development
(Switzerland) of Aga Khan Award.(Eng.)
4. Prof. Dr. Alexandre Papadopoulo (France) - On the Aesthetics of Islamic Art (Fr.)

After the papers were read, discussions were centered on the paper of Prof. Alexandre Papadopoulo.

Working Session 8 :

This session started at 5 P.M. under the chairmanship of Dr. Ismail Al-Faruqi. The following scholars read their papers:

1. Mr. Ibrahim Boolaky: - "The Combination of Arabic Principles
(U.K.) and Architectonic Forms In Islamic Art"
(Eng.)

2. Dr. Filiz Yenişehirlioğlu: - The Ornamentation Of Islamic Ceramics:
The Forms In Space Created By The Forms"
(Turkey) (Fr.)
3. Mrs. Animah Syed Mohamed: - Contemporary Visual Arts In Malaysia.
(Malaysia) (Eng.)

The discussion at this session centered around currents of contemporary art in the Islamic World.

22nd April 1983

Working Session 9 :

The session started at 9 A.M. under the chairmanship of Arch. Sami M. Angawi, Director of the Hajj Research Centre. The following scholars read their papers:

1. Prof. Dr. Salahuddin Al-Munajjid:- The Pictures Of Makkah Al-Mukarramah and
al-Medina Al-Munawwara in Manuscripts
(Lebanon) (Ar.)
2. Prof. Dr. Metin And: - Uniformity And Diversity In Islamic
Theatrical Arts.(Eng.)
(Turkey)
3. Prof. Dr. Günsel Renda: - Portraiture In Islamic Painting. (Eng.)
(Turkey)
4. Prof. Dr. Lois Lamy Al-Faruqi: - The Islamization Of The Hagia Sofia
Plan. (Eng.)
(U.S.A.)

Discussion:

Islamic civilization is a civilization of faith which is assigned priority over other principles which are knowledge, aesthetics and technique and this was the notable point of discussion.

Working Session 10 :

Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa chaired the session. The following scholars read their papers:

1. Dr. Zeren Tanindi: - Illustrated Historical Texts In The
Islamic Manuscripts (Eng.)
(Turkey)

2. Dr. Abdullah Saleh Taki: (Kuwait) - About the Islamic Conception On Art (Ar.)
3. Prof. Dr. Ismail Al-Faruqi: (U.S.A.) - Figurative Representation And Drama: their Prohibition And Transfiguration In Islamic Art. (Eng.)
4. Dr. Ülkü Bates: (U.S.A.) - Ottoman Documents Concerning building Activities In Mecca And Medina. (Eng.)

The papers presented at this session were very informative.

Dr. Ülkü Bates threw light on the importance of Ottoman imperial orders, decrees and imperial register books which provide detailed information about the repairs and extension works of Holy Places in Mecca and Medina.



H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali (Seated 3rd from right) Presiding over the concluding session. Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel, Adviser to H.E. the Amir of Kuwait reading out the Istanbul Declaration on Islamic Arts.

Concluding Working Session

Princess Wijdan Ali was the chairman of this last session, where only two papers were presented.

1. Prof. Dr. Shaker Mustafa: - Elements of Unity in Islamic Art. (Ar.)
(Kuwait)
2. Prof. Dr. Najmuddine Bammate: - Calligraphy - The Principal Of Unity.
(France) (Eng.)

The final evaluation of the symposium was made by the delegates and participants after all the papers were read. Almost all the participants were unanimous in their opinion about the success of the symposium.

Even the date, place and subject of the next symposium were proposed and other institutions were also advised and invited to take this lead and hold similar symposiums.

Princess Wijdan Ali, summed up the Symposium by saying that a wide field had been covered and advised the Islamic artists to portray the ordinary life, progress and achievements of the people through their artistic works. She also urged the 'Muslim elders' to understand the problems of the contemporary artists and also offer them guidelines. She lamented the lack of social security for the artists in the Islamic world and emphasised the need for restoring to the artist the dignity and status that he deserves.

She thought it was not only the field of art that needs to be 'islamized' but others such as economy, education must also be brought into line with the spirit of Islam. She paid tributes to Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu for the successful organisation of the Symposium. She described the Symposium as an event of great importance not only for Turkey but also for the Islamic World. "The artists and art historians have immensely benefitted from each other and this is", "she thought" a constructive outcome of the Symposium.

SYMPOSIUM: THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISTANBUL DECLARATION

A Committee of scholars under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel was constituted. The Committee drafted the recommendations and resolutions along with the Istanbul Declaration on Islamic Arts as a concrete outcome of the Symposium. The draft resolutions and Declaration were read to the audience and approved unanimously.

A: THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

(1) The participants thanked General Kenan Evren, the President of Turkey, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Bülend Ulusu and the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu and the Turkish people for this Symposium and the Islamic Exhibition. They also thanked H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, the Secretary General of the O.I.C. for this Symposium by performing its opening ceremony, and for his work for the cause of Islamic cultural solidarity and his help for the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for its support of this Symposium, and the help they gave to the Director General of the Centre, Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, and to all institutions and authorised officials for their cooperation in the organisation of the present Symposium.

(2) We propose the setting up of an Institute for promotion and improvement of calligraphy to serve the Islamic World, with preferably Istanbul as its headquarters.

We also propose the creation of a special award in the name of the greatest master of the contemporary calligraphers, Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç)(May Allah Bless His Soul). The Centre shall work out the details about these awards. This shall inspire the new generations of Muslims, and encourage them to follow the examples of great Muslim artists. For this purpose exhibitions on calligraphy shall be organised from time to time in the capital Islamic Cities for display of art of various calligraphers, appraisal of their work, and their encouragement on governmental level and through local and international Islamic organisations and by publicising their works.

(3) The preparation and publication of a lexicon of technical terms, taking into consideration and utilising fully the work that has already been done in this field, especially in Arab countries.

(4) We call for more help and support for museums of Islamic Art in Islamic capitals and cities in view of their aesthetic and instructional value, to demonstrate the unity of Islamic Art on the whole despite the diversity found in its different schools and fields, and to encourage setting up of more exhibitions of Islamic Art.

(5) The Symposium while it lauds and praises the Centre for its efforts especially recording the works and lives of contemporary calligraphers and artists in documentary films, calls for expansion

of these efforts, so as to build up a comprehensive library on Islamic Art covering both the old as well as the contemporary Art, to make these documentaries easily available to the younger Muslim generation on the one hand, and to mark a new stage in the history of Art, and a new effort that will be subjoined to the previous efforts on the other hand.

We also note that the recording and recognition of the works of the contemporary artists is far better than erecting marble memorials on their graves or composing elegies after they passed away.

(6) The participants recommend that this comprehensive Symposium should be followed up by more Symposia on art, about a specific theme or more than one theme of Islamic Art.

B: ISTANBUL DECLARATION ON
ISLAMIC ART

The contribution of the Republic of Turkey in the celebrations throughout the Islamic world marking the advent of the 15th Hijra Century, its co-operation with the organization of Islamic Conference, its help and support of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, providing it with a permanent place, and the help that it has given in arranging the international Scientific Symposium on the common principles, forms and themes of the Islamic Art held on 5-9 Rajab 1403 A.H. (18-22 April, 1983) in the city of Istanbul, and also the way it has entertained and offered hospitality to the research scholars and offered them facilities for visits to places of

scientific and artistic interest, all these shall leave a lasting impact and will be gratefully remembered in the days to come. The participants express their gratitude to the President, the Government and the people of Turkey, and hope that they shall continue to offer their support to artistic and scientific activities, so that the future of Islam is brighter and more glorious and the Muslim Governments, Peoples and Scholars come closer to each other and co-operate with each other in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

The Symposium provided an excellent opportunity for exchange of views, explanation, and analysis of problems, and for the presentation of masterpieces of Islamic arts and also for a new future of Islamic arts through fusion of principles and forms.

In this regard the participants agreed on the following broad outlines :

I -The research scholars in different fields of Islamic arts are now endeavouring to link these arts to their original Islamic sources while trying to enlighten through them the local and international artistic influences. Though there is multiplicity of views on Islamic art and its interpretations, the continuation of dialogue shall produce better understanding as well as appreciation of each other's views.

II. -Joint meetings of specialists in Islamic law and arts may be helpful to expand the area of co-operation between them as indicated by different subjects of the main discussion :

a.Principles of jurisprudence based on Quran, the Book of Allah and the traditions of the Prophet.

b. Opinions and commentaries of jurists.

c. The artistic practices.

This brief description needs explanation and elaboration through further dialogue and intellectual co-operation to open new vistas before modern artistic practices as well as elucidate some of the problems that still continue to generate a lot of heat and controversy. One such problem is the question of pictures of flat or three dimensional bodies. Our purpose here is to throw further light on the subject by specialists in this field and help in producing a better co-operation and understanding.

III. There are many contemporary artistic trends in the Islamic countries that seek to experiment in correlating the principles with the earlier Islamic artistic efforts on the one hand, and with the contemporary international schools of art on the other. The proponents of this group presented some of their model works in the Symposium in order to elicit the view of their colleagues and appraisal of these works. The Symposium discussed these aspects in the limited time at its disposal but further dialogue is needed. The future symposiums should help achieve this purpose. The publications on art to be produced by the Centre would also be helpful in furthering this dialogue.

IV. The contemporary trends of art in the Islamic world reflect beautiful aspects of daily life as different Islamic peoples see them, for Islamic art does not only mean big palaces or large mosques, which are artistic creations that now form a part of history of Islamic art.

There was enquiry about the share of the labourers, the farmers and the youth in the aesthetics of Islamic art. The creative art has reflected this tendency very clearly combining originality and beauty with practical utility, while retaining a close link with its original Islamic sources.

V. The art has not only an aesthetic value, but it is also a means of education, building up of character, preserving and ensuring continuity of a people's historical identity and civilization. It is our duty to absorb its concepts into our educational programmes and means of mass communication.

The participants also noted the threat to the Islamic heritage posed by outside aggression. A recent example of this is the repeated acts of aggression of Israel against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds. This calls for renewed efforts for preservation of whatever is left, and restoration of what is destroyed through fire, damage or usurpation.

VI. The Islamic historical monuments are also at risk due to the internal urban expansion, especially in the cities and capitals of Islamic countries. This increase of population spoils the past in the interests of the present, and history for the material gain. The two interests must be balanced properly, the interest of preservation of our heritage and those of the new generations for dwelling and decent living conditions. There are many examples to be found in the capital cities where similar problems were confronted and successfully tackled.

VII There are certain Islamic arts that do not occupy or need much space, yet the pressure of circumstances has kept them con-

finned to narrow circles. A prominent example of this is the art of calligraphy, the art employed by great calligraphers in the writing of the word of 'Allah' which is yet the strongest bond that holds the Muslims together. It is time that more and more attention should be given to the advancement and promotion of this Islamic art.

VIII The glorious periods of Islamic history produced original masterpieces of art that symbolise the unity of the Islamic civilization despite the great diversity in its themes and lands. The participants of this Symposium hope the present meeting shall inaugurate a new age for the coming generation respecting newer and original creations of art reflecting Islamic civilization that shall neither be a mere repetition of the old models nor completely divorced from them, nor

completely detached from the world trends and movements. It shall bring the Muslim community nearer to its original sources, hand in hand with other human civilizations, responding to and catering for the functional, aesthetic and physical needs of Muslim societies, and firmly and steadily marching onwards. This gathering is just one step in this direction and we hope that more steps and necessary measures will follow in the days to come. For this we seek help from Allah.

And say: "Work (righteousness) soon will Allah observe your work, and His messenger, and the believers; soon will you be brought back to the knower of what is hidden and what is open: Then will He show you the truth of all that you did (QURAN: 9:105)". And true indeed is the word of Allah!



Seen in the picture are: (From left to right)- H.E. Mr. Bülend Ulusu, Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of O.I.C. and H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey.

SYMPOSIUM: SIDELIGHTS



Examining a Calligraphic exhibition are:(From right to left) H.E. Dr. Najah Al-Attar, Minister of Culture, Syria, H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and Mr. Muammer Ülker, Director of the Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul.

1.Exhibition of calligraphy by Hasan Celebi

The organising committee of the symposium held an exhibition in the Cit Qasr, displaying the calligraphic works of Hasan Celebi, a student of late Hamid Aytac. H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame from OIC and Princess Wijdan Ali were among the guests, who visited the exhibition on the first day. It remained open for the duration of the Symposium. The viewers were indeed fascinated by different styles of Arabic calligraphy.

2.Evening of Mevlevi Sema

'Sema', an authentic performance of 'Mevlevi Dervishes' was arranged at the Divan Edebiyatı Müzesi. It was hosted by Mr. Feyzi Halicioğlu, President of Konya Tourism Association. Every year this association celebrates the anniversary of the great sufi poet Mevlana Jalal-ud-din Rumi in Konya.

The performance was given in the circular hall of the Museum on the evening of 21st April 1983. This museum was originally built as a "Mevlevihane". The performance was preceded by a traditional dinner in the style of Dervishes.

3. Concerts of Turkish Classical Music

With the kind permission of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the State Turkish Classical Music Chorus gave two concerts during the week.

The first concert was given on 19 April 1983 at 21.30 hours in the concert hall of Ataturk Kultur Merkezi. It was conducted by Dr. Nevzat Atlı, a famous Turkish Chorus Master and winner of the Award of Service to Turkish culture.

The songs composed by famous Turkish composers such as Abdulkadir Meragi, Gazi Giray Han, Hafız Post, Mustafa Itri Efendi, Hacı Sadullah Aga, Sultan Selim III, Hacı Arif Bey and Rahmi Bey were included in the programme.

The second concert was held in Çit Qasr on the occasion of the first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage.

The first piece was composed by Sultan Abdulaziz, in whose reign "Çit Qasr" was completed. The second was consisted of classical Tunisian music. This concert was very much appreciated by the audience.



A group photo taken on the occasion of the lunch hosted by H.E. Mr. Bülend Ulusu, Prime Minister of Turkey, in honour of the visiting Ministers of Culture of Islamic Countries and other delegates.

4. Bosphorus Cruise (22 April 1983)

This was the closing reception whereby dinner was served on board the boat which cruised up the Bosphorus. The guests kept busy taking photographs of the beautiful scenery.

5. Documentaries about Islamic arts

Documentary films concerning two important aspects of Islamic arts were also shown on the occasion of the Symposium. The first one related to the life and works of late Mr. Hamid Aytac, the master calligrapher. This fascinating half-hour documentary showed some masterpieces of this calligrapher along with commentaries and background information.

The second documentary was about "gilding" - a complementary branch of the "Arts of the Book". It showed the famous gilding artist Mrs. Rikkat Kunt at her work and also explained various stages of the development of this art. The

film also presented a famous decorator and illuminator Mr. Muhsin Demironat and his works.

Both films were highly appreciated by the art critics and scholars who viewed them.

6. Excursion to the Historical Cities of Bursa and İznik.

This post-symposium excursion took place on 23-24 April 1983 and on the first day the historical city of İznik, very famous for its tiles and ceramics was visited. The evening and the next day was spent in Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman State. The visitors had the chance to see all the historical and cultural monuments of Bursa and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. The tour took place under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa.

Special programmes were arranged for the people who were accompanying the participants and they visited cultural and historical sites such as museums, mosques, palaces, art galleries, libraries and gardens.



The delegates having their dinner on boat during the Bosphorus Cruise. Sitting in the front row (from right to left): Prof. Dr. Alexandre Papadopoulo, Prof. Dr. Abdelaziz Kamel

SYMPOSIUM: VIEWS AND REVIEWS

"Back to Paris, we do not want to be more late to congratulate you on the excellent organisation of the Islamic Art Symposium and we want to thank you particularly for the hospitality extended to us."

Dr. Janine Sourdel
Vice President
University of Paris-Sorbonne
(Paris IV)

"I would like to congratulate you and your colleagues for the perfect organisation of all the events taken place on the occasion of the Symposium and this was because of the devotion of your team that worked very well."

Dr. Ludvik Kalus
9, Rue Robert Lindet
75015 Paris

"The Symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts", between the other congresses/symposiums that I have attended, was the best organised, having a very rich programme.... It was very exciting and instructive for me to be with peoples who have different outlook on the Art and the History of Art and to know their ideas on the subject."

Prof. Dr. Ülkü U. Bates
Department of Art
Hunter College Of The City University
New York

"I wish to thank you again for your successful steering of the Symposium in which I had great pleasure to participate."

Dr. Stefano Bianca
In Der Looren 47, CH-8053
Zurich

"Allow me first to congratulate you for your great efforts in organising the Symposium "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts" and to thank you for an unforgettable week of scholarship, music and travel. Although I am a Muslim and an Arab, your Symposium was the first conference on Islamic Art which I have attended in a Muslim Country. I learned a great deal from it, most importantly, that one should approach Islamic Art with a clear understanding of the Quran and Sunna.... ."

On a more general level, I sincerely hope that IRCICA will prosper as a Center of Muslim scholarship of the highest level, guided by the true spirit of Islamic tolerance and expansiveness."

Dr. Yasser Tabbaa
Aga Khan Assistant Professor
for Islamic Architecture at
Harvard University and the
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Massachusetts 02139.

"I write to congratulate you on your personal efforts in making the recent Symposium on Islamic Art a great success. Both planning and the implementation of the programme were excellent... I would also like to express my thanks and congratulations to all those at IRCICA who have contributed to make the Symposium a success."

Mr. Ibrahim Boolaky
Deputy Director
New Era Publications
Bucks SL2 35 G-England

"Just to say that I have come back with very happy memories of Istanbul and of the many interesting events and the stimulating discussions with the various participants which by itself, is an excellent achievement. I must also express my appreciation at the meticulous planning of the Seminar...."

Arch. Mr. Ayyub Malik
Architect ARIBA
Chapman Taylor Partners
145, Kensington Church St.
London W8 7LS
England

"I was impressed by the good organisation of the Symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" and the first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage ... May Allah give you success in your works for the good of Islam and Muslims."

Dr. Abdulhadfi Boutaleb
Director General
ISESCO, Rabat, Morocco.

"I would like to congratulate you on the great success achieved by you in the organisation of the Symposium and also for the fine management of a variety of admirable Turkish Islamic Cultural events which we had the chance to see. This had evoked appreciation not only of the Turkish Government but also of all the participants."

Dr. Saleh al-Mahdi
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Tunis-Tunisia

"I take this opportunity to thank you and the organising committee of the Symposium for the extremely efficient way in which everything has been organised from beginning to the end. As the executive of all this tremendous organisation, which worked with the precision of clockwork, I wish to congratulate you personally and all your staff for this excellent work, which I have never seen equalled elsewhere ... It is a pity that the quality of the papers read was not always equal to that of the organisation."

Dr Alexandre Papadopoulo
138, Bld. De La Republique
92210 Saint-Cloud
Paris

"Back to Paris, I would like to extend to you our sincere thanks for your kind reception, magnificent hospitality and the interesting Symposium which was wonderfully conceived and organised."

Mr. M. Aziza
UNESCO
3, Rue Bixion
75007 Paris

"I like to thank you for the friendly and personal reception accorded to me. I will ask you to convey my gratitude to the Turkish authorities who did everything possible for the success of the Symposium at all the phases. My thanks also to the members of your team who resolved all problems of the participants with kindness and efficiency."

Dr. Mohamed Sijelmassi
25, rue Ibn Batouta
Casablanca.
Morocco

"Indeed, it (The Symposium) was a great success, thanks to your dynamism, hardwork, sincerity and the patience. What gave it importance was the participation of the big number of thinkers and scholars from different continents."

Dr. Abdulhadi Tazi
University Institute of Scientific
Research,
Mohamed Al-Khamis University,
Rabat-Marocco



The delegates and participants to the Symposium during a meal.

THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND DELEGATES

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and the Islamic Solidarity Fund,
Organisation of the Islamic Con-
ference
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H.E. Mr. Arshad Uz-Zaman
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Jeddah - Saudi Arabia

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ISLAMIC ARTS EXHIBITION

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Government of Turkey organised this exhibition on the occasion of the advent of the 15th Century Hijra. It was held in implementation of the decision taken to this effect at the 7th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference convened at Istanbul in 1976.

The Hijra of the Holy Prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H.) from Mecca to Medina forms a turning point in the history of not only Islam but the whole mankind. This was the beginning and the spread of Islam as a great moral, social and cultural system, capable of producing rich and splendid artistic masterpieces in a variety of fields. 'The purpose of this five-month exhibition was to display a variety of artistic and cultural masterpieces within the context of the Islamic art.'

The exhibition was officially opened on Wednesday, 20 April 1983 at 11.00 A.M. at the Atatürk Kültür Merkezi by H.E.Mr. Bülend Ulusu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. H.E.Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. and delegates of countries invited by the Turkish Government were present.

The stage was decorated with the flags of all the muslim countries. The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. The

"Qari" sat on a specially designed platform on the right corner of the stage with a large copy of Quran placed on a beautifully carved wooden 'Rahle'. After the recitation, H.E.Mr. İlhan Evliya-oğlu, Minister of Culture and Tourism, made his introductory speech, in which he gave the background and outstanding features of the exhibition. He also underlined the important role played by the Muslim Turks in the promotion of Islamic art and culture from the time of Anatolian Seljuks to the present date. He expressed his wish that such exhibitions and functions would be more frequently held in future with a view to promoting understanding among nations of the world, especially the Islamic Countries.

In his speech, H.E.Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, paid his 'respectful salutation and highest consideration to H.E. General Kenan Evren, President of the Turkish Republic for his fruitful endeavours in pursuit of Turkey's prosperity and progress' and for the effective participation of the Turkish Republic in the activities and promotion of the O.I.C.

He also paid tribute to H.E. Mr. Bülend Ulusu, the Turkish Prime Minister, for his positive role, on behalf of his country, within the framework of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

He congratulated the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism and his Ministry for their endeavours for the success of this great event. Underlining the importance of the venue of the exhibition, he said: "The organisation of such exhibitions on this land is indicative, on the one hand, of the pioneering role assumed by the Turks for the triumph, defence and dissemination of Islam and on the other, of the Turkish people's contribution to the edifice of Islamic civilisation and culture as well as its enrichment of Islamic art. The O.I.C.'s choice of Istanbul as host city to the Research Centre which now bears its name, was due to the fact that the city is witness to the position achieved by Islamic civilization and art in this country whose mosques, Islamic monuments, museums and palaces have made it an object of desire for the heart and 'qiblah' for the eye".

H.E.Mr. Bülend Ulusu, Prime Minister of Turkey, in his opening speech, laid stress on the significance of Hijra and its influence on the art and architecture of the Islamic lands. "The holding of the exhibition", he said, "is an effort to create an awareness of the past and there is almost no nation who has developed, without having the consciousness of the past which can be described as learning and comprehending how and through which ways, the norms and the values have come to existence."

Stressing the assimilating character of the Islamic civilization, he stated: "The Islamic religion has shown a special and scientific interest to the developments, artistic forms and masterpieces which have been created by mankind. By re-evaluating the scientific and artistic work of the ancient ages and by disseminating the synthesis and values so created, the Islamic religion has realised the first movement of the renaissance. In this manner the

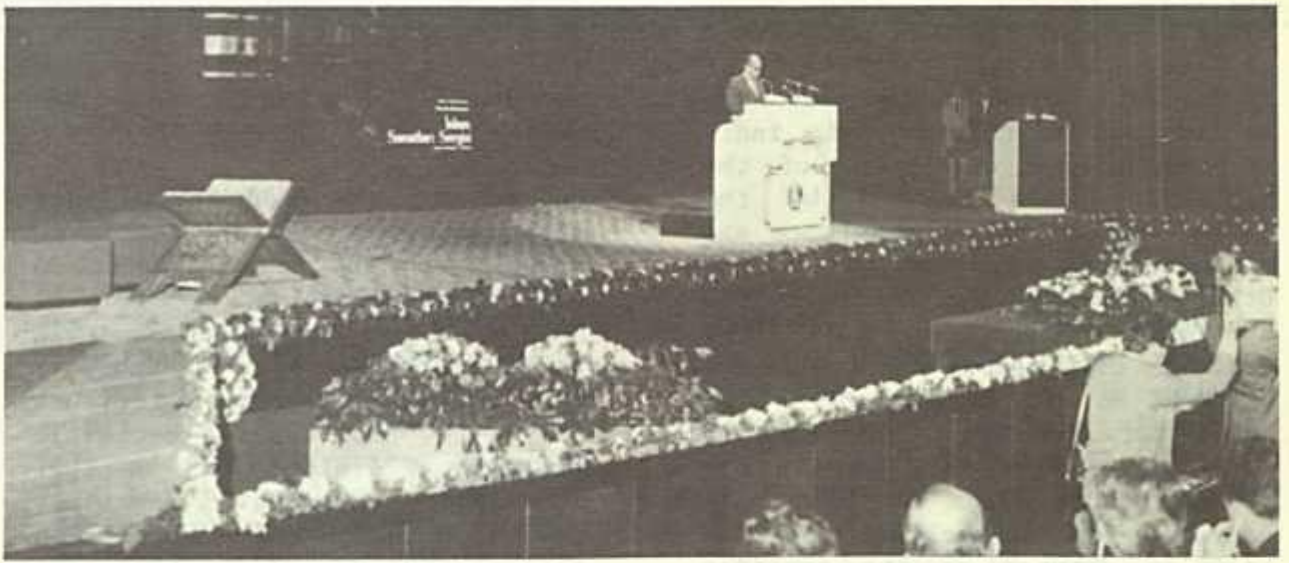
artistic movement of high standard and value have taken place in the Islamic World. The architectural works and monuments, which represent the great and brilliant civilizations, and their profound cultural evolutions, have been created."

Emphasising the need for cooperation among the Muslim countries to bring forth the bright aspects of Islamic civilization, he said, "It should be admitted that when Islamic countries act independently from each other, they can produce only a few experts, who can evaluate only a limited part of their inherited cultures. Sometimes, even this cannot be achieved. For this reason, we believe that there are numerous advantages by the cooperation among Islamic Countries in the fields of the history of arts and archaeology."

After the speeches were made, the heads of the foreign delegations and members of Governing Council of the Centre and the Heritage Commission and eminent scholars attending the Symposium, were presented to H.E. the Prime Minister, immediately followed by the opening of the "Islamic Architecture Photographic Exhibition." On display were fascinating photographs of Islamic architecture as it developed in Turkey and other Islamic lands.

Architecture of mosques was the centre of attraction and absorbed the attention of the viewers, in addition to the architecture of palaces, canals, bridges, gardens, towns and villages.

The foreign delegates and the diplomatic corps were invited to lunch by the Turkish Prime Minister. In the afternoon, the programme started with the opening of the "Sacred Relics Exhibition" at the Topkapi Palace against the background music of the famous "Mehter" (Military Band) of Turkey



H.E. Mr.Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. speaking in the Opening Ceremony of the Islamic Arts Exhibition.

which greatly interested the foreign delegates. The opening of the other two exhibitions namely, the "Exhibition of Artistic Articles of Worship" and "Islamic Tiles and Ceramic Arts Exhibition" followed in short intervals. The sacred relics attributed to the Holy Prophet Mohammed and his rightly-guided Caliphs were the main attraction at the first exhibition. The second exhibition consisted of prayer rugs, scarves, slippers, oil lamps, water ewers, Koran stands (rahle), hand embroideries, towels, napkins, and similar other articles indicative of a Muslim's attire in the supplication of God. The third exhibition comprised of two sections. The one relating to the "Islamic Tile Art" which 'symbolises heaven and decorates Islamic structures through history', instils man with hope and joy of life." The second section displayed today's tile and ceramic works from various regions of Turkey.

The day was wound up with a visit to the 'Exhibition of Rugs and Carpets' at Vakıflar Halı Müzesi. The rug and Carpet Exhibition

contained some of the oldest and rarest carpets and rugs from the exclusive possessions of the Istanbul Vakıflar Museum.

Then the guests proceeded to the Süleymaniye Library which is one of the richest manuscript libraries in the world. This was the venue of another exhibition which featured the masterpieces of calligraphy, handwritten works of the 15th and 16th Centuries; miniatures; original imperial edicts bearing signatures of Ottoman Sultans.

Lastly they went to the "Metal and Woodwork Exhibition" at the Türk İslâm Eserleri Müzesi where some of the beautiful samples of Islamic metal and woodwork articles were displayed.

The splendid dinner given by the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism at the end of this beautiful day reflected the traditional Turkish hospitality.

PREPARATORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE



H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. presiding over the first meeting of the Heritage Commission.

Opening Ceremony :21st April 1983.

I. Inaugural Session:

The inaugural meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage opened on 21st April 1983 (8 Rajab, 1403H.) in the beautiful hall of the 'Cit Qasr' -the new building in the Yildiz Palace complex granted to the Centre. H.R.H Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the Commission was prevented from attending due to some unavoidable factors. H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., instead presided over the meeting in the presence of H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey. H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs of the O.I.C. and the Islamic Solidarity Fund;

H.E. Mr. Nevzad Ayaz, Governor of Istanbul. Other distinguished guests included representatives and honourable Ministers of Cultural and Islamic Affairs of Malaysia, Arab Republic of Syria, Guinea, Somalia, Comoros Islands, Palestine, H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali, President of Royal Society of Arts from the Kingdom of Jordan and a large number of members of diplomatic corps and high officials of the Turkish Government and many scholars and thinkers. The proceedings started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

In his opening speech, H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty thanked the Turkish Republic, its President, Government and people for the excellent

hospitality accorded to him and other delegations participating in the deliberations of the Commission. He said the Islamic Ummah shall be watching the activities of the Commission with great interest. Stressing the vital importance of salvaging the threatened Islamic heritage in occupied Jerusalem, he said:

"Al-Quds is the responsibility of all muslims, not the Palestinians and Arabs alone. It is an Islamic home and Holy land blessed by God in the Glorious Quran. It is the first Qiblah and the third holiest shrine. Al-Quds is today going through a period which, if allowed to continue much longer, would wipe out the Islamic character of the city and make it lose its Arab population, muslims and christians alike. Indeed it is no secret that the zionist sheme involves to complete Judaisation of Al-Quds through elimination of its Islamic monuments, obliteration of its Arab personalities and forced emigration of its non-jewish population. Forced with this situation, we can claim that the rescue of Al-Quds has become the responsibility of all mankind for it is universally agreed that every civilizational heritage, whatever its origin and location, is regarded as the heritage of mankind as a whole".

Talking about the geographical or territorial scope of activities of the Commission, he remarked :

"When we talk about the Islamic heritage, we do not only mean those that are already in the

member states of the O.I.C., because one-third of the Muslim Ummah's population lives in countries that are not members of our organisation but which, nevertheless, house an important portion of our great heritage."

At the end of the speech, he assured his full support to the esteemed Commission in the discharge of its duties and also prayed for its succes.

H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism, in his brief speech, expressed his Government's pleasure over the selection of Istanbul as the headquarters of the Commission and hoped that the Commission, charged with the historic responsibility, will give a good account of itself. He assured his Government's full support to the Commission in the realisation of its objectives. He referred to the International Symposium and the Islamic arts exhibition "which are currently in progress in Istanbul" and termed today's opening of the first meeting of this Commission as another important link in the same chain. He alluded to the universal character of Islamic culture and opined that all organisations interested in culture must of necessity, be interested in islamic culture. He also regarded culture as an "element of balance" or a "balancing factor" in the lives of people. He commended the role of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in initiating meaningful researches on Islamic culture and promoting and rejuvenating its pristine values.

Mr. Abdulhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO and a member of the Commission, also spoke on the occasion. He said that no nation could afford to forget her past because it would amount to losing its personality and identity. Talking about the renaissance of Islam, he likened it to spring that comes after a chilly winter. He then went on to list the essential features of Islamic renaissance which were as under:

-It cannot be called a rebirth but only a re-appreciation.

-It implies going back to its essential values.

-It means a re-evaluation of our heritage.

Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, welcomed H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, members of the Commission and other delegates to the opening ceremony of the first meeting of the Commission. Pinpointing the inter-relationship between the Centre and the Commission, he remarked :

"The basic statute of the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage emphasised that the Centre will work as an executive organ of the Commission. In the name of the Centre, I would like to assure the members of the Commission and the Secretary General of the O.I.C. that the Centre will do everything in its power in serving the Commission and the whole Islamic Ummah".

At the end of the speeches, the honourable guests were entertained by a concert of Classical Turkish Instrumental Music conducted by Dr. Nevzat Atlig, a great Turkish chorus master. The audience listened to the programme with rapt attention.

II. Working Session:

The opening session was followed by the preliminary working session. It resumed its deliberations under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. The names of the other Commission members who attended the meeting are :

-Arch. Sami Angawi, Director General, Hajj Research Centre, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

-Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director General of Museums and Antiquities, Damascus, Syria.

-Prof. Dr. Emin Bilgiç, Faculty of Languages, History and Geography, University of Ankara, Turkey.

-Prof. Dr. Abdulhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

-Raja Fuziah Bint Raja Tun Uda, Director General, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

-Prof. Dr. Gulzar Haider, (Pakistan) Carlton University, Dept. of Architecture, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

-Eng. Abdulkader H. Koshak, Secretary General of Islamic Capitals Organisation, Mekka, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

-Dr. Salah Al Mahdi, Director General, National Cultural Activi-



A group photo of the some distinguished members of the Heritage Commission.

ties, Ministry of Culture, Tunisia.

-Dr. Shawqi Shaath, Representative, P.L.O.

-Dr. Muhammed Sijelmassi, Kingdom of Morocco.

-Dr Mahmoud Zouber, Director , Ahmed Baba Islamic Centre, Timbuktu - Mali.

-Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre and Secretary General of the Commission.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs of the O.I.C. and the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Mr. Hasan Muhammed Daoud, Director for Cultural and Social Affairs at the O.I.C. Secretariat.

H.E. Mr.Habib Chatty opened the meeting with his address of thanks to H.R.H Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz for accepting the Chairmanship of the Commission. There after he called upon the Secretary General of the Commis-

sion to present the working paper prepared for the occasion. The working paper, presented by Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, listed the different stages of the evolution of the Commission, besides giving a general view of the Commission's work and the proposals for some projects. In various resolutions adopted at the meeting, the Commission proposed to hold a symposium about Islamic Heritage and asked the Secretary General of the Commission and two other members to prepare a budget for the year 1983/84 and present it to H.R.H. The Chairman of the Commission and to H.E. the Secretary General of the O.I.C. before the next meeting. The Commission also stressed that the next meeting of the Commission be convened at an early date. H.E. Mr.Habib Chatty, the Secretary General praised the honourable members for their participation and various suggestions. In conclusion, the Commission decided to send cables of thanks and gratitude to H.R.H., the Chairman of the Commission and the Government of Turkey.

THE 2 nd GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The 2nd annual meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre was arranged for 16-17 April 1983. It opened in the newly renovated hall of the 'Cit Qasr'. The proceedings started with recitation of the Holy Quran. Dr. Afif Bahnassi, the Chairman, took his seat. H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General of the O.I.C. for Social and Cultural Affairs and Islamic Solidarity Fund and Mr. Hasan Daoud, Director of Cultural Affairs of the General Secretariat of the O.I.C. were also present. The other members who attended the opening session were as under:

- Arch. Sami M. Angawi (Saudi Arabia) Vice Chairman
- Prof. Dr. Emin Bilgiç (Turkey)
- Eng. Abdulkader H. Koshak (Saudi Arabia)
- Dr. Salah Al-Mahdi (Tunisia)
- Dr. M. Sijelmassi (Morocco)
- Raja Fuziah Bt. Tun Uda (Malaysia)
- Dr. Mahmoud Zouber (Mali)
- Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (Director General of Istanbul Centre)

Dr. Ahmad Abdul Sattar Al-Jawary, a member from Iraq, could not attend. The Government of Iran has yet to nominate her representative.

In his speech, H.E. Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General of the O.I.C. for Social and Cultural Affairs, conveyed to the members of the Governing Council

the good wishes and greetings of H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. He assured his full support to the Centre's administration in the realisation of its objectives and also stated the views of O.I.C. concerning the Centre and its achievements.

He congratulated the members of the Governing Council for their nomination as ex-officio members of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage and reminded them of the heavy responsibility placed on their shoulders.

He requested the members of the Governing Council to carefully study and prepare the work programme of the Centre for 1983/84 which would be presented to the 14th ICFM at Dhaka for final approval. At the end he gave his thanks to the Director General of the Centre and his staff for their dedication and hard work.

Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Chairman of the Governing Council, in his speech, complimented the Centre for achieving all the proposed projects approved at the first annual meeting. He thought there were not many specialised centres in the world with a better record of performance than this Centre and thanked the General Secretariat of the O.I.C. for their unfailing cooperation. He referred to the excellent arrangements made for the international symposium. He

further thought that the publication of the papers presented in the symposium would be another important activity of the Centre. He said that the beautiful building in which the meeting is being held, should also oblige us to ponder on the great work done by the Centre with respect to its restoration. He cautioned the members of the Governing Council about the added responsibility assigned to them through their nomination on the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, which would have the same headquarters as the Centre. At the end of his speech, he gave his thanks to the Secretary General of the O.I.C. for his goodwishes and greetings. He also expressed his thankfulness to H.E.Mr.Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General of the O.I.C. for his help and understanding. He finally congratulated Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre and his staff for taking positive steps for the realisation of the Centre's targets.

In his speech, Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre welcomed the honourable members and also thanked them for their active support of the Centre's activities.

Then he gave a brief narration of the events and projects which occupied the attention of the Centre such as the inauguration ceremony of the Centre 23rd May 1982; 13th ICFM, Niamey, Niger 20-27 August 1982 ; first meeting of the O.I.C. Permanent Islamic Commission for Information and Cultural Affairs, Dakar , January 1983 ; the framing of the internal rules and regulations; the first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage (scheduled to be held on 21-22 April 1983), publication of four original works and the illustrated brochure, preparation of two documentary films, the publication of the Newsletter etc.



The 2nd Meeting of the Governing Council in progress under the chairmanship of Dr. Afif Bahnassi.



Another view from the 2nd Governing Council Meeting.

Thereafter, he presented the Annual Report of the Centre which was discussed and approved by the Council. The Council also approved the Work Programme for the year 1983/84, Internal Rules and Regulations and the Organisational Chart of the Centre. The Council recommended the establishment of a Fund for special projects to be financed through individuals or organisations. The establishment of a special department for bibliography was also proposed that could collect information on a permanent basis, classify and publish it. The resolution No:5

passed by the Council commended the Centre as under :

"After having seen the projects accomplished by the Centre in the period between the 1st and the 2nd meeting, the Governing Council is of the opinion that the efforts spent on the full implementation of the plan and extra projects were commendable, especially when it is seen that these achievement were accomplished with limited finances that were hardly sufficient to meet even the most basic expenses".

PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA VISITS THE CENTRE



H.E. Dr. Mahatir Bin Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Centre. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General, presenting a souvenir to the Prime Minister.

H.E. Dr. Mahatir Bin Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia visited the Centre on 15 May 1983. He remained in the Centre for quite sometime and was briefed by the Director General about the activities of the Centre and the ongoing research projects. He was also taken around various research departments where he asked searching questions to the researchers at work. He also visited the library where he was shown the rare books collection and copies of Quran in various languages of the world, including Malay. He praised the restoration work underway of the "Cit Qasr" -new premises of the Centre. He also presented a beautiful calligraphy work to the Centre. It was made of "Songket" -a traditional Malaysian hand-woven fabric.

The Centre is grateful to H.E. the Prime Minister of Malaysia for his very kind gesture. His visit to the Centre has a symbolic meaning and indicates a growing interest of Malaysia in the affairs of the Centre. Malaysia has been an important and active member of the O.I.C. since its very inception. The first Secretary General of the O.I.C. (1971-73), H.E. Tunku Abdur Rahman, was a distinguished Malaysian and Ex-Prime Minister of Malaysia. He was recently awarded the King Faisal International Prize for his services in the service of Islam and the O.I.C.. Malaysia has also set up an International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur and an Islamic Bank. The underlying concept behind these is to show to the world "that Islam is modern, dynamic and

can adapt to the needs of present times".

Malaysia also declared May 3 to 7 as "Palestine Week" to create an awareness among its people of the Palestine issue. During the week, an International Conference on Palestine for the Asia and the Pacific Region was also held in Kuala Lumpur under U.N.O. auspices. The Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a book entitled "The Question of Palestine" on the occasion. The Regional Islamic Missionary Council for South-East Asia and Pacific (RISEAP), of which Malaysia is an important member, has announced a programme to produce a film entitled "Science and the Origins of Man According to the Quran". The film would be dubbed in five

major languages i.e. English, Bahasa Malaysia, Arabic, Chinese and French.

These are some of the notable measures taken by the Malaysian Government headed by H.E. Dr. Mahatir Bin Mohammad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia in the cause of Islamic Culture. Recording his impressions in the Visitors Book of the Centre, he wrote :

"This is a noble effort and I appreciate the important achievements of the Centre. I hope that, with the help of God Almighty, these efforts will continue and receive assistance from all sides, Inshaallaha".

Dr. Mahatir Bin Mohammad
15 May 1983

*Ini adalah satu usaha
yang mulia dan saya mengacap
jubrat kerana kejayaan yang
telah di capai hingga sekarang.
Insyaallah dengan izin
Allah Subhanatawataala usaha
ini dapat di kemukakan dan
mendapat sokongan dari pada
semua pihak. Inshaallah.*


Mahatir B. Mohammad.
Malaysia.
15 Mei 1983

Facsimile of the impressions recorded in Malay language by H.E. the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

CENTRE'S NEWS IN BRIEF



Dr. David King delivering his lecture. Seated in the 1st row left to right are: Prof. Dr. Kazım Çeçen, Dr. Muammer Dizer and Prof. Khurshid Ahmed

-Dr. David King, an associate professor of Arabic and History of Science, New York University delivered an interesting lecture at the Centre on the evening of the 7th September 1983. The topic of his talks was "The Sacred Geography of Islam" and revolved around the directions used for the "Qibla" in Mosques and methods employed by Ulema and astronomers over the Centuries for purpose. The lecture drew a good gathering and was attended by historians, art scholars and the intellectual elites. A lively discussion followed the learned lecture. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, an ex-chairman of the planning Commission of Pakistan and currently chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies Islamabad, Dr. Hassan A. M'ayergi, an eminent scholar from Qatar, Dr. Muammer Dizer, Director of Kandilli Observatory, Istanbul were prominent participants in the discussion. Mr. Manuel Kiene, Director of National Library of Kuwait also attended the lecture. It may be mentioned here that Dr. David King is a specialist in Arabic scientific manuscripts and also worked, during his stay, in Süleymaniye and Topkapı Libraries which are among the richest manuscripts libraries in the world.

VISITORS

The Centre had the honour to play host to the following distinguished guests and scholars since April 1983.

28 April 1983 -H.E. Mr. Salih Abdullah al-Sugair, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Turkey.

30 June 1983 -Mr. Ali Ulvi Kurucu, a poet and librarian, Medina, Saudi Arabia.

4 July 1983 - Dr. M. Nuri Shafiq, Secretary General, Higher Council of Universities, Amman, Jordan.

24 July 1983 -H.E. Dr.Mohammed Abduh Yamani (ex-Minister of Information),Mr. Salih Kamil, Mr. Mahmoud Jamil Hasuba, Saudi Arabia.

3 August 1983 -H.E. Mr. Arshad-al-Zaman, Assistant Secretary General of the O.I.C., Saudi Arabia.

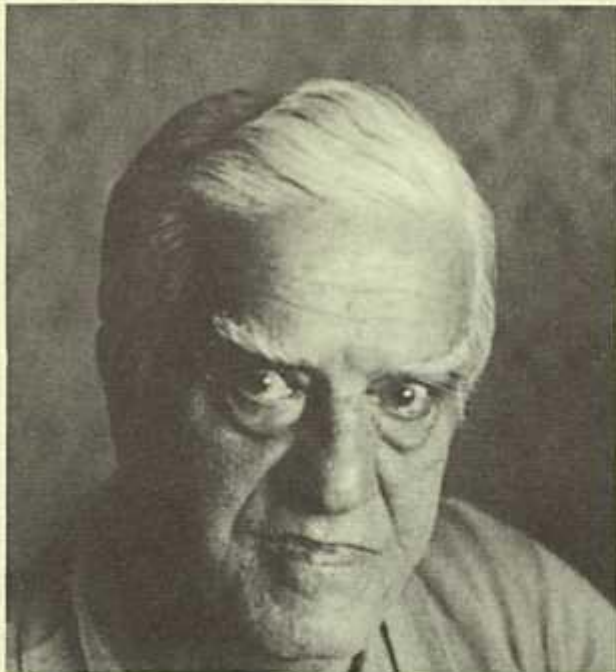
3 August 1983 -Mr. Ali Zeyyani, Secretary, Libyan Arab Peoples Bureau, Istanbul.

5 August 1983 -Mr. Mohammed Salahuddin, Publisher, Weekly Arabia, London.

10 August 1983 -Sheikh Ali Ibn Sa'ud Al-Thani, Qatar.

30 September 1983 -Mr. Roger Pasquier, Muslim Scholar and writer Switzerland.

10 October 1983 -Prof. Dr. Süheyl Ünver, a famous Turkish artist and Scholar, Turkey.



OBITUARY

Prof. Muhsin Demironat, famous decorator and illuminator of Turkey, died in Istanbul on 27 June 1983. (May his soul rest in peace and Allah's mercies be on him Amin!). He appeared in the documentary film on "Gilding and Illuminations" prepared by the Centre and released on the occasion of the Centre's International Symposium on Islamic Arts held in Istanbul in April 1983.

The late Prof. Muhsin Demironat was born in Istanbul in 1907. He graduated from the Teachers Training School in 1928. He was also educated at the school of Oriental Illuminations and Decorations of the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts. Mr. Tuğrakeş İsmail Hakkı Altunbezer and Mr. Necmeddin Okyay were his teachers at the Academy. He graduated in 1937 and

stayed on there as a teacher himself. He gave courses on gilding/decorations and laquered book binding till 1967 when he was appointed Director of Yıldız Ceramic factory. He retired in 1972.

In his early works of gilding and decorating, he practiced the Altunbezer style but later returned to the 16th Century classical style. He was one of the refined artists of the classical style of the past two centuries. He also experimented with tiles while at Yıldız. He has left many works in the form of illuminated papers, book bindings and ceramics.

The Centre offers its heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. His passing away has left a vacuum in the field of art which shall hardly be filled.



H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C., in audience with H.E. General Kenan Evren, President of Republic of Turkey, during his last visit to Turkey.